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Overview

The tasks of the OSCE Mission to Georgia have been gradually widened since the opening of the Mission in late 1992.

The main activities are:

Politico-military dimension of security

Conflict resolution

The Mission promotes negotiations between the conflicting parties in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict (1992), and supports the UN-led peace process in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict (1993). It is a participant in the Joint Control Commission which is co-chaired by the Georgian, Russian Federation, North Ossetian and South Ossetian sides.

Confidence-building in the zone of Georgian-Ossetian conflict

The Mission monitors the Joint Peacekeeping Forces (JPKF) in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Mission leads an initiative funded by international donors for economic and infrastructure rehabilitation projects in the zone of conflict. Other grass-roots projects contribute to efforts to bring communities together and build the capacity of the NGO sector.

Destruction of surplus stockpiles

The Mission, through OSCE donor States funds a programme for the dismantling of stockpiles of obsolete ammunition, and also for the neutralizing of dangerous chemicals, left on former Russian bases in Georgia.

Assisting police reform and enhancing anti terrorism capacities

The Mission supports the Georgian law enforcement structures in combating terrorism and organized crime. Assistance for police reform is rendered in areas such as human resource management, community policing and the Police Academy.

Strengthening border-management capacities and security

The Mission is engaged in promoting interagency co-ordination, and international co-operation on border issues. The Mission has undertaken projects addressing the short- and medium-term needs of the Georgian Border Police, through specialized skills and management training programmes for junior officers and senior management.



Shaded area indicates conflict zones

Human dimension of security

The Mission assists the Georgian Government to fulfil its OSCE commitments on human rights, rule of law and democratization. The Mission monitors and supports the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Georgia, herein South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and promotes the building of civil society and democratic institutions

Economic and Environmental dimension of security

The Mission regularly monitors, analyses and reports on developments in the economic, energy and environmental sectors. Specific activities have focused on supporting small- and medium-size enterprise development; assisting the Georgian Government in its efforts to improve economic and environmental related legislation and facilitating OSCE regional economic and environmental activities.

Co-operation with other International Organisations

The Mission co-operates closely with a range of international organizations and institutions on a number of issues relevant to the Mission mandate. Three relationships stand out - those are the relationship with the United Nations (UN), the European Commission (EC), and the Council of Europe (CoE). Commitment continues to complementary activities in the conflict resolution processes on a very practical level on the ground.

Head of Mission Ambassador Terhi Hakala



Ambassador Terhi Hakala

Ambassador Terhi Hakala, an expert on Southern Caucasus and Eastern Europe, took up her duties as the Head of the OSCE Mission to Georgia in October 2007. At the time of her appointment, she was serving as Finland's Roving Ambassador to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Prior to this, Ambassador Hakala headed the Foreign Ministry's Unit for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. From 1995 to 1996, she served on the Finnish co-chairmanship team of the OSCE Minsk Conference, which is seeking a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

She joined Finland's diplomatic service in 1988, later carrying out various assignments in her country's Embassy in Moscow, General Consulate in St. Petersburg and Permanent Mission to the OSCE in Vienna.

Mission Facts

Staff on role on 1 Feb 2008

National staff: 106
Contracted International staff: 7
Seconded International staff: 29
Total: 142

Revised Budget for 2006: Euro11,789,100

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Activities

POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION OF SECURITY

OSCE/Martha Freeman



PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Georgian-Ossetian conflict

Facilitating the political process

As its main priority, the Mission engages all its dimensions of activity to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

With the OSCE's comprehensive agenda, the Mission works in the politico-military, economic & environmental and human dimensions of security.



Ambassador Terhi Hakala, Head of the OSCE Mission to Georgia hosts a Joint Control Commission meeting in Tbilisi, 23 October 2007

The Mission participates actively in meetings of the Joint Control Commission (JCC), the negotiation mechanism co-chaired by the Georgian, South Ossetian, North Ossetian and Russian Sides.

It urges the Sides to take practical steps to improve the security situation. In particular, it submitted proposals to move forward the demilitarization of the zone of conflict

and to promote co-operation between the police forces of the Sides.

The Mission maintains consultations with the JCC participants, Georgian officials, relevant structures and the international community with a view to ensure that the Sides maintain a dialogue, and search for solutions towards stability.

Monitoring the activities of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces and the security situation in the zone of conflict, and timely reporting to the OSCE participating States, continue to make an important contribution to the Mission's efforts towards peaceful political settlement.

To help stabilize the security situation and create a more favourable context for political dialogue, the Mission has carried forward several initiatives to build confidence between the Sides. These include programmes on: economic and infrastructure rehabilitation, civil society and human rights development, small grants for NGOs, journalists' training for media coverage of events in conflict zones and facilitating the production of the JCC newsletter.

