

BUSINESS FORUM OF IDP BUSINESS BEGINNERS



In the frame of the "IDP Integration Project", local NGO fund "Abkhazintercont" arranged the Business Forum of IDP Business Beginners at Kutaisi Regional Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurs on June 27, 2008. The aim of the Business Forum was to support the IDP business beginners and their local partners in their business activities, public information and support their integration within the local society.

The IDP and local business people and the entrepreneurs participated in the Business Forum. The representatives of the local city and regional government, local NGO, local society members and media representatives were invited to participate in the Forum.

The Head of the International organization CRS Kellie Hynes and Project Manager Nino Puturidze were invited and participated in the forum as well.

IDP business beginners and their business partners exhibited their production: souvenirs, industrial and agricultural productions.

The Forum started with exhibition-selling. The Chairperson of the Fund "Abkhazintercont" Archil Elbakidze made an opening speech. Some of the invited guests expressed their view regarding the Forum.

Because of the great interest of the invited guests towards the exhibited production, this part of the Forum lasted longer than it was planned. There were lots of examples of the verbal agreements which might be followed by the arrangements.

The second part of the Forum was the conference on the topic "The Role of the NGOs in the IDP employment and improvement of their economical conditions".

The address to the conference was done by the Chairperson of the fund "Abkhazintercont" Archil Elbakidze. He started with



the presentation of the "IDP Integration Project", spoke about implemented activities and the future plans.

He spoke about the hardest social-economic situation of the IDPs from Abkhazia and South Osetia in Imereti Region and particular in Kutaisi. Finding the shelter in the communal centers or individually, renting flats or living with relatives or friends did not arrange the minimal living conditions of the IDPs. Attempts of solving of their problems were not always implemented with considering their needs and interests. They were mostly the reaction on the problems regarding the situations and were not estimated on the long-term perspectives.

2 PG+→

ANNOUNCEMENT :

1-3 PG+

BUSINESS FORUM OF IDP BUSINESS BEGINNERS

4 PG+

In the frame of the Project
VOCATIONAL TRAININGS

Business Column
**IT WILL HELP YOU TO
BUY AND SELL THE THINGS**

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FROM 1 PG+→



Because of not solving the IDP problems during many years, the country faces several problems regarding them: poverty, total unemployment, shelter problems and etc.

To solve this kind of problems it is necessary to work out the strategic programs supporting IDPs in improvement their economical conditions and their social integration.

Improvement of the living quality of the IDPs depends on getting the adequate social services in health care and education ad implementation the government strategy regarding the issues, which considers the following directions:



The basis of the wellbeing of the IDP population is their economic activities and initiatives. The significant importance in it has the human and social capital of the IDP, their availability on material and financial means. To meat the goal it is absolutely crucial to coordinate the employment programs with the shelter programs. It is also very important to support IDP economic activities that will make easy their reintegration at the places of their constant residence.



Involvement of the state and private employment agencies in IDP employment and especially in the employment of the young IDPs should be encouraged. Support the IDP professional education considering the market demand is absolutely essential. It should be used as a tool for the successful integration of the IDPs. It is essential to support the IDP vocational training and increase the accessibility to it, also increase the information distribution regarding the professional and re-qualification training and other education possibilities.

Small business and entrepreneurs support programs should be created, which will encourage the small business and entrepreneurship and support accessibility to the starting capital (grants, micro-credits and others) and relevant knowledge and skills. Those IDP who have the skills of agricultural activities should be supported in the employment at countryside. this should be coordinated with the resettlement programs.



For the places where the IDPs are settled in big amount it is important to work out special economic developing programs involving both IDPs and locals. In the settlements where IDPs live in the buildings with the economical potentials (e.g. Tskaltubo, Kutaisi), the common regional development and IDP resettlement program should be worked out.

The Government Strategy reflected many important problems and organized them into the system.

All above-mentioned problems defined the need of the "IDP Integration Project" which is being implemented by the Fund "Abkhazintercont" with the financial support of international organization CRS. The goal of the project is:

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1. Involve IDPs living at target places in solving their own needs.
2. Support their active integration with host family members.

In the frame of the project Fund "Abkhazintercont" worked with the IDPs living in the communal centers and because of the various reasons had to move into the private sector, got the vouchers as the buildings they lived in were privatized (there are 19 such kind buildings in Kutaisi). 98 families were evicted only from the Hotel "Kutaisi", and only 25 % of them managed to purchase the house. The organization worked also with the very poor families who by the help of the international organizations purchased the lands.

