

Baseline Survey of the IDP Settlements and their Neighbouring
Communities in Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli

For: Stabilization and integration of IDPs into mainstream
Georgian Society Project (SIIMS)



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Executive Summary

This research project is intended to provide a baseline analysis for CARE International in the Caucasus' new project entitled 'Stabilization and integration of IDPs into mainstream Georgian Society Project (SIIMS)'. The project aspires to support and facilitate economic development, integration, civil society participation and public service delivery in 22 IDP settlements and their surrounding communities, in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli.

To provide comprehensive insights into the situation in these communities, we tried to evaluate not only the current economic and social picture, but also the prospects for business development, infrastructure problems, government support and service delivery, sources of social tensions and NGO/civil society involvement in the communities.

The intention was to provide more than a simple economic baseline, but to offer a picture of economic, social and political issues affecting these communities that would inform and enhance on-going project development. To that end we utilized many different sources of information. First, we reviewed the extensive body of literature that has emerged about the IDPs since the war. Literally hundreds of projects have been undertaken that connect to these communities and many of them included research and analysis components. Where possible we tried to avoid unnecessary duplication of work.

Second, we conducted a survey with 470 IDP and 637 non-IDP households in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli. The survey covered the areas of

- Demographics
- Social service provision (use and attitudes towards health, education and counseling services)
- Assets (land-holdings, machinery and consumer durables)
- Employment (level, type and history of employment)
- Agriculture/agribusiness (primary and secondary good production levels, technology used, areas in need of assistance)
- Business development (level of business holding, interest in starting a business and hurdles to both)
- Income (from social assistance and employment)

Third, we visited 15 settlements and had discussions with the settlement representative (or 'mamasakhlisi') as well as individuals living there. We also held 12 focus groups in the largest communities. Each focus group had IDP/non-IDP, a mix of genders and all of the participants were identified as existing or former business people. With these groups we discussed business prospects, infrastructure problems and integration issues. For the remaining 7 communities we had discussions with each of the mamasakhlisis by phone.

Fourth, we conducted extensive meetings with government officials engaged in any projects that might affect our communities. We met with multiple representatives from the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Labour Health and Social Affairs and the Social Service Agency. We also held meetings with local government

representatives in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli and discussions with Gori Municipal government and local representatives of the social services agency. All of these meetings were combined with a detailed analysis of the respective government budgets to identify the dynamics of IDP support.

Finally, we met with NGOs and CSO representatives who work on IDPs as analysts and researchers and who conduct projects with them. We were particularly interested in three groups. First, any NGO/CSO that had engaged in monitoring of the IDP settlements, so in this capacity we talked to Norwegian Refugee Council and UNHCR. Second, we were interested to talk to anyone who had tried similar projects to the one CARE is proposing. Third, we wanted to talk to local CSOs, so we conducted three focus groups with CSO in Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli to discuss their experiences.

As a result of this multi-faceted approach we have been able to produce an extremely comprehensive review of our target communities that should offer insights, even to organizations like CARE who have been working extensively in this area since the war.

Income/Employment/Assets

The level of those who characterize themselves 'unemployed' is very high. Only 8% of the individual IDPs questioned and 12% of non-IDPs said they had formal employment, and most of those were working in government or as teachers. On a household level 18% of IDP households and 25% of non-IDP households said their family received income from a 'job' in the preceding month.

There also seem to be some under-utilised skills in the IDP settlements. 76% of those interviewed in the settlements were engaged in agriculture before the war, 24% of the currently unemployed IDPs said they had a job before the war and 22% say they have a skill that was used before the war but is not used now. Amongst the most commonly under-utilised skills are teacher, nurse and driver.

Reported income is very low with over 2/3 of IDP households and 1/3 of non-IDP households receiving no income except that which they received as assistance from the government (targeted social assistance, IDP assistance or pensions). Average reported family income (excluding social payments) for IDPs is GEL 73 and for non-IDPs is GEL 182. However, on top of that all IDP families are eligible to receive targeted social assistance, which totals GEL 102 per month for a family of 4. Only 13% of families in Shida Kartli and 7% of families in Kvemo Kartli receive TSA.

Combined with the other forms of food and in kind assistance the IDPs receive, they are probably in a similar income situation to their surrounding communities but if the government gradually reduces these social supports then that situation could change quickly. That said, judging by asset levels, at the current time IDPs are in a rather better situation than the neighboring communities. They are far more likely than non-IDPs to have a hot water boiler, refrigerator or normal oven though IDP car ownership is a lot lower.

Land plots

According to our survey 85% of IDPs have a land-plot though this is assessed as being poor or very poor by the vast majority. Approximately 2/3 have a plot less than 0.4 hectares and so only about 40% say they are engaging in meaningful farming activity.

From our discussions and focus groups in the communities, all IDPs who live in "cottage" type settlements received land parcels. In addition, those who live in renovated buildings in Kvemo Kartli also

received them. In the towns of Gori, Khashuri, Kareli and Surami IDPs were left without land plots. Land plot sizes vary from 0.15 hectares in Karaleti to 0.8 hectares in Shavshvebi.

Probably the biggest difference between the communities is the size and quality of the land-plot that was provided. Our survey was not large enough to give representative samples at a community level, but as an indication, Skra interviewees gave 100% ‘very positive’ assessment of their land-plot while Shaumiani gave 100% ‘very negative.’”

Table 1: Survey Assessment of Land-Plot

Settlement	Percentage assessed land as ‘negative’ or ‘very negative’
Shaumiani	100
Shavshvebi	98
Koda	87
Khurvaleti	87
Gardabani	86
Karaleti	43
Berbuki	38
Skra	0

There are three clear factors affecting the assessment of the land-plot. The most obvious is simple proximity to the settlement. In most settlements, land plots are located fairly close. However, in several places, such as Gardabani, Koda and Shavshvebi the land plots are located 4-5 kilometers away from the settlement. The second is the productivity of the land. In some settlements, such as Skra, all IDPs received two lands plots – one came with already planted fruit trees, and the other was empty for seeding. In Berbuki and Karaleti some people received land plots with fruit trees already planted on them. Who received these plots was decided by the casting of lots. Those places with fruit trees had an immediate opportunity for profitable agriculture that was not felt elsewhere. The final factor affecting the assessment of quality is irrigation. According to the information provided by NRC, the irrigation system is working in 6 settlements: Koda, Gardabani, Akhalsopeli, Berbuki, Karaleti and Skra.

Business Operation

Our survey showed that only 1.5% of IDP and 3.8% of non-IDPs own a shop or business. When we asked the whole population they identified ‘animal rearing’ and ‘general food shop’ as the most likely profitable businesses. The main identified hurdle to opening a business was ‘money’ or ‘limited market size’. Only 8% of IDPs and 25% of non-IDPs had ever applied for a bank loan and only 10%/19% of loan requests from IDPs/non-IDPs had been for business development.

We also conducted 12 focus groups for IDP settlements and neighboring communities. We asked questions about IDP business activities before the war, land issues, existing businesses/employment, perceptions about business promotion projects, and prospects of business development.

These focus groups confirmed the survey finding that there is little business activity in the settlements and little confidence to start businesses. People generally are very hesitant to take loans for starting new businesses. Almost none of the participants could present detailed thoughts about possible businesses. In addition to market size and lack of money it was also suggested that one hurdle to

development is that people in the settlements often buy goods on credit and this makes small businesses very vulnerable.

There is also quite a lot of suspicion about international organizations involvement in business development. There have been a few instances when IDPs received grants from donor organizations and open small shops, bought bee-hives, or started other similar business. However, many of the IDPs question the integrity and fairness of these programs and there is clearly a need for more accountability and transparency from the donors' side. Extremely strong statements were made about this issue in Karaleti and Shaumiani in particular where previous projects had been tainted with a perception of corruption.

IDPs and locals generally have similar business ideas. Among the most frequently named business ideas were pharmacy, small shops, bee-hives, animal rearing, and the growing of plants. Where lands are better and the irrigation system is also in a relatively good condition, IDPs manage to have small-scale agricultural activities that can produce an income. In Skra and Berbuki, for example people grow apples and maize in sufficient amount to sell them. In these settlements people are more able to look after their holdings, build extensions to houses, storage facilities etc. On the other hand, particularly in towns where families were not allocated land-plots, people remain focused on humanitarian, rather than developmental, issues.

Agriculture and Agricultural Machinery

The survey results that relate to agricultural production are hard to summarise, though we looked at production of annual and permanent crops, animal rearing, the production levels for meat and animal products and the production of secondary products like cheese, matsoni and jam. Production is focused on vegetables and unsurprisingly is considerably higher in non-IDP communities. There is very little meat production in either community (except chickens) with cows mainly used for milk. Secondary production seems to be largely focused on small-scale canning and bottling of goods produced for winter consumption.

Our survey also showed that agricultural machinery, particularly tractors, are fairly widely used by non-IDPs but rarely used by IDPs. In both cases renting is vastly more common than ownership or borrowing without payment. Machinery is the most widely identified input that people think would enhance productivity (it is considered more important than better seed, more pesticides, more fertilizers etc). Demand is overwhelmingly for big and small-wheeled tractors.

Our analysis of government programs showed that although a number of programs had helped IDPs with agriculture in the past, for 2010 there is no money allocated for this kind of support, though subsidized tractors may still be available. Last year, the government provided seed to IDPs in the spring, they provided fertilizer to about a million recipients including IDPs and they provided the use of some farm machinery (that was purchased under different government/NGO programs). The seed and fertilizer projects are not planned for next year.

The provision of farm machinery is more complicated. Under a number of programs, tractors have been distributed through municipal government to cooperatives in the region. The cooperatives have taken ownership of the assets and rent them to local farmers. While the machinery is now formally owned by the cooperatives, the government can still direct the cooperatives to provide machinery in places it prioritizes.

As this project is planning to provide agricultural machinery we tried to obtain a list of the type of machinery and its location. The ministry of agriculture was able to provide a list of the machinery that has been provided through the most recent presidential initiative and the cooperatives that manage it. However, they were not able to provide detail about the location and useage of all agricultural equipment that has been provided through the government. Most importantly, they could not provide a list of the 1631 units of machinery provided by the government of Japan between 1998 and 2006. CARE should make efforts to obtain this list prior to disbursing anymore agricultural equipment.

Social and economic infrastructure

To assess the infrastructure situation we combine the results of our focus groups, discussion with Mamasaklisis and research carried out by organizations like NRC. The most pressing and general problems are irrigation of land plots and food storage. As already mentioned NRC claims that the irrigation system is working in 6 settlements. Food storage is a problem for two reasons. First, there are not enough dry cool places for storing dry foods without them spoiling. Second, there are not enough jars available for canning and pickling. Karaleti residents remembered CARE principally because one of its projects involved the distribution of pickling jars.

On top of these general problems different settlements have specific infrastructure problems. The quality of drinking water is a major problem in Shavshvebi. In Karaleti the settlement is separated from the land plots by a small river and so a small bridge is suggested as an infrastructure priority by almost everyone. In Gardabani and Gori “Polyclinic” sanitation is particularly poor.

According to the Norwegian Refugee Council assessment, the settlements where water and bathroom are not available inside the house are unsanitary. However, there are exceptions. In Metekhi settlement toilets and bathrooms are outside of individual houses, but they are well built and equipped with water heating systems. In general, in all “cottage” type settlements (except Karaleti) wooden toilets are constructed outside of individual houses. People have been using regular rooms in their house for washing, but now big common bathrooms were constructed in 9 settlements where bathrooms were not available.

The distance to schools and kindergartens also varies significantly. Those who are in towns usually have both of these facilities close to the settlement, while people living in rural areas often have schools over 2 kilometers away. In exceptional cases, such as Khurvaleti settlement, the school is located about 4-5 kilometers away, but a school-bus is provided. In several settlements, such as Khurvaleti and Karaleti, there are after-school facilities for children where they can have a meal and assistance from teachers to help them with studying.

Social services/social assistance

In order to understand social services and social assistance provided to IDPs we looked at it from two dimensions. First, we looked at government provision by examining the administrative budgets of central and local government and talking to the government about programs that could help IDPs. Second, within our survey we asked the communities about their usage of government services, particularly healthcare and education.

The biggest support that is regularly provided to IDPs is cash assistance. At the current time all new-settlement IDPs are eligible to receive targeted social assistance (TSA) without having to go through the

normal needs assessment process. This is more generous than IDP assistance. For a family of four TSA is GEL 102 per month and IDP assistance is GEL 88 per month. TSA also comes with health insurance that is not given as part of regular IDP assistance.

At the current time it is unclear if IDPs will automatically qualify for this program next year. If they do not, then many of them would probably not qualify for TSA (as they would not be judged to be poor enough). This would reduce their income and remove their free healthcare cover. It would almost certainly create difficulties as, at the current time as about ¼ of those living in permanent settlements are not formerly registered as IDPs (and so would not get IDP payments). The government's other main support is utility bills which make up the bulk of the MRA's budget and look likely to continue next year.

On top of this, in 2009 the government distributed free seed to IDPs and free fertilizer to about 1 million recipients nationally. Neither of these projects will happen next year.

According to our survey, usage and satisfaction with education and medical service provision is high. In health, though people are happy with the services they receive, the biggest complaint is that most households say that they still need medical services they cannot afford. In education, even though kindergartens are well regarded, attendance is low. Only about ¼ of the children of kindergarten age are attending. This is fairly low compared to most surveys of national attendance rates. School attendance, however, is almost 100%.