OSCE staff meet young people who have benefitted from projects supported by the OSCE

As well as engaging in a large-scale economic rehabilitation programme in the zone of conflict (see next page), the Mission has also completed its role as co-ordinator of an EU-funded Euro 2.5 Million Rehabilitation Programme. The 2.5 Million Euro programme included projects to help improve electricity, gas and water supplies to the communities. Under a Steering Committee mechanism, the Mission led regular consultations between the two sides, the European Commission, and implementing partners: United Nations Development Programme and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Mission co-ordinates its activities from its Headquarters in Tbilisi, its Field Office in Tskhinvali, and its Economic Rehabilitation Office also in Tskhinvali.

Monitoring the situation on the ground

As part of the OSCE Mission's commitment to promote a peaceful political settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, it monitors the security situation on the ground. In accordance with their mandate, the unarmed Military Monitoring Officers continually monitor within the zone of conflict, identifying sources of tension, and the Mission reports back to the OSCE Chairmanship and participating States in Vienna.

When fulfilling the monitoring role they patrol independently and in co-operation with the tripartite Joint Peacekeeping Forces



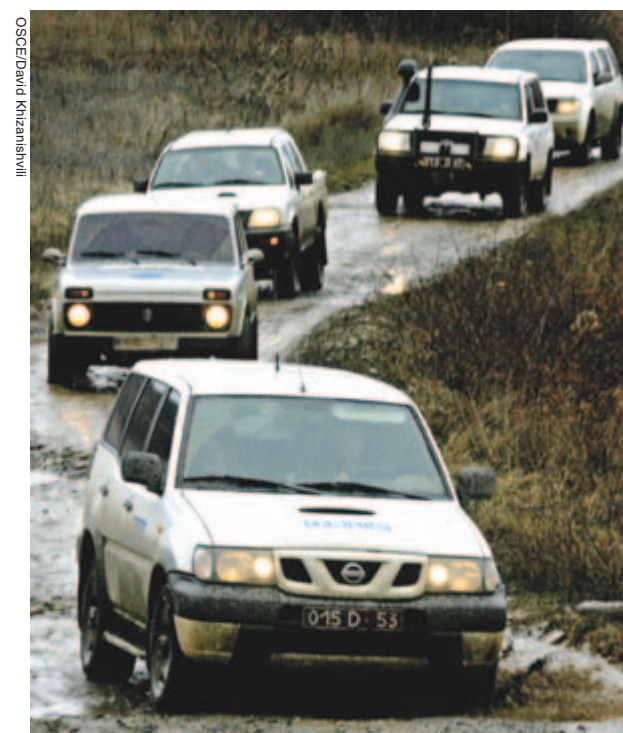
The Mission's unarmed Military Monitors accompany Joint Peacekeeping Forces monitoring patrols in the zone of conflict

(comprising a battalion each of Georgian, North Ossetian and Russian peacekeepers, under Russian command, and under joint supervision by the Joint Control Commission). They establish appropriate forms of contact with military commanders of the peacekeeping forces within the zone of conflict. They monitor alleged and actual violations of the Sochi cease-fire agreement, helping to call attention to possible political implications of specific military activity.

The patrols cover the area of responsibility of the JPKE. In addition, when there are specific social, economic, political or military issues to be addressed, the OSCE Military Monitoring Officers are ready to support with escorts, advice, background information and expertise.

The Military Monitoring Officers pool resources with local authorities, law enforcement agencies and any other agencies necessary to try and diffuse tension and enhance security and stability within the zone of conflict. On many occasions the presence of the OSCE, along with the Joint Peacekeeping Forces, has contributed to stabilizing situations where tension has been raised in the zone.

Almost all of the Military Monitoring Officers are based in Tskhinvali, at the OSCE Field Office, and operate from this location. There are two officers based in Tbilisi who form the headquarters element. Currently, the Chief Military Officer is British and there are Monitoring Officers from the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Russia and the Ukraine. All 56 participating states may nominate officers to be seconded to the Mission and there have been officers from the above countries as well as Estonia, France, Ireland, and Latvia (to name but a few) serving in the Mission in the past.



The OSCE-led Economic Rehabilitation Programme: A unique initiative helping pave the way for peaceful resolution

The OSCE-led Economic Rehabilitation Programme (ERP) for the zone of conflict and surrounding areas aims at making a tangible contribution to improving the context for peaceful settlement. 21 donors are funding a large-scale programme which benefits all the communities in the zone of conflict directly, and whose implementation builds confidence between the Sides and among the communities.

The first milestone in the process to develop the programme came in November 2005, when the Mission launched a major new initiative - a Needs Assessment Study, which yielded a list of urgent projects for socio-economic infrastructure in the zone of conflict and surrounding areas. The international community responded to this initiative by funding the study, and by pledging - at a specially convened conference in Brussels

in June 2006 - some EUR 8 Million for implementation of the projects the Sides agreed upon.

Projects underway aim at developing small businesses and agriculture, as well as improving infrastructure for water supply, schools and medical facilities.

