

**Interim narrative report
of the project**

“Promoting Community Living in Georgia:

**Situational Analyses on the Implementation of Article 19 of the CRPD –
Barriers and Challenges”**

(February 1, 2010 – May 25, 2010)

The overall goal of the project was to look into legislative, environmental and attitudinal barriers in order to identify relevant issues and understand what legislative and policy reform is necessary to minimise discrimination in all aspects of someone’s life so that a person with disabilities may enjoy the full range of human rights on an equal basis with others.

The objectives of the project were:

- a. Review of national legislation, policies and programs for compliance with the CRPD
- b. Undertake national consultations which include civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities and professionals to present their view on the opportunities and challenges of the CRPD.

The project was launched in February 2010. The initiative meetings were held in GIP Tbilisi office and the project objectives and work plan were discussed. The experts - N. Makhashvili, from GIP-T, Nana Zavrashvili, from PER and Lali Ckhetia, former chair of GYLA - were appointed and contracted.

During first two months intensive working meetings were conducted – the experts have gathered the relevant information, texts and documents, analyzed and assessed certain Georgian laws and policy documents for compliance with the Art.19 of CRPD, have elaborated a questionnaire for in depth interviews and choose the organizations and persons for further consultations.

a. Reviewing of national legislation, policies and programs for compliance with the CRPD

The research had a clear focus on the issues how the Georgian legislation identified impacts upon the 3 main areas of Article 19:

- i. Choice of Residence;
- ii. Access to a range of community support services;
- iii. Equal access to mainstream community services.

We analyzed the following pieces of legislation:

- Law on Psychiatry Care
- Labour code
- Education law
- Civil code
- Social security law
- Criminal law, criminal procedure law
- Administrative code

During the review following questions have been set:

- Does the constitution include this right for all disabled people?
- Does legislation expressly recognize this right for all disabled people?
- Is the promotion of the social inclusion of all disabled people specified in legislation?

Policy documents were examined on the matter how to support community living by re-organising services and re-allocating resources from institutions to community based services. Especially regarding housing, employment, education and development community based services that ensuring that people with disabilities have access to appropriate support in communities.

During the project we analyzed

- Mental health policy draft (2008)
- concept of social integration of disabled people and action plan for the implementation of the concept, 2010-2012
- Mental health state programs (mental health services, human resources available) (2009)

b. Undertaking national consultations, which include civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities and professionals to present their view on the opportunities and challenges of the CRPD.

To ensure the in-depth consultations with civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities for identification of opportunities and challenges of reintegration of persons with disabilities we conducted meetings with non-governmental organizations working in the field, representatives from Ombudsman Office, human rights organizations and representatives Ministry of Health and social issues (MOLHSA) and Parliament Health and Social Affairs Committee.

By end of February on the basis of “Guide for Monitoring Progress on the Implementation of Article 19 of the UN CRPD” we have prepared questionnaire for “Evaluation of the readiness of the State to provide for the community living of Persons with Mental Disabilities (PMD)” (see attached, in Georgian).

Main subjects of the questionnaire were as follows:

- What obligations does Article 19 impose on States?
- Involvement of PMD
- Services provided in community
- Data collection

During March and April seven interviews were held with representatives of NGOs- Partnership for Equal Rights, Human Rights Protection Centre, Parents organization APRA Georgia, Centre for Protection Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities at Ombudsman Office, Committee of Health and Social Affairs of parliament of Georgia. The data was gathered and analyzed.

On March 16 round table discussion with key stakeholders was held at GIP-T office. Above-mentioned organizations, additionally Georgian Association for Mental Health, Georgian Psychiatry Association, and managers of mental health institutions, OSI MHI and Georgian office representatives were invited and involved in discussion. The theme of the discussion was: independent living and inclusion in social life of

people with mental disabilities - state policy, strategy and programs. The discussion outcome has shaped the directions of the further analytical work of project experts.

On April 27 we have presented some main findings of the research and undertaken consultations to main key stakeholders to verify the relevance and accuracy of our analysis; key representatives of partner organizations involved in discussions and consultations provided their feedback and further recommendations and experts group continued work on the analytical report.

By end of May the results of the legislation review, consultations with civil society and in-depth interviews were put in our final report that includes also set of recommendations for future activities.

The project was granted one-month budget-neutral extension and during this month it is planned to translate the report into English and publish it. The presentation will finalize the project and also provide us with the points for further action.