The attitudes towards the quality of kindergarten, school and vocational training is overwhelmingly positive. The main weakness that both groups identify is physical infrastructure but 'quality of education' and 'friendliness of environment' both rate highly. The vast majority of IDPs and around half of non-IDPs are in mixed schooling. Only about 8% of IDP households and 6% of non-IDP households have someone engaged in vocational training.

Psychosocial/Education

According to our survey about 20% of households have received some kind of psycho-social support with about third coming from school/kindergarten, about third from medical institution/government program and about third from somewhere else. The recipients of these programs have assessed them overwhelmingly positively and over half of the households said that they could benefit from this kind of support.

The ministry of education does not run any school based psycho-social program. They have offered schools additional resources after the war to try and ensure that they can manage with the new influx of students (and as was highlighted above, people seem fairly happy with these services). They have also provided free school text-books. Psychosocial training of teachers in Shida Kartli occurred under a UNICEF financed project that trained teachers from 12 schools near to Gori and 19 Shida Kartli village schools.

On top of these programs in the schools there has been extensive work on psychosocial support that has supported social workers and medical practitioners.

Attitudes/Integration

In our survey we looked at two kinds of integration, within communities and across IDP/non-IDP communities. We found that integration seems to be occurring against both dimensions. People have generally come to know their neighbours inside the settlement. Between IDPs and non-IDPs the survey

produced a positive picture with only 12% of IDPs saying that they were received 'somewhat negatively' or 'very negatively' by host communities. The level of interaction, however, is fairly low. 40% of IDPs say they interact with non-IDPs 'never or almost never'.

From our focus groups we also discovered a generally positive picture with both IDP and non-IDP communities describing each other in fairly positive terms. However, in some situations ethnic feelings can make the situation more difficult. There is a strong anti-Ossetian sentiment in the IDP population. This could be a problem because, as the survey shows, ethnic Ossetians make up 5% in IDP settlements and 7% in neighboring communities (excluding towns) in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli. In Shavshebi, where ethnic Ossetians constitute a big part of the village population, they seem to feel threatened by the newcomers. There have not been any major fights, but villagers are concerned that when men are drunk a serious clash might erupt.

In ethnic minority areas, such as Gardabani and Shaumiani, the situation is also quite tense. There have been several fights between ethnic Armenians and IDPs in Shaumiani. In Gardabani, the interaction between locals and IDPs is very low, and IDPs do not perceive locals as friendly. In Gori the situation is milder, there are no particular problems but IDPs feel that attitude from Gori population is unfriendly in general.

Civil Society Organisations and NGO involvement

The project was also tasked with looking at NGO/CSO involvement in IDPs generally. To that end we collected information from the MRA on the full scope of donor-funded NGO activity since the 2008 conflict and we organised a number of CSO focus groups in Gori and Kvemo Kartli.

In our overview from the MRA it quickly became clear that the projects that have affected our target settlements since summer 2008 were far too wide ranging and far too many to comprehensively analyse here. Of the USD 130 million of IDP projects that the MRA has on their central database, USD 96 million include or target our region. Of these, social assistance to provide consumables (like food, clothing and shelter) is the biggest category of work with infrastructure, agriculture and economic development as the next three priority areas (although seeing far less money focused upon them).

Some of these projects have worked on similar issues to CARE's SIIMS project and we spoke to several of these individually about their experiences. Premiere Urgence supported 300 businesses in the Gori district with small grants. CHF had a short project supporting business start-up Shaumiani, Koda, Berbuki and Skra. UNDP currently has a large project to develop vocational training that will focus on Shida Kartli. However, the biggest consistent concern is that the limited market size makes business start-up and immediate employment-oriented vocational training increasingly difficult.

Local Civil Society Organizations/NGOs

The profile of local CSOs in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli is very different. While in Shida Kartli a fairly large number of CSOs work on IDP issues, in Kvemo Kartli almost no local CSO focuses on IDP issues. IDPs in Kvemo Kartli generally work with CSOs based in Tbilisi. We had focus groups with local NGOs in Rustavi and in Gori.

Local CSOs we spoke to in Gori focused on issues including economic development, business consultancy, governance, the media and children. In Kvemo Kartli most CSOs focused on minority issues, though this was often combined with education, environment or human rights.

Most of the CSOs gathered their information from the Mamasakhlisis. In general, the CSOs were pessimistic about the level of IDP involvement. They argue that IDPs and the local population lack motivation and initiative.

Local NGOs working on development issues have noted that projects aiming at income-generation for IDPs, do not work effectively. One NGO representative suggested that the principle mechanism for giving out business development money should be banks, since this encourages a more realistic attitude to the money received.

On the other hand, some NGOs working on minority issues stated that civic activity is increasing in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. People are more willing to learn the Georgian language and be integrated in to the Georgian society. Generally, the combination of these focus groups and our survey suggested that the areas where bad feeling exist were either material in their origin, so relating to arguments over control of resources, or they were ethnic. Therefore, it would seem natural to try and integrate some of the work of the ethnic minority-oriented NGOs if one wanted to resolve these issues.

Context

Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli are neighbouring regions of Georgia. They are similar in size though Kvemo Kartli with a population of about 180,000 is slightly larger both in terms of size and population.¹ However, in socio-economic terms they could not be more different. According to the World Bank assessment that was conducted in 2007 (so conducted pre-war even though it was released in 2009) Shida Kartli is the poorest region in Georgia with a poverty headcount of 59% and Kvemo Kartli is one of the least poor with a poverty head-count of 17%.² Partially confirming this difference, in 2008 13% of the population Shida Kartli received targeted social assistance payments from the government compared to 7% in Kvemo Kartli.³

There is no clear reason for the difference although a number of differences suggest themselves as possibilities. Shida Kartli has more cities, more industry and more productive land. As one can see from the statistics below, particularly in terms of animals, it is vastly more productive.

Kvemo Kartli has also been a considerable recipient of international donor assistance because of its dual significance as an ethnically diverse region (with a very large Azeri population) and because the Baku-Tbilisi -Ceyhan pipeline passes through their territory. Finally, it has been suggested that owing to its higher level of ethnic diversity, migration and so remittances, may be higher.⁴

The other biggest difference between the regions is that while Shida Kartli is almost entirely ethnically Georgian, Kvemo Kartli is about 45% ethnically Azeri. Azeris are particularly concentrated in several of Kvemo Kartli's municipalities. 83% of Marneuli, 66% of Bolnisi, 67% of Dmanisi and 43% of Gardabani are Azeri. Many if not most of the ethnic Azeri's living in these regions do not speak good Georgian and the lingua-franca is Russian. This creates integration issues, particularly as Georgia is becoming less and less Russian speaking.⁵

Shida Kartli, as South Ossetia's direct neighbor, saw the brunt of the conflict and dislocations that were created in August 2008. In addition to those who fled South Ossetia many people fled their homes from Shida Kartli during the war, though most have now returned home. However, as the neighbouring region it became a significant recipient of new-IDPs after the war. Out of the 18 thousand or so IDPs who were settled in new government built or government renovated accommodation about 8000 were located in those two regions with about 2/3 in Shida Kartli (about 5500) and about 1/3 in Kvemo Kartli (about 2500).

¹ Shida Kartli has a population of 156 thousand (before the war) a size of 6200km² while Kvemo Kartli has a population of about 184,000 and a size of 6500km² (population figures from 2002 Census)

² World Bank (2009), *Georgia Poverty Assessment* p51. The survey upon which this assessment is based does not include the region of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (one region) which, according to other information is probably the most poor region in Georgia. For a brief discussion of regional differences in poverty in Georgia see http://www.geowel.org/index.php?article_id=30.

³ A detailed and up-to-date breakdown (to a municipal level) of the level at which people are receiving social assistance can be seen on the Social Services Agency Website (<http://www.ssa.gov.ge/index.php?id=774&lang=2> reviewed November 2009).

⁴ There are so many possible reasons for the difference and there is so little research that it is impossible to assess the relative merits of these arguments at this time.

⁵ International Crisis Group (November 2006), *Georgia's Armenian and Azeri Minorities*, Tbilisi, Georgia, p4

Agricultural Production

Even though there are significant flaws in the data collection methods of department of statistics, it is useful to review the agricultural production statistics since they give a sense of the areas where the regions focus. Below are the production volumes in different agricultural primary products for these regions in 2007.⁶

Table 2: Production of Annual Crops for 2007

	Shida Kartli	Kvemo Kartli	Georgia
	Production in ths tons	Production in ths tons	Production in ths tons
Wheat	4.70	5.50	74.90
Barley	6.2	2.2	40.3
Maize		38	295.8
Haricot beans	1.9	1.7	10.5
Sunflower		3.7	16.1
Potatoes		59.9	229.2
Vegetables	36.9	79.5	190.3
Annual grasses		12.4	20.5
Perennial grasses	1.6	3.9	8.8

Table 3: Permanent Crops 2007

	Shida Kartli	Kvemo Kartli	Georgia
	Production in ths tons	Production in ths tons	Production in ths tons
Apples	55.6	9.1	101.3
Grapes	16		227.3

Table 4: Animal Husbandry 2007

	Shida Kartli	Kvemo Kartli	Georgia
Cattle	69.9	186.2	1048.5
Pigs		8.5	109.9
Sheep		184.4	624
Goats		15.6	82.5
Poultry	266.3	1572.5	6149.7
Beehives (in thous hives)		11.6	183.8
Meat production	6.3	10.4	69.4
Milk production in thous tons)	54.4	117	624.7

Clearly one would expect the production and the poverty level to have become worse in Shida Kartli since the war.

⁶ We chose 2007 in order to avoid the distorting affects of the war. Department of Statistics, *Agriculture of Georgia, 2007*, Tbilisi, Georgia (<http://www.statistics.ge/files/georgian/agriculture/agriculture%202007.pdf>)

Survey of IDP settlements and their neighbouring

Methodology

We surveyed 470 IDP and 637 non-IDP households in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli. This gives us answers that we consider to be representative for IDPs/non-IDPs at a 4% level.

The survey asked questions on:

- Demographics
- Social service provision (use and attitudes towards health, education and counseling services)
- Assets (land-holdings, machinery and consumer durables)
- Employment (level, type and history of employment)
- Agriculture/agribusiness (primary and secondary good production levels, technology used, areas in need of assistance)
- Business development (level of business holding, interest in starting a business and hurdles to both)
- Income (from social assistance and employment)

Results

Social Service Usage and Provision

Medical Services

As can be seen from figure one, the level of medical services is high and the satisfaction with them is also high. Usage and satisfaction are both noticeably higher in IDP communities. The one clear area of dissatisfaction is that people feel that their family needs medical services they cannot afford.

Table 5: Usage and assessment of medical services

Assessment	IDP	Non-IDP
Used medical facilities in the last year	87%	66%
(of which) Rate the medical service as 'quite good' or 'very good'	77%	73%
Went to the hospital at least once	32%	21%
Rate the hospital as 'quite good' or 'very good'	83%	77%
(of which) Need additional medical services but can't afford them	82%	71%

It is unsurprising that people consider they need medical services that they cannot afford given that they spend so much on medical services. However, it is interesting that the IDP communities have a higher 'need' for medical services since all IDPs have a fairly comprehensive set of health services already paid for by the government (as part of their current social assistance provision and discussed below). Unsurprisingly, therefore, the biggest area where IDPs believe that they need medical help but cannot get it is in the provision of medicines (which are not covered by any social assistance program).

Table 6: Breakdown of spending on medical services (in the last month)

	IDPs	Non- IDPs
0 GEL	19.8%	19.3%
1-50 GEL	29.4%	36.9%
51-100 GEL	18.3%	20.1%

101-200 GEL	17.9%	9.9%
201-300 GEL	4.3%	3.1%
More than 300 GEL	5.7%	4.2%
Don't know/Refuse to answer	4.7%	6.3%

Table 7: Breakdown of Medical Services that different groups say they need but cannot afford

	IDPs	Non - IDPs
Drugs	59%	42%
Doctor's consultation	34%	45%
Surgery or other hospital service	22%	29%
Other	4%	2%

Kindergarten

Absolute numbers of kindergarten attendance are low. The most shocking finding from is that out of all the households with kids of kindergarten age, only about ¼ of them are actually attending.⁷

Out of those few who do attend, most of the IDPs are going to a mixed kindergarten and over half of the neighbouring communities are also attending mixed kindergartens. The quality rankings for both kindergarten and schools are also good with by far the majority of both groups giving both institutions a positive ranking. Interestingly, while IDPs are more positive than non-IDPs on medical services and kindergartens they are noticeably less enthusiastic about the schools.

Table 8: Attendance and attitudes to educational institutions

Assessment	IDP	Non-IDP
Number of households with children of kindergarten age not attending	62 (13%)	96 (15%)
Number of households with children attending kindergarten	19 (4%)	36 (6%)
Attendance level (% of eligible children attending)	23%	27%
Are in a mixed kindergarten	16 (84%)	20 (56%)

Given the high level of non-attendance, the reasons given for non-attendance are important. We asked people (in houses that had children of the right age who were not attending) why they did not attend kindergarten and were given the following answers.

Table 9: Reason why you don't send your children to Kindergarten

	IDPs	Non-IDPs
Distance to kindergarten	22.0%	2.2%
Cost of kindergarten	27.1%	12.9%
Non-availability of kindergarten	27.1%	58.1%
Quality of kindergarten	5.1%	0.0%
Do not feel it is necessary	27.1%	21.5%
Other	6.8%	8.6%

⁷ This is consistent with the low-end of existing studies. Different studies in the 2003-2006 period put kindergarten attendance nationally at between 26% and 52%. Most also said it was lower in rural areas. See UNICEF, Georgia (2007), *School Readiness in Georgia*. p29

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As we can see from this question. Quality is not considered to be a problem by the parents themselves. The biggest explanation by far for non-attendance is the non-availability of one (particularly if we consider distance to mean the same thing). A fairly recent UNICEF survey on the same subject indicated that even though people often complained about distance, this did NOT seem to be a deciding factor. UNICEF argues that household attitude to preschool education is far more important.⁸

We asked the households to assess the quality of their kindergartens and the assessment was overwhelmingly positive with the only negative note on the issue of infrastructure.

