



ASB Georgia Annual Report 2022

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We Are

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, but people call us ASB. We come from Germany and have a long history, to be more accurate - 131 years of work. Initially, we started our activities in Georgia in the 90-ies. We were running a humanitarian aid mission to help people affected by the war and poverty. We provided more than **7,500,000** EUR worth of aid and supported more than **34,000** people until 1997.

In 2010, we re-entered Georgia with a different mission, focusing on the activities of strengthening social services, support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and engaged in the activities that built resilience and inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (iDRR),

support to the Georgian Samaritan Association (SSK). Since 2010, the ASB has implemented **28** projects and spent more than **7,655,000** EUR. In total, we reached more than **755,000** people throughout Georgia.

We implement the projects aiming at strengthening the local community, supporting the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disability, increasing self-resilience, building confidence across the communities divided by conflict, enhancing civic participation and partnerships in local social policymaking processes, empowering women, and strengthening gender equality in Georgia.

Donors and Partners in 2022

- European Union;
- German Federal Foreign Office;
- Aktion Deutschland Hilft;
- The Samaritan Association of Georgia;
- Charity Humanitarian Centre Abkhazeti (CHCA);
- Kakheti Regional Development Foundation (KRDF);
- Ministry of Health of Georgia;
- Ministry of Health of Armenia;
- Surb Grigor Lusavorich Medical Center;
- Emergency Medical Services and Urgent Assistance Center of Georgia;
- Emergency Management Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia;
- The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia;
- Together for Real Changes (TRC);
- Abkhazinterconti (AIC);
- Caucasus Open Space (COS);
- Media Center Kakheti (MCK);
- Rights Georgia (RG);
- Unite Together.



In 2022, ASB Georgia worked with partners in Georgia to:
Extend legal aid to more than 225 women;
Bring humanitarian relief to more than 4050 Ukrainians;
Increase capacity of more than 330 people;
Support 9 partner organizations.

Social and Socio-Economic Development

In the framework of socio-economic development direction, ASB Georgia successfully implemented - **Partnership for Inclusive Policy Making**, funded by the European Union, during 2018-2022. The project aimed to increase the participation and partnership of the CSOs in the development, implementation and monitoring of local social policies. One of the important directions of the project is the promoti-

on of cooperation between public and private structures on social issues. As a result, partner organization - Civil Initiative established the 60+ Club - a space for healthy aging. The club offers a variety of socialization services to local older persons and involves them in their activities. Due to a successful advocacy campaign, 60+ clubs have great support from Signaghi Municipality.

„Local older persons will always have a place where they can feel safe and active, here they will have the opportunity to socialize and implement their own initiatives



International Conference on Social Return on Investment (SROI)

In 2022, within the abovementioned project, ASB Georgia held the international conference „Public Impact of Investment“ (SROI).

The event introduced the concept of social return on investment in Georgia and raised awareness among social enterprises, academic circles, civil society and state organizations. Invited experts from foreign countries shared their experience with local audience. In addition, the participants discussed the possibilities of implementing the tool more widely in Georgia. During the conference, SROI experts presented to the audience the research conducted within the framework of the project, which included the assessment of the social impact of sub-grantees with the tool. A total of 80 people attended the event.



7 evidence-based decisions were taken by LA to address identified gaps in social policy making

Within the project, 491 persons received various social services

Capacity of more than 100 persons was increased within the project

Welfare and Development Center

The idea of the **Welfare and Development Center (WDC)** arose in 1995, when the organization's founder Tina Bregvadze went to the Yerevan Rehabilitation Centre. Knocking on many doors, motivation, boundless efforts and civic engagement all resulted in the WDC establishment in Gori 6 years later, when there was only a handful of such centers in Georgia.

ASB supported the Gori Center in setting up a multidisciplinary team of physiotherapists, social workers, psychologists, and neuropathologists that went door to door in ten mountain villages of the Gori district offering

various services to the disabled there. They crafted a plan and visited ten villages twice a week.

„There were cases when a beneficiary was a bedridden person living on their own who needed bedsores care, which was vital for these people. Within the project, we provided food staff and hygiene products to the beneficiaries. Several young people started coming to our day center and working at the social enterprise. That was one of the most interesting and valuable experiences in the Center's history“ - people at WDC say.





The local municipality funds 25 children attending the day center. Through the center's efforts and involvement, also the trust gained through many years of hard work, immense support from the local municipality was received. The Center's activities are always unambiguous, clear, and transparent to the community and the municipality.

„Civic activism is very important not only for a person with a disability to feel that s/he is a full member of the society, but also for everyone. Civic activism is paramount, it is a living organism that should never stop but should be developed, implemented and constantly supported. The more people, organizations and initiative groups work to develop civic activism, the greater positive impact it would have on the society and democracy,“ - people at WDC say.

Most of WDC's founders are people with disabilities. The Center's creation was supported by enthusiasts and the local municipality, and the WDC's goal



is social rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities, and protection of their rights. The Center's first activity was a sports marathon involving wheelchair users from the town who organized a street procession. As a result of WDC's efforts, the Gori Municipality became the first in Georgia to employ five people with disabilities, building a ramp to the municipality building. The people employed years ago still work there, and the number is constantly growing.