The reporter mentioned also the activities implemented with the IDP population in the frame of the project. These are: legal services, psychological consultations, IDP professional and vocational training, micro-projects at integrated communities, IDP Resource Center, support to small business development.

The reporter highlighted the result achieved during the project. He mentioned that the business beginners passed the business trainings, received the relevant consultations in small business development; to develop the businesses the organization gave the micro-credits in the amount of 800-1500 GEL to 117 businessmen including the second loans for 24 of them. The total amount of the money given in credit is 100660 GEL. Number of IDPs received the vocational trainings and got the employment, they were awarded with the essential working tools. In total 562 people was employed in small business including 458 IDPs and 44 locals. It also worth mentioning that average salary of the employees was 275 GEL.

At the end the reporter expressed the great gratitude towards the donor organization on behalf of the IDPs involved in the project and the whole society, for their support and efforts and highlighted that if not they it would not be possible to achieve such successes. He also thanked to the local entrepreneurs for understanding IDP problems and supported them in improving their economical conditions providing



them vocational trainings and employment.

Kellie Hynes the head of the CRS-Georgia addressed the conference also, and mentioned the activities of the fund "Abkhazintercont", real results achieved with their efforts, that was clearly shown on the Forum. Thanked to the people who tried their best to give a hope to the hundreds of their citizens. She mentioned also that CRS is ready to cooperate with the fund "Abkhazintercont" in the future too and give the organization the chance to continue this important project for the IDPs.

Interesting ideas were presented by the President of the Ltd. "Orgthehnika" Alu Gamakharia and head of the Designbureau "Vintage" Marina Shashiashvili. Speeches regarding the importance of the implementing activities in the IDP Integration process were given by the Vice-Mayor of Kutaisi David Gordeladze; representative of the Representation of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia in Racha-Lechkhumi and Lower Svaneti Region Besarion Chanturia; Head of the Regional Organization of the Young Economists Kakha Gvantseladze; Director of the Kutaisi Program of GYLA (Georgian Young Lowers Association) Nodar Jikia; Head of the NGO "Asa" Zaza Kheladze; representatives of the Abkhazian society Nutsa Ardashelia; and the project beneficiaries: Nazi Tsulukidze, Nazi Kukhalashvili; Omar Kharashvili; Neli Chanturia; Irina Chitaia.

After the summarizing the Conference, Archil Elbakidze and Kellie Hynes gave the certificated of thanks to the partner organizations in the project ("Orgservice" Head Khvicha Nemsadze; Designbureau "Vintage" Marina Shashiashvili; Ltd. "Mtis Broli" Executive Director Roin Mushkudiani; Ltd. "Takveri" Head Tamaz Barabadze; Individual Entrepreneurs: Vakhtang Mukbaniani, Demur Tskhvediani, Dimitry Chikovani). The Business beginners apart to the Certificates were also awarded with the gifts.

The Head of the CRS- Georgia Kellie Hynes was awarded with the certificate of the Honorable Member of the Fund "Abkhazinterkont".

IN THE FRAME OF THE PROJECT

VOCATIONAL TRAININGS



In the frame of the "IDP Integration Project Fund "Abkhazintercont" conducted the assessment of the professions having the demand on the employment market. Considering the results some IDPs passed the vocational trainings and got the employment. E.g. 6 IDPs: **Besik Megrelishvili, roland lagvilava, Shota Gvilava, Jumber Gvelesiani, Besarion Matsaberidze, and Edward Shangua** learned the profession of assembling the furniture at Ltd. "Orgservice". At the end of the training they were awarded with the necessary tools and got an employment at Ltd. "Orgservice".

THE SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMEN

The running project "IDP Integration Project" supported the successful development and enlarging the IDP businesses.

IRINA RURUA sells the clothes and shoes of children and women at the markets of the small town Martvili and the village Bandza. In the frame of the project she passed the business training, submitted the business proposal and after the approval of the credit took the loan in the amount of 700 GEL. She used it to purchase the goods. She purchase the goods personally in Tbilisi at the Lilo market. With the loan 700 GEL and the profit 250 GEL she purchased the goods for children and women. At the end of the month the income was 1400 GEL.

She used total money to purchase the goods again. At the monitoring moment she had 1100 GEL received from selling and storage of the goods in the amount of 550 GEL. The goods of the value of 120 GEL she gave in credit.

The loan disbursal was done according to the schedule. The business is successful currently.

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