Table 10: Assessment of Kindergarten (IDPs)

	Very good	Quite good	Neither good nor bad	Quite bad	Very bad
Kindergartens infrastructure	28%	39%	22%	11%	0%
Kindergartens quality of education	22%	61%	17%	0%	0%
Kindergartens friendliness of environment	56%	33%	11%	0%	0%

Table 11: Assessment of Kindergarten (non-IDPs)

	Very good	Quite good	Neither good nor bad	Quite bad	Very bad
Kindergartens infrastructure	17%	54%	26%	0%	3%
Kindergartens quality of education	17%	57%	20%	3%	0%
Kindergartens friendliness of environment	23%	60%	17%	0%	0%

School

Compared to kindergarten, the vast majority of school-age kids were attending school (over 97% in both categories). In addition, all IDPs are attending mixed schools while half of non-IDPs are.

Table 12: Number of households with kids attending school

	IDP	Non-IDP
Attending school	179 (38%)	242 (38%)

The assessment of schools was generally very positive. We asked about the attitudes to the schools against a range of different dimensions. The consistent weakest point was infrastructure, but the quality of education and friendliness of the environment were assessed very positively by both IDPs and non-IDPs.

Table 13: IDP Assessment of Local School

	Very good	Quite good	Neither good nor bad	Quite bad	Very bad
Schools infrastructure	9%	44%	33%	7%	3%
Schools quality of education	13%	56%	25%	4%	2%

⁸

Schools friendliness of environment	25%	52%	16%	3%	1%
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Table 14: Non-IDP Assessment of Local School

	Very good	Quite good	Neither good nor bad	Quite bad	Very bad
Schools infrastructure	26%	54%	18%	2%	0%
Schools quality of education	25%	57%	16%	1%	0%
Schools friendliness of environment	29%	59%	11%	1%	0%

Vocational Training

The number of households with someone attending vocational training is low, around 8% of the total for IDPs and 6% for non-IDPs. However, the assessment of this small group were incredibly positive with the training institutions assessed as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ by over 80% for IDP/non-IDP. And over 90% against some criteria.

Psychosocial support

We also asked people about their experience of psycho-social programmes. 20% of the IDPs said that had received psychosocial support. We asked them where they had received the support and how they would evaluate it.

Table 15: Psychosocial support - Location and Assessment (asked of the 20% who received it)

Where did your family member receive support?	% of people who received support (total is 94 people)	How did you rate it?				
		Very good	Quite good	Neither good nor bad	Quite bad	Very bad
Kindergarten	17%	53%	33%	13%	0%	0%
School	15%	15%	69%	8%	0%	0%
Medical institution	27%	58%	25%	17%	0%	0%
Other government program	12%	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%
Other program by charity/ international organizations	32%	43%	40%	10%	0%	0%

42% said they would find this kind of support ‘very helpful’ while an additional 15% said they would find it ‘quite helpful’. In addition, they generally thought it would be useful for ALL the members of the family, but MORE for the adults than the children. This is important because the project proposal seemed to suggest that the program would look to provide support principally through schools.

Property

Land

The division of land-holdings for IDPs and non-IDPs was illustrative in a number of ways. 85% of IDPs said that they had received land-parcels. Over 90% of those who had not received them did not expect to.

Table 16: Breakdown of land used for agriculture

Hectares	IDPs	Non IDPs
0 to 0.19	28%	16%
0.2 to 0.39	39%	18%
0.4 to 0.59	22%	7%
0.6 to 0.79	0%	18%
0.8 to 0.99	5%	4%
1 to 1.49	0%	27%
1.5 to 1.99	0%	1%
2 to 3	1%	2%
>3	1%	2%

We asked them on a scale of 1-5 how they rated these land parcels and as we can see from the table below, 61% viewed them negatively or very negatively.

Table 17: How do you view the quality of your land-plot (asked to IDPs who were allocated them)?

Very positively	6.8%
Quite positively	9.5%
Neutrally	19.8%
Quite negatively	19.5%
Very negatively	41.4%
Don't know	3.0%

Although our survey was not intended to be representative at a settlement level we broke this particular question down by settlement to offer some indication of the degree of variation that exists in the satisfaction with the land-plots. As one can see, by this general assessment, Skra has the best land and Shaumiani the worst.

Table 18: Assessment of land-plots by settlement

	No. of interviewed IDPs	No. who assessed land as 'negative' or 'very negative'
Skra	19	0
Akhalsopeli	16	6
Metekhi	7	29
Mokhisi	9	33
Berbuki	26	38
Karaleti	120	43
Kvemo Bolnisi	5	60
Vocational school #40 and #155 of Kareli	3	67
Gardabani	14	86
Khurvaleti	30	87
Koda	69	87

Shavshvebi	47	98
Shaumiani	26	100

Assets

We also did a breakdown of the assets held by different households in order to provide a proxy comparison on wealth and a baseline.

Table 19: Breakdown of Assets by Group

	IDPs	Non IDPs
Color TV	97.0%	70.1%
DVD player	11.2%	15.4%
Washing machine	6.9%	20.2%
Refrigerator	97.0%	35.9%
Air conditioner	0.7%	0.3%
Car	9.9%	25.0%
Mobile phone	63.4%	67.2%
Microwave oven	8.4%	3.1%
Regular oven for cooking	73.9%	44.7%
Water boiler	52.0%	3.8%
PC	1.9%	2.5%
The Internet	0.0%	18.8%

Employment

The questionnaire asked both individual and household questions about employment. When the interviewee was simply asked about themselves both IDP and non-IDP communities give a very low level of employment. Although it is worth noting that while only 8% of respondent IDPs said they were employed, 24% of IDP respondents (who say they are now unemployed) said they had a job before 2008.

Table 20: Employment levels

	IDPs	Non- IDPs
Do you have a job	8%	12%
(For the unemployed) have you engaged in informal, temporary or seasonal labour?	14%	16%

Table 21: Primary Source of Income (for those who consider themselves 'employed')

	IDPs	Non- IDPs
Agriculture	5.4%	8.6%
Manufacturing		1.4%
Electricity, gas, and/or water supply		4.3%
Construction / Road works		2.9%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	2.7%	4.3%
Government, Public Administration and Defense	67.6%	54.3%
Education	10.8%	15.7%

Healthcare and Social Work	5.4%	2.9%
Civil society / NGO		2.9%
Other	8.1%	2.9%

The majority of the formal jobs are either in teaching or government. Almost 80% of IDPs and 70% of non-IDPs out of the small ‘employed’ group are in one of those professions.

Income

Excluding social assistance payments, IDP allowances and pensions the IDPs have significantly lower reported income than non-IDPs. IDPs had an average income for the last month (excluding social payments) of GEL 73 while non-IDPs had an average of GEL 182. This is mainly explained by the fact that 2/3 of non-IDPs have zero non-social income, compared to 1/3 of non-IDPs.

Table 22: Stated earnings in the last month – excluding social payments

	IDPs	Non IDPs
0 GEL	67.1%	33.3%
1-100 GEL	11.1%	19.0%
101-200 GEL	7.7%	14.3%
201-300 GEL	4.5%	7.7%
More than 300 GEL	6.4%	14.0%
Don't know/Refuse to answer	3.2%	11.7%

From a household point of view one can assess levels of employment indirectly by looking at sources of income. From this we can see that 15% of the IDP households and 25% of non-IDP households say they receive income from something they call a ‘job’.

Table 23: What were your households different sources of income in the last month (asked of those with an income – but numbers calculated below are for whole population)?

	IDP	Non-IDP
Sale of primary agricultural goods and products	4%	23%
Sale of processed agricultural goods and products	0%	1%
Other agricultural activity	2%	4%
Job	15%	25%
Non agricultural business activity	3%	4%
Cash from friends and relatives living inside the country	5%	4%
Cash from family member working abroad	0%	2%
Other	3%	5%

On income 73% of the IDPs said they receive targeted social assistance and 18% say they receive assistance as IDPs and given the current levels of TSA and the additional IDP supplements, based on answers given the two communities (IDPs and non-IDPs) probably find themselves in a similar situation.

Un-utilised skills

We also asked people if they had stopped using any skills because of the war. 100 out of the 470 IDPs we surveyed said that they had stopped using skills they used before the war.

Table 24: What is your skill that has been unutilized since the war (out of 21% who said they had unutilized skills)?

	Mentioned
Carpenter	2.9%
Machine repair person	5.8%
Plumber	1.0%
Electrician	4.9%
Doctor	0.0%
Nurse	12.6%
Teacher	23.3%
Tractor driver	1.9%
Barber	3.9%
Driver	15.5%
Other	34.0%

76% said that their primary source of income prior to the war was agriculture (though this question also included the ‘unemployed’ so cannot be compared to the information above about professions).

Agriculture

Though it was not classified a ‘job’ by most, 41% of IDPs and 71% of non-IDPs said their family was involved in some kind of agricultural activity. Before the war, around 76% classified farming as their primary source of income. We started by trying to assess agricultural productivity levels. For each of our target products we asked about whether the household grew a certain thing and if so what land they used and how much they produced in a year. It is important to keep in mind that the lower the levels of people actually growing a particular product, the less relevant/representative the rest of the information would be.

Table 25: What do the people who engage in agriculture produce (so this is only asking 41% of IDPs and 71% of non-IDPs)?

	Do you grow?		Average hectares used		Average annual production kilos	
	IDP	Non-IDPs	IDPs	Non-IDPs	IDPs	Non-IDPs
Haricot Beans	51%	56%	0.06	0.08	16	83
Potatoes	71%	59%	0.02	0.06	82	416
Tomatoes	80%	43%	0.02	0.07	79	258
Carrots	46%	10%	0.01	0.02	18	45
Cucumbers	32%	15%	0.02	0.03	15	60
Onions	60%	32%	0.02	0.02	27	62
Other vegetable	71%	31%	0.25	0.11	119	421
Corn	1%	20%	0.12	0.75	350	800
Barley	1%	3%	0.80	0.46	1500	695
Apples	15%	37%	0.15	0.27	751	1115
Grapes	0%	55%		0.05	0	285
Other fruit	9%	21%	0.14	0.07	87	314

Table 26: What animals do the people who engage in agriculture raise (so this is only asking 41% of IDPs and 71% of non-IDPs)?

	Do you keep? (%)		How many did you rear last year?	
	IDPs	Non-IDPs	IDPs	Non-IDPs
Cows	2%	49%	2	1
Bull	0%	3%		1
Calf	1%	29%	1	1
Sheep	0%	5%		5
Pigs	4%	18%	1	2
Chicken	19%	71%	10	13
Other live animal	2%	3%	11	5

However, almost nobody we spoke to had used these animals for producing meat except chicken (6% had produced pork but practically nothing apart from that). Mostly the animals were kept for producing milk, milk products and eggs

Table 27: What animal related products do the people who engage in agriculture produce (so this is only asking 41% of IDPs and 71% of non-IDPs)?

	Do you make (%)		How much did you rear last year (average) kilos/liters/units?	
	IDPs	Non-IDPs	IDPs	Non-IDPs
Chicken	8%	34%	7	30
Milk	2%	48%	713	430
Cheese	2%	42%	98	108
Eggs	6%	48%	133	158

Table 28: Secondary produce by category (asked of the entire population)

Secondary produce	% of families that made:		Average Kilos/litres made last year	
	IDPs	Non-IDPs	IDPs	Non-IDPs
Jams	47%	54%	12	14
Canned dinner	35%	30%	15	24
Canned vegetables	70%	62%	33	35
Churchkhela and dried food	30%	23%	7	13
Wine and other alcohol	11%	60%	158	210
Fruit juice	46%	63%	34	46
Oil	0%	0%	0	15
Flour	0%	8%	0	231
Other	5%	1%	25	16

Usage of Machinery

We also asked people about their usage and the usefulness of farm machinery.

Table 29: What agricultural machinery do you use/own/rent (percentages) (only asked of those who engage in agriculture so this is only asking 41% of IDPs and 71% of non-IDPs)?

	Rent it	Own it	Own and rent to others	Borrow without charge	Rent it	Own it	Own and rent to others	Borrow without charge
Caterpillar tractor	9%	0%	0%	7%	36%	1%	0%	0%
Big wheeled tractor	11%	0%	0%	16%	51%	2%	0%	2%
Small wheeled tractor	11%	0%	1%	3%	29%	3%	0%	3%
Harvester	2%	0%	1%	1%	20%	0%	0%	0%
Moto block	1%	1%	1%	0%	18%	4%	1%	4%
Truck	2%	2%	1%	1%	27%	1%	0%	2%
Hay press	2%	0%	1%	0%	29%	2%	0%	0%
Fertilizer Spreader	3%	7%	1%	2%	31%	3%	1%	2%
Seeding Machine	1%	0%	0%	6%	23%	0%	0%	0%
Plough	8%	0%	0%	4%	36%	1%	0%	2%
Rotary cultivator	8%	0%	0%	7%	42%	1%	0%	1%
Rake	1%	5%	0%	1%	20%	10%	1%	1%
Mounted sprayer	5%	1%	0%	2%	26%	1%	0%	1%
Seed Dresser	0%	0%	0%	2%	16%	0%	0%	0%

We asked those who were involved in agribusiness what they thought would most help improve their productivity.