All projects and the process of implementation have been designed to benefit directly and bring together communities, and encourage the Sides to take decisions together on issues relating the programme. Also taking part in that process are the donors and the OSCE Mission, the latter managing all aspects of the programme.

Georgian and Ossetian contractors who win the tenders work on the projects, sometimes side by side. International as well as local experts contribute to the programme. Exchange, in terms of both experience and study visits, are an important part of the economic development and confidence-

building process. Projects are wide-ranging. Economic development practical and theoretical business training is underway offering the opportunity for individuals from both communities to share experience and benefit from expert input. Small grants opportunities are being offered for small business and agriculture development.

Potable and drinking water supplies are being improved after completion of projects to build local reservoirs, those to collect and channel spring water, as well as those to renovate existing systems. School children throughout the zone of conflict will benefit from renovated facilities after the completion of works which, just as all other projects of the ERP, are agreed upon by the Steering Committee.

When launching the OSCE Needs Assessment Study for the ERP, the Sides of the conflict settlement



"I am thankful for the OSCE for its work to ensure peace and stability, which is very important for us here", says Zurab a Georgian farmer in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict who has benefited directly from the OSCE-led Economic Rehabilitation Programme. During one of the donor-funded projects he learnt about dairy farming standards and how to raise yields, at a specialized forum in Israel.

process were unanimous in the opinion that implementation of projects for economic rehabilitation of the zone of conflict and adjacent areas serves as an effective mechanism for confidence-building and, ultimately, for the full-scale resolution of the conflict. It was also understood that economic rehabilitation had the possibility to create opportunities for developing regional trade and transit using potential of the Trans Caucasian Highway (TRANSCAM); improve the investment climate; and have an important impact on strengthening peace and security in the whole region.



Working on urgently-needed renovations of a school in the north of the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. Bessarion is a local Ossetian contractor who won the tender to renovate this school in Dzari, one of the many rehabilitation projects earmarked by the OSCE-led Economic Rehabilitation Programme. For this renovation, Bessarion employed a workforce of builders from both Georgian and Ossetian communities, as well as three Ossetians from village of Dzari itself.



Drinking water on tap for the first time in some villages in the zone of conflict. Ksuisi, Disevi, Khelchua and Gugutiantkari villages now have drinking water after the OSCE-led Economic Rehabilitation Programme constructed 18 taps and 11km of pipes linking them to the local water supply.

Multi-dimensional approach to helping create a more favourable context for peaceful resolution

The Mission has also supported projects involving Ossetian and Georgian communities to promote human rights and to strengthen civil society.

Within the Mission's portfolio of activities to support the development of the non-governmental sector in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, it created the Small Grants Programme to fund projects which have entered the most successful bids. Since 2004, the programme has aimed at increasing the NGOs' ability to effectively meet the needs of the local communities, and has had a positive impact on capacity-building existing NGOs and the emergence of new ones.

The range of projects supported by the Mission's Small Grants Programme for the zone of the



OSCE/David Khizanishvili
Young people from vulnerable families in Tskhinvali have developed social and creative skills through making sculpture and exhibitions, after project-funding by the OSCE Mission

Georgian-Ossetian conflict is diverse. It has included those on: inter-community dialogue; improving education through universal approaches and sharing experience; raising awareness of the concepts of democratic development; focusing on women's participation in civil society; inclusion for people with disabilities; and young people, especially the vulnerable.

Recent funding has been given to NGO initiatives benefiting vulnerable groups, or young people. Some of those projects benefitting children and teenagers directly include:

- ✧ Renovation of kindergarten playgrounds
- ✧ Refurbishment of meeting spaces for young people to learn and practice music and dance.
- ✧ Opportunity for vulnerable children to develop their social and creative skills through innovative craft workshops and fine art lessons
- ✧ English language classes
- ✧ Carefully supervised physical training and games to help develop muscle co-ordination for children with learning and motor difficulties as well as their able-bodied friends
- ✧ Environmental awareness through helping children from internally displaced families exploring environmental issues as they cleaned up and gardened in the derelict areas near their home.

However, it is not only children who have



OSCE/David Khizanishvili
NGO representatives receive certificates for the OSCE-funded human rights 'Training of trainers'

benefitted from the OSCE Small Grants Programme. Projects funded over the last four years helped people including university students, the elderly, the disabled, and women's groups.

All grants were awarded after open invitation for application, were co-ordinated in the OSCE Tskhinvali field office and head office in Tbilisi, and were for a maximum of EUR 2500 each.

Pioneering film on zone of Georgian-Ossetian conflict shown on Georgian TV

The Mission has delivered a number of leading initiatives to build confidence between Georgian and Ossetian journalists, and to raise the level of professionalism for local conflict reporting. The Mission, the British Embassy in Tbilisi and the UK-based Thomson Foundation have delivered several courses and seminars, including a study visit to Northern Ireland. The courses examined the challenges to balanced reporting on conflict issues and working on feature stories. The ongoing programme also aims at stimulating constructive dialogue and forging workable contacts between media professionals.

