

EC Rehabilitation Programme for Abkhazia / Georgia
PROGRAMME I

Interim Narrative Report First Quarter 2006

1. Name of Lead Partner of grant agreement and of legal representative:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP,) Georgia
2. Name and title of the person responsible for the project:
Mitchell L. Carlson, Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Georgia
3. Name of partners in the project: **UNDP is working closely with UNOMIG and the infrastructure components of Phase I. UNDP has begun the process of identifying an international NGO as a partner for the Health Training Component, and two local NGOs as partners for part of the agriculture component in Zugdidi and in Abkhazia.**
4. Title of the project:
The European Commission Rehabilitation Programme for Abkhazia Phase I
5. Contract number of the project: **TACIS/2005/111-166**
6. Start date of the reporting period: **January 1, 2006**
7. End date of the reporting period: **March 31, 2006**
8. Target country(ies) or region(s): **Abkhazia, Georgia**
9. Target groups: **vulnerable population of districts of Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Gali in Abkhazia, and Zugdidi.**

A. Compliance with the Grant Agreement:

1. Has the project been carried out as foreseen in the methodology? If not, please explain how and why the original proposal was modified, including the dates that any addenda were requested and received.

The project has been carried out using the methodology outlined in the original proposal.

2. Was the provisional budget of the project respected? If not, please explain any changes that occurred.

There was one deviation from the budget in that we were able to hire the International Civil Engineer on a United Nations Volunteers (UNV) contract, thus saving almost half on the amount allocated in the budget for the position. The plan is to use the savings to keep the engineer for an additional 6-12 months depending on the overall savings.

B. Project Objectives:

1. Please list all project objectives, and indicate if they were modified.

The overall goal of the Project is to improve livelihoods and the environment for peace in Abkhazia/Georgia through integrated rehabilitation and recovery activities. Specific objectives of this project are:

- (1) To improve infrastructure through the rehabilitation of the water systems, the capacity building of water system and electrical system staff.
- (2) To enhance the delivery of and the access to social services through the provision of equipment to hospitals and the training and capacity building of hospital and district healthcare staff.
- (3) To reduce the vulnerability of the rural population through the delivery of agricultural inputs, improved technical skills in agriculture and support to farmer groups.

The Goal and objectives have not been modified

C. Project Activities

1. Please list all the activities in line with Annex I of the Contract since the beginning of the project, e.g.

Activity 1 Provision of Hospital Support and Capacity Building (Non-infrastructure) would be implementing by selected International NGO in cooperation with UNDP.

Title of the activities:

Contract Number:

- a) Provision of essential equipment and training of staff in its use
- b) Training and capacity building:
 - 1. Hospital administration;
 - 2. Service Delivery;
 - 3. Sanitation and waste management;
 - 4. Infrastructure maintenance and sustainability.
- c) Development and support of a working referral system
- d) Information campaign and advocacy work

Please elaborate on the activities covered:

Under the guidance of UNDP, the ALIR Programme management developed a preliminary questionnaire, which was sent to four international NGOs that focus on healthcare development (Merlin, Save the Children, World Vision and MDM; DRC, NRC, MSF, and OXFAM declined to participate) to assess their capacity and eligibility to implement the EC health component under UNDP direction. Only two organizations submitted questionnaires (Save and World Vision) by the appointed deadline. ALIR management, together with UNICEF and WHO representatives will review the submissions using a point basis, and will recommend an implementing partner based on the results of the evaluation of the questionnaire. UNDP will choose the potential implementing partner (IP) by end of April. A detailed programme will be worked out with the IP in May.

Your assessment of the results of this activity:

Activity is ongoing.

Activity 1.2 Improvement of Water and Sanitation

Title of the activity i) Rehabilitation of the drinking water systems in Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli:

Please elaborate on the activities covered:

On March 15 the Civil Engineer began his job in Sukhumi. During the following week the local Water Engineer and Assistant were hired and the Water Unit was formed.

At the end of March working groups in each of the districts were formed. The groups include representatives of the local authorities, local communities and NGO representatives in Tkvarcheli, Ochamchira and Gali districts. These groups will inform the local population about the activities, assist in mobilizing the target groups for further estimates of the damaged places in the water supply system and facilitate and develop links between the local authorities/water operators and local communities. The working groups will also collect the preliminary technical drawings and documentation on the water supply systems and map the water supply system jointly with the UNDP specialists.

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): N/A

Your assessment of the results of this activity: Activity is ongoing

Title of the activity ii) **Capacity building and training:**

Please elaborate on the activities covered: **Health training will start once the IP has been identified and a detailed programme worked out.**

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): **N/A**

Your assessment of the results of this activity: **N/A**

Title of the activity iii) **Primary health awareness campaign:**

Please elaborate on the activities covered:
Not Started-Will begin in ninth month of the project

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): **N/A**

Your assessment of the results of this activity: **N/A**

Activity 2 **Electricity Supply (Non-Infrastructure)**

Title of the activity 2.1: **Provision of essential tools, supplies and equipment to the electricity company in Gali:**

Please elaborate on the activities covered:
As stated above UNDP has hired an International Civil Engineer, who will be working with UNOMIG to identify the tools, supplies and equipment for the electricity company in Gali.

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): **N/A**

Your assessment of the results of this activity: **The activity is in the very early stages of development.**

Title of the activity 2.2: **The provision of training in management and technical issues:**

Please elaborate on the activities covered:
UNDP has met with Dean White, the Head of the United Electric Distribution Company of Georgia (UEDC) to discuss the possibility of them taking an active role in the training of the Gali Electricity Company. Mr. White expressed interest and assured UNDP that his company had the capacity to implement the training. UNDP is currently following up with UEDC.

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): **N/A**

Your assessment of the results of this activity: **The activity is in the very early stages of development.**

Title of the activity 2.3: **Public information campaign and Lobbying:**

Contract Number:

Please elaborate on the activities covered:
 Not Started-Will begin in the 12th month of the project

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): N/A

Your assessment of the results of this activity: N/A

Activity 3 Assistance for Income Generating Activities – Local Agricultural Development

Title of the activity 3.1: Provision of agricultural inputs:

Please elaborate on the activities covered:

Twenty-five farmer groups, involved in vegetable and melon growing, have been identified and mobilized in Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli Districts. The total area of farm land identified and set aside for the programme for agricultural micro-projects is 130 hectares.

The following are the main types of seedlings that will be planted: hot pepper, paprika, cucumbers, tomatoes, white cabbage, aubergine (eggplant), pumpkin, turnip, maize, beans and haricot, melon and water-melon.

The required amount of seeds, seedlings, fertilizer and the necessary amount of diesel and motor oil needed were calculated. 104,454 running meters of barbed wire and 1,265 kilo of nails are needed for fencing. 11,740 kilos of ammonium nitrate and 4,675 kilos of nitroammophos are needed to fertilize the above mentioned plants. The procurement process for seedlings and barbed wire has been started and the contracts with local suppliers will be signed in April.

Three groups are engaged in livestock: two in Atara Abkhazskaya and one in Kindghi. Two groups are involved in beekeeping: one in Arakich and another in Tsarcha.

UNDP is in the process of identifying a local NGO based in Zugdidi to organize agriculture youth clubs. The clubs will serve as an educational tool for youth in the villages and as a way to increase interest of rural youth in agricultural activities. The proposal calls for training youth in agriculture and small business practices and provides practical training in implementing an agriculture project identified by the youth in each school. The selection of the local NGO should be completed in April.

An FAO consultant has been identified to assist UNDP in assessing the UNDP Agricultural staff and stakeholder training needs and provide some training in technical issues for staff and stakeholders. He will arrive in Sukhumi in April.

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable):

Contract Number:

Originally it was planned to select two villages per target district but in the process of group formation it became clear that the existing number of households in each selected village are not enough for the planned group formation activities. The population in the previously selected villages of Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts is too low. Therefore it was decided to include neighbouring villages to increase the number of mobilised households.

The following villages have been selected:

Gali District: Shashikvara, Chuburkhindji;

Tkvarcheli District: Okhum, Tsarcha, Mukhur, Chkhortol;

Ochamchira District: Kutol, Kindghi, Tamysh, Atara Armenian, Atara Abkhazskaya, Akvaskya, Arakich.

From 20-23 December 2005, staff from two UNDP projects, the New Approach Project and the Abkhazia Livelihood Improvement and Recovery (ALIR) programme, made a field visit to Zugdidi. The purpose was to visit some of the New Approach projects which had been implemented in preceding years, meet with local authorities and NGOs to determine the capacity and need for income generating projects focusing on the agriculture in Zugdidi. The idea was also to investigate possible projects which linked the resident population with the IDP population living in Zugdidi. A similar mission was undertaken in February with representatives from UNOMIG. Through these meetings and discussions, UNDP was able to identify the need for agriculture projects that improved the income of the local population, both resident and IDP families. The need to promote agriculture development among the youth was identified. The young people of Zugdidi as well as other areas of Georgia were abandoning their homes in rural areas in hopes of finding better economic opportunities in the urban centres. This created not only a brain drain from the rural areas, but meant that income from agriculture, the basis for the rural economy, was decreasing. The idea of creating agriculture youth groups in the secondary schools came out of these discussions. UNDP initially planned to recruit national staff to work in Zugdidi. After some internal discussions, following these missions, UNDP decided that the management of the Zugdidi portion could be done from both the Tbilisi and Abkhazia offices and that it would be more advantageous to use local partners for the implementation in Zugdidi.

Your assessment of the results of this activity: The initial phase of the activity has been successfully implemented and groups have been formed as outlined in the proposal.

Title of the activity 3.2: Provision of collective support to the groups:

Please elaborate on the activities covered:

Assessment of the needs for technical assistance and larger equipment/machinery has been started. The preliminary analysis shows the urgent need for purchase of motor cultivators and compact sprayers for vegetable treatment as well as mincing machine for producing *adjika*, a local spicy chili mixture. Water pumps also are needed to irrigate vegetable plantings.

Contract Number:

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): **N/A**

Your assessment of the results of this activity: **The activity is in the very early stages of development.**

Title of the activity **3.3: Provision of access to extension services:**

Please elaborate on the activities covered: **A needs assessment has been started. Information from the Central Veterinary Services, village administrators and stakeholders on the current situation and conditions on the access to extension services has been received.**

Reason for modification for the planned activity (if applicable): **N/A**

Your assessment of the results of this activity: **The activity is in the very early stages of development.**

Title of the activity **3.4: Farmer exchanges:**

The implementation if this activity is planned during the last three months of project

2. Please list all materials and publications (and no. of copies) produced during the project to date and include one copy of each item in the report.

None during the first quarter of the project.

Please state how your publications are being distributed and to whom.

N/A

3. What problems have arisen and how have these been addressed? **The political and security situation remain sensitive; UNDP monitors this in close communication with UNOMIG who is in charge of security.**

4. Please outline any activities and publications foreseen in the agreement that have not taken place and any other changes to the foreseen activities or timetable, explaining the reasons for these. **N/A**

5. Please give a plan of activities for the financial period between this interim report and the next report on the basis of an updated action plan (Annex C). **There are not changes in the initial work plan for the second quarter of the project. This will be reviewed after the second quarter and any revisions or changes made at this time.**

D. Results, Impact, Multiplier effect, and Evaluation

1. What results have been achieved during the reporting period (based on the results anticipated in your project application)? Please quantify these

Contract Number:

results, where possible. Staff have been recruited, target groups for income generation formed, initial meetings with local stakeholders held to explain the programme.

2. What is your assessment of the results of the project so far? Include observations on the extent to which foreseen goals are being met and whether the project has had any unforeseen positive or negative results (see Indicators in Log frame). **As noted above, the project is in its initial stages and is proceeding smoothly.**

3. What has been the impact on both the beneficiaries &/or target group (if different) and the situation in the target country population or target region which the project addressed?

The local authorities, village leaders and participants in the groups have supported the project and are keen to see results. Groups will benefit from the agriculture inputs which should improve their income this growing season.

4. How and by whom have activities been monitored/evaluated? Please summarise the results of the feedback received, including from the beneficiaries.

The UNDP team, along with UNOMIG and a representative of the EC have had monthly working group meetings to discuss the programme. UNDP staff regularly visit the project sites in the field, meet with local stakeholders to ensure that the project activities are progressing.

5. What impact is the project having on your organisation and on your partners? **UNDP has increased its presence and activities in Abkhazia with the recruitment of local staff and the start of project activities. These are expected to continue. Relations with other UN agencies working in Abkhazia have been strengthened. Cooperation and coordination is running smoothly with UNOMIG and partners.**

6. How is your organisation ensuring that the results obtained/the lessons learned from the project, are being made public?

There are monthly working group meetings between the EC, UNOMIG and UNDP. In addition, there are regular Information Sharing meetings in both Sukhumi, Gali, Zugdidi and Tbilisi. Given the early stage of implementation, no lessons learned have been identified, but these will be communicated through the above meetings, as well as at the Information Centre now being established in Sukhumi.

7. Please outline any links you have developed with other programme/other donor projects.

Important links have been established with the MOU between EC, UNOMIG and UNDP. In addition, UNDP is working closely with WFP and its IP World Vision in identifying possible areas of collaboration in Food for Work (FFW) and Food for Education (FFE) activities. UNICEF is also working closely with the EC, UNOMIG and UNDP in the identification of schools for Phase II of the EC programme.

Contract Number:

8. The success of the project depended on various assumptions (see log frame). Have these influenced the results so far?

As noted above, implementation of the project is in its early stages and it is too early to determine results. Security remains a concern, particularly in lower Gali.

E. Partners and other Co-operation:

1. How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this project (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Give details about the division of responsibilities, transfer of expertise, and overall co-ordination of the partnership(s). The EC, UNOMIG, and UNDP signed an MOU outlining responsibilities for each agency. The three entities are working closely together as partners and through the Working Group outlined in the MOU. In addition, UNDP plans to sign agreements with local NGOs for part of the agriculture component and with an international NGO for the Health training component.

2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and state authorities in the project countries? The original project document was presented through a Local Project Approval Committee (LPAC) with representatives from the Government of Georgia present. UNDP met with the President and Foreign Minister of the de facto authorities in Abkhazia to brief them on the proposed project. Both sides were present at the first Steering Committee in December 2005. UNDP met with regional authorities in Zugdidi to discuss the project. UNDP meets regularly with local authorities in Abkhazia to review the project.
3. How has this relationship affected the project? To date the project has been welcomed by all parties concerned. There have been no major problems with the authorities.

4. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the project, e.g. associated partners or sub-contractors. As noted above, UNDP works closely with other UN agencies and encouraged those working in Abkhazia to move their offices to the same corridor for ease of communication and coordination. Relations with international and local NGOs continue to be very good with information shared among all parties.

5. How do you evaluate co-operation with the European Commission services?
- UNDP has had excellent working relations with the EC through this project. Informal meetings and discussions are held at least monthly both in Tbilisi and in Abkhazia. Cooperation and communication is very good.

F. Other

Contract Number:

1. How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the project?
 Although the project is in its early stages and implementation is only starting in the districts, UNDP plans to ensure visibility of the EU contribution through press releases, brochures, and signs where project activities are taking place. This will be done later in the implementation of the project.

2. Has the grant so far helped secure new sources of funding for the project? Please give details.

The grant from the Norwegian Government complements the EC project by concentrating on rural areas and their populations and is aimed (1) to improve the livelihoods of the rural population through the delivery of agricultural inputs, improved technical skills in agriculture, support to farmer groups, exchange of knowledge and advocacy work; (2) to improve the quality of and the access to water for the rural population through improved drinking water supply systems, and irrigation infrastructure in rural areas; (3) to improve local district and village level governance structures through capacity building activities for village councils and district level stakeholders involved in the agriculture and water sectors.

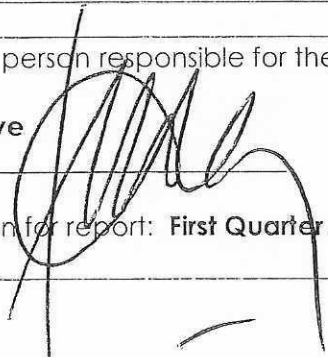
3. Please add any further information that would help the Commission to make a balanced assessment of the project to date.

UNDP, UNOMIG and the EC have started to work together to develop the project activities outlined in Phase II of the EC programme. This has included discussions on the Kodori river, criteria for the selection of schools, etc. The plan is to have the Phase II proposal approved in June, 2006.

4. Do you have any objection to this report being published? If so, please state your objections here. **UNDP has no objection to the report being published, but would appreciate discussing the content before distribution with the EC.**

Name of the person responsible for the project: *for* Robert Watkins
 Resident

Representative

Signature: 

Location: Tbilisi, Georgia

Date foreseen for report: First Quarter 2006
 June 2006

Date report submitted: 01