Table 30: What kind of input assistance do you think would most increase productivity

	IDPs	Non IDPs
Agricultural equipment	51.5%	33.4%
Chemicals	11.3%	28.6%
Veterinary services	0.0%	0.2%
Access to bank loan	1.5%	5.7%
Seed materials	6.2%	9.5%
Other	9.8%	5.5%
Don't know	18.0%	14.9%
Refuse to answer	1.5%	2.2%

Since the project was talking primarily about agricultural machinery provision we also asked about which kind of machinery would be most useful.

Table 31: Type of agricultural machinery that would most improve productivity

	IDPs	Non IDOs
Caterpillar tractor	7.0%	27.0%
Big wheeled tractor	40.0%	35.5%

Small wheeled tractor	37.0%	26.3%
Harvester	0.0%	3.3%
Moto block	0.0%	1.3%
Truck	5.0%	1.3%
Hay press	0.0%	1.3%
Fertilizer Spreader	3.0%	1.3%
Plough	6.0%	0.0%
Rotary cultivator	1.0%	0.0%
Seeding Machine	0.0%	0.7%
(Don't know)	1.0%	2.0%

Business and Business Development

From our survey only 1.5% (7) IDPs and 3.8% (24) non-IDPs owned a shop or business.

The biggest hurdle offered to expanding a business was money. All 7 of the IDP shop/business owners offered 'money' as a hurdle to expanding their businesses, and one of them said there was not enough market demand. We then asked the whole population which businesses they thought would be most profitable. Below are listed all of the answers that more than 2% of the population gave as potential businesses.

Table 32: Which business would be the most profitable?

	IDP	Non-IDP
Raising animals	25.8%	22.8%
Agriculture (non-animal)	9.2%	4.9%
Shop/stall for selling locally produced fruits and vegetables and meat	4.0%	2.8%
Shop for selling general food	16.0%	17.5%
Shop for selling clothes	6.6%	4.9%
Shop for selling general household goods (cleaning products, etc)	5.1%	4.1%
Shop for selling something else	5.1%	6.0%
Hair-dressers/beautician	2.6%	2.7%
Make clothes for sale	2.1%	1.6%
Taxi/marshutka/transportation	4.9%	4.9%

We then asked them what would be the main hurdle to opening a business and received the following response.

Table 33: Hurdles to opening a business (asked to all of the population)

	Mentioned by
Lack of money	65%
Not enough market demand for product or service or local people can't afford the product or service	4%
Lack of access to former autonomous rep of South Ossetia	2%
Difficulty of reaching to other markets	1%

Unfriendly environment	1%
Uncertainty about future	4%
Lack of necessary knowledge for business	2%
Other	3%
There would be no hurdles	1%
Not interested in starting a new business	9%

	IDPs	Non-IDPs
Lack of Money	72%	59%
Not enough market demand for product or service or local people can't afford the product or service	4%	4%
Lack of access to former autonomous rep of South Ossetia	2%	2%
Difficulty of reaching to other markets	1%	2%
Unfriendly environment	1%	1%
Uncertainty about future	5%	3%
Lack of necessary knowledge for business	3%	2%
Other	4%	2%
There would be no hurdles	0%	1%
Not interested in starting a new business	8%	9%

Applying for and Receiving Loans

8% of IDPs and 25% of non-IDPs have tried to take out a bank-loan in the past, though ¾ of the IDPs who applied (or 6% of the population) and 90% of the non-IDPs (or 23% of the population) were successful.

Table 34: Main purpose of trying to secure a loan (out of 8% of IDPs and 25% of non-IDPs)

Reason for taking out a loan	IDP	Non-IDP
Buy Food/clothes/necessities	21%	11%
Buy electronics/computer	26%	5%
Buy a car	5%	6%
Buy agricultural equipment	0%	2%
Education	0%	6%
Medical care	13%	24%
House repair	13%	11%
Open/Expand a business	10%	19%
Other	5%	4%

The main reason that was given by those who applied but did not receive a loan (only around 2% of each population) was low income (around ½) with another 20% citing too little collateral.

Attitudes/Integration

We were interested in two different dimensions of social integration and interaction; within the settlements and between the IDPs and non-IDPs. In terms of the interaction within the communities we asked how well they know the other members of the settlement.

Interaction between IDPs inside a settlement

Generally we found that while the majority of people had known their neighbours and the other people in their settlement fairly well, a sizeable minority did not.

Table 35: How well did you know your neighbours in the settlement before the war/now?

	Before the war	Now
Very well	14.7%	43.7%
Well	43.0%	46.8%
A little	23.1%	8.1%
Not at all	19.0%	1.4%

Table 36: How many people did you know in your settlement before/after the war?

Knew most of the people in the settlement	14.0%
Knew a lot of the people in the settlement	31.4%
Knew a few people in the settlement	29.6%
Did not know anyone in the settlement	24.7%
Refuse to answer	0.2%

IDP/non IDP interaction.

We asked directly about how the two groups feel about one another.

Table 37 (Asked to IDPs) How welcomed to you feel by the local community?

Very positively	11.8%
Somewhat positively	22.4%
Neutrally	34.4%
Somewhat negatively	7.9%
Very negatively	4.1%
Don't know	19.5%

We also asked questions to assess the level of physical interaction between the two communities

Table 38: Level of interaction IDP and non-IDP

	% of IDP pop. that mix with non-IDP	% of Non-IDP pop. mix with IDP
Multiple times a day	7.7%	8.1%
Once a day	6.6%	5.3%
A few times a week	15.8%	11.8%
More rarely	29.4%	15.9%
Never or almost never	40.0%	56.8%
Don't know	0.5%	2.2%

Asked if the two groups consider the other group friends. 65% of IDPs have non-IDP friends and 38% of non-IDPs have IDP friends. We also asked the non-IDPs whether they thought the arrival of the settlements was good or bad.

Table 39: (Asked of non-IDPs) Impact of IDP settlement overall

Very positively	8.1%
Somewhat positively	13.4%
Neutrally	53.8%
Somewhat negatively	2.5%
Very negatively	0.5%
Don't know	21.7%

Focus Groups

Business Focus Groups

We conducted 12 focus groups for IDP settlements and neighboring communities. 8 of these focus groups were mixed IDPs and locals, 2 were for IDPs living in minority regions and 2 were conducted in Russian for ethnic minorities in minority regions. The composition of focus groups in mixed focus groups included 8 IDPs and 4 local citizens who were perceived as active in business terms (owning or working in a business) at present or previously. The list of locations included:

1	Shaumiani IDP settlement
2	Shaumiani village
3	Gardabani IDP settlement
4	Gardabani town
5	Koda
6	Khurvaleti
7	Shavshvebi
8	Kareli Vocational school #40
9	Khashuri Vocational school #109
10	Teliani
11	Skra
12	Karaleti

The responses can be roughly broken down into following categories: IDP activities before the war, land issues, existing businesses/employment, perceptions about business promotion projects, and prospects of business development.

IDP activities before the war

According to the focus groups everybody in South Ossetia lived fairly well before the war. The main occupation was fruit growing (predominantly apples). These were sold across Georgian cities including Tskhinvali and sometimes exported to towns in Russia. On several occasions, FG participants highlighted the importance of the Ergneti market as a main point of trading. In addition to trading agricultural products, they would trade a wide range of other products like car parts or cigarettes. On top of that, almost all of them used to have livestock and even before the war, many of the participants had been helped extensively by development money.

Lands Issues

The most obvious general business opportunity is agriculture. However, the opportunities for this are crucially dependant on the size, quality and proximity of the land-plots. The difference between land plots is most apparent across the settlements rather than within them (though differences within the settlements also exist). People who live in renovated houses in Gori, Kareli, Surami and Khashuri did not receive lands or anything which would serve as an alternative.

On the other hand, there are settlements which have 0.8 hectares per household and which have fruit trees on the land. On several occasions the allocation of land has created problems between IDPs and the local population since IDPs harvested crop from lands that locals had seeded (in Shavshvebi, for

example). On top of this a number of FG participants noted that they did not use their land plots either because of the distance from their home or low productivity of lands.

Connected to the simple quality of land, the second biggest problem for agriculture is irrigation. Because of problems in irrigation people tend to grow wheat or barley since this requires less water than other crops, such as maize. In several instances, however, maize was dominant.

Since it requires more water than wheat or barley, in many places the maize harvest was very low. Wheat, barley, and corn seeds were distributed by the government and international organizations. The government also helped to plough lands with machinery.

Among the local population, land characteristics vary both across and within the villages. The size of plots generally exceeds one hectare and the population often rented out the land plots from the government. Irrigation remains a problem.

Existing businesses/Employment

Business activity in all IDP settlements is low. In settlements, IDPs have started small business – like opening a small store in their own house. Owners of these shops often complain that, owing to the limited amount of cash in the settlements, people usually buy goods on credit. This obviously makes it hard for shop-owners to operate. There are also cases of other small business support programs, such as distributing (more precisely – giving out money to buy) sewing machines, beehives, chicken or pigs. In a few cases IDPs are able to sell agricultural products, such as maize in Berbuki and apples in Skra settlement.

Employment is the biggest issue for IDPs and their neighbouring communities. IDP teachers have been employed at schools, though this has often happened as the result of a decree rather than as the result of the demands of the school. Even those with clear skills, like carpenters, plumbers, painters, and electricians are extremely under-employed and often work pro-bono for neighbors and relatives.

In the neighbouring villages, there are usually a few shops and people sell agricultural products, but business activity is still quite low. Settlements like Karaleti in Gori, #40 vocational school in Kareli or #109 vocational school in Khashuri are distant from the center of the town and business activity is low.

Perceptions about business promotion projects

In most settlements, people have heard about business development projects but are unclear about specific criteria for selection and have questions about the integrity of the grant awarding process. Loans with interest rates are less welcome among the general IDP population since there is no confidence that debts can be paid off.

The focus groups showed contradictory impulses in their analysis of the structure of NGO support. Some FG participants are worried that only a few people get picked, and that some people are picked repeatedly, while most of the population remains without any assistance. As a result, some people argue that support should simply be evenly distributed. Alternatively, some FG participants have argued that usually assistance money is too small to start a viable business and more money is needed. In several settlements, like Teliani, people had only heard about the CARE business grants for women.

Concerns were also expressed about the fairness with which business promotion grants were selected. In Shaumiani settlement, for example people suspected that CHF and grantees were involved in corrupt dealings. These suspicions and protests led to the dismissal of Mamasakhlis in Shaumiani. In other settlements, IDPs also often question the fairness of assistance programs.

In several FGs, IDPs asked for higher donor accountability and transparency. There was also a general fear that signing any document (for example, showing involvement in the focus group) might show up as if the individual had received something which could result in the loss of a benefit. The increased activity from CSOs has also created considerable frustration on the part of some IDPs who complain that frequent visits and endless questions of various organizations don't actually yield the results they expect.

Prospects of business development

IDPs are generally pessimistic about the prospects for business development because of the lack of money for starting businesses or a market in which to sell goods. Even existing businesses are not perceived as successful by locals.

IDPs could suggest several new-business ideas, but few seemed to have thought about it in any detail. There were only a few FG participants who had clear and detailed idea about the businesses they would start and who were willing to take credits (at a low interest rate) in order to do so. Businesses ideas mainly involved agricultural activities but also included ideas ranging from production of wood stoves to running postal services.

Focus Groups with Non-Governmental Organisations/Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

The profile of local CSOs in Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli are different. While in Shida Kartli, a fairly large number of CSOs work on IDP issues, in Kvemo Kartli almost no local CSO focuses on IDP issues. IDPs in Kvemo Kartli generally work with CSOs based in Tbilisi. We had focus groups with local NGOs in Rustavi and in Gori.

Table 40: List of Rustavi NGO Focus Group Participants (Don't deal with IDPs)

Name of the Organization	Focus of activities
Georgian Association of Educational Initiatives	Educational projects mainly in Rustavi
Scouts Movement in Kvemo Kartli	Sports/recreation/education for youth in Kvemo Kartli
GYLA Rustavi office	Legal issues, advocacy, human rights
Free Journalists Association in Kvemo Kartli	Media issues, ethnic minorities
Center for Development in Kvemo Kartli	Ethnic minority issues, educational projects
Youth Center of Marneuli	Sports and informal education, languages, minority issues
NGO "Demos"	Women and children rights and ethnic minority issues
Information Center for Environmental Protection	Environmental issues in Kvemo Kartli
Bolnisi Youth Center	Education, ethnic minority issues
Association for civic initiative in Tetrtskaro	Environmental and social projects

Table 41: List of 6 Gori Focus Group Participants (Mostly involved with IDPs)

Name of the Organization	Focus of activities
NGO "Biliki"	Socially vulnerable children
Democratic Development Institute	IDP rights
Gori Information Center	self-governance issues, media
IRD- Shida Kartli	Development projects
Gori Business Center	Business consultations
CIDA Gori Office	Business development, social issues, integration.

One of the first questions we asked all of the focus groups is how CSOs gather information. Several of the NGOs seemed to be active in communicating with IDPs and collecting information. Some of them used questionnaires and public meetings. However, the most widely used practice is to call Mamasakhlisis and get information from them.

In general, the CSOs were pessimistic about the level of IDP involvement in project activities. They argued that IDPs and the local population lack motivation and initiative. In the words of one FG participant, - "These people take a very consumption-oriented approach. They expect to get everything given to them...." Most of the representatives also seem to think that the level of the population's activeness side is gradually decreasing.