Rustavi2, a leading Television station in Georgia, broadcast a film in February 2007 which was the first of its kind since armed tensions rose again in summer 2004 in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

The pioneering film was made as part of an OSCE Mission project for a crew of Georgian and Ossetian journalists to make a documentary on the concepts and results of the recently completed EC-funded economic rehabilitation programme.

From starting points on 'different sides of the barricade' (as one film interviewee described the communities in the zone of conflict), the journalists faced tough filming schedules and challenging editorial decisions together. Access to certain areas had to be negotiated. The OSCE brokered agreement and guided the process, escorting the team through the conflict zone, which is checkered with Ossetian and Georgian communities.



OSCE/Martha Freeman
The team achieved a 25-minute documentary from three days of filming in the snow-carpeted zone of conflict.

The film project was one of the Mission's leading initiatives to build confidence between Georgian and Ossetian journalists, and to raise the level of professionalism for local conflict reporting.

The Georgian-Abkhaz conflict

The OSCE Mission to Georgia supports UN-led efforts towards a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Since 1994, the Mission has ensured liaison with the UN operations in Abkhazia, in order to follow events closely. It reports regularly to the OSCE, with a view to facilitating the Organization's participation in negotiations carried out under United Nations auspices.

In this context, the Mission participates in the Co-ordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides and its three Working Groups. These were set up by the sides to address security issues, the return of Internally Displaced Persons and refugees, and social and economic issues.

Based on the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, the Mission is also mandated to work on OSCE 'Human Dimension' activities in Abkhazia. With regard to Georgia as a whole, the Mission is tasked among other things to promote respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to assist in the development of democratic processes.

On this basis, the UN Human Rights Office Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG) was established in 1996 to endeavour to jointly protect and

promote human rights there. The Mission has since then been contributing one of its seconded Human Rights Officers, who is involved in HROAG's work but is also responsible for a portfolio of human rights projects developed and funded by the Mission.

Human rights activities

The Mission developed a series of human dimension projects related to Abkhazia, Georgia. Most recently projects include NGO capacity-building, human rights information and promotion activities for children, a needs assessment of freedom of the media, and an exchange of press over the conflict divide.

The Mission made possible the establishment of a human rights centre at the university.

The Mission also supported the development of a Sukhumi-based NGO - the Centre for Humanitarian Programmes - to develop civic education methodologies based on the Council of Europe's COMPASS manual.

The Mission is also implementing a small grants competition which focuses on grass roots civic education projects including those run by youth in the schools.

OTHER POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION ACTIVITIES



OSCE/John Smock

instead of blowing them up, as it was done in the past. Some 35,000 will be dismantled with this kind of technology.

Neutralizing dangerous chemicals

In October 2003 the Mission started a project aimed at neutralization of dangerous chemicals stored on former bases in Georgia. The project will also rehabilitate polluted land in the Akhalkalaki and Akhaltsikhe areas and render the land suitable for agricultural use. The project aims to reduce the toxic waste pollution caused by the dumping of petrol, oil and remains of spent munitions contaminating the land of former military bases.

In 2004, the Mission oversaw the neutralization of approximately 60 tons of collected dangerous and other unwanted chemicals including the solidified remains of napalm.

In 2006, the Austrian government funded the reprocessing of 3,100 canisters of aerially delivered smoke chemicals and 290 explosive dispensing pods. Austria, Belgium and Italy funded the reprocessing of a further 390 canisters found subsequently.

The process of decontamination of land has begun after an assessment of the extent and nature of contamination of designated sites and the clearance of the remains of exploded ordnance and chemical debris on the sites.



Emptying obsolete iron shells and bombs filled with trinitrotoluene (TNT) is another part of the joint project. In order to accomplish this difficult and expensive procedure, which require special equipment and technical expertise, the Mission purchased the special TNT smelting equipment (EUR 400,000 – donation from Finland) and renovated a building to house it.

Following an open tender, the Ukrainian contractor Ukroboronservice delivered the apparatus and provided training for Delta personnel on its safe operation.

The new equipment is environmentally-friendly since it recycles TNT-filled warheads

Destruction of Surplus Military Stockpiles

As part of its wide-ranging mandate, the OSCE Mission assists the Georgian Government strengthen its capacity to dismantle and recycle obsolete ammunition; to deal with surplus military chemicals; and to remove contamination from former Russian military bases.

The agreement defines the roles of all parties involved and marked the beginning of the joint effort to dismantle old bombs, anti-aircraft shells, artillery and mortar ammunition, and other explosive munitions.

