

Local Initiatives for Development

Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development

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Authors: Tiko Tkeshelashvili, Merab Tsindeliani, Aslan Chanidze, Giorgi Andguladze, Irma Zurabashvili and Mikheil Chitadze.

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Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Adjara | 5 |
| Samtskhe-Javakheti | 10 |
| Kvemo Kartli | 15 |
| Shida Kartli | 19 |
| The main conclusions and ideas for future activities | 24 |
| Appendix 1 – Adjara | 28 |
| Appendix II – Samtskhe-Javakheti | 34 |
| Appendix III – Kvemo Kartli | 38 |
| Appendix IV – Shida Kartli | 44 |

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Tsereteli Ave. 72 A, Tbilisi
Tel. 2355154; Fax 2355754
www.cipdd.org

Introduction

The following publication is based on the main findings of the project “Local Initiatives for Local Development” implemented by the Caucasus Institute for Peace Democracy and Development (CIPDD). The project was carried out in 2014-2016 with the financial support from “Brot für die Welt”. The overall objective of the project was to contribute to local development process through facilitating community engagement and implementation of initiatives addressing specific local problems.

The publication presents cases of addressing specific local challenges in four target regions – Adjara, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli. The target communities specified quite a wide range of problems, some of them appeared to be region- and/or community-specific. To situation in the small communities should be paid special attention.

Problems related to infrastructure were named by the local population as the biggest concern in virtually every target community. Other serious issues include low public awareness and inadequate public access to information, as well as insufficient capacity and/or motivation of the communities to mobilize for jointly addressing their common problems. It is also important to note that the communities have limited experience of cooperation and communication with local

authorities. Moreover, there is a persistent feeling of despair, that the authorities will not address major concerns of their constituencies.

Based on the experience gained in target locations within this project, number of issues can be identified that are crucial for local development and need to be included in the agenda of local authorities. These issues include creating development opportunities for the local youth, advocating for municipal property issues, and introduction of innovative methods when addressing infrastructure problems.

One of the main goals of the project was to demonstrate how to mobilize local communities and engage different stakeholders to work out innovative, effective and cost-efficient solutions to local problems. The success was largely dependent on the level of cooperation and interaction of local communities with other stakeholders. The best results were achieved when specific problem-solving activities involved two or more actors – the communities, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector.

The project objectives and approaches are described in the following chapter, followed by presentation of specific problems by target regions and initiatives implemented to address them. The final chapter summarizes the main find-

ings of the project and highlights the issues that are crucial for local development, require attention and advocacy efforts in the future.

About the project

The project targeted four self-governing cities, 19 municipal centers and 46 villages selected from 23 municipalities across four regions of Georgia: Adjara, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli. One city/town and two villages were selected in each target municipality and different districts in self-governed cities. The selection criteria were designed to ensure a broad representation of communities differing from each other in terms of type, size, geographic location, ethnic, religious and demographic profile of the population, as well as the specific nature of local problems.

Four regional coordinators and 23 volunteers from each municipality with various backgrounds and experience, were involved in the project implementation.

The project was implemented in three stages:

Trainings for volunteers and community meetings were held based on the methodologies developed by the project team during the first stage.

In total, 1,776 local residents (60% men and 40% women) took part in the first-stage community meetings focused on problem identification. About three priority problems per target location, in total 207 specific problems were identified and analysed. Members of local initiative groups were also identified at these meetings to act as focal points during development of problem-solving strategies, community mobilization and implementation of community initiatives. CIPDD team provided regular consultations and support to these groups throughout the following stages of the project implementation process.

The following problems were identified as priorities in majority of the target communities: inadequate supply of drinking and irrigation water, deterioration of internal roads, the lack of adequately equipped sport and recreational facilities, as well as youth centers and kindergartens. Other issues were also raised, including presence of large numbers of stray dogs, the lack of adequately equipped medical and veteri-



nary services, limited availability of agricultural equipment, and problems related to street lighting, waste disposal, and natural gas supply. As most of these problems represent responsibility of local self-governments¹, it was important to ensure engagement of local authorities when addressing the issues.

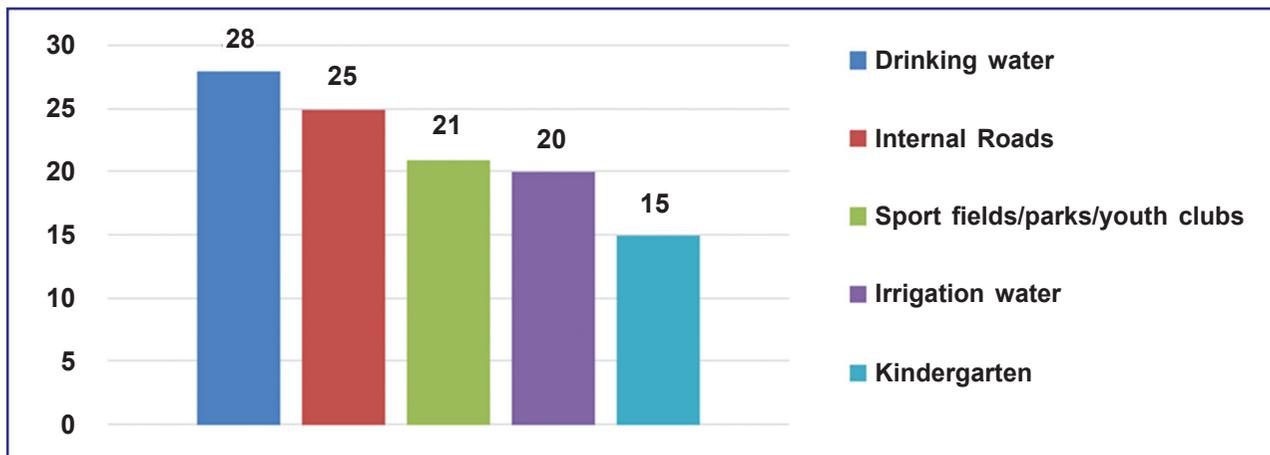
The target communities in all four studied regions appeared poorly informed about various ongoing or planned state and municipal programs, and changes in the laws affecting them (for instance, amendments to Local Self-Government Code made in July 2015 and the law on mountainous regions). Moreover, they have limited knowledge of local self-government responsibilities and have difficulties to differentiate competencies of the national and local governments.

Different target communities have different experience of cooperation with local authorities and civil society organi-

zations (CSO). Often local population has no experience of mobilizing joint efforts to advocate community interest on municipal or national levels, though some of them have individually addressed authorities for personal matters. Accordingly, public awareness raising activities were regularly promoted by the project team at various stages of the project implementation.

The project team actively supported and provided close guidance to the initiative groups when developing strategies for addressing priority problems. Joint efforts were made to assess available resources (material, financial, and human) and cooperation opportunities with various stakeholders. Part of the project's funds was allocated to co-finance community initiatives. The cases beyond the project capacity due to their scale and theme, were brought to the attention of relevant government agencies and/or CSOs.

Most common problems faced by local communities



¹ Local Self-Government Code of Georgia, Article 16. Responsibilities of Municipal Governments.

The project team aimed to:

- Determine resources and opportunities necessary to address problems identified during community meetings
- Ensure active engagement of local population in the process and establish successful cases of community mobilization
- Share success stories and best practices among target communities

The project aimed to solve two priority problems in each region. However the CIPDD team tried to address or put

on agenda at least one priority problem in all communities. Active participation of local residents appeared to be one of the key contributory factors in successful implementation of the problem-solving initiatives. In total 27 successful cases were implemented within the project framework. The following chapters describe CIPDD efforts in each target region.

The final stage of the project was focused on experience/information sharing among the target communities. To this end, the project staff arranged joint meetings for the participants and organized their visits to different target locations for on-the-spot examination of the problem-solving approaches and achieved results.

Adjara

Project activities were implemented in municipalities of Khulo, Shuakhevi, Keda, Khelvachauri and Kobuleti and city Batumi in Adjara. 18 local communities were engaged. In total 451 local residents (259 men and 192 women) attended communities meetings to identify and prioritize problems. Initiative groups established in the region participated in following stages of project implementation to address identified problems. The following chapter described activities carried out and initiatives implemented in target locations of Adjara.

The priority problems of the target communities

Problems identified by the target communities, except few specific cases, were typical for rural areas. Nevertheless, the problems had community-specific features in almost every case. For instance, communities in mountainous villages highlighted much more severe problems, due to local socio-economic and geographic conditions, than the communities living in Batumi or close to municipal centers. While the urban communities complained about quality of public services, most of their rural counterparts were

talking about either creation of those services or getting access to them.

Unemployment is the number-one problem for the communities of the mountainous Khulo, Shuakhevi and Keda municipalities, unlike the communities living near Batumi and Kobuleti, as local residents have more or less better access to jobs in towns and municipal centers.

Agriculture and seasonal jobs are the main sources of income for the mountainous communities.

On the other hand, small mountainous communities have the advantage of being more capable of developing common approaches and community mobilization. This aspect, if properly managed, can be crucial for planning and successfully implementing problem-solving strategies.

Problems identified by the target communities can be classified into the following categories:

Infrastructure problems

Water ♦ Internal roads ♦ Sewage ♦ Gas supply

Despite the abundance of water resources, local communities often complain about the lack of drinking and irrigation

water. Water supply systems are either already depreciated or were initially installed with construction errors. Local residents usually try to solve these problems by themselves.

Problems related to internal roads and roads leading to agriculture lands were raised by almost every community. Bad roads are a particularly serious problem for remote communities, located far from main highways. Harsh weather conditions and the presence of high-risk landslide zones further worsen the problem. In many mountainous communities roads become virtually impassable in heavy rain and snowfall and local residents usually have no other option but to repair them on their own. Bad roads hinder access to public transport, education and medical services, including emergency.

Unlike the rural communities, problems with sewage system is a major concern for suburban areas of Batumi and its newly adopted districts.¹ Despite of being under the jurisdiction of the city authority for more than six years, and proximity to the main sewage system, the problem has not been solved yet in these districts.

Most of the mountainous communities have no natural gas supply at present because the development of the gas supply infrastructure in mountainous regions requires substantial investments due to hard terrain and scarce population. As a result, local residents have to rely on costly wood-fuelled winter heating.

The lack of natural gas supply was identified as a priority problem by the target communities of Batumi, Kobuleti and Khelvachauri, which lie close to the national gas distribution grid (they are only 500-2500 meters away). Local residents believed that connecting their homes to the grid would be relatively easy and cheap, and would not require signifi-

cant state funds. In their words, they spend 600-800 GEL every winter to buy firewood. In addition, they also have to purchase liquefied gas and spend more on electricity. The increased bills only worsen their economic and social situation.

Access to public services

Basic healthcare ♦ Schools ♦ Kindergartens

During community meetings women often raised concerns regarding limited access to basic healthcare. Due to the absence of medical services and professional medical workers in the villages, even mandatory vaccination of children is a serious challenge. In winter, mountainous communities of Adjara are completely cut off from any professional medical services.

Many villages have only elementary schools. As a result, secondary-school students often have to walk several kilometers to get to school as roads become impassable for public transport in bad weather.

Throughout the last three years public funds have been allocated from municipal budgets to build kindergartens in local villages. However, kindergartens are established mostly in large villages, thus children from small communities have limited access to pre-school education. The access is further limited in winter due to the absence of regular public transportation between villages. Accordingly families of small communities have to pay for private transport to take their kids to a kindergarten.

All target communities attempt to establish community centers. Funds to build such facilities are allocated from the village assistance program, and sometimes locals also con-

¹ Part of Khelvachauri municipality was integrated into the city of Batumi in 2010.

tribute with building materials and workforce. Nevertheless, due to the limited resources, the communities fail to build new or renovate old community centers.

Youth

Another serious problem for the target communities is the lack of opportunities for self-realization and informal education for the local youth. There are no cultural and sport facilities or clubs for the youth in the target villages. There is limited access to internet. Youth are deprived of opportunities to engage in informal education programs.

Community problems according to settlement type

The infrastructure problems identified by the target communities of Batumi and municipal centers are typical of urban environments – management of water and sewage systems and gas supply. Local residents are also concerned with dangers from unregulated traffic. They also raise issues related to the lack of sport and entertainment facilities for the youth.

The rural communities' problems are similar and related to limited access to public services and infrastructure.

Addressing the problems

Specific cases

Angisa district, Batumi

Unregulated traffic of Batumi-Ahaltsikhe and Batumi-Sarpi highways was identified as the main challenge by residents of the Angisa district. There were no traffic signs, lights,

security cameras, and anti speeding barriers. As a result, speed limits were often violated by passing vehicles and local residents felt insecure and unsafe. In addition, a pedestrian crossing was too far from the nearest bus stop.

The local community had no previous experience of self-mobilization or communication with the local self-government.

At the community meeting the local residents decided to address this issue of the unregulated traffic. The initiative group of five local residents was established that developed the strategy to address the problem.

With the support from project team the initiative group organized number of meetings with the mayor of Batumi. The problem and opportunities to address it was jointly discussed during these meetings.

As a result of civil activism and cooperation with local authorities street security cameras were installed and pedestrian crossing was relocated closer to the bus stop. Moreover, authorities promised to create a “safety island” for pedestrians and install bus stations.

Jvariketi community, Khulo municipality

Polluted drinking water and insufficient water supply for irrigation were named as major problems faced by the community. Drinking water is supplied through open canals. Moreover the water reservoir was obsolete with no roof and no filters installed. Accordingly water was contaminated and hence unsafe for drinking. Besides, polluted water had adverse effect on water related household appliances. The local irrigation channel was also out of order, preventing local farmers from irrigating lands. Water leakage from the broken irrigation system created threats for neighboring village (increased the danger of landslides and dented the foundation of several houses).

Local residents had some prior experience of community mobilization, mainly to repair local roads, but had never successfully interacted with the local self-government before.

The community formed a five-member initiative group, which prepared a water infrastructure reconstruction project. All necessary materials were then purchased in Batumi in the framework of CIPDD project and installed with the local workforce. The local population installed water reservoir with own resources. As a result, the drinking water supply network was fully restored and problems linked to the drinking water were solved.

To solve the irrigation problem, the Khulo regional coordinator and members of the initiative group successfully advocated the issues with local authorities. As a result, the municipal administration allocated necessary funds and in 2015-2016 the irrigation system was refurbished too.

Tsvadzeebi community, Shuakhevi municipality

Due to road deterioration – about 1.5 kilometer section of a local road was too dangerous to drive in bad weather.

The community had a vast previous experience of mobilization but never successfully interacted with the local self-government before. Deterioration of internal roads was named as major problem during community meetings and one specific section was identified as most dangerous.

The community established an initiative group to address the problem. CIPDD team together with the members of the initiative group jointly drafted an action plan aiming at involving all stakeholders in the process. As a result Memorandum of Understanding was signed between local population, local authorities and CIPDD.

The initiative group filed a request with the Shuakhevi self-government for road repair materials. The request was forwarded to a local company, which provided 32 cubic meters of aggregate free of charge. Within the project framework, CIPDD purchased and donated 10 tons of cement. For their part, the local residents raised 200 GEL to ensure transportation of the materials to the village. With active participation of the local residents, a 105-metre section of the road was covered by an 18cm thick concrete layer.

Following the repairs of 105 meter road section, population addressed local authorities again this time to ask for facilitation negotiations with Transportation Department of Adjara to remove a large rock posing a threat to traffic. This request was supported by the authorities and private company was contracted to remove the rock. While local communities were not satisfied with the work, they requested an official quality assessment. The assessment confirmed shortcomings and the company was obliged to fulfill its responsibilities.

Since a complete solution to the problem was beyond the scope of the CIPDD project, the project team facilitated raising the issue with an NGO “Local Democracy Network Center” specializing in local development projects.

Chinkadzeebi community, Keda municipality

One part of the community was without water supply completely, while the other was supplied by polluted water.

The community had some prior experience of self-mobilization but never successfully interacted with the local self-government before.

At the initial stage, with the help of the project’s Khulo municipal representative, a water reservoir project with the list of necessary items was prepared.

With the funds allocated from the CIPDD project budget, the initiative group members purchased and organized transportation of all necessary materials to the village. With the active participation of local population as a workforce a new water reservoir was built and water proof cover for the old one was installed. One of the local residents donated 500 GEL worth of rebar to help build the new reservoir.

With active participation of the local residents and CIPDD assistance, the water supply problem was finally solved in the village.

Pirveli Maisi community, Keda municipality

During local community meetings, residents raised the issue of unfulfilled promised of local authorities to cover damages caused by a hailstorm six months ago.

A local project participant, a journalist of the Batumelebi newspaper, raised the issue with the Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili during his visit to Keda. According to local residents, compensations started to be issued very next day.

Samtskhe-Javakheti

Project activities were implemented in 12 villages of Adigeni, Aspindza, Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Borjomo and Ninotsminda municipalities as well as self-governing city of Akhaltsikhe and other municipal centers (for details see Appendix II). In total 379 local residents, 83 women and 296 men participated in local community meetings focused on identification of problems.

Overview of the problems identified in target communities

Most of the target communities, both villages and municipal centers, highlighted identical problems, though every municipality of Samtskhe-Javakheti has its own specificity. The problems can be grouped in the following categories:

Infrastructure problems

Drinking and irrigation water ♦ Gas supply ♦ Access to Internet ♦ Roads.

Water supply is a major issue for most of the villages. The local water supply infrastructure is outdated, over 40-50 years old, and has deteriorated beyond repair in many places.

Many villages also remain without gas supply, despite respective state supported programs.

Main access roads to the villages of Borjomi, Akhaltsikhe, Adigeni and Aspindza municipalities are more or less well managed. But internal roads to the local farms, as well as access roads to the villages of Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities, are much worse and need repairing.

Access to social/public services

Basic healthcare ♦ Kindergartens ♦ Schools

Limited access to basic healthcare services was one of the most frequently cited problems. Although medical facilities are present in many villages, medical personnel (doctors, nurses) work only for several hours once a week, extremely limiting access to basic healthcare that is further challenged for residents of remote villages due to bad roads.

Many villages don't have kindergartens. Local schools need urgent repair.

Youth

The local youth has limited opportunities for self-education, informal education and pursuing healthy lifestyle. Majority of

the villages have no youth centers – clubs, libraries, gyms. The problem is a serious impediment to the youth development and a primary factor behind intense outward youth migration from the region.

Analysis of the identified priority problems by municipality

Borjomi municipality's main challenge is unemployment. Compared to other municipalities, Borjomi is less dependent on agriculture, as arable lands are scarce here. Logging and timber production, often illegal, are the main sources of income for the local rural communities. It is vitally important, therefore, to create alternative income sources for the local communities: tourism, small fruit processing factories, etc.

Akhalsikhe municipality has relatively well developed infrastructure. Agriculture is the main activity here, accordingly challenges linked to irrigation infrastructure and the absence of pre-school educational institutions and youth entertainment facilities was highlighted. To address these issues, the project staff and the local initiative groups actively interacted with the local authorities. Most of the identified priority problems were successfully resolved through cooperation between the communities and the local self-governments.

Adigeni municipality is facing shortcomings due to poorly developed infrastructure and limited internet access as well as absence of kindergartens, medical facilities, clubs.

Adigeni municipality residents' main source of income is agriculture, accordingly poor management of agriculture infrastructure (irrigation system, veterinary services) are major local problems. Outdated systems of water supply and absence of gas supply infrastructure remain as main challenges for the municipality.

Aspindza municipality residents' major source of income is farming and cattle farming. Accordingly their concerns are focused on agriculture. Alongside with challenges linked to irrigation system, lack of veterinary services was also highlighted (communities face high level of cases of diseases among cattle).

Akhalkalaki municipality has significant water resources, though due to its geographic position water supply remains as a major problem. Bad roads are another serious challenge. Agriculture, especially cattle and potato farming, is the backbone of the local economy. Main concern highlighted in this respect is linked to agriculture product sales.

Ninotsminda municipality residents' are mainly concerned with infrastructure problems, including road deterioration and limited access to public services, dominated the local communities' concerns. The bad roads, coupled with harsh and snowy winters, make municipal centers hard to reach for the local residents, increase ambulance response time and hamper emergency care and transportation of the sick and injured from remote villages. Many villages have no medical facilities, while the local schools urgently need repairing.