NGOs also have the perception that IDPs are not fully ready to be integrated into their host societies, which is one of the main factors why they are less active. One FG participant in Gori noted, "It's not that they believe they are going back to their homes anytime soon, but they just can't face the new reality... it's a very unfortunate reality, but they need to face it and start a new life."

The CSOs seem to agree that even though there is no apparent conflict between host and IDP communities, the situation is far from normal and there is a risk that the situation may gradually deteriorate. One FG participant in Gori noted that near Shavshvebi settlement, several families from the village had to leave because of the rising conflict between ethnic Ossetians living in the village and new IDPs settled very close to the village. In an interview one local inhabitant of Shavshvebi village, who is an ethnic Georgian, noted that IDPs often threaten to take Ossetians' lands in Shavshvebi, since Ossetians took theirs.

NGOs working on development issues have noted that projects aiming at income-generation for IDPs, do not work effectively. One NGO representative suggested that the principle mechanism for giving out business development money should be banks since this encourages a more realistic attitude to the money received. There is a feeling among NGOs that most of the pressing issues are dealt with by CSOs and donor organizations, but there is little or no focus on activities aimed at crime prevention.

NGOs which do not primarily work on IDP issues note that people are getting more passive as time passes in Kvemo Kartli. Some NGOs claimed that people are not confident that their activeness will change anything and thus prefer to concentrate on everyday social issues. NGOs also complain that the most active and integrated part of youth prefers to continue activities in Tbilisi.

On the other hand, some NGOs argued that activity is actually increasing in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. People are more willing to learn the Georgian language and be integrated in to the Georgian society.

The situation in villages, however, remains grim. There is limited opportunity for learning Georgian language and being integrated into society because of lack of sufficient personnel. An indicator of the low level of integration of these people is that fewer and fewer ethnic minority representatives from the villages of Kvemo Kartli become students of Georgia's universities. NGOs expressed the desire that more attention is paid to educational component from the donors' side.

Overview of Government Programmes that relate to IDPs

In order to try and develop a complete understanding of the government's activities as they relate to IDPs, we examined four dimensions. First we looked at cash payments to IDPs that have been organized in different ways since the 2008 war. Second, as the principle body responsible for the IDPs we looked at the budget of the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation. Third, we looked through the entire administrative budget for 2008-2010 to identify line-items in other ministries that related to IDPs. Fourth, we looked at the Ministry of Agriculture to identify agricultural programs that might relate to our settlements. For all of these we had meetings with the responsible people inside the ministries. Each of these four types of analysis are discussed below.

Cash Support to IDPs

The situation with regards to government support, IDP registration and the social assistance for IDPs has been extremely complicated. There have been three rounds of 'registration,' and the last round is now coming to an end. Following the war, with the help of UNHCR, an initial group of IDPs were given a number by the civil registry. These did not make them official 'IDPs' (according to Georgian law) but was used to help them receive their initial support from the government and the international community.⁹

In January, the government, in consultation with the WFP and UNICEF committed to provide three months of cash support to these 'IDPs' (who were still not officially registered). This included 25 GEL per person per month and 70 GEL per month for children under 2 (provided by the WFP and UNICEF respectively). The government also provided an additional 100 GEL for clothes in January 2009.

The second round of registration occurred because the government committed to pay IDPs in the settlements targeted social assistance for one year.¹⁰ In order to make this possible, the Civil Registry made a list of all the inhabitants in the new settlements. Again, this was not a formal registration as an official 'IDP' but was just used as a mechanism for distributing cash payments and TSA. Almost all new settlements IDPs have been receiving TSA.¹¹

A third round of registration is currently underway. With the help of UNHCR and working with the civil registry, the MRA is finally registering people living in new settlements as formal IDPs. This registration is necessary for anyone who wants to move from TSA to IDP assistance. The biggest hurdle to formally register is that it requires far more documentation than either of the previous two registrations. In particular individuals need to be able to prove who they are and where they are from in order to establish why they cannot go home.¹² According to the MRA, at the time of writing this report, 13,000 IDPs out of an estimated 18,000 eligible had registered as formal IDPs.

⁹ Following the war the IDPs received a 200 GEL one-off payment, food was provided by the World Food Program and distributed by a range of agencies, ovens (electric or gas) were distributed to some families. The utilities bills were paid.

¹⁰ Under normal circumstances TSA is only handed out on the basis of an assessment of need but in the case of the IDPs no assessment has been made in the first year

¹¹ The only members of this group who did not automatically take the TSA payment were those already receiving formal IDP payments (as IDPs of the first war). This group was given the choice of whether to move to TSA or to stay with the IDP allowance. Adopting TSA did not affect their IDP status.

¹² Discussions with Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, November 2009

At the current time, registered IDPs can choose the TSA payments or IDP assistance payments. Most have selected to stay with TSA because it is higher than the 'IDP assistance' and comes with more benefits. For people living in the settlements, the IDP assistance is GEL 22 per person (for those living outside of collective housing it is GEL 28 because these groups do not have their utility bills paid). Compared to that, the value of the TSA payment at the current time is GEL 30 for the first family member and GEL 24 for every subsequent family member.

So a family of 4:

TSA: $30 + (3 \times 24) = \text{GEL } 102$ per month

IDP: $4 \times 22 = \text{GEL } 88$ per month

The current standard pension is GEL 75 per month and pensioners do not receive TSA or IDP assistance. On top of this, both TSA recipients and pensioners also receive the full healthcare package that costs the government GEL 15 per person per month and covers:

- Out-patient care (GP visits, nurse, lab checkups, x-rays, etc.)
- In-patient care (including urgent surgeries, planned surgeries up to 15 000 GEL a year, chemical therapy and laser therapy up to 12 000 GEL)
- Baby-delivery costs in the amount of 400 GEL¹³

Those who are receiving IDP assistance do not receive the TSA package. According to a representative of UNICEF we spoke to, this package is pretty comprehensive.

The biggest issue facing the IDPs with regards to TSA is whether it will continue next year. At the current time it is scheduled to be phased out at the end of the year, in order to move people to IDP assistance. If that happens, then IDPs could apply for TSA along with everyone else, but they would not automatically qualify. Therefore, there is a very good chance that many will see a reduction in their financial support and in their health cover.

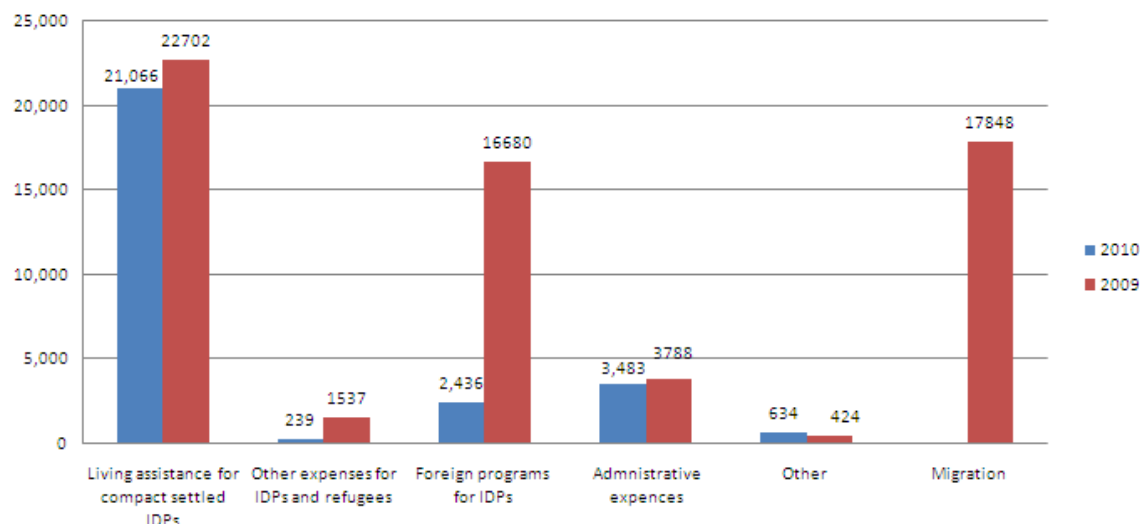
The Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation

The Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation is the most obvious government agency that deals with the refugees. However, it is important to understand that its role is principally organizational. It has been responsible for the registering of refugees, in coordination with the civil registry. However, direct service provision to refugees generally falls to other government agencies. Direct payments of cash and health cover come from agencies within the Ministry of Labor Health and Social Affairs. Agricultural support has come from the Ministry of Agriculture etc.

Given its role, the budget for the MRA is fairly small; its budget for 2010 is projected to be GEL 27.9 million, down from GEL 63 million in 2009. However, the reduction in its budget has largely come from a reduction in its spending on migrant support programmes. It now spends 86% of its budget (practically all of its operational budget) on IDPs. The largest line-item by far is the 'living assistance for compact settlement IDPs', which pays for utility bills of IDPs in government owned collective centers. The budget allocation for 2010 is approximately the same as 2009, suggesting that the government is not expecting to significantly reduce the number of people covered by this payment.

Figure 1: Spending in the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation for 2009 and projections for 2010 (GEL thousands)

¹³ Provided by Dimitri Gugushvili, Programme Officer, UNICEF, November 2009



Reference: Ministry of Finance, Administrative Budget (2009)

Non-MRA spending on IDPs

The second source we utilized to try and get a sense of government spending that related to IDPs was to look at the administrative budget for the Georgian government provided by the Ministry of Finance to identify budget line-items specifically financing IDPs.

Table 42: Non MRA Spending on IDPs (thousand GEL)

Item	2007 factual	2008 factual	2009 projection	2010 projection
Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (Municipal Development Fund)				
Construction/rehabilitation of IDP houses (EU)	0	0	105,000	29,500
Emergency rehabilitation of IDP houses in West Georgia (KfW)	0	0	14,105	1,995
Ministry of Education and Science				
Utility fees for IDPs located in educational and research enterprise buildings	0	813	0	0
Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs				
Refugee and IDP allowances	0	0	65,306	65,343
Medical insurance (governmental program for compactly settled IDPs)				2,352
Ministry of Agriculture				
Program for providing seeds to citizens left without homes as a consequence of Russian aggression	0	0	460	0
Sanakoev Administration				
South Ossetia Administration	14,612	18,993	10,000	8,846

Source: Ministry of Finance Administrative Budget (2009)

As one can see, the budget allocation for projects relating directly to IDPs has diminished since 2009. For our purpose, it is worth noting the only elements that relate to the settlements covered in this research are refugee/IDP allowances paid by the MLHSA (covered under the category ‘Cash Support for IDPs – above) and the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture had one program for allocating seed to IDPs.

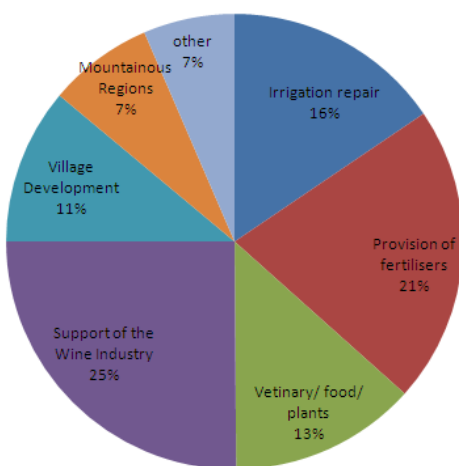
Agricultural Projects and Agricultural Machinery

On top of looking at ministries that have financed IDPs, we looked at the government is financing of agriculture more generally since such project could involve our recipient households. We were particularly interested in government related projects or projects that involved agricultural machinery. We found two projects that in 2009 helped the IDPs with their agriculture by providing seeds and fertilizer. However, neither of these projects are currently included in the 2010 budget, since the Ministry of Agriculture budget for 2010, at GEL 53 million, is half what it was in 2009.

Moreover, municipal government has no budget to support IDPs or agriculture.¹⁴ They do, however, have some unofficial control over the farm machinery that used to help IDPs last autumn. Given the agricultural machinery dimension of this project, we were particularly interested in examining this.

On the government front, neither central nor local government has resources set aside for assisting the agricultural development of IDPs in 2010. In 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture had a budget of GEL 113 million. The breakdown is shown below.

Figure 2: Breakdown of Ministry of Agriculture Budget for 2009 (total GEL 113 million)



Reference: Ministry of Finance Administrative Budget for 2009.

In 2009 seed was distributed to the IDPs and fertilizer was distributed nationally (though not to IDPs in particular).

Seed was distributed under the program, ‘Providing Seeds for the Victims of Russian Aggression’. This program, valued at GEL 460,000 distributed 13 different types of seeds including tomatoes, cucumber,

¹⁴ In addition to that municipal governments routinely have the category ‘agriculture’ included in their list of projects, but this is something of a misnomer and the municipalities themselves say that they do not provide support for agriculture directly. Discussion with Gori Deputy Gamgabeli (September 2009)

onion, parsley, coriander, celery, radish, red beet, carrot, potato, and cauliflower. They were given to 5,052 families (or most of the IDPs).

Table 43: Distribution of Seed for IDPs in Spring 2009

Region	District	Settlement	Individuals
Shida Kartli	Gori	Berbuki	454
Shida Kartli	Gori	Gori	78
Shida Kartli	Gori	Gori	67
Shida Kartli	Gori	Gori/kvernati	14
Shida Kartli	Gori	Karaleti	1482
Shida Kartli	Gori	Karaleti/Tsmindatskali	1607
Shida Kartli	Gori	Shavshvebi	587
Shida Kartli	Gori	Skra	296
Shida Kartli	Kareli	Akhalsopeli	333
Shida Kartli	Kareli	Kareli	265
Shida Kartli	Kareli	Kareli	204
Shida Kartli	Kareli	Mokhisi	215
Shida Kartli	Kaspi	Didi Khurvaleti	440
Shida Kartli	Kaspi	Metekhi	128
Shida Kartli	Kaspi	Teliani	170
Shida Kartli	Khashuri	Chumateleti	81
Shida Kartli	Khashuri	Khashuri	64
Shida Kartli	Khashuri	Surami	68
Shida Kartli	Khashuri	Surami	51
Shida Kartli	Khashuri	Surami	22

Fertiliser was distributed nationally through the municipalities in a project valued at GEL 24 million with just under 1 million beneficiaries. Again, this project is not included in the 2010 budget. On top of these projects, the government and the international community have run a number of projects concerning farm machinery and these are discussed below.

NGO/CSO Sector

In order to understand the work that had been undertaken in our target communities, the project also reviewed the full range of projects that had been conducted by organizations, mostly financed with international money, in the IDP sector. The Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation provided an overview of projects that have taken place focusing on IDPs. The list does not claim to be comprehensive but offers some indication of the different areas that have been financed and the level of interest in each.

The total value of the projects listed by the MRA is USD 130.2 million. Many of these projects have multiple elements and it was beyond the scope of this research to comprehensively categorise all of them. However, out of the total USD 96 million has been spent on projects that include either Shida Kartli or Kvemo Kartli. Of that USD 96 million projects, the following categories of concern were covered.

Table 44: Value of Projects that include the following categories and could related to Shida Kartli or Kvemo Kartli

Social Assistance	48,738,248
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Infrastructure	24,444,142
Agriculture	15,801,402
Economic/Business development	16,604,004
Integration	2,417,516
Psychosocial	1,631,372
Youth	5,772,366
Governance/oversight	3,244,205

Source: List of IDP related projects provided by the MRA

Note that since many projects cover more than one area of concern the numbers are often double counted.

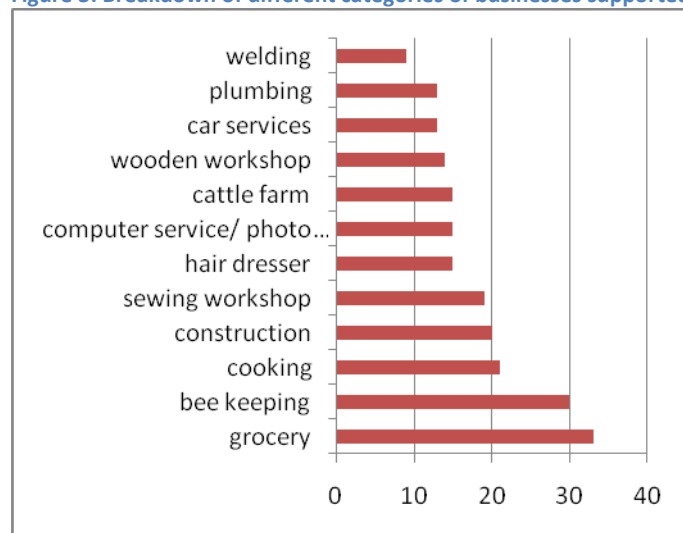
There is clearly far too wide a range of different projects to assess comprehensively, but we did look at those relating to our areas – so we particularly focused on business development projects and psychosocial projects.

Business Development

There are 17 different projects listed that involve economic development components. We assumed that CARE did not need its own projects reviewed but spoke to UNDP, UNHCR, CHF and Premiere Urgence, which between them count for ten projects.

Premiere Urgence (who are now closing their Georgia office) supported 300 businesses in the Gori district. They had direct finance of about USD 1 million which was distributed in the form of grants and training to small businesses and people with unutilized skills. The average recipient was USD 850 and the upper limit was USD 1000. In Gori they provided the following breakdown of the types of businesses they supported.

Figure 3: Breakdown of different categories of businesses supported by Premiere Urgence in Gori (total around 300)



Source: Provided directly by Premiere Urgence, November 2009.

They also provided vocational training. The bulk of the training went to people taking commercial driving courses, but it also included hair dressing, tiling, cooking and massage.

CHF was also funding small start-ups in Shaumiani, Koda, Berbuki and Skra. They offered grants of between USD 300 and 1000. The project manager said that the most successful business was the retail of produce brought outside of Tbilisi. Around 65 people received money.

UNDP has received Euro 4 million for a three-part programme that will help rehabilitate small infrastructure, provide vocational training and offer microfinance. The vocational training is focusing on Shida Kartli and the microfinance is will be available to Shida Kartli, Mtskheta Mtianeti and Samegrelo.

The biggest consistent concern that has been offered by each of these organisations is that the development work is being concentrated in very small areas that are reaching saturation point in terms of the training and business development opportunities. Premiere Urgence felt that their project had probably aimed too high in trying to identify 300 potential recipients for business development grants and that half that number would have been more realistic. UNDP is facing the difficulty of scaling-up a vocational training programme for the long-term.

Agricultural machinery

Since the project aims to undertake support of agricultural machinery provision we tried to investigate the equipment that is already provided by the government. According to the Ministry of Agriculture there have been three major initiatives aiming at strengthening agricultural machinery capacity of Georgia.

The earliest and largest project was the Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers Program or Kennedy Round 2 (KR 2) funded by the Japanese government. It was implemented in seven phases from 1998 to 2006 and during that time Georgia received 1631 units of agricultural machinery. The ministry of agriculture was unwilling/unable to tell us where that machinery is now.

Another big project which was funded by a private company called *21st Century*. In the framework of this initiative 200 tractors were distributed in municipalities of Kakheti in 2006. Since this project did not affect our communities we did not investigate it.

The third initiative was implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and started in 2007. Budget finances totaling GEL 22.5 million were allocated for this project for 2009 but they were subsequently cancelled so new machinery was not purchased this year. However, part of machinery bought in previous years was distributed in this year. At the initial stage, 355 tractors and additional machinery (other than tractors) were distributed. Additional machinery was later added to the regions.

The machinery was distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture. The local municipalities facilitated the formation of cooperatives which would provide rough estimates of how many and what type of machinery they needed. In big municipalities, like in Gori, as many as 5 cooperatives were formed. Generally, only 1 or 2 cooperatives were formed per municipality.¹⁵

Machinery was distributed to the cooperatives for a symbolic price of 1 lari. Although these cooperatives became owners of the machinery and can use them as they deem necessary, the government is effectively able to direct the use of the machinery from time to time.¹⁶

¹⁵ Phone interview with Malkhaz Dzidziguri, Head of the Agricultural Division in Kvemo Kartli Governor's office.

¹⁶ Interview with Deputy Head of the Agricultural Machinery Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, November 20.

The government argues that the cooperatives can yield better results if they are merged. This happened in Gori and Kareli. In Gori, for example, the 5 cooperatives have merged into one organization located in Tskalmsheni which is two kilometers away from Gori.

Table 45: Distribution of Tractors and Additional Machinery by Municipalities in Shida Kartli

Municipality	Number of Cooperatives	Number of tractors in municipality	Number of additional units of machinery in municipality
Kaspi	3	9	13
Kareli	3	10	12
Khashuri	3	8	12
Gori	5	13	15
Total	14	40	52

Table 46: Distribution of Tractors and Additional Machinery by Municipalities in Kvemo Kartli

Municipality	Number of Cooperatives	Number of tractors in municipality	Number of additional units of machinery in municipality
Gardabani	1	3	6
Tetritskaro	2	4	7
Dmanisi	1	3	7
Marneuli	1	3	7
Bolnisi	1	3	7
Tsalka	2	4	6
Total	8	20	40

Reference: Table 45 and 46 were provided by the Ministry of Agriculture

Psychosocial and Educational Support

Schooling of IDP children in new settlements

The children from IDP families were enrolled in nearby schools. In order to meet the new challenges of increased enrollment, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) provided extra help and support for affected schools. 1094 desks were distributed among 32 schools. Average walking distance to the nearest schools for refugee students is 2.5 km (min: 0.5 km, max: 20 km). To address the transportation problem, schools were provided with school buses to serve refugee students.

General Education Student and IDP Families' Support

In 2008, the MoES provided sets of school textbooks free of charge for all displaced children. GEL 259,000 was spent purchasing textbooks for grades 2 through 12 (textbooks for first-graders are provided free for all citizens by the MoES) for 6,014 students. On top of this each family with a first-grade child was given a single-time aid of GEL 100.

Vocational Education and Training

In order to respond to the newly emerged need for integrating IDPs into the labor market, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia offered vocational training opportunities to refugees from South Ossetia. These included short-term training for particular professions, to equip IDPs with the skills demanded by the labor market after the war.

Various training programs have been offered at Vocational Education and Training (VET) centers located near the refugee locations. There are two public educational institutions (Khidistavi VET Center and Gori University) offering VET in Gori District, an area densely populated by IDPs. On top of this, 37 public VET Centers and two universities offer various long-term and short-term training courses in tourism, construction, agriculture, etc. where IDPs can get VET free of charge.

In addition to the state funded VET, a number of international organizations focus their projects on the training of IDPs in Gori District and other parts of Georgia, where priority is given to IDPs. The projects include the UNDP VET Phase 2 (Gori) Project, USAID VEP, NRC Educational Project and the Premiere Urgence Education program. The infrastructure and human capacity for the VET in Gori University was specially developed to cope with the newly emerged challenges in Gori District.

Psychosocial

Assistance for Traumatized Children

UNICEF in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Science in Georgia and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia started to train the teachers and specialists working with children from the war affected areas in Georgia. The overall goal of the training was to train specialists and teachers to notice and help traumatized.

The project can be divided into three stages: (1) training of the master trainers (specialists, incl. teachers) to carry out wider training of teachers; (2) training of teachers; and (3) supervision training for the master trainers and key/support persons in trained schools.

Training of teachers occurred in many different areas, but for our purpose the key areas were 12 schools near to Gori town and 19 schools from villages of Shindisi, Pkhvenisi, Plavi, Karaleti, Megvrekisi, Nacharmagevi, Qere, Kitsnisi, Kvemo Khviti, Kvehsi, Sakasheti, Sveneti, Satemo, Tkviavi, Tirdznisi, Variani, Tsitelubani, Kelktseuli, Dzevera.

Counseling Programs

A number of different projects have helped to develop counseling services for those affected by the August war. Immediately after the August War Every Child had a project, funded by UNHCR, that initially provided counseling to IDPs that relocated to Tbilisi as a consequence of the war. As IDPs were able either to return to their homes or get houses in regions outside of Tbilisi, the project moved to the settlements of Tserovani, Koda, and Shavshvebi.

The project included IDP needs assessment, information provision, educational support of school children and psychosocial support. The project included 15-17 social workers, two psychologists and four parental-skills trainers. As total, psychologists had to deal with around 110 cases. In addition, Everychild trained around 300 pregnant women and mothers of newly born children, and 200 mothers of grown-up children.

On top of this a range of different projects have offered psychosocial support in the regions this project covers. The Norwegian Refugee Council through local the NGOs, *Lampari*, *Young Teachers and Psychologists Association*, *Teacher and Universe* and *League of Displaced Teachers* offered support for teachers in region across Georgia (including Gori) to help them develop teaching programmes that were particularly suited to traumatized or marginalized kids.

IOM is working in 8 settlements in our regions these cover, Khuvaleti, Karaleti, Shavshvebi, Berbuki, Shaumiani and Koda. These settlements were chosen because they attract relatively little attention. 8 psychologists and 8 social workers to organize meetings to discuss social problems and to conduct social events like showing movies.

Save the Children is also implementing a project focused on Shida Kartli to enhance the psychosocial rehabilitation and well-being of vulnerable children and adults from conflict affected and displaced families in Georgia. The project started in September 2009 and will last until March 2010. It is funded by the European Commission (ECHO office) and includes recreational activities in static or mobile Child Friendly Services, life skills training for youth and advice service for adults. There are 9 psychologists and 9 social workers who provide assistance to targeted beneficiaries. Apart from Gori and Tbilisi, the project and the settlements covered by this project in Shavshvebi, Karaleti and Khurvaleti.

Description of individual IDP settlements

We gathered information about the situation in each of the settlements covered by the project. Out of 22 settlements in both regions GeoWel managed to visit 15 of them. The information from these settlements was collected through expert interviews with Mamasakhlisis, conversations with IDPs and neighboring communities, and focus groups. The information on the remaining 7 settlements was gathered through the telephone conversations with Mamasakhlisis. The researchers were investigating conditions of infrastructure (including accessibility to schools and kindergartens, sanitary conditions, roads, housing, etc.) proximity, size and quality of land parcels, and the level of integration of IDPs with local population. The information has also been supplemented with summaries from the Norwegian Refugee Council monitoring where this information has related to our target communities.

Shaumiani

Description

The settlement is based in a former military base. It is divided into two roughly equal settlements, about 500 meters apart. The lower part is closer to the Armenian village of Shaumiani, the upper part is closer to Azeri village of Ahkula. The school and kindergarten are close. Georgian sectors were formed for IDPs.

Interaction with Host Community

People mainly interact in transport, at school or through traders visiting the settlement. During Bairam holiday, Azeris have given quite lot of food including chicken, lamb, fruits, etc. There are some small tensions at school between Armenians and IDP children. The focus groups suggested that IDP children sometimes tease they Armenians. Also there have been fights between local Armenians and IDPs.

In focus group for Armenians, participants did not mention any problems, but IDPs noted that Armenians were often coming up with cars and disturbing them. For this reason, IDPs had to close the road which was passing through the former military base and now locals need to take longer roads in order to get to other villages.