With the financial support of donor states such as Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom, a specialized state agency Delta started dismantling activities at the

Dedoplistskaro military base (Kakheti region). The specialists from Delta use their technical expertise to destroy ammunition and reprocess the remaining ballistic propellant and scrap metal. After being chopped and mixed with other chemicals, the propellant is sold off for civil engineering purposes.

After the end of the third stage of the project the Mission estimates that some 320 tons of ballistic propellant have been produced so far and some 50,000 shells have been dismantled or destroyed.



Obsolete ammunition and military chemicals are inherently dangerous because there is the potential for accidents in unloading, packing and transfer; as well as threat of theft, misuse and toxic waste pollution. Additionally, if neglected, they degrade and become shock-sensitive over time.

Alongside the Georgian stakeholders the OSCE aims to neutralize these hazards which may threaten human and environmental security in the country and in the Caucasus.

The dismantling project

The first project started in 2003, after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mission and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

Action Against Terrorism

The Mission's main anti-terrorism efforts are focused on developing law enforcement capacity in combating terrorism and organised crime.

A series of specialised OSCE-organised crisis management training programmes was launched in support of the OSCE's multilateral security objectives. The sessions aimed at strengthening Georgia's institutional capacity to counter terrorism, organised crime and other threats.

Projects contribute to the strategic objective of the OSCE's Counter-Terrorism Programme by supporting a sustainable capability within the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop its long-term counter-terrorism capacity.

The Mission's assistance for strengthening co-operation between Georgian agencies and European counterparts has helped establish effective communication and co-operation between relevant departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and those in Austria, France, Romania, and Spain.

With the help of US and UK experts, the Mission, assisted the Georgian Government to develop a Crisis Management Center, which involves almost all departments of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Mission also facilitates the attendance of Government representatives at relevant international counter terrorism events.

In co-operation with Cranfield University and New Scotland Yard, the Mission paved the way for the establishment of a Bomb Data Center in Georgia. Software and IT equipment for a network has also been installed with the support of the Mission.

To contribute to the long-term reform assistance programme developed jointly with the OSCE's Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Mission participated in the information sharing network.



OSCE/David Khizanishvili



OSCE/David Khizanishvili

An exercise where special police team held negotiations with "hostage-takers". The Mission and experts from the French special unit RAID organised hostage negotiation training for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, consisting of theoretical planning part and the practical exercise



OSCE/David Khizanishvili

Police Reform

The OSCE Mission to Georgia is working closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs on a package of assistance to support Georgia's police reform agenda.

The Police Assistance Programme (PAP) aims to improve the professionalism and operational capacity of the Georgian police service and contribute to a basis for comprehensive reform.

The 2007 phase of the programme primarily supported efforts to improve community policing and strengthen the human resource management system. This builds upon the Mission's previous years' work, which resulted from an in-depth expert needs assessment.

Community Policing

Putting into practice best community policing principles is the most important factor in improving community safety and police culture. The Mission's activities to help engender these principles include facilitating police-citizen forums to build trust and co-operation between citizens, municipalities, civil society and police.

The community policing part of the programme sets out to:

- ✗ Redefine the duties and responsibilities of the neighbourhood officers in Tbilisi's Didub Chugureti and Vake-Saburtalo districts;
- ✗ Develop community policing in the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti as a pilot scheme for a Georgian model of community based policing;
- ✗ Facilitate community policing training including minority awareness components for about 120 neighbourhood officers;
- ✗ Organize a public opinion poll to measure improvements, efficiency, and public perception of community policing;
- ✗ Elaborate, with a working group, upon a National Concept on Community Policing for Georgia.

Police Human Resources Management

Key to a transparent human resources system is a sound recruitment process. The OSCE Mission is continuing its assistance to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to help develop a transparent and effective selection process and personnel management system.

The human resources management component of the OSCE Mission's programme aims to:



OSCE/David Khizanishvili

OSCE-funded community policing training for the neighbourhood police officers from Samtskhe-Javakheti



OSCE/David Khizanishvili

New library in Police Academy refurbished through OSCE funding



Celebrating the Open Police Day at the Gldani police station renovated by the OSCE funding

- Provide several workshops to develop core job descriptions such as those of patrol police, district police and criminal investigators;
- Organize training for senior police management and policy-makers on effective and structured interviewing techniques as a tool in a transparent selection process;
- Work with psychologists on the development of reliable psychometric tests which in turn should help standardize the selection of possible candidates for the police force;
- Help streamline the national database of police personnel by providing IT equipment and supporting the development of a confidential electronic data-management system.

Other areas of assistance

To support the specific areas of human resource management and community policing, the Mission is also assisting the Ministry of Internal

Affairs with projects on crime prevention and the promotion of human rights.

A principal goal is to raise the awareness of local police, administration and stakeholders about their community roles in preventing drug-related crime and violence in schools.

The Mission formed a working group comprising representatives of NGOs, minority representation groups, parliamentarians, scientists, different ministries and the police which will assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs to work on a national concept for community policing to be introduced to the public in summer 2007. The Mission also supports the Ministry of Internal Affairs in its efforts to elaborate a national strategy on crime prevention. To help improve working conditions, the OSCE Mission is funding the renovation and refurbishment of selected police stations.

The Mission is organizing a visit of Georgian police officers to Germany to examine established community policing and crime prevention practices. Another group of police officers will visit Estonia to study the composition and development of a computerized personnel database.

Ministry of Internal Affairs

The OSCE Mission is providing the Georgian police force with 30 computers and 21 scanning and printing equipment as well as the training in IT skills, particularly on the effective and confidential management of its human resources data.

Strengthening Border Management Capacities

Subscribing to the commitments of the largest regional security organization in the world, many of the OSCE's participating States face similar challenges to security. States like Georgia can take advantage of the Organization's common goals and various OSCE structures and expertise, and can benefit from shared experience. The Mission has always worked in close co-operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Georgian Border Police to produce programmes to enhance the latter's capacity.

Over recent years, the Mission has been addressing the short- and medium-term needs of the Georgian Border Police, through specialised skills and management training programmes for junior officers and senior management. Additionally, it has trained MoI Emergency Response Department personnel in internationally recognised search and rescue techniques.

New directions for assistance lie in the development of inter-agency and international co-operation.

Training Assistance Programme

In June 2006, the Mission successfully completed a year-long programme to effectively improve the capacity of Georgian Border Police in border management. The OSCE Mission's Training Assistance Programme aimed at transferring the skills it had gained from five years of border monitoring experience.

The 784 trainees were mid-ranking and non-commissioned officers, some of whom were identified as potential future instructors.

Practical and theoretical sessions covered skills for:

- Rescue operations and security rules in hazardous mountainous areas;
- Planning and managing border units during day and night;
- Patrolling, observing and reporting;



Training in map reading skills held in Lagodekhi

- Maintaining special equipment;
- Map reading;
- Communications;
- First aid.

A team of 50 personnel, including 30 international experts, implemented the programme from the OSCE Mission Headquarters in Tbilisi, as well as from four other regional training centres in Lilo, Kazbegi, Lagodekhi, and Omalo.

Capacity-building training for high-ranking Georgian Border Police

In September 2006, another bespoke OSCE training programme was launched to help make Georgia's senior border management more effective in



operational planning and rapid reaction. The Mission and the GBP worked closely to develop a comprehensive curriculum, which will help the service enhance its command, control and communications system and create its own training programme.



The OSCE Mission's 12-month Capacity-Building Programme trained over 300 senior border police officers in decision-making methodology and skills for rapid reaction to border incidents. The programme was delivered at two training centres: one in Lilo near Tbilisi; and one in the northern mountain village of Omalo. A number of border police regional field headquarters were also used.

The programme, which tapped into the OSCE Mission's specialized experience in border monitoring and training, is being delivered by 50 personnel.

Search and Rescue

In September 2007, a short-term OSCE Mission training programme began to train rescue operators of the Emergency Management Department of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Search and Rescue Training was designed to focus

on basic techniques for crisis response operations both in urban and industrial areas. Practical exercises were set for urban areas: on cranes, electrical poles, industrial buildings, flat blocks, building constructions; as well as sub-surface like wells, elevator shafts, silos and sewerage pipes.

Co-ordination of response was practiced through complex scenarios at the end of each module.

Through offering a course recognized by UIMGA (United International Mountain Guide Association) and UIAA (United International Alpine Association), the OSCE team of International trainers from Austria, Croatia and Poland join Georgian experts shared their



OSCE/David Khizanishvili

experience of best international practices.

The training was financed by the Austrian government, the main module of which trained 20 rescue operators and specialized equipment purchased for the programme was donated to the Emergency Management Department.

Developing inter-agency co-ordination and international co-operation

Upon request from the Georgian Border Police and Georgian Border Ministry of Finance, the OSCE Mission to Georgia is preparing a programme to further strengthen the capabilities of the Georgian Border Management and Security Agencies, and enhance the level of co-operation

between these agencies and their neighbouring counterparts in bordering countries.

The programme will aim to strengthen the ability of these agencies to facilitate free and secure movement of persons and trade across the borders, whilst reducing the threat of trans-border organized crime, terrorism, trafficking of human beings, narcotics, weapons and non-proliferation material; as well as phytosanitary threats.

On a Georgian national level the programme will promote high standards in border services and competent national structures through the training of students from the Georgian Border Police, the Revenue Service and other agencies under the Ministry of Interior involved either directly or indirectly with Border Security and Law Enforcement.

The importance of interagency co-operation will be emphasized throughout the training. Mechanisms will be identified to facilitate this co-operation in accordance with the Georgian Integrated Border Management Strategy. Training will be conducted in senior and middle management, combating trans-border organized crime, combating terrorism, threat assessment, risk analysis, Criminal Procedure Code, human rights and crisis and emergency management.