Ninotsminda municipality residents' main source of income is agriculture. Their concerns are similar to those of Akhalkalaki municipality and are mainly linked to the sales of the agriculture products.

Problems according to the settlement type

Rural and urban communities of Samtskhe-Javakheti region have largely similar problems but prioritize them differently. Infrastructure is relatively well developed in towns and municipal centers, though residents of some districts complained about outdated water supply systems, poor street

lighting maintenance, widespread portholes and cave-ins in the streets, and the absence of individual electricity meters in apartment buildings.

Bad roads are a particularly serious problem for the rural communities of Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities, while villages of Akhaltsikhe, Adigeni, Aspindza and Borjomi municipalities are mostly concerned with ailing irrigation networks and undeveloped gas supply infrastructure.

Addressing the problems

Specific cases

Electricity metering community initiative in “Borjomi college dormitory”

The so-called “Borjomi college dormitory”, a municipal building in downtown Borjomi, is home to more than 60 families. The absence of individual electricity meters in their homes was identified by the local residents as a high priority problem.

During problem identification community meetings, it was identified that local residents took over living space in the building years ago that were property of the municipality. Beside the fact that families had been living in the building for almost two decades they never legalized their residence and had no documents to claim the property. For this reason local energy company refused to install individual electricity meters in the building. Residents illegally developed internal electrical wiring by amateur electricians creating high risk of electricity-related accidents. The faulty wiring had caused several fires and two neighborhood-wide power blackouts in the past. Residents have repeatedly complained to the local self-government about the problem and even organized street protests but to no avail.

After identification of the problem, strategy to address it was developed. The project team with the active participation of residents documented the situation and presented a photo report to the head quarters of the respective energy company and Ministry of Energy (Letter No. 08/3509, September 29, 2014).

The energy company promised to solve the problem, as long as residents would provide legal documents proving their residence.

The local initiative group collected IDs and home ownership documents (if present) of the residents and discussed the problem with local authorities. As a result of their efforts, the local self-government agreed to legalize the residence for those families that have not privatized the property yet and, at the same time, sent an official letter to the energy company requesting to install individual electricity meters in the building.

After almost one year of joint efforts of the project team, the community and local authorities, the energy company finally installed the meters and wiring complying with the national safety standards.

Olaverdi community initiative, Akhalkalaki municipality – innovative solution to the watersupply

The village of Olaverdi, Akhalkalaki municipality, is situated at an elevation of 2,000 meters above sea level, at the foot of Abuli Mountain, and has a population of about 400 people (165 households).

Despite the abundance of fresh water resources in the region, especially in and around Olaverdi, part of the local families (85 households) had no water supply. They had to

carry water for household consumption on foot, from a water well some 500-800 meters away. Accordingly shortcomings in water supply was named as one of the major problems along other local challenges (bad roads, limited access to healthcare services).

Further exploration of the problem indicated that there is a source of drinkable water at the outskirts of the village that was also used by neighboring communities. For some time in the past the village had relied on electricity-powered water supply infrastructure (electric water pump, the main supply pipe, a water reservoir and a distribution grid). But this system was later discarded because of excessive electricity consumption (an average monthly electricity bill per household was 20-30 GEL). Besides, the electric water pump used to break down regularly and required costly maintenance and repairs. Thus residents of the village decided to stop using electric water pump.

In order to address the issue, it was decided to introduce innovative technology - IREKSON water pump to local population, which does not require electricity or other energy to operate. Moreover, it is relatively easy and cheap to maintain and repair. Due to its simple design no specific expertise or extraordinary resources are needed.

To better assess the capacity of the local water resources and the village's geographic parameters and supply requirements, and provide more detailed information about IREKSON, the CIPDD team organized a meeting between local residents and Joseph Narchemashvili, IREKSON inventor. During the visit geographic characteristics and local needs were further assessed to prepare the best tailored pump for Olaverdi village.

The residents expressed commitment to contribute to the process and allocated local funds to purchase 150 meters of 300mm pipe and 140 meters of 110 mm pipe and prom-

ised to finance expanses for the main supply pipe and a high-pressure water tank, while CIPDD provided the IREKSON pump and paid for developing the blueprint and design.

Initially, the system was put in a test mode, pumping 200-220 tons of water at a distance of 450 meters and 40m vertical elevation.

The test mode allowed to reveal shortcomings in the system. Namely, IREKSON appeared to have been attached to the existing main source that was incorrectly installed creating excessive water pressure that was damaging the pump. To correct the system, CIPDD purchased 175 meters of 110mm pipe for the community who later on replace the faulty section.

As a result of these efforts, a cheap and efficient water supply system was set up in the village.

Misuse of water was identified as another problem, since the local residents used to irrigate their farms by drinking water and had leakages in household plumbing. These issues were also addressed by CIPDD team. Awareness raising meetings were conducted in the community and a guide to proper water usage and IREKSON manual, in the native language of the locals, were distributed among the local residents.

The innovative water supply system attracted considerable attention from other municipalities. At the request of the local self-government, CIPDD conducted an assessment of local conditions, which confirmed that IREKSON technology had enough potential to irrigate farms in the villages of Tadzrisi and Tchobiskhevi in Borjomi municipality, Oshora in Aspindza municipality, Uraeli in Akhaltsikhe municipality, and Ptena in Akhalkalaki municipality. According to preliminary estimates, dozens of hectares of arable lands can be successfully irrigated by IREKSON system.

Gomaro community, Adigeni municipality

Youth of Gomaro-Zanavi community identified lack of opportunities and infrastructure for informal education, self-development and physical training as their major concern.

The village of Gomaro-Zanavi is mainly populated by eco-migrants from Adjara. In order to address the issue, the youth initiative group decided to establish community organization to promote youth development. They registered an NGO, "The Youth for Development of Mountainous Communities" (YDMC), to promote and facilitate youth development programs in the region. YDMC members attended trainings in CIPDD that will help them to better plan activities and further develop their organization.

With the assistance from foreign donors, YDMC purchased a land and built a youth sport-educational centre (currently they are fundraising to equip the center). The centre will offer various services to the youths of Gomaro-Zanavi and neighboring communities: sport activities, English language courses, computer courses, civic education programs, etc.

With the active support from CIPDD team, YDMC prepared and submitted several project proposals to donors. In addition CIPDD contributed to the already raised funds with resources necessary to finish the educational-cultural part of this facility and provided with furniture (chairs, tables).

Kvemo Kartli

Seven municipalities of Kvemo Kartli region were covered within the project framework: self-governing city of Rustavi, municipal centers of Tsalka, Gardabani, Tetrtskaro, Marneuli, Bolnisi and Dmanisi and 14 villages (in total 21 communities).¹

Community meetings aimed at identification of the local problems and their prioritization were attended by 624 residents – 229 women and 395 men.

Overview of the problems of the target communities

47 out of 71 problems expressed by the target communities were related to infrastructure. Lack of youth development opportunities, public awareness and citizen participation in local self-government issues, as well as problems of school infrastructure were named.

Infrastructure problems

Drinking and irrigation water ♦ Internal village roads ♦ Gas supply ♦ Cultural heritage sites ♦ School infrastructure.

For the target communities of Bolnisi, Tetrtskaro and Dmanisi, inadequate drinking water supply was the most urgent issue, but the causes of the problem were various in different cases. Some villages do not have enough water resources and need to pump water from remote places. In other communities the local water supply systems are outdated and/or out of order.

The lack of irrigation water was highlighted as the number-one problem by two communities of Tetrtskaro and Marneuli municipalities. Geographic location of these villages, being far away from nearest river, is the main factor that hinders efforts to establish effective irrigation water supply.

Nearly all target communities complained about bad roads. Residents of a village in Marneuli municipality named repairmen of the road connecting village to the main highway as their priority. But the problem was already managed by the next meeting as it was asphalted all the way from the municipal centre to the village by the local self-government.

¹ See Appendix 3.

Underdeveloped gas supply infrastructure was a high priority problem for three target communities. Residents of one of the villages of Tetrtskaro municipality emphasized that although the main gas pipe was only a few kilometers from their village, they had no idea when their homes would get access.

Urban communities identified different type of infrastructure problems: dilapidation of residential houses, neglected hallways and stairways, roof leaks, rainwater drainage problems, preservation of cultural heritage sites (Bolnisi).

School infrastructure problems were also pointed out. Several schools in Tsalka and Marneuli municipalities are housed in old crumbling buildings that lack adequate sanitation and need to be repaired. The school of the village of Didi Mughanlo faces a specific problem. It stands on the edge of a steep ravine (about 10m deep), which is gradually getting wider, due to soil erosion. As a result, the school's outdoor toilet, in the schoolyard, is already dangerously close to the edge.

Youth problems

Sport/educational centers ♦ Civic awareness and engagement

Community meetings in the municipal centers and villages were attended mostly by young people. Priority was therefore given to youth problems, such as the lack of sport facilities, youth centers and recreational/entertainment facilities. Many young participants of the meetings made it clear that they were frustrated by the lack of opportunities for sport and informal education.

Almost every target community identified the same underlying causes of the youth problems – lack of civic awareness

and engagement in social and political life, as well as systemic and management-related factors.

Overview of municipality-specific problems

Different target municipalities displayed varying levels of civil sector development. CSOs are relatively well developed, efficient and visible in Rustavi and Marneuli. But in other municipalities the civil sector is still weak and unable to provide social or other services to the local communities.

Limited access to vocational education and training was identified as a priority problem in Bolnisi and Dmanisi municipalities. According to the local residents, due to harsh social and economic conditions, local youth cannot afford to live and get education in another city. As there are no educational institutions in their home municipalities, they are actually denied access to education.

In Tsalka municipality the focus of attention was on the problems of eco-migrants from Adjara. Following concerns were raised by local communities during the meetings: obstacles to the acquisition/registration of property (homes and lands), the lack of arable and hay lands, unemployment.

Addressing the problems

Specific cases

Tetrtskaro, Dmanisi and the village of Nagebi (Gardabani municipality) – youth problems

Youth problems were prioritized by the target communities of Tetrtskaro and Dmanisi municipal centers and the village of Nagebi (Gardabani municipality).

Tetrtskaro initiative group

Although Tetrtskaro has a library, museum, and the schools of arts, music and sport, the local residents expressed concern with absence of youth center or club that could serve as a space for informal education and youth engagement in various civic initiatives. Meeting participants named youth nihilism and absence of youth NGOs as main reasons for that. The lack of development opportunities was said to be one of the main reasons of persistent unemployment and migration of the youths to other places. As a follow up to the further exploration of the problem, a youth initiative group was established to develop strategies for addressing the issue. In April and May 2016 Tetrtskaro initiative group participated in the training hosted by CIPDD on issues related to NGO registration process, citizen engagement in decision-making process, organizational development, and project proposal writing.

As a result, the initiative group has established an NGO “Tetrtskaro Youth Centre”, which then received a small grant from CIPDD to promote a youth development network in Tetrtskaro municipality.

Dmanisi initiative group

There is a culture palace, a library, a computer centre, and a judo training centre in Dmanisi but no specialized gyms for local crossfit/powerlifters. The latter were able to train only for a limited number of hours in rented premises. Powerlifting is a popular sport in Dmanisi and many local powerlifters have successfully participated in various national and international tournaments, winning national championship and other awards.

They have set up an informal group of activists to promote healthy lifestyle among local youth. The group is also engaged in various social and charity activities.

During the community meetings young people complained about the absence of a permanent, specialized and adequately equipped powerlifting gym in Dmanisi. In their words, such a gym will not only provide training opportunities for the youths from Dmanisi and rural communities, but also help engage them in various social initiatives contributing to local development. They emphasized also that they needed to improve their knowledge and skills to make their social activity more efficient.

The Dmanisi initiative group participated in two small grants competitions but their project proposals were not successful so far.

After attending a series of trainings and workshops at CIPDD on organizational development, the initiative group founded and officially registered an NGO, “Dmaniselebi”. With the assistance and guidance of CIPDD team, “Dmaniselebi” won a grant contest, announced by Centre of Strategic Studies and Development. As a result of this fundraising and co-sponsorship by CIPDD, they managed to renovate the building donated by the municipality and install physical training equipment. Currently youths from Dmanisi and neighboring rural communities can use the new gym for free, as well as participate in Dmaniselebi’s social initiatives.

Marneuli

During the community meeting waste disposal was named as a main problem facing by the local community. According to the local residents, household waste is usually dumped in an open channel that runs through the town and eventually ends up in the Algeti River, leading to high levels of water contamination. Moreover, they argue that pollution further caused a drastic increase in the number of stray dogs and

raised danger of infectious diseases for the local residents, especially children.

Number of strategic activities were carried out to address the issue. The local self-government tried to solve the problem by clearing the channel on annual basis but it does not solve the problem in the long term, as the locals continued dumping the waste there.

In November 2016, with CIPDD team assistance and advice, a local NGO, “Mtredi”, launched an awareness-raising campaign. A street demonstration with the slogan “Stop Polluting!” was held in Marneuli. In the framework of the initiative, young local activists cleaned up the central park of the town and distributed “Stop Polluting!” stickers among local residents, as well as posted them all around the city.

Shida Kartli

Project activities were implemented in four municipalities of Shida Kartli region. In particular: self-governing city of Gori, municipal centers of Kaspi, Kareli and Khashuri as well as 8 villages (full list see in Appendix 4). Community meetings aimed at identification of local problems were attended by 322 residents: 206 women and 116 men. The following chapter presents local problems and initiatives implemented in the target communities to address them.

Overview of the priority problems of target communities

Infrastructure problems, were prioritized by nearly all target communities except the downtown Gori community, which highlighted limited opportunities for business start-ups and unregulated traffic as the most serious challenges. It was predictable, as this community resides in a newly renovated district with improved infrastructure.

Among infrastructural problems raised by local residents access to basic utilities: water and gas, were the most urgent.

Infrastructure problems

Water ♦ Internal roads ♦ Gas supply

The problem of water, either to drinking or irrigate, is not about the shortage of water resources, but rather linked to high cost of pumping water from available wells, as well as ensuring cost-efficient and reasonable useage of available water resources. Just in the neighborhood of the region lies the largest underground fresh water lake in Europe¹, despite of which, part of the households have no sufficient water supply.

In majority of cases, the problem is due to outdated and ail-ing water supply infrastructure. Mismanagement and misuse of available resources is another accompanying problem, even in cases of well-functioning infrastructure. While one part of the community “seizes” all available drinkable water resources, the other is denied the access leaving with no other choice but to seek water elsewhere. The problem is structural.

Within the project framework, we tried to demonstrate alternative water supply technologies² but one attempt failed

¹ Regional Development Program. A collection of policy papers, Vol. 1; Utilities – water supply. Civil Society Institute, Tbilisi, 2015.

² See appendix IV

due to the rocky relief of the target area that significantly increased amount of needed investment, and reluctance of donor organization to contribute in the other.

Under such circumstances, the best solution would be to promote rational usage of available water resources. Local agricultural farms continue to rely on outdated techniques and technologies, which contribute to excessive and unsustainable water consumption. There is utter necessity to install sustainable water irrigation systems that requires substantial government investments.

The deterioration of the road infrastructure is a common problem affecting all communities of the region, despite the fact it is raised by local communities or not. It is important to mention, that roads to access villages are more or less satisfactory except the one to reach village of Natsargora. Local residents prioritize deterioration of major highways over internal roads, since the latter are short thus seen as a lesser evil. The government is gradually repairing/upgrading rural access roads and, hopefully, the problem will be solved in coming few years. It should be noted that when residents of Teliani village complained about internal roads, and the local self-government started renovation process according as already planned.

Many local problems are interconnected. For instance, in Natsargora community (Khashuri municipality) the priority problem of inadequate access to medical care is directly linked to the quality of roads. The nearest medical facility is 3km away from the village. Through the distance is common even for small cities, it creates great challenge for locals due to the absence of public transport and outdoor lighting, bad roads and the danger of wild animals roaming free in the area.

Shida Kartli villages never had gas supply before, accordingly new infrastructure is currently constructed. It is almost impossible to engage in the process, as it is privatized; moreover, all resources were allocated towards the communities living along the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL). Due to this prioritization, number of targeted communities were left behind. However, in 2016 construction of gas infrastructure was renewed in the village of Khtsisi. Moreover, according to government officials, the process of constructing and renovating gas infrastructure all across Georgia is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017.³

Youth problems

At the communities meetings, where young people were present, issues related to establishment of community centers and sport facilities were raised. It should be noted, that despite the project team's commitment to address these issues, young people failed to mobilize and establish at least three-member initiative group to continue work in this direction and develop concrete project/initiative.

Access to public services

Logging licenses ♦ Access to agricultural equipment

Limited access to number of public services was also identified as one of the problems. Delays in issuing logging licenses are among them, which is extremely challenging for communities without access to gas. Delays in issuing means that in times of bad weather, locals will have to purchase firewood on the market creating additional burden to their scarce budgets and will leave poor households without heating as they cannot afford to buy firewood on the market at all.

³ <http://kvira.ge/241457>

Limited access to expensive agricultural equipment is also a significant local problem. Although it was named only by one target community, CIPDD team and their partners have repeatedly encountered it within other research projects indicating that it is widely spread problem. State agricultural service centers are not always affordable and efficient. The local residents claim that the available equipment does not perform well.

The villages with more or less well developed basic infrastructure services tend to prioritize day-to-day needs, such as waste disposal, renovation of kindergartens, etc.

Problems of urban and rural communities

Problems of urban communities considerably differ from rural settlements. “Urban problems” are usually concerned with infrastructure reconstruction/maintenance, while rural communities are facing its absence. However, there are exceptions in both cases. For instance, communities of Surami and Kaspi had no sewage infrastructure and it needs to be constructed. Giganti community (Breti neighborhood) is concerned with renovation a local administrative building.

The need to create homeowners’ associations was identified in Kareli. Residents of apartment buildings face common problems related to roofs, sewage system, and water supply. A homeowners’ association turned out to be the best mechanism to deal with these problems. It is important to mention that, assistance programs for homeowners’ associations have long been available in the city of Gori and Gori municipality. Khashuri municipality adopted a similar program during the project implementation. Unfortunately, in other target municipalities (Kaspi and Kareli) no similar programs were initiated. Currently the project in Khashuri

municipality is not fully utilized. But experience from Gori, indicates that though program is not popular on the initial stage, after active promotion among residents it has potential to become one of the most effective initiatives. In 2016 Gori municipality has allocated 250,000 GEL, while Gori City Hall co-funded more than 30 joint projects.⁴

Identification of – and response to – the development problems of downtown Gori was dynamic and consecutive. Re-direction of tourists toward Gori Castle was identified as a main strategy to further advance economic development opportunities of the neighborhood. Establishment of additional attractions near the Castle was identified as a concert project to pursue and idea to set up a museum of ancient Georgian armour was developed. To facilitate the project implementation process, the initiative group founded an NGO, **Gori Downtown** and established a working group under the mayor’s office to coordinate cooperation between various stakeholders. Gori Downtown launched a campaign to petition the central government to delegate management of Gori Castle under the jurisdiction of the local self-government. The campaign gained wide public attention and support.

Addressing the problems

Specific cases

The city of Gori

Economic development has become a priority in the old town district community of the city of Gori. In 2011-2012 part of the neighborhood was renovated, significant capital has been invested, more than 50 old buildings were recon-

⁴ Information was shared by an official of Gori City Hall.

structed, the urban infrastructure was thoroughly overhauled, and streets were repaired. Unfortunately these efforts were not rewarding. According to local residents, neighborhood failed to further attract tourists and develop as main touristic destination.

A working group was formed to further assess the problem and find develop strategy to address it. The group decided to make the Gori Castle more attractive for tourists. Gori is quite popular among tourists due to the presence of two famous historical sites – Joseph Stalin Museum and Uplistsikhe Castle. So the objective is to direct these tourists toward Gori Castle. Majority of tourists are rarely interested only in empty wall of castle, offering a panoramic view and installment of other attractions are also important.

A hilltop water reservoir, was built near the castle in 1920s. Over the years it lost its function. Currently it is an underground ferro-concrete sarcophagus. The **initiative group** proposed to reconstruct the reservoir and establish a museum of ancient Georgian armour there. The initiative group initiated and facilitated negotiations around the issue between municipal authorities and representatives of relative departments of Ministry of Culture. The preliminary agreement is already reached. As far as the proposed reconstruction will have no impact on the castle itself, the Ministry of Culture has approved the initiative and promised assistance within its competence including: issuance of relevant licences, provision of artefacts from other museums, and promotion. The initiative group drafted a project and already submitted it to potential donors.

The reservoir reconstruction project with a budget of 76,306 USD was submitted to the Embassy of Japan. Two additional projects aimed at organizing contest for the design

of the museum was also prepared. The first project (6,300 GEL) was sent to the TBC Bank, while the second (11,867 GEL) was submitted to Europe foundation. The second project also entails active cooperation with donors for further fundraising activities. A similar project (with 15,350 Euro budget) was presented to the Embassy of Czech Republic. This project has far more activities than the other ones and aims to further increase local participation in the initiative.

Having realized that these activities need constant monitoring and oversight, the initiative group founded a new non-governmental organization, **Gori Downtown**.

During the project implementation process a group of local young people separately launched own initiative to revive the old city of Gori. Quite predictably, these two groups eventually came to interact with each other and decided to continue working together. Involvement of all stakeholders interested in the development of the old city of Gori was a key component of the given project. The stakeholders held a meeting to discuss the project and decided to coordinate their activities and actively engage city hall in the process. They offered the city hall to host a working groups with participation of all interested stakeholders. Moreover, during the meeting it was highlighted, that the management of Gori Castle should be delegated to the Gori city hall. A challenges in management of Surami Castle was also raised. Accordingly it can be argued that it is important to increase the role of local self-government authorities in the management of cultural heritage sites.

Currently, **Gori Downtown** continues collection of signatures for its petition requesting delegation of the management of Gori Castle to the local self-government.

Khtsisi community, Khashuri municipality

There are no youth centers in the village, though local youth is willing and ready to actively engage in public life of the village.

At first, the community proposed to build a park in the yard of a local administrative building and create a space where local youth can socialize and have free internet access. Following consultations with the local self-government, it was decided to establish a community center in the library of the administrative building. CIPDD, Khashuri self-government and Khashuri municipal library signed a memorandum of understanding, under which the local self-government allocated a room in the building for the community centre. The library then renovated the room and equipped it with PCs.

The local self-government provided access to internet and promised to install winter heating devices after the village gains access to the gas.

Under the memorandum, CIPDD purchased furniture, stationery and other office equipment for the community centre, while local youth decorated and arranged the room by themselves. The community centre recently organized a meeting with representatives of the ***Independent Journalists' House*** that has rich experience in implementing youth related projects. Local youngsters decided to establish a community based organization. They have ideas for future projects including organization of seminars, trainings, and workshops for local community representatives. They also plan to set up a library.

The main conclusions and ideas for future work

Based on the initiatives implemented within the project framework and lessons learned, the project team identified number of issues that need to be further advanced among local authorities and/or central government.

1. **Promote sustainable cooperation between local authorities and communities.** Often facilitation of close cooperation between local authorities and communities as well as first experience of it are crucial to successful initiation of problem-solving projects in the region. There are many examples, including those within CIPDD implemented project, to demonstrate that such cooperation is mutually beneficial. The best results were achieved when specific problem-solving activities involved both: the initiative groups of citizens and government bodies. Problems of local community were fully or partly solved, while authorities were able to attract voters' trust by doing a good job.

However, there are number of obstacles preventing such cooperation, including widespread attitudes towards the issue. Being tired of their day-to-day routines, local residents hold the government and politicians entirely responsible for community level problems and are skeptical of the benefits of commu-

nity mobilization. They see no asset in civil activism. The local self-governments, on the other hand, fail to illustrate and successfully benefits of community engagement to local residents. They consider public interaction as additional burden and fail to utilize community resources for problem solving initiatives.

In cases of cooperation, both the local self-governments and communities mobilize their knowledge and experience, as well as available resources to contribute to efforts aimed at solving specific local level problems.

2. **Support and advocacy for small communities.** In municipalities with dozens of villages, problems of small communities are usually sidelined and overlooked. The annual state assistance program for rural communities is in fact their only support. As long as assistance funds are dependent on the population size, small villages receive only limited financial aid, which is not sufficient to solve community problems.

Problems faced by small communities are quite severe and negatively affect not only their lifestyle, but impose additional expenses to the households (for instance, they have to travel to neighboring villages

for medical care, pay for private transportation as there are no municipal transport services due to bad roads, etc).

2015 amendments to the Code of Self-government that introduced new forms of citizen participation in local self-government (including: community assemblies, simplified petition process, etc), create an additional opportunity for local population to communicate their concerns to local self-governments and for the latter to be better informed about local problems and respond more effectively.

Specific procedures, in particular defining minimum number of participants as 20%, creates challenges for large communities to reach a quorum. In small communities (not more than 500 registered residents) the current procedural requirements are relatively simple and easy to meet.

It is also important to take into account the specific needs of small communities when developing assistance programs on municipal or national levels. The process of developing “village passports”, including important data and local needs, may serve as an efficient tool to respond to their problems.

3. Innovative solutions to infrastructure problems.

The most pressing problem identified in most of the targeted communities was linked to the infrastructure, mainly shortcomings in supply of drinking and irrigation water. In the village of Olaverdi, the water access problem was resolved with installation of an innovative technology - IREKSON water pump. Such innovative solutions have a number of advantages. They are relatively cheap and easy to install, are environmentally friendly, simple to maintain and have a long lifespan.

Cost-effective and energy-efficient innovative technologies should be remedies of choice for the infrastructure problems, as they can reduce costs for municipal budgets and increase efficiency. Moreover, they will create more simple and less expansive opportunity to solve long-standing and complex infrastructure problems.

4. The delegation of responsibility for management of cultural heritage sites/local properties from the central government to local self-governments.

The problem was raised in cities and villages that developed local development ideas linked to local cultural heritage sites. Only part of the cultural heritage sites/properties are supervised by local self-governments. In case local authorities allocate funds for preservation and maintenance of the heritage sites under the jurisdiction of central government (Ministry of Economy or Ministry of Culture), it will be classified as misuse of public funds.

The delegation of cultural site management to local authorities will make monitoring and maintenance activities more efficient, increase public oversight and raise its public and economic benefits. There are number of threats to be aware in case of delegation: lack of competence of management of cultural heritage site on local level, and abuse of power for private gain. However, these risks can be minimized by efficient oversight and licensing systems, as well as public control. High renovation/maintenance costs are another challenge. To address it, local self-governments can and should raise additional money, apart from relative funds delegated from the central budget, from state foundations or donor organizations. The devolution can also streamline decision-making in heritage conservation issues, as

local self-governments can provide better advocacy for preservation/renovation of specific heritage sites.

- 5. New opportunities for the youth development in local communities.** The fact that many local communities prioritized youth problems can be seen as an indication of their importance. Limited access to formal and informal education and the lack of opportunities for sport and cultural activities hinder the local youth. As a result, many young people migrate, develop unhealthy lifestyle and even engage in criminal activities.

It is especially important to create youth centers in municipalities with less developed civil sector, as

they can serve as focal points for youth-oriented civil initiatives and informal education programs. Participation in these programs will facilitate the personal development of young people, empower them and most importantly, increase number of active citizens.

Groups of active young people, motivated to engage in community work, are present in many local communities. However, without assistance they face numerous obstacles. Accordingly it is important, that local self-governments support and encourage them, respond to their needs and gradually provide, as well as equip educational and sport centers spaces.

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1 – Adjara

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| City of Batumi | Mejinistskali | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is insufficient supply of drinking water that is polluted. 2. Sewage infrastructure is underdeveloped. 3. There are no playgrounds for children. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2. Targeted programs are necessary to build water supply and sewage infrastructure in the community and ensure its efficient operation. 3. There are about 70 square meters of vacant territory in the neighborhood, which can be used to build a playground for children. Local residents can address the City Hall with relevant petition. |
| | Angisa neighborhood | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The community is situated by the side of Batumi-Akhaltzikhe and Batumi-Sarpi highways. Accidents are quite common. There are no road-signs, speed bumps and security cameras. 2. There is no sewage infrastructure. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See pg. 7 2. In 2016 the construction of sewage system has been initiated. |
| | Asatiani Blind Ally | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal roads are poorly maintained. 2. There are no playgrounds for children. 3. Dumpsters are available only at the end of the street and locals have to walk a long distance to dispose household waste. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to the City Hall, renovation of water supply and sewage networks is under way in Batumi. For this reason streets will be asphalted only after underground infrastructure in the area is upgraded and completed. The work is scheduled to be finished by 2018. 2. There is a vacant place in the area, which can be used to build a playground for children. 3. Local residents can address the issue to the relevant departments at the City Hall. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Shuakhevi | Town of Shuakhevi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public safety concerns are raising with the growing number of street dogs. 2. Lack of sport/cultural facilities and community gathering centers. 3. One section of the local road is vulnerable to falling rocks. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The central and/or local self-government should develop targeted programs to address the problem related of street dogs. 2. There is a sport field and community gathering space 500-700 meters away from the neighborhood, accordingly the problem was not pursued further. 3. The problem can be solved by installment of protective nets. |
| | Laklaveti | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no medical facility the village. Bad weather and poor road hinder access to medical services. 2. The local road lacks rainwater drainage infrastructure and is often damaged by rain. 3. A community centre was built in the village in the framework of the state assistance program for rural communities. But the community lacks funds to decorate and furnish the building. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local residents are ready to designate one room of the village's community centre to serve as a medical unit, in case local authorities supply equipment and furniture, and allocate funds to pay salary to a doctor/nurse. Although a member of local self-government, a village resident, during the meeting mentioned that the authorities would support this initiative, the medical unit has not been set up yet. 2. The local road needs full-depth repairs, including the development of a proper rainwater drainage system. 3. Additional funds can be requested from the state village assistance program or other sources to complete the community centre. |
| | Tsivadzeebi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A 30-metre section of the local irrigation network is entirely out of work, while the remaining part is badly damaged. 2. There is no sport/cultural/educational centers. 3. Internal roads are poorly maintained. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After thorough assessment of the problem, the local residents decided not to pursue the problem. According to them, there is a long-running feud between Tsivadzeebi and a neighboring Tchvana community over irrigation water. So far the two communities have managed to avoid an open conflict, largely due to local traditions and experience of peaceful coexistence. Residents of Tsivadzeebi are certain that any unilateral attempt to solve the problem in favor of one of the communities will inevitably spark off tensions and may even lead to a violent confrontation. Based on the principle – Do No Harm, the community decided not to act on the problem. 2. There is not enough vacant territory in the village to build a sport field or a community centre. 3. See page 8. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|---------------|---|---|
| Khulo | Town of Khulo | <p>1. According to local residents, the main water pump station providing water supply to the community is damaged and needs repairing. Water is polluted and access is limited.</p> <p>2. Local residents complained about absence of internet connection. There is no internet provider in the village.</p> <p>3. There are no playgrounds and/or recreational facilities for children. There is a vacant place next to apartment building which can accommodate a children playground or a small park.</p> | <p>1. The main water pump station was renovated by the local municipality in 2016.</p> <p>2. Internet service providers will provide access to the local residents only if they are convinced that their business will profit from it.</p> <p>3. The initiative group filed a petition, signed by 80 local residents, with the Khulo self-government for permission to set up a recreational area – a small park – on the vacant territory next to apartment buildings and received a positive response from the authorities.</p> <p>An architect, who was hired within the project framework, drafted a design for the park project. As the area is next to a main highway, it is necessary to build a protective wall to prevent landslide. The estimated cost to build the wall is approximately 80,000 GEL. Currently, the local self-government does not have sufficient funds to cover the costs.</p> |
| | Jvariketi | <p>1. The local drinking water supply system is based on an open-canal. There is no main station and filters installed. There are shortcomings in water supply. Moreover, water is polluted and unsafe to drink.</p> <p>2. The 7-km local irrigation canal is damaged, leaving the village without irrigation water.</p> <p>3. The local residents built a large community centre “Village House” with own resources. But they have no financial resources to equip it.</p> | <p>1. See page 7.</p> <p>2. The Khulo municipal coordinator and the local initiative group have successfully addressed the local self-government to renovate the irrigation infrastructure. The reconstruction was completed in 2015.</p> <p>3. CIPDD and its partner organization, Independent Journalists’ House, donated 250 books to the community and informed NGO -“For Each Other” about the shortcomings at the community center. “For Each Other”, from their side, donated over 50 books and promised to equip the Village House.</p> |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Khulo | Ghurta | <p>1. To bypass a poorly managed 5-km road connecting the village to the main highway, local residents built an alternative 800-metre road, but have been unable to register it yet.</p> <p>2. The only way for local residents to transport firewood home from a nearby forest is the “Zegani” road, which is severely damaged.</p> <p>3. Although a doctor and a nurse are available in the village, there is no specialized place allocated for providing medical services. Local residents agreed to set up a medical unit in one of the rooms of the village’s community centre.</p> | <p>1. Experts should examine the road and assess whether it is safe to drive through it or not. In case of a positive evaluation, the local residents have to address the local self-government, with the experts’ report attached to their letter, and request registration of the road.</p> <p>2. According to the local residents, given harsh weather conditions in the region, repairing the road does not make sense, as it will be damaged again next fall or winter.</p> <p>3. According to the local residents, the Ministry of Health of Adjara is planning to open a medical unit in the village and provide all necessary equipment in 2017.</p> |
| | Tcharnali | <p>1. According to the local residents, although a neighboring village – Akhalsopeli, 2.5 km away, has been already connected to the gas distribution grid, Tcharnali remains without gas supply despite repeated requests addressed to the local authorities.</p> <p>2. There are no medical services in the village and the local residents have to travel to a neighboring village to see a doctor.</p> <p>3. Poor condition of internal roads.</p> | <p>1. Under the current gas distribution scheme, the village is not eligible for gas supply.</p> <p>2. According to the Ministry of Health of Adjara, there are no plans to set up a medical facility in the village in the nearest future.</p> <p>3. According to the local residents, the most damaged and dangerous sections of the local roads are currently being repaired – the project is co-funded by the state village assistance program and the local self-government.</p> |
| Khelvachauri | Tchkutuneti | <p>1. There is no community center for the local residents to gather and socialize. There is a vacant building that locals would like to open a community centre.</p> <p>2. Inadequate access to pre-school education, even though some 50 pre-school age children reside in the village.</p> <p>3. There is no irrigation system.</p> | <p>1. In response to the local initiative group’s enquiry about the ownership of a vacant house, the local self-government clarified that it is owned by the Ministry of Economy of Adjara. The group should continue its advocacy efforts to address the problem.</p> <p>2. The problem is entirely within the responsibility of the local self-government. The initiative group has to continue its advocacy efforts to address the problem.</p> <p>3. According to the local residents, the problem can be solved by building five small water tanks, which will be enough to collect and supply irrigation water to all local households. However, their estimates were not verified by an independent expert yet. The problem requires further analysis and expert assessment.</p> |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Khelvachauri | Erge | <p>1. There is a vacant place in the centre of the village where local residents would like to build a stadium or a park.</p> <p>2. There is an old club in the village build during Soviet time. Its equipment is outdated and needs update.</p> <p>3. The kindergarten is housed in the local public school. But it is overcrowded, as it hosts children from several villages. The presence of kindergarten in the school premises creates problems for both the school students and the kindergarten children.</p> | <p>1. According to the local self-government, there are no development plans for the vacant territory. To create a park there, local residents should prepare a proposal and address the local self-government for its implementation.</p> <p>2. The club is supervised and managed by the Khelvachauri culture center. Accordingly the local residents should address the administration with their concerns.</p> <p>3. The problem is under the responsibility of the local self-government. The initiative group should continue its advocacy efforts to address the problem.</p> |
| | Gilauri neighborhood | <p>1. There are no kindergartens in the neighborhood. While other pre-school educational institutions of Kobuleti are out of reach, Gilauri children are denied of the access to pre-school education.</p> <p>2. The local Roma community has created a musical band "Mix" but it was restricted to perform in Kobuleti (in restaurants and bars). The band members blame it on negative stereotypes about the Roma people.</p> <p>3. There are no playgrounds and sport facilities for children. Thus they are playing in the streets.</p> | <p>1. The community can address the local self-government with their concern.</p> <p>2. To promote the band, CIPDD's partner organization, Independent Journalists' House, invited them to perform in Batumi. Unfortunately, the band was dissolved due to lack of funds.</p> <p>3. The community can address the local self-government with their concern.</p> |
| Kobuleti | Gorgadzeebi | <p>1. There is no gas supply.</p> <p>2. There is no kindergarten near the village. Accordingly local residents have to walk long distances or hire private transportation.</p> <p>3. Internal roads are poorly maintained.</p> | <p>1. Under the current national gas distribution scheme, the village is not eligible for gas supply.</p> <p>2. The problem under the competence of the municipal government. The initiative group should continue its advocacy efforts to address the problem.</p> <p>3. Major roadworks are under way in the framework of the state village assistance program. But the process is lengthy and the problem will not be solved shortly.</p> |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Kobuleti | Kveda Kvirike | <p>1. There is no gas supply.</p> <p>2. Part of the central road and internal roads are poorly maintained.</p> <p>3. There is no medical facility. General physician visits the village only once a week.</p> | <p>1. Under the current national gas distribution scheme, the village is not eligible for gas supply.</p> <p>2. Due to intense daily traffic of heavy construction equipment and heavy trucks employed in the ongoing construction of a new Batumi-Tbilisi highway near the village no repairing projects are planned until the highway project is completed. As for the inter-village connecting roads, the local self-government has no plans to renovate them in the nearest future.</p> <p>3. The community should address the Kobuleti self-government and the Ministry of Health of Adjara to assign a doctor to the village and open a medical facility there.</p> |
| | Town of Keda | <p>1. Children are playing outdoors where there is a busy traffic.</p> <p>2. Snow falling from the rooftops cause safety concerns for the local residents.</p> <p>3. The road towards the local kindergarten runs through the yard of an apartment building. Intense daily traffic poses danger to the local residents.</p> | <p>1. According to local residents, there is an old electrical-station unit beside their houses that can be removed to create a space for children to play. They claim that the unit was privatized by house owners' association, though has no document to prove it. The community was advised to request respective information from the local self-government but they decided not to pursue the claim further.</p> <p>2. The community can address the concern to the local self-government.</p> <p>3. The community can address the local self-government for installing road bumps.</p> |
| Keda | Chinkadzeebi | <p>1. The local water reservoir had no roof and water filters. As a result, water was not safe to drink and there were cases of reptiles accessing inside the reservoir.</p> <p>2. Internal roads are poorly maintained.</p> <p>3. No entertainment center or sport facilities for young people.</p> | <p>1. See page 8.</p> <p>2. According to local residents, the most dangerous sections are currently being repaired in the framework of the state village assistance program.</p> <p>3. There are no suitable buildings in the village to serve as a community centre and no vacant territory to build a sport's field.</p> |
| | Pirveli Maisi | <p>1/2. There is limited drinking and irrigation water supply. Drinking water is polluted.</p> <p>3. A stadium in the centre of the villages needs rehabilitation.</p> | <p>6-7 years ago, one-kilometer local irrigation canal was repaired in the framework of an NGO lead project. But it failed to operate as no preliminary clean-up activities were carried out. The repaired canal was clogged with sand and sediment, hampering the water flow.</p> |

Appendix II – Samtskhe-Javakheti

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| Borjomi | Town of Borjomi Technical College Dormitory | 1. Residents of the building took over the space years ago, but have no legal documents to claim the property. Electric wiring system does not meet safety standards and is dangerous. | See pg. 12 |
| | Tadzrisi¹ | 1. Village has no irrigation system. 2. Village has no sport facility. | 1. The community plans to solve the problem in the framework of the state village assistance program. 2. The community has to address the local self-government with the concern. |
| | Tchobiskhevi | 1. There is no irrigation system. 2. Internal roads are poorly maintained. 3. There is no gas supply. | 1. Advocacy efforts should be addressed toward the local self government authorities. It is possible to incorporate the issue in state village assistance program. 2. Internal roads are used for transportation of timber and firewood and it is impossible to maintain them. 3. The community has to address the respective private company and inquire about their plans. |
| Aspindza | Town of Aspindza | 1. There is no sufficient water supply. 2. The local kindergarten is overcrowded. | 1. According to the local authorities, they have already announced tender for providing water supply services. The winning company has been identified and construction works are underway. 2. Renovation of two kindergartens was funded from the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia. |
| | Oshora | 1. High death toll among the local residents' cattle every year. 2. According to the local residents, water is not safe to drink. | 1. Based on consultations with experts, the project team advised the community to establish a private veterinary (at an estimated cost of 10,000 USD). The draft proposal was prepared with CIPDD assistance and potential donors were identified. However, the community showed little interest to further advance with the initiative. 2. The local water supply system is managed by the United Water Company. The community was advised how to raise the issue with the company and lobby to ensure high quality of supplied water. |

¹ It is essential for Tadzrisi and Chobiskhevi communities to initiate projects aimed at creating additional income sources, such as small food processing factories, hostels and tourism infrastructure development.

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|---|
| Aspindza | Saro | 1. The village has no irrigation water. | The project staff communicated the problem to the regional development fund. The irrigation system was restored. |
| Adigeni | Town of Adigeni | 1. The water supply infrastructure is outdated. 2. There are growing number of street dogs. 3. There is no space for young people to socialize. | 1. The community should address the local self-government with the issue. 2. A targeted municipal or national program is necessary to be developed to solve the problem. 3. The project team raised the issues with the representative of World Vision, which helped to build a youth centre in the village. Moreover, with the assistance of the project team, the local initiative group won a grant and successfully set up an Internet Cafe. |
| | Gomaro | 1. Insufficient irrigation water supply. 2. Lack of agricultural equipment. 3. No informal education opportunities for the youth. | 1. Two alternative water supply systems were assessed. a) It is impossible to build a water reservoir in a mountainous area due to high danger of landslides. b) IREKSON technology is useless because of the insufficient capacity and low flow rate of the local water well. There is a possibility to build a reservoir for collecting underground water with an estimated budget of 10,000 USD. 2. The local initiative group negotiated the issue with the regional department of the Ministry of Agriculture. The contractor company of the Ministry - Mekhanizatori Ltd, will provide agricultural equipment for the community. 3. See page. 14 |
| | Varkhani | 1. Insufficient drinking water supply. 2. No internet connection available in the village. | 1. A project aimed at addressing the problems was prepared including budget estimates. It was not presented to the donor organization as the local self-government failed to provide co-funding. 2. With the assistance from the project team, specialized equipment was installed in the village. Currently, there is an internet connection. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Akhaltzikhe | City of Akhalkalaki, Jakeli street | 1. There is no street lighting. | 1. With the assistance from the project team, the community gathered necessary signatures and addressed the City Hall. The request was positively assessed by local authorities. Street lights are currently operating. |
| | Atskuri | 1. There are no dumpsters for household waste. 2. The water supply infrastructure is malfunctioning. | 1. The project team raised the issue with the local self-government. Dumpsters were placed across the village. 2. According to the local self-government, rehabilitation of the local water supply system is already planned. The local initiative group has to monitor the process. |
| | Sadzeli | 1. The irrigation infrastructure is outdated. 2. The kindergarten needs renovation. | 1. According to the local self-government, rehabilitation of the irrigation system is already planned. The local initiative group has to monitor the process. 2. After the project team raised the issue with the local self-government, the kindergarten was renovated. |
| Akhalkalaki | Akhalkalaki | 1. Internal roads are poorly maintained. 2. There are growing number of street dogs. | 1. After the project team raised the problem with the local self-government, the roads were repaired. 2. A targeted municipal or national program is necessary to solve the problem. |
| | Ptena | 1. 80 local households have no water supply. 2. There is no gas supply. 3. The road to reach the village is severely damaged. | Given the complexity and extremely high costs of the problems, they were impossible to address within the project framework. |
| | Olaverdi | 1. 80 local households have no water supply. 2. There is no gas supply. 3. The road to reach the village is severely damaged. | 1. See page 13. 2. The community has to inquire information about scheduled infrastructure construction plans from the respective gas company. 3. The community should raise the issue with the local self-government. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Ninotsminda | Ninotsminda | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drinking water is polluted. 2. The local kindergarten is over-crowded. 3. There is no sewage cleaning infrastructure. | Given the complexity and high related costs of the problems, they were impossible to address within the project framework. |
| | Spasovka | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The road to reach the village is deteriorating. 2. There is no kindergarten. 3. There are no medical facilities. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2. The community should raise these issues with the local self-government. 3. The community signed a petition for provision of medical service in the village. The petition was sent to the regional administration and the Ministry of Health. |
| | Patara Khanchali | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Part of the local households has no water supply. 2. Internal roads are impassable in bad weather. 3. Walls and floors in the local school are covered by lichen. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2. The community should address the local self-government for the development of the water supply and road infrastructure. 3. With the project team assistance, the school board communicated the problem to the Ministry of Education. In 2016 the infrastructure development department of the Ministry listed the school among its high-priority projects. |

Appendix III – Kvemo Kartli

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| Rustavi | Megobroba Str. 35a. HighSchool #20 | <p>1. 90% of the school students live in nearby apartment buildings. According to parents, during bad weather large pools of rainwater are formed at the entrance to the school and children's shoes become soaking wet.</p> <p>2. As the schoolyard is not fenced (the metal fence was stolen in the 90s and sold to a metal recycling centre), residents of the surrounding houses dump their household and construction waste in the schoolyard and street dogs are roaming freely there.</p> <p>3. Dumpsters in hallways do not meet sanitary standards. The local residents are requesting to install them outside the building.</p> | <p>1. The initiative group at the school is currently negotiating with local organizations and private companies to purchase construction materials. After fundraising, the school administration can solve the problem by itself.</p> <p>2. According to the school administration's estimates, restoring the fence around the school will cost 60,000 GEL. The initiative group should try to find investors.</p> <p>3. According to local residents, the problem was solved by the local self-government – the dumpsters were moved outdoors.</p> |
| | District 18, Building 12a | <p>1. Due to the absence of sealant joints between concrete panels, rainwater gets inside residential apartments through the building facade.</p> <p>2. A partly built construction site is standing next to the apartment building, which has been turned into a waste dump. Moreover, despite repeated warnings, local children often play there, that is raising safety concerns among local residents.</p> <p>3. There is no stadium or other sport facility. There is a vacant space near the building that can be used for it.</p> | <p>1. The homeowners' association and/or the initiative group should mobilize the residents to crowdfund, at least partly, or raise funds from other sources to contract a construction company to fix the problem.</p> <p>2. The initiative group should inquire the local self-government about future plans for the building. If there are no plans to demolish or rebuild it, the group should continue its advocacy efforts to solve the problem.</p> <p>3. The community should address the local self-government to solve the problem.</p> |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| Rustavi | “Internati” neighborhood | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hallways are poorly lit and need renovation. The local residents are interested to build a children playground on a vacant territory near their apartment building. The driveway to the building is not fenced and lacks a rainwater drainage system. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> After the community addressed the local self-government, the problem was fixed. Legal ownership rights to the territory are unclear and should be determined before pursuing the playground project. According to the local residents, the local self-government has solved the problem. |
| Gardabani | Municipal Center, IDP Settlement | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There are uncovered manholes. The building’s internal sewage infrastructure is outdated. The stadium near the building has deteriorated. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The initiative group communicated the problem to the Rustavtskali Ltd, which is responsible for the maintenance of the city sewage infrastructure, and the problem was solved: the opened manholes are now covered. According to the initiative group, in response to their request, Kurta and Eredvi self-governments, together with the Gardabani municipal administration, jointly allocated funds to repair the building’s sewage system. The problem is currently resolved. The stadium was renovated by the Gardabani self-government. |
| | Nagebi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is no space for the local youth initiative group to gather and work. Internal roads are poorly maintained. The local railway station has no platform, making it difficult, if not dangerous, to board/leave a train. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Gardabani office of the Georgian Red Cross and the NGO Vector donated office equipment, while the local self-government allocated a room for the initiative group. Members of the group attended training at CIPDD. According to the local residents, the renovation of roads has already started. The local initiative group and the local self-government should jointly address the Georgian Railway Department for the construction of a platform in the station. |
| | Vakhtangisi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Newly built districts of the village have no gas supply (old districts are supplied with gas). The village’s kindergarten is housed in the local school. As a result, both experience lack of space. The local residents fear for their health due to the Magticom and Beeline cell phone base-station antennas, which stand on a privately owned land in the centre of the village. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The community should address the gas company for providing gas to the neighborhood. In the framework of a municipal development program a new kindergarten is currently under construction. After the project is completed, the entire old building will be handed over to the school and the problem will be solved. The community launched a campaign to address the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Georgian National Communications Commission to assess the impact of the antennas. The campaign did not succeed as not enough local residents engaged. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Marneuli | Marneuli | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of civic awareness among local residents. 2. The city is polluted, mainly the canal running through the town that is used as a dumpster of household waste. 3. The sewage infrastructure is outdated. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2. See page 17. 3. The local self-government has recently launched a project to gradually replace old sewage pipes. |
| | Kirovka | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The local school is housed in an old crumbling building. 2. There is insufficiency in drinking water supply and it is polluted. 3. Internal roads are poorly maintained. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The initiative group should try to attract donor organizations to sponsor the renovation project or lobby the Ministry of Education to include the school into its infrastructure development program. 2. As a result of the community's advocacy efforts, the local self-government built a water supply network in the village. Next year all local houses will be connected to the network and equipped with water meters. 3. The community should try to include the project in the framework of the state village assistance program. |
| | Didi Mughanlo | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The road connecting the village to the municipal centre is poorly maintained. 2. The school-yard, which stands on the Khrami River bank, is gradually shrinking due to intense riverbank erosion. 3. The school's roof is damaged and needs renovation. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of a new road between Marneuli and Didi Mughanlo began soon after the problem was raised. The renovation has been completed. 2. It is necessary to further assess the situation and estimate the costs for introducing protection measures. 3. The school roof was renovated. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Bolnisi | Bolnisi, Street of King Farnavaz (Old German District) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Majority of the local houses need roof replacement. 2. Most of the local houses need renovation. 3. Roads lack rainwater drainage infrastructure. | <p>The Union for the Protection of German Cultural Heritage in the South Caucasus and Georgian National Agency for Cultural Heritage Protection expressed interest to engage in the problem solving process. They assessed local neighborhoods. As a result, houses in the old German neighborhood were identified as sites of cultural heritage.</p> <p>Some local houses are scheduled to be renovated in 2017, to mark the 200 anniversary of establishment of Georgia's German community.</p> |
| | Akaurta | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is insufficient drinking water supply. 2. There are no sport and cultural/educational centers. 3. Internal roads are poorly maintained. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The problem will be solved after the infrastructural project is implemented in the framework of the state village assistance program. 2. A project addressing the problem was prepared by the project team and submitted to a donor organization. 3. In response to the community's request, internal roads were repaired in the framework of a municipal development program. |
| | Senebi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A road from the village to the nearest water well is damaged (a 200-metre section of the road is virtually impassable in bad weather). 2. There is no power supply and toilet in the local school. 3. The community has no housewares in the village building for special occasions/events and has to borrow them from neighboring villages. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The community failed to agree a common position, whether to use gravel or concrete for repairing the road. Although water supply pipes were installed in the village in the framework of the state village assistance program, the local residents claim that the problem is not solved yet as the construction works are not completed. 2. The project team raised the problem with the respective department of the Bolnisi self-government and power supply was restored. 3. The community plans to solve the problem in the framework of the state village assistance program. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|----------------|--|--|
| Dmanisi | Dmanisi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is insufficient number of ambulance vehicles. 2. There is a lack of specialized gyms and equipment for youth power-lifting/crossfit activities. 3. Majority of local young people have limited access to higher and vocational education. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The problem is already solved. The Ministry of Health donated ambulance vehicles to various communities, including Dmanisi. 2. See page 17. 3. The community should address the local self-government and the Ministry of Education to solve the problem. |
| | Bazaklo | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal roads are poorly maintained. 2. Water supply infrastructure is outdated. 3. The village cemetery should be expanded and rainwater drainage infrastructure should be installed. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Although internal roads were graveled in 2012 in the framework of the state village assistance program, they still remain as a concern. 2. The water supply system was rehabilitated in the framework of the state village assistance program. 3. In response to the community's request, the local self-government expanded the cemetery's boundaries and built a rainwater drainage system. |
| | Kamarlo | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal roads are poorly maintained. 2. The cemetery in the centre of the village has no fence. 3. The main pump station of the drinking water supply system is out of order. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roads were repaired in the framework of the state village assistance program. 2. In response to the community's request, the local self-government fenced the cemetery. 3. With the active participation of the local residents the pump station's roof was renovated. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Tetrtskaro | Tetrtskaro | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no youth center. 2. The water supply infrastructure is poorly maintained. 3. There are no sport/cultural/entertainment facilities. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See page 17. 2. The local self-government has launched a project to solve the problem. 3. The local self-government built a stadium and a recreational park in the town. |
| | Jorjashvili | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drinking water is not safe to drink. 2. The kindergarten has no gas supply, though other houses in the village have one. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In response to the community's request, the local self-government is currently exploring opportunities to locate well water and drill the wells. 2. In response to the community's request, the kindergarten was connected to the gas supply infrastructure. |
| | Chkhikvta | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no gas supply. 2. There is insufficient drinking and irrigation water supply. 3. There is no football field in the village. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The initiative group should inquire information about the dates of gas supply from SOCAR Georgia. 2. The problem should be resolved in the framework of the state village assistance program. The development of a water supply network will require substantial investments, as the village is located at a long distance from the nearest river. 3. The community should raise funds to build a stadium in the village. |
| Tsalka | Tsalka | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illegal residents of the old hospital are living in harsh conditions. They have no documents to claim ownership over the property. | <p>The project team discussed problems of the eco-migrants with NGO representatives and governmental agencies responsible for these issues. Georgian Young Lawyers Association was involved in management of specific legal issues.</p> <p>Problems of the eco-migrants from Adjara are extremely complex and need to be addressed on national policy level. Parallel, efforts should be directed to protect rights of the migrants and improve their social conditions.</p> |
| | Imera | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a lack of arable lands. 2. Ownership of private houses is not documented. 3. The school is housed in an old crumbling residential building. | |
| | Sabechisi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a lack of arable land. 2. There is a lack of pasture land. 3. Ownership of private houses is not documented. | |

Appendix IV – Shida Kartli

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Gori | Gori, Castle District | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to underdeveloped tourism infrastructure, tourists rarely visit Gori Castle. 2. There is a limited access to start-up loans. 3. Local residents have difficulties of transportation as all streets but one is open only for pedestrians. | <p>1/2. The initiative group formed within the project framework established an NGO “Gori Downtown”. A working group was set up in Gori City Hall. A petition campaign is under way for the delegating management of Gori Castle from the central government to Gori City Hall.</p> <p>Gori Downtown launched fundraising efforts to allocate funds for social and economic development projects of the district.</p> <p>3. After the initiative group discussed the problem with the local authorities, one more street was opened to the cars.</p> |
| | Kheltubani | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Although the village has significant underground water resources, there is a scarcity in water supply. Water is too deep underground and it is expensive to pump it. 2. The kindergarten is housed in an old crumbling building. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A field test to demonstrate the efficiency of a wind-powered water pump was carried out in the village. The budget for installation of the pump is around 13.500 Euro. So far, no donor organization has stepped forward to support the project. 2. The community should mobilize and address the local self-government to solve the problem. |
| | Sveneti | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no dumpsters. Household waste is dumped in the schoolyard. 2. Internal roads are poorly maintained. 3. There is insufficient supply of irrigation water. <p>Part of the local farms are not irrigated</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the initiative group discussed the problem with the local authorities, the matter was settled – dumpsters were placed in the village and waste is regularly collected. 2. The community should mobilize and address the local self-government to resolve the issue. 3. The project team invited an expert to assess the opportunities to provide irrigation water with IREKSON. Due to high investment needs and risk factors, it was concluded that in this particular case, installment of this technology will not be cost-efficient. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Kaspi | Constitution Street | 1. There is no sewage system. | 1. The problem was discussed at a meeting between the initiative group and local authorities. The group was informed that building a sewage system was already planned in the framework of the general Kaspi sewage infrastructure development plan. The neighborhood will have the system in 2017. |
| | Akhaltsikhe | 1. The nearest agricultural service centre is located at a long distance from the village, limiting local farmers' access to agricultural equipment and undermining the productivity of the local agricultural sector. 2. Due to outdated irrigation system, about 200 hectares of local farms are not irrigated. 3. The local football field is deteriorated beyond use. | 1. The initiative group is planning to hold negotiations with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss the problem once the reorganization of the agricultural service centers is completed. 2/3. The community should mobilize and jointly address the local self-government to solve the problem. |
| | Teliani | 1. There is no gas supply. 2. Due to outdated irrigation system, about 200 hectares of local farms are not irrigated. 3. Internal roads are poorly maintained. | 1. The initiative group should address the gas company to receive detailed information about the problem. 2. Renovation of the local irrigation infrastructure requires substantial investments. It is necessary to replace old irrigation systems with modern and advanced technologies. 3. The local self-government launched a project to renovate the village's main internal road during the project implementation process. |
| Kareli | Ninoshvili Street | 1. There is insufficient supply of water to the apartment building. 2. The roof of the building is damaged. 3. Internal plumbing in the building is outdated and malfunctioning. | 1. The community decided to address the local self-government with the problem. The latter replaced the water supply pipes and restored water supply before they did so. 2/3. The community decided to create a homeowners' association to deal with common problems. But their efforts were hindered because the local self-government had no assistance programs for homeowners' associations. |
| | Giganti | 1. There are no sport facilities. 2. Due to high installation costs, local residents cannot afford to gain access to gas supply. 3. The administrative building of the village is outdated and needs renovation. | 1. It was initiated to assist young people in their efforts to solve the problem. However, they failed to mobilize and establish a community association. 2. The residents affected by the problem should mobilize and develop a joint strategy. 3. The initiative group should address the local self-government with a request to renovate the building. |

| Municipality | Community | Problem Description | Problem Response |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Kareli | Kvenatkotsa | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The irrigation infrastructure is outdated. 2. The drinking water supply system is outdated. 3. According to the local residents, the land registration process is lengthy and costly. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project team proposed to set up a small farm with a drip-irrigation system to demonstrate the benefits of the new technology to local residents, but the proposal was not implemented as no sufficient public land was allocated for this purposes. 2. The initiative group should advocate for further assessment and response to the problem. 3. The community should discuss the problem with respective service providers. |
| | Surami, Jerusalem Street | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no sewage infrastructure. 2. Internal roads are poorly maintained. 3. Public safety is compromised due to stones falling from the crumbling walls of Surami Castle. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the problem was discussed with the local authorities, funds were allocated from the municipal budget to develop a sewage system. However, the allotted amount of money appeared to be insufficient for the project implementation. 2. The road renovation has been postponed until the underground sewage infrastructure is fully repaired. 3. As Surami Castle falls under the central government's responsibility, the local self-government is not entitled to solve the problem. The community has to address the central government to solve the problem. |
| Khashuri | Khtsisi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to belated licensing, locals cannot collect enough firewood in time for winter and have to purchase it on the market. 2. Although the gas distribution infrastructure is already built in the village, gas is not supplied yet. 3. There is no community center for local residents to gather and discuss common problems. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The initiative group decided to discuss the problem with the Ministry of Environment when the logging licensing process began. As the logging licenses were issued timely, the problem became irrelevant. 2. The problem was solved in December 2016. 3. See page 23. |
| | Natsargora | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no signs of direction with the name of the village on it on the central highway. 2. There is no gas supply. 3. Internal and access roads are poorly maintained. The problem is especially urgent as the only available medical service is in a neighboring village 3 km away. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The road signs were installed shortly after the project team discussed this concern with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure. 2. The initiative group should address the gas company to collect more information about the issue. 3. The initiative group should address the local self-government with the problem. |