Land Issues

0.25 hectares were allocated to IDP families. There are two locations for land plots from upper and lower side of the settlements. Previously part of the land was used by the military base, the other part was rented out to the local population who mainly grew maize or grazed their cattle.

Infrastructure Problems

IDPs note that the most pressing issue is irrigation.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Irrigation is problematic. Sanitary situation is satisfactory.

Koda

Description

Koda is a very big village where a big chicken factory is located. The IDP settlement is also very big with 9 apartment buildings.

Interaction with Host Community

Very close, high interaction

Land Issues

0.5 hectares. Some people suggest that land plots are as far as 6 km.

Infrastructure Problems

Apart from land issues, people complain about storage. Also, people fear that the Beeline antenna which was installed near the settlement could cause health issues. Although the irrigation system is operational they also say there is not enough water. Hence, people had poor harvest of maize last year because of the insufficient irrigation.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Irrigation system is relatively good.

Gardabani

Description

The IDP settlement consists of two buildings (one 5 store and another 9 store) which are located in the center of the town. School and kindergarten are not far but IDPs had trouble adapting to new circumstances and integrating into society.

Interaction with Host Community

Although the settlement is located in center of the town, interaction is low. Local population does not note any sort of problems. However, IDP focus groups suggest that relationship between IDPs and locals is pretty tense (with all ethnicities). IDPs claim that they are treated as 'newcomers' in Gardabani and not welcomed by the local population.

Land Issues

0.24 hectares have been allocated to each family. There are 4 places where lands have been distributed, so the proximity and quality of lands varies. The closest land is 2 kilometers from the settlement, furthest ones are over 4 kilometers from the settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

IDPs complain about anti-sanitary situation in a yard next to the IDP buildings

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Irrigation system is relatively good.

Shavshvebi

Description

The settlement is less than one kilometer from the village of Shavshvebi and less than two kilometers away from the village of Natsreti. Children have to go to Shavshvebi for school and kindergarten. However, many parents prefer to keep their kindergarten age children at home. A modern big kindergarten was constructed by "Caritas" which will become operational from January.

Interaction with Host Community

Apart from transportation and school, the main interaction points are a few water-springs in the village where IDPs also come to take drinking water. IDPs note no particular problems. However, people in Shavshvebi village said they were concerned for ethnic Ossetians living in the village. Some of the land plots were used by villagers (renting from the government) which were then redistributed to IDPs. There were incidents because IDPs harvested from lands plots where locals had planted the seeds. One Shavshvebi villager said that the IDPs 'are saying that Ossetians took their lands back home, and now they will take Ossetians' lands here'.

Land Issues

0.8 hectares (0.1 close to the settlement and 0.7 far away). People are satisfied with land quality, but irrigation does not work at all.

Infrastructure Problems

Drinking water quality is poor. People go to the village to get drinking water. But even there, there are only three places where they can get water and often it creates long lines and tension.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

The sanitary situation is bad, because there is no water and toilet inside cottages, only outside. Irrigation non-existent

Khurvaleti

Description

Khurvaleti IDP settlement is about 4 km far from the village of Khurvaleti, the village of Nadarbazevi, however, is only about 2 km away. Children go to school in Khurvaleti village. Transportation is provided for free. Also, there is a day care type place where children can do their home assignments, have their meal and get picked up by the school bus.

Interaction with Host Community

Interaction with Khurvaleti is low. Children sometimes go to Nadarbazevi village to play football.

Land Issues

0.5 hectares were allocated to each family and land is not far away but irrigation is a problem. Land quality is also bad.

Infrastructure Problems

No gas in the settlement, though the pipeline is close. As in most other settlements, storages and irrigation remain pressing problem.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is bad, because there is no water and toilet inside cottages, only outside.

Metekhi

Description

Metekhi is a densely population and big village. There is a brick factory nearby which used to employ a large part of the population. At the moment the factory is closed but the village is optimistic that it will open again. Agricultural activities are not developed. The IDP settlement is in outskirts of the village. School and kindergarten are about 0.5 kilometers away. Unlike other settlements, private toilets and bathrooms were built in the settlement outside of houses. Only few people have built extensions and storages. One family also built it's "Tone" (Where they can make and sell bread). Some people have chicken and 1 or 2 families have a pig.

Interaction with Host Community

People mainly interact in transport and at school.

Land Issues

0.25 hectares were allocated to each family. Land plots are not far away.

Infrastructure Problems

Storage is the top the problems that IDPs note.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Irrigation system is good at present, but sanitary situation is bad: there's no water and toilet inside cottages, only outside. There are also no garbage containers.

Teliani

Description

The settlement is located about 1-2 kilometers from the village. Children have to walk that distance to reach their school. The main problem is that when locals take their cows to grazing areas, cows often go into the territory of IDP land plots, since they are not fenced. This has caused minor incidents between IDPs and locals.

Interaction with Host Community

Interaction is quite active. Some problems were reported because there is no fencing of IDP land plots and cows often go in.

Land Issues

0.35 hectares were allocated to each family. Land plots are very close. Irrigation system is present but people complain that it is not enough. Often lands are not irrigated when people need it most.

Infrastructure Problems

People name irrigation system. Fencing of land plots because cows of local population often break in. Also, if there was a bridge over Mtkvari river, people would be able to use more lands for grazing and planting.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Irrigation system is existent, but sanitary situation is bad: there's no water and toilet inside cottages, only outside. There are also no garbage containers.

Khashuri vocational school building #109

Description

School and kindergarten are close, the center of town is in 1.5-2 km.

Interaction with Host Community

High interaction, interact in the common yard, no problems identified..

Land Issues

IDPs did not receive land plots in this settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

Storage. People have to keep their canned products in the same rooms where they live or in corridors.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is satisfactory since toilets and bathrooms are inside apartments. Irrigation issues are not applicable.

Khashuri kindergarten #2

Description

The settlement is in a suburb of Khashuri. School and kindergarten are close. Some IDPs complain that social assistance was ceased for them for several months, during which they did not receive any social support.

Interaction with Host Community

High interaction, no problems.

Land Issues

IDPs did not receive land plots in this settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

Bad road. Windows and doors are made of wood and are old, unlike other communities where they have metal-plastic materials.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is satisfactory since toilets and bathrooms are inside apartments. Irrigation issues are not applicable.

Kareli (40 and 155)

Description

The settlement is in the far end of Kareli. To reach the town, IDPs need transportation. Children go to schools in Kareli. In general, it was one of the most depressed settlements. People indicated exceptionally low trust towards international organizations.

Interaction with Host Community

Host community lives very close and it seems there is no apparent problem.

Land Issues

No land is allocated to this settlement since it's in town. However, IDPs themselves seized the nearby stadium. So now each family has about 0.02 hectares of land plot to grow greens and vegetables.

Infrastructure Problems

People name storages and transportation to Kareli as most pressing.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is satisfactory since toilets and bathrooms are inside apartments. Irrigation issues are not applicable.

Kareli ("Electro")

Description

The settlement is located in the periphery of Kareli town. School and kindergarten are not far, within the walking distance.

Interaction with Host Community

IDPs do not note any problems with the local population

Land Issues

IDPs did not receive land plots in this settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

People name storages as the most important problem.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is satisfactory since toilets and bathrooms are inside apartments. Irrigation issues are not applicable.

Skra

Description

The settlement is less than 1 kilometer from the village. Skra used to be a research place for Soviet biologists where different sorts of fruits, mainly apple trees were planted and studied. Some of these fruit gardens were distributed to IDPs who collect enough apples to sell. Some IDPs have built up storages and extensions to their houses. Some people own cows and chicken.

Interaction with Host Community

Very good relations with villagers. IDPs characterize local population as friendly.

Land Issues

0.28-0.3 hectares, half are empty fields for seeding, half already had fruit trees. Irrigation is not a problem. Unlike some other places, IDPs here received half of empty places and half of land plots with fruits.

Infrastructure Problems

During focus groups villagers complained about bad roads connecting Skra settlement to neighboring villages.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is bad, because there is no water and toilet in cottages, only outside.

Karaleti

Description

Karaleti is divided into two parts: Karaleti settlement and Tsmindatskali. Since the the settlement is located in the town of Gori, children also go to schools there. Kindergarten is also in Gori but in words of IDPs it's hard for them to pay transport fees regularly. However, a new kindergarten is being constructed for local and IDP children very close from the settlement.

Interaction with Host Community

No particular problems in relations, but there are feeling of superiority and town-village attitude from locals, as IDPs have said during a focus group meeting.

Land Issues

Based on casting of lots, people were allocated either 0.22 hectares of empty fields or 0.15 hectares with fruit trees. The land plots are not far from the settlement, about 1-2 kilometers. But in order to get there with trucks or cars, people need to take the long road, which is up to 6-7 kilometers. IDPs complain that unlike the settlements in the villages, their houses are put in a very tiny (0.02 hectares) land plots because they are in Gori. Thus, they can't grow greens and vegetables nearby their houses

Infrastructure Problems

If the bridge connecting the settlement to the land plots is fixed, then people would be easily have access to their land plots to use agricultural machinery or trucks.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Irrigation system is good at present. No sanitary problems because toilets and bathrooms are inside of cottages.

Berbuki

Description

Berbuki settlement is less than 1 kilometer from the Berbuki village. It is also closely located to the town of Gori. Children mainly the Berbuki/Sveneti school, which is about 1 kilometer away. Parents are concerned that children have to cross the main road on their way to school. Unlike other settlements, all houses in Berbuki are fenced, which allows them to keep chicken. A handful of people also own cows. There are two stores which were co-funded by assistance organizations. People generally grow yellow maize. Because of the irrigation system, they can harvest up to 2 tones, but have troubles in selling them. Those who have fruit gardens are in better position. Many people also have built storages to keep their harvest.

Interaction with Host Community

No particular problems. Sometimes IDPs go to work on lands of neighboring villages

Land Issues

Land size allocated to IDPs in this settlement is 0.5 hectares. Some of the land plots had already planted fruits in it, others were empty. The casting of lots decided who would get what land plot. Irrigation is better than in other settlements.

Infrastructure Problems

People name storages and extensions to cover entrances to houses

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is bad, because there is no water and toilet in cottages, only outside.

Gori "Kombinatis poliklinika"

Description

The IDP settlement is located in the functioning polyclinic. Over 20 socially vulnerable local families live in the building. There is only one small shop just outside of the settlement. Children go Gori schools can use trolley-bus for transportation which costs 10 tetri. Kindergarten is close - about 300 meters, but a new one is being constructed which will be even closer.

Interaction with Host Community

No particular problem was detected. However, common infrastructure which is shared by IDPs and locals living in the same building create some tensions, such as allegations towards each other on being not sufficiently clean. The settlement is within the town and IDPs have access to town infrastructure.

Land Issues

IDPs did not receive land plots in this settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

IDPs have common bathroom and toilets. Bathroom was recently built by IRC. People need to pay 50 tetri to use it. Common infrastructure creates heavy sanitary situation.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is bad, because there's common toilet and bathroom.

Gori Music school building

Description

The settlement is very close to the polyclinic. School and kindergarten are very close. Unlike the other settlement in Gori, here every family has water and bathroom individually.

Interaction with Host Community

No particular problems detected

Land Issues

IDPs did not receive land plots in this settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

People name storages as main infrastructural problem.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation relatively good, because toilets and water are inside of apartments.

Akhalsopeli in Kareli district

Description

The settlements is about 1 kilometer from the village. School is in the middle of the village, which means that children have to walk about 1.5 kilometers. There is no kindergarten either in the village or in the settlement.

Interaction with Host Community

No particular problems identified

Land Issues

0.26 hectares were allocated to each family. There are two places where lands plots were distributed and both of them are very close - about 500 meters. Maize seeds were distributed last time so people mainly did that, but there is no irrigation.

Infrastructure Problems

Bridge over Mtkvari river. If this bridge was in place, then people would be able to take shortcut to Mokhisi village where there is a train station, and getting to Tbilisi would cost much less than by Marshutkas. Also people note that although main gas pipelines are very close from the settlement, there is no gas in the settlement.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

According to NRC, irrigation system is existent, but sanitary situation is bad: there's no water and toilet inside cottages, only outside. There are no garbage containers.

Mokhisi

Description

The settlement is located about 2 kilometers from the village. The school is pretty far but school bus is servicing IDP children for free. There is no such service for kindergarten, so IDPs prefer not to take their children on such distances. There is a place in the settlement where children can go after school, practice with teachers and have a meal. Lands close to houses (yards) are fenced.

Interaction with Host Community

No particular problems in relations. IDPs sometimes are hired by locals to work on cabbage-collection. There have been some cases when people stole IDPs harvest which has caused minor problems.

Land Issues

0.8 hectares is allocated but the land quality is bad - graveled heavily. No irrigation. Lands are located about 1-2 kilometers from the settlement which makes it hard to guard the harvest from stealing.

Infrastructure Problems

Major infrastructural problem is not enough drinking water. Also there is a gas pipe-line in about 300 meters which could be taken into the IDP settlement.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is bad: there's no water and toilet inside cottages, only outside. There are no garbage containers.

Surami Sanatorium

Description

The settlement is right next to Surami. There are no kindergartens in proximity, so children stay at home. School children go to Surami school, which is approximately 1-1.5 kilometers away.

Interaction with Host Community

Interaction is on a moderate level. No particular problems identified.

Land Issues

IDPs did not receive land plots in this settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

Plumbing system leaks. Water is bad for drinking and IDPs have to go up to 1 kilometer to get the drinking water.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is satisfactory since toilets and bathrooms are inside apartments. Irrigation issues are not applicable

Sanatorium “Poladi” (“Steel”)

Description

The settlement is at the entrance of Surami. Children go to schools 2 schools of Surami which are about 1.5-2 kilometers away. Children have to cover that distance themselves. Some children also go to kindergarten which also approximately the same distance as schools.

Interaction with Host Community

Interaction is on a moderate level. No particular problems identified.

Land Issues

IDPs did not receive land plots in this settlement.

Infrastructure Problems

Although every family has individual bathroom and water, the quality of water is bad and it is planned to drill a new well for a drinking water.

Information Provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council

Sanitary situation is satisfactory since toilets and bathrooms are inside apartments. Irrigation issues are not applicable

Kvemo Bolnisi

Description

The settlement, which previously used to be a kindergarten is located in ethnic Azeri village, Kvemo Bolnisi (though locals call is Kapalakhchi). There is no kindergarten in the village but the school is very close, about 200-300 meters.

Interaction with Host Community

Interaction is on a moderate level. No particular problems identified.

Land Issues

0.3 hectares were allocated to each family. Lands are very close, starting from 50 meters from settlement. Lands are not irrigated.

Infrastructure Problems

People note that the sewage systems need to be fixed. Now there is horrible smell in the settlement because of this problem.

Appendix 1: Technical Summary of Methodology

IDPs communities were sampled by simple random sample. Sample size was designed to get a representative sample for IDPs and non-IDPs. The sample was not large enough to get a representative sample in each of the regions.

In order to do this a database with one observation per household (equivalent to the entire population) was created. Each observation was given an unique index. Starting from their sampling point within the IDP communities, the interviews were given the method to find sampled households by index.

For the non-IDP communities again a list was created where one observation is equal to one household and a randomly selected sample was drawn. Since we knew which community each sampled unit was in, we could then allocate that many interviews per settlement. We drew one step for all of these communities.

	Sample size	Responses	Non response level
IDP sample	534	470	12%
Non IDP sample	654	636	3%

Sample by communities

Shida Kartli-IDP	373	Language
1. Gori Town or Gori Region, Karaleti	122	Georgian
2. Gori , Berbuki Settlement	26	Georgian
3. Gori Town , Hospital of Combinat (Panatsea)	12	Georgian
4. Gori Town , Music School Building	9	Georgian
5. Gori , Skra IDP Settlement	19	Georgian
6. Kareli Town, The campus of Electro Mechanic House of Kareli	9	Georgian
7. Kareli Town, Building #40 and #155 of Kareli Vocational School	7	Georgian
8. Kareli , IDP settlement in Akhalsopeli	16	Georgian
9. Kareli , IDP settlement in Mokhisi	9	Georgian
10. Khashuri Town, Building #109 of Khashuri Vocational School	11	Georgian
11. Khashuri Town, Building #2 of Khashuri Vocational School	2	Georgian
12. Surami Town, Khashuri District, Sanatorium Surami	5	Georgian
13. Surami Town, Khashuri District, Sanatorium Poladi "Steel"	12	Georgian
14. Surami Town, Khashuri District, #14 Vocation School of Surami	5	Georgian
15. Kaspi, IDP Settlement in Metekhi	10	Georgian
16. Kaspi, IDP Settlement in Teliani	10	Georgian
17. Gori , IDP Settlement in Khurvaleti	39	Georgian
18. Gori, IDP Settlement in Shavshvebi	50	Georgian
Kvemo Kartli-IDP	161	Language
19. Bolnisi, Kindergarten Building in Kvemo Bolnisi	6	Georgian
20. Marneuli, Akhalsopeli" (Upper and Down part of ex military base) -	39	Georgian

Shaumiani		
21. Tetrtskaro, Koda	84	Georgian
22. Gardabani Town, Gardabani	32	Georgian
Total IDP Sample	534	
Shida Kartli-NonIDP	501	Language
1. Viillage Karaleti	119	Georgian
2. Village Berbuki	136	Georgian
5. Village Skra	31	Georgian
8. Village Akhalsopeli	12	Georgian
9. Village Mokhisi	37	Georgian
15. Village Metekhi	52	Georgian
16. Village Teliani	38	Georgian
17. Village Nadarbazevi	2	Georgian
18. Village Shavshvebi	74	Georgian
Kvemo Kartli-NonIDP	153	Language
19. Village Kvemo Bolnisi	82	Russian
20. Village Shaumiani	20	Russian
21. Village Koda	51	Georgian
Total NonIDP Sample	654	

Appendix 2: Supportive Indicative Quotes from focus Groups

IDP activities before the war

“We had tomatoes and were selling these tomatoes in different towns – Batumi, Rustavi, Samtredia... In Tskhinvali when there was peace” – Kareli 40th Vocational School, Female IDP, 42.

“There [in Tskhinvali] we would buy peach in famous Ergneti market and take to Vladikavkaz to sell.. or apples, tomatoes... it was a very good business. Everybody was doing this, almost 80%.” – Shavshvebi settlement, Female IDP, 50.

“I had a job and I worked. I had a big truck, rented, and worked whoever would hire me. I could look after my family.” – Kareli 40th Vocational School, Male IDP, 49.

“I had rent a bus and mainly smuggling in cigarettes and other products from Russia. It was a very profitable business. We could afford paying for bus 800 lari a month... But then police caught us and we had to pay huge fines.” – Khurvaleti settlement, Male IDP, 26.

“Every family there [SO] was growing fruits and had livestock. No family had less than 500 boxes of apple (about 10 tones)... there were very rare families which did not have 2 or 3 cows.” – Karaleti settlement, Male IDP, 54.

“We had formed farming association which included up to 60 persons but had 10 persons in the board. It was before the war in the conflict zone, Small Liakhvi gorge. It was the first association funded by the Swedes and the Americans. We had milk-collecting center... it included Ossetians and Georgians and was pretty successful. It did not operate for a long time, just one year and the war started. We also managed to open cheese-making factory and were delivering cheese to the temporary administration for three months – to Sanakoev army and police. Then we also planted maize and where we had 50% share...

reach of our business was about 80 kilometers... We used to leave milk containers in villages in the evening and collect them in the morning. It was a good business. I was a head of the association and manager..." - Koda settlement, Female IDP, 51.

Lands Issues

"They were giving us graveled land which was useless... about 0.1 hectares... So we refused. They are not giving us proper lands... Then we forcibly broke into a stadium and ploughed the territory ourselves. Each family got about 0.02 hectares... just enough to grow greens for family." – Kareli 40th Vocational School, Male IDP, 49.

"If our houses were put in more land area, even 0.05 hectares, then we would not even need remote land plots. That would be enough... They allocated good size land plots in villages, but our settlement was considered as a part of town. Hence, houses are very close from each other and there is not enough surrounding land plot." – Karaleti settlement, Male IDP, 44.

"There are three building here, and four more in the lower part of the settlement [in Shaumiani]. Some people who live in the lower area received lands in the upper part and vice-versa, some people who live in the upper part received land plots in the lower part. It was not arranged by proximity – there was casting of lots." – Shaumiani, Male IDP, 33.

"It seems that very lazy people live in Shavshvebi, based on our conversation.. but we don't have water which makes our place like a desert. We work pretty hard, but it does not help. Even if you pursue animal farming, there is not enough water for animals to drink... there is a lake up in Nadarbazevi, which was used by Gori and Kaspi inhabitants, but it has not filled for many years..." – Shavshvebi, local female, 36.

"We were happy to hear that in other places land plots were distributed and ploughed by the government... it's very good and we don't mind this, but all of us have the same status – IDP. They told us that there were no land plots in proximity of the settlement to distribute... was not it possible to give us something alternative? Maybe a some sort of compensation? There should be a way to satisfied too. This is our main concern." - Khashuri vocational school #109, Female IDP, 54.

"A man used to have big size of land that he rented but this is now allocated to IDPs... it was about 20 hectares, but he did not use it lately as wheat harvest was bad. So he did not even pay bail and the land was redistributed to the IDP – it all happened without problems.... IDP also use lands which were used for grazing by our villagers, but it also happened without – people understand IDPs are in need." – Shaumiani, local male, 67.

"Land plots we live on are like swamps. Drainage needs to be arranged because water comes out from beneath... the level of moisture is too high. I was in hospital for almost two months." – Teliani settlement, Male IDP, 48.

"We were allocated land plots but they are far, about 6 kilometers. It is fine, in SO we also had land plots pretty far from us but if irrigation system is not fixed, owning land plots does not matter." - Koda settlement, Female IDP, 51.

Existing businesses/Employment

"if you can call it business, CHF financed us and let us buy bee-hives, but it's was not successful this summer... But what is business for village – cows, pigs, chicken, - this should be financed. Cows are most important for peasants. But they refuse to fund such businesses. We can't build factories with USD 900. Two cows would allow to produce milk, on the other hand." – Skra, Male IDP, 63.

"In neighboring villages there are few people who have animal farms... about three families, in Gersami, Nadarbazevi.... no other major businesses." – Shavshvebi, local female, 36.

“Only a handful of people have small shops and sell cigarettes and beer. Not really much business going on here... But active businesses are closer to the center of Gori, 3-4 kilometers away.” – Karaleti settlement, Male IDP, 67.

“Nothing is here and nobody is helping us... we are in suburb of Kareli and if we want to buy something we need to go 2 kilometers to Kareli” – Kareli 40th Vocational School, Male IDP, 40.

“Unemployment is really a big problem. We were hoping to that some people would start working at road construction, but you need somebody in order to get hired... not many locals work there. Mainly people from the west work there. IDPs and locals don’t really work there.” – Shavshvebi, local female, 37.

“There is no real business in Khashuri, only trading of miscellaneous things. They buy and sell, buy and sell – that’s it” – Khashuri, local female, 70.

“There are about 4-5 shops in the village, not more. And also couple “Marshutka drivers” – that’s it. No barber’s shops or pharmacy stores.” – Teliani, local female, 55.

“I have a small shop at home but sometimes days pass and nobody buys anything. People live in poverty and can’t afford buying things... In summer I was selling ice-creams, now I mainly keep things that can be stored in a fridge – like frozen khinkali, for example... But because of the low demand more than three weeks passed since brought products last time to sell and yet have not added anything.” – Teliani settlement, local female, 31.

“There are shops around in town, but there are no IDP businesses at all.” – Gardabani, Female IDP, 42.

Perceptions about business promotion projects

“They distributed announcements [talking about the CARE women business grants]. There is a big competition – only 42 women will be funded... there are 22 settlements, can you imagine how hard it will be to qualify... and it’s for women... We have not heard about other projects.” - Teliani settlement, Male IDP, 56.

“People were given money to start business, but they would buy, for example 4-5 chicken and use the rest of money for their consumption. This is not a business as I understand it. Business requires investment and should employ some people... Getting money and spending in a restaurant, as one guy did, is not a business.” – Shaumiani settlement, Female IDP, 47.

“CHF has funded several persons to look after bee hives... In the beginning, everything was going well, but then everything got into darkness... It’s about three months since they left after problems with people. The thing is that they were recruiting the participants from the same families, while others did not even know. And then these people were not attending trainings. In some cases project people were transferring money to these people, leave 500 lari and take back the remaining part. Nobody checked the funded businesses, they just took the money.” – Shaumiani, Male IDP, 37.

“I don’t remember the name of the organization, but there was one which came who did research. They saw that my beehives were extinguished due to war and promised to bring new beehives.. it was supposed to be funded by the Polish government. But they disappeared.” – Shavshvebi, local female, 36.

“We were funded by CHF – received grants to buy sewing machines. Eight women in the settlement were selected but this is what happened: when we received the grants we sewed 308 linens which we distributed among certain category of IDPs in Koda... after this it turned out that we were left completely without funds. We were promised to receive additional money as our salaries... I don’t know what happened then but now are stopped, don’t have funds to buy necessary materials and take them to bazroba” – Koda settlement, Female IDP, 45.

Prospects of business development

“I want to have a small family business, but there are no buildings around so that families could use. And nobody will promise to build new buildings. I had a project submitted to PremierUrgence and will get a

fridge and electric weighing machine. Now I'm thinking to write another project and open a bakery for khachapuri... and to have a family in IDP settlement and employ 3-4 families.. lack of buildings does not allow more. If we had more buildings some people could do a sewing or hairdressing business... but we don't have any other buildings than our living cottages." – Shavshvebi settlement, Female IDP, 50.

"If I had money, about \$ 3,000 I would start a sheep business. I used to have sheep back in the conflict zone and know well how to effectively make profit from them. There are places where I can take them and then meat and wool is always in demand... There was an organization offering credits for 15% interest rate, but I did not take because they had limit of only GEL 3800 per settlement. Otherwise, I would start the business if there were loans available." – Khurvaleti settlement, Male IDP, 26.

"Mushrooms could be well sold. If you make greenhouses and pack the mushrooms properly then you can take it to towns. There is always big demand on good mushrooms at restaurants." – Teliani settlement, Male IDP, 48.

"I was funded by one organization to buy a post-terminal machine where people could pay for their cell phones. Unfortunately my house got rubbed and I lost all the money. If I had a chance to borrow, I would do so and start this business. It would be successful because nobody has anything like that here and a lot of people do not have enough money to buy phone cards. Instead they would be able to put 2 or 3 lari on their phones' credit." – Koda settlement, Female IDP, 46.

"If we will be assisted in animal raising then we all IDPs could manage livestock. There is a small factory which can process our products and we'll improve our living conditions and will not have to ask the government all the time to help us... raising different plants in land plots is not realistic because not everybody can go that far away and work on land." – Koda settlement, Female IDP, 45.