OSCE/Ryszard Pogorzelski

In addition to this training and in order to enhance the level of co-operation between the Georgian agencies and their counterparts in neighbouring countries, a series of cross-border workshops will be conducted in the immediate vicinity of the major border crossing points in the mostly newly constructed facilities of the Georgian Border Police.

Topics that will be covered in these workshops will include false documents; human rights; radiation defence and weapons of mass destruction; regional terrorism and counter terrorism; trans-border organized crime, smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

The importance of information exchange and cross-border co-operation in accordance with bilateral agreements between the neighbouring borders-related agencies and the Georgian Integrated Border Management Strategy will be emphasized throughout these workshops. Speakers and expertise will be recruited from national and international bodies active in the South Caucasus to ensure reference to real challenges and frequently faced issues at these border points. Participants should gain a clear understanding of mutual threats and countermeasures.

Activities

HUMAN DIMENSION OF SECURITY

OSCE/ODHAP



Please also see activities listed in PEACEFULCONFLICT RESOLUTION

Strengthening Georgia's Democratic Institutions

The Mission's Human Dimension Programme covers four fields of activities: Democratization, Human Rights, Rule of Law and Freedom of the Media. Through its Human Dimension Programme the Mission assists the Government of Georgia in the fulfilment of its OSCE commitments in these areas.

The Mission works to strengthen the capacity of Georgia's civil society and institutions in their work supporting democratization. This includes the ability to conduct free and fair elections and a functioning local democracy. The Mission also promotes the independence and professionalism of the Media.

The electoral process and assistance to the Parliament

The Mission works to strengthen the capacity of Georgian society and its institutions on furthering democratization. This includes the ability to conduct free and fair elections and a functioning local

expertise on democratic reform processes to relevant stakeholders including state authorities, political parties and civil society organisations. In close co-operation with these stakeholders it identifies and implements key projects which provide substantive capacity-building support to relevant government bodies such as the Central Election Commission (CEC), Parliament, political parties and the non-governmental sector.

Since 2006 and in close collaboration with the OSCE's Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) the Mission has been supporting the Parliamentary Reform Centre, which is embedded in the parliamentary apparatus and seeks to provide expert and technical assistance to the Speaker and the parliamentary leadership in the field of parliamentary work and reform. The Centre also works to strengthen Parliament's capacity to monitor its own reform process and to co-ordinate reform initiatives and donor involvement.

The Mission provided financial support to the election monitoring NGO ISFED to enable it to monitor the voters' list update of the Central Election Commission and to audit the final voters' list issued for the local elections of 2006.

Since 2006, the Mission has sought to strengthen the professional capacity of CEC by providing training to improve the Commission's ability to plan its work strategically, to improve its management of human resources and to improve both internal and external communications.



Ahead of the presidential elections in January 2008, the Mission co-ordinated the working group on election issues of the international community based in Tbilisi

democracy.

The Mission contributes to strengthening democratic institutions and processes on the national and local level, promoting effective democratic governance and political participation.

The Democratisation Unit provides targeted

As well the Mission chairs or co-chairs three election related working groups. One group co-ordinates the technical involvement of the international community in this area; another working group involves heads of mission who seek to engage with the Georgian authorities around issues of elections and democracy at a political level; and the third working group involves parliamentary officials and aims at bringing Georgia's election legislation more in line with both international standards and the recommendations of the ODIHR and the Venice Commission.

Working with National Minorities in the Kvemo Kartli Region

The Mission works towards helping Georgia



The OSCE-funded civic education classes at the Bolnisi Youth Centre

successfully integrate its national minorities into mainstream society. With a view to stimulate this process the Mission has funded a number of community-based projects in the Kvemo Kartli region. The mostly Armenian and Azerbaijani population which inhabits this region has very poor knowledge of the state language



The OSCE-funded library of Georgian books is being enjoyed by schoolchildren

and as a result lacks the necessary skills to actively participate in the social, economic and democratic life of Georgia. The Mission's projects cover a wide variety of activities which seek to increase the population's technical and language skills and to provide better educational opportunities with a view to expanding career opportunities. By promoting the integration of the national minorities in Kvemo Kartli, the Mission contributes to the prevention of ethnic tensions and potential conflict in the region

The Mission supports a small grants competition for local NGOs in the rural areas of Tsalka, Dmanisi, Bolnisi and Marneuli. By encouraging initiatives at the grass roots level the Mission hopes to strengthen the capacities of the NGOs to contribute to positive initiatives in the region.

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The Mission's human rights mandate involves the monitoring of the respect adherence to the universal tenets of human rights as well as working with Government institutions and the NGO sector with the view of helping Georgia meet all its OSCE commitments and obligations.

Human rights monitoring and projects

The Mission continues to work with state bodies, NGOs and international organisations to promote international human rights standards. This is done primarily in the regions where awareness of

about alleged human rights violations with the relevant authorities at the highest levels.

The Mission helps to strengthen human rights protection mechanisms in the regions mainly by advising the Public Defender's Office, by making free legal advice available, and by conducting seminars for officials, lawyers and human rights defenders.

The programme for human rights education in schools has been furthered recently by providing training in two more districts of Georgia: Imereti and Kakheti. In close co-operation with the education authorities, the Mission provides training to Georgian school teachers in the use of the Council of Europe's COMPASS manual.

The Mission has supported the integration of ethnic minorities by providing training on human rights in a number of community centres in Kvemo Kartli. Through these centres, the Mission facilitated and continues to facilitate dialogue on relevant human rights related issues between representatives of central and local Government and NGOs.

The Mission hired four lawyers to assist individuals deprived of their liberty on criminal charges. The defendants who are unable to get access to the lawyer are provided with free of charge legal assistance in Western part of Georgia.



The OSCE-funded IT classes in Marneuli

human rights is still relatively limited. The Mission uses a two-fold approach. On the one hand it implements projects that promote and protect human rights while on the other it monitors cases of human rights violations. The casework involves monitoring trials, providing legal advice, and raising concerns

Strengthening the fight against trafficking in human beings

A major focus for the Mission is the support to the implementation of the Government's 2007-2008 National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (THiB).

In order to support activities related to the implementation of the National Action Plan and efforts related to the implementation of recommendations provided by the National Referral Mechanism Assessment Report, the Mission supports local NGOs through a small grants programme. The latter promotes the development and implementation of initiatives which seek to prevent TiHB and which provide direct assistance to the victims of trafficking.



The winning poster for the OSCE-funded competition for the best art piece on anti-trafficking

The Mission provides a great deal of technical support and co-ordinates the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR funded project on enhancing the identification of and assistance to victims of trafficking in Georgia. The overall goal of the project is to support the development and consolidation of an effective local victim support mechanism in Adjara – also with a view to enhancing the development of a National Referral Mechanism in other parts of Georgia. The project

envisages developing and implementing a co-operative framework between local actors for the identification, referral and assistance of victims of trafficking.

Freedom of the media

The Mission seeks to enhance the ability of the Georgian media to contribute to the process of democracy-building in the country.

In order to establish a viable system of information about the state of the media in Georgia for the benefit of national and international media professionals the Mission provides financial support to a tri-lingual web portal - www.media.ge - a resource which aims at producing timely, balanced and accurate information about the current situation in the Georgian media.

As part of the Mission's overall efforts to integrate Georgia's national minorities, it has sought to widen access to the news for the Azerbaijani minority living in Kvemo Kartli some of whom are isolated by a language barrier. In collaboration with the High Commissioner on National Minorities the Mission provided support to an innovative project which consisted of providing simultaneous translation of the Georgian national news into the Azerbaijani language, and providing it to local broadcasters in the region for re-broadcasting locally.

In order to help fill this information vacuum the Mission supported a study trip of mainstream journalists from the central and the regional Georgian media to the Armenian populated Samtskhe-Javakheti region. This kind of activity greatly contributes to establishing direct links between representatives of central and regional media outlets representatives. By raising the level of Georgian journalists' knowledge and understanding of Samtskhe-Javakheti the Mission succeeded in promoting more objective and unbiased reporting on the region.

Rule of Law and Promoting Legal Reforms

The Mission promoted the ongoing reforms of the legal system in Georgia. Recently this included:

- Assisting the Ministry of Justice to implement civil registry reform: A project was set up to contribute to the overall goal of supporting the Georgian authorities to set up a unified, centralised, and multifunctional civil registration system to enable the country to maintain population information necessary for providing public services. It is implemented by the Mission and financed by USAID, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, IRISH AID and several OSCE participating states.
- Facilitating the development of a professional judiciary and capacity-building of assistants of judges in Georgia: Through the Mission's support, the Judicial Training Centre, which later became the High School of Justice, organised professional training in civil, criminal and administrative law for the assistants of judges from the newly established Tbilisi City Court and Appellate Court.
- Assisting the Georgian Government to promote effective functioning of the probation and penitentiary system: The Mission supported the Ministry of Justice, the Central Penitentiary

OSCE/CHF/Volpe



Prison in Kutaisi constructed by the OSCE funding

- Promoting transparency of the legislative process through setting up public control mechanisms and involving civil society at the earlier stages of law-making process: The Mission supported the local NGO Civil Society Institute (CSI) to obtain and provide expert opinion on draft laws, and disseminate through electronic newsletters relevant material throughout different society groups. In certain cases the CSI experts also assisted the Georgian authorities in developing relevant concept papers and draft laws.
- Strengthening the capacity of public notaries: The Mission assisted the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in organizing public notaries' qualification examinations. The candidates who passed the examination successfully were given an opportