



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DELEGATION TO
GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

EC REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR THE GEORGIAN-ABKHAZ ZONE OF CONFLICT

Phase I – Start December 2005 - ongoing

Executive summary

The European Commission is financing a comprehensive EC rehabilitation programme for the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone in two phases of each 1.98 million Euros (e.g. the first to start end of 2005 and the second in 2006) with UNOMIG and UNDP (representing other UN agencies and NGOs) as main implementing agencies.

The key objectives of this EC Tacis Rehabilitation Programme are to enhance stability and security through confidence building measures aiming at the prevention and settlement of internal conflicts and actions in favour of affected populations. The EC rehabilitation programme for Abkhazia will support rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in the conflict zone of Abkhazia and adjoining areas that would create preconditions for economic rehabilitation, especially at local level, and the safe and dignified repatriation of refugees and displaced persons.

It is important that these operations should be designed to help re-establish a working economy and the institutional capacities that are needed to restore social and political stability in the conflict zone and to meet the needs of the people affected as a whole. These rehabilitation operations could progressively complement or take over from humanitarian action and pave the way for the resumption of medium-term and long-term aid focusing on economic and social development.

For the implementation of the programme the Delegation has concluded two grant agreements, e.g. one with UNOMIG in October 2005 and one with UNDP in December 2005 (the latter also representing other UN agencies and NGOs) where UNOMIG and UNDP act as implementing partners for EC rehabilitation funding in the context of the EC-UN Framework Agreement. Local and international NGOs, as well as local authorities will be involved in implementation of activities.

EU visibility should be an important political aspect of the programme in conveying EU values as integrated part of rehabilitation and confidence building measures.

The target areas for rehabilitation would focus on the districts of Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Kodori in the east of Abkhazia as well as the Zugdidi district on the Georgian side of the cease fire line in order to help both ethnic Georgian and Abkhaz communities. Any rehabilitation activities should be undertaken with close cooperation of the UN agencies, the de-facto Abkhaz authorities, Georgian government and local and international NGOs.

The following priorities for EC rehabilitation actions are included - with capacity building and awareness rising of post-conflict resolution as integrated components (in the following districts):

Phase I of the rehabilitation programme of 1.98m Euros of 24-36 months starting by the end of 2005:

- Local electricity network (Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli, Zugdidi);
- Public health and basic services (Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Zugdidi);
- Local agricultural development (Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Zugdidi)

An overview of the activities as well as budget allocations of the first phase programme in accordance with the EC-UNOMIG and EC-UNDP agreements is set forth below:

OVERVIEW - EC-UNOMIG/UNDP Rehabilitation Programme for Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict Zone – Overview of UNOMIG and UNDP agreements: components and budget allocations

Phase I – Start December 2005

EC Rehabilitation Programme - Phase I (start Dec 2005)		UNOMIG Component		UNDP component	
<i>Component</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>UNOMIG</i>	<i>Budget in Euros</i>	<i>UNDP (including other UN agencies & NGOs under UNDP umbrella)</i>	<i>Budget in Euros</i>
1 Electricity: - rehabilitation of the local electricity network in Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Zugdidi; capacity building on electricity issues	Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli Zugdidi	UNOMIG (Trust Fund/QIPs) re. infrastructure (renovation support to local electricity network, including cabling transformers, etc.)	500,000	UNDP re. non infrastructure (training, management, equipment support to four hospitals, awareness raising on electricity issues)	100,000
2 Public health - Rehabilitation of four Hospitals (Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Zugdidi); capacity building support to four hospitals, awareness raising on public health issues & Basic services : - Small-scale water sanitation & waste management projects	Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Zugdidi Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli, Zugdidi	UNOMIG (Trust Fund/QIPs re. infrastructure) (renovation of four hospitals) UNOMIG (Trust Fund/QIPs) re. infrastructure Zugdidi	440,000 50,000	UNDP re. non infrastructure (training, management and equipment support to four hospitals, awareness raising on public health issues) UNDP re. infrastructure Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli	300,000 300,000
3 Local agricultural development: - Support to community-based Income generation activities, technical and agricultural extension services	Gali Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli, Zugdidi	n/a		UNDP Support to community-based Income generation activities, technical and agricultural extension services	290,000
Subtotal		UNOMIG:	990,000	+ UNDP	990,000
Total UNOMIG & UNDP Agreements					1,980,000

Brief description of main activities

The following priorities for EC rehabilitation actions are included in the first phase EC rehabilitation programme for the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone:

The target areas for rehabilitation would focus on the districts of Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli in the east of Abkhazia as well as the Zugdidi district on the Georgian side of the cease fire line in order to help communities affected by the conflict on both sides.

1. Electricity (Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli, Zugdidi districts)

This component includes reconstruction activities of the local electricity network that covers Gali and be extended to Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli. Reconstruction of the electricity network in Gali would also benefit the electricity supply in Zugdidi district. Training and management should be incorporated into the rehabilitation operations to increase the technical and managerial capacity of staff working in the electricity sector. These EC activities will link to the main ongoing large-scale EC project on rehabilitation of the Enguri hydro power station and arch dam (total budget 9.4 million Euros).

2. Public health and basic services (Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Zugdidi districts)

This component includes the rehabilitation of the four local hospitals in Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli, Gali and Zugdidi. By working on regional level the EC support would complement the village-based UNOMIG activities and thereby creating the basis for a local health services network. Assistance to ambulatories and dispensaries could also be considered.

Public health is directly linked to basic services such as water sanitation and waste management. It is therefore foreseen to link the above health care activities to the rehabilitation of water sanitation and waste management.

These operations should also cover preventive health care activities as well as training and management to increase the technical and managerial capacity of medical staff and local public administrators responsible for public health and basic services.

3. Local agricultural development (Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Zugdidi districts)

The local economy in Abkhazia is in stage of collapse, in particular in Gali district. Agricultural production, which is the main source of income for the local population, has fallen by 90%, while the human capacity and experience in agriculture is progressively disappearing. Most farmers in the region remain at subsistent levels. To help both Abkhaz and Georgian communities this component includes small-scale agricultural development projects at local level in Gali, Tkvarcheli, and Ochamchira districts as well as in Zugdidi district.

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The foreseen rehabilitation activities will be undertaken with involvement of the local authorities and civil society.

EU visibility is an important political aspect of the programme in conveying EU values as integrated part of rehabilitation and confidence building measures in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone.

A steering mechanism has been agreed between the EC, UNOMIG and UNDP to ensure close coordination and monitoring of implementation of the programme. This steering mechanism include the set up of a Steering Committee, Working Group and Coordination Committee.