Provide Access to Support for Survivors of gender based and domestic violence

The goal of the project is to reinforce the role of the civil society and position them as effective force to prevent, combat **Gender-Based and Domestic Violence and Provide Access to Support for Survivors (PASS)**.

The project works in three main directions:

1) Regulatory Framework

- Monitoring of governmental agencies,
- Research international and local practices;

- Advocacy.
- 2) **Awareness**
 - Creation of women's protective network;
 - Training and joint workshops to strengthen women;
 - Information campaign to raise awareness of the public and combat harmful stereotypes.
- 3) **Support**
 - Legal aid centres, hotline, preparation of legal documents, proceedings in administrative bodies;

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- Vocational education trainings, support for small businesses and social enterprises.

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- Psychological support.

49 women activists from the regions of Georgia have improved their knowledge on GBV/DV prevention and protection

4 legal aid centres have been established and provide legal aid services. 222 women received legal advice, consultations

235 women have gained knowledge on the forms of violence, their rights and state agencies/units working on these issues



Legal aid centres in Georgia

Stronger Together

In 2022, ASB Georgia implemented several projects under one of its main directions - humanitarian response. Project **Stronger Together - cooperative action to respond to cross-border emergencies**, funded by the European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), aims to enhance the disaster risk management system with a special focus on health emergencies in Armenia and Georgia through a capacity building and establishing cross border cooperation mechanisms.

The main outcome of the project will be the establishment of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) in Georgia and Armenia, which will satisfy all standards defined by WHO and pass global classification process. The mentioned groups will be ready to support national healthcare systems of Georgia and Armenia as well as neighboring countries during various emergencies.



Several important activities were carried out in 2022: **Exchange of Experts in Worms, Germany**, where 6 EMT members had the unique possibility to see all the necessary infrastructure and equipment on the site and participate in the SimEx. **UK Study Visit**, which aimed to bring expertise and the best international practices to support the effective functioning of EMTs. **Training of Trainers** covered theoretical and practical examples of EMT Initiatives, the FAST concept, data collection, psychological health, infection prevention, and control.

Cross-border Workshop - aimed to enhance the already existing cooperation between the EMTs of Armenia and Georgia, through the development of a cross-border cooperation plan.



Support EMT registration and mentorship processes in both countries, selection of relevant experts, EMT guidelines development, elaboration of EMTs' necessary equipment

Capacity building activities, organizing the exchange of experts and study visits for Georgian and Armenian EMT members, participation in networking

ASB Georgia became part of legal working groups in both countries to discuss and agree on the legal changes that are necessary for the establishment and effective functioning of Georgian and Armenian EMTs. Several legal changes were made to formalize the establishment of Georgian EMTs.

Cash Transfer Program (CTP)

The war in Ukraine forced many people to flee their homes and find shelter elsewhere. Ten-thousands of Ukrainian refugees found new homes in Georgia. To support the most vulnerable Ukrainians in Georgia, ASB started new **Cash Transfer Program**, funded by German Federal Foreign Office, which provided multipurpose cash assistance. Based on the assessment, ASB Georgia, together with Unite Together (UT) and Samaritan Association of Georgia (SSK), started providing cash distribution (GEL 235 per person per month in September-December 2022, since January 2023 GEL 255) to the most vulnerable Ukrainian households (HH).

In 2022, four cash transfer was made for unique **2896 individuals (1144 HHs)**. The majority of the beneficiaries reside in Tbilisi (the capital), Batumi, Kutaisi and surrounding areas, overall, 57 settlements.



HHs including people living with disabilities



HHs including older persons (above 60 years)



HHs with many children (3 or more)



Single headed HHs

The vulnerability criteria for project beneficiaries were implemented in an electronic system Central Ukrainian Recipient List (CURL) for registering applications for participation in the program. It was processing and analysis of received registration data for

duplication and bank control, coordination purpose between Cash Based Interventions (CBI) partners, not only checking duplicates but also evaluating applications that have signs of fraud.



„We are grateful to the ASB Georgia and all Georgian society for the great support. This gives us hope in future of all my kids. Thanks once more“ - Natalia, mother (official caregiver) of a large family from Ukraine.

Hresnics - Ukrainian Family Helpers

Hresnics, traditional Ukrainian family helpers, are an essential part of ASB's Cash Transfer Program. Hresnics regularly work with beneficiaries to provide social assistance. By offering information, advice and support, Hresnics significantly improve the daily lives of the project beneficiaries. Hresnic support is extremely important especially at the stage of starting life from scratch,

when the maximum level of uncertainty about the future and the tragedies of the past destabilize a person from the inside.

Under the project, Hresnics provided social assistance to 1,141 unique HHs. Hresnics accompany families in solving everyday issues and motivating them to integrate into Georgian society.



Several trainings were conducted to support their capacity building and effective fulfillment of the assistance, namely: registration and verification of beneficiaries, daycare service, first aid,

communication, CURL database, Code of Conduct and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH). In addition, Hresnics attended regular meetings with a psychologist.

Winterization

In November 2022, a survey on Winterization needs was conducted. Its main goals were:

- Identify readiness to meet the rising utility costs during the coldest months;
- Identify the needs of Ukrainians in light of the increasing renting costs.

Based on the findings of the assessment, ASB Georgia provided cash transfers (GEL 150 per month per HH

for December 2022 – March 2023 period). In December 2022, the most vulnerable 670 Ukrainian households received cash transfers (GEL 150), to pay increased utility, fees.

Criteria	December 2022
A (HH with people living with disabilities)	
B (HH living with or being elderly people (60+))	
C (HH with 3 children or more)	
D (single headed HH)	
A	208
B	253
C	33
D	176
Total	670 household



Summer School

In 2022, needs assessment was conducted to identify existing challenges in Georgia in terms of the support of the Ukrainian refugees. One of the outcomes was the increased needs of children and minors' integration into the new host country, normalization of their environment and usage of the right to play and being a child/ minor.

The project focused on three main directions:

1. Improvement of language skills – that helped and supported interaction between Ukrainian and Georgian children and minors Groups (UKR/GEO);
2. Supporting the healing processes of traumatized participants with counselling sessions carried out by a professional;
3. Forming of the interest groups of Georgian and Ukrainian children and minors to allow open exchange in the groups, segregated by age and gender.

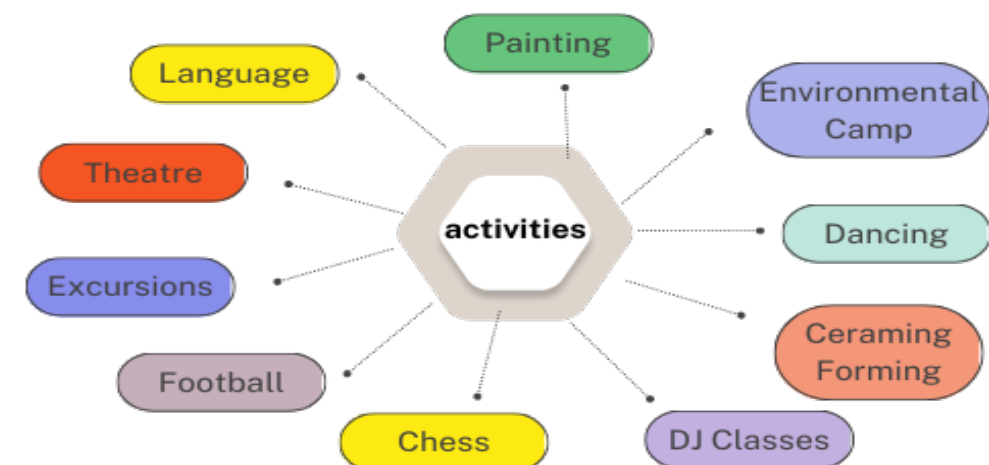
children spent some time away from their actual living conditions and the stress that came with adults circulating about war. The main objectives were to integrate better into their new host environment, learn languages, help overcome stressful experiences and simply to have fun and bring variety to their daily lives.



190 unique beneficiaries. All beneficiaries attended integration activities

In total 168 lessons were conducted plus 1 week of ecological camp

85% of participants attend language courses



Sakartvelos Samaritelta Kavshiri (SSK)

SSK was founded in Georgia in 1992, with the initiative of ASB. Since the 1990s the two organizations have worked closely together and to this day implement joint social projects. After the pandemic, SSK actively started its activities in close collaboration with ASB Georgia. Within the framework of the contract signed with ASB Georgia, SSK with a newly acquired partner, Unite Together - UT, established in Georgia in 2022 by the Ukrainian, performs a project aiming at helping Ukrainian refugees.

Since 2013, Sakartvelos Samaritelta Kavshiri (SSK) has been implementing the Children's Early Development Program in the village of Kavshiri, Lagodekhi Municipality. The number of children in the Lagodekhi center has increased compared to 2021. At present, 22 children benefit from the center's services. During 2022, specialists of SSK conducted 2112 visits, including 208 group training.

SSK launched similar services in the town of Gori. From year to year, the attitude of parents towards their disabled children

changes. More parents acknowledge the situation and address to the state for support. The centers take care of 30 children between 0-7 years in Gori.

Together with ASB Germany, SSK submitted a project outline to the Federal Foreign Office, which deals with vocational courses to improve the professional qualifications of women in the Pankisi Valley. The project aims to contribute to the expansion of cooperation with civil society in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Russia. The project started in August 2022 and serves 150 beneficiaries.

SSK also started new projects concerning Ukrainians in Georgia. Within the project, SSK trained 22 homecare team members - "Hresnics" in daycare and basic technical care skills as first aid, monitored their psychological health and physical status monthly, monitored their visits and serve as a complaints entry point for beneficiaries. SSK was closely involved in the Summer School project, providing free space for all lessons and sports activities.



Early Intervention Service in Lagodekhi

Early intervention service in Gori

Mobile Home-care Service in Gori

Summer School

Education as an opportunity for women in the Pankisi valley

Support of the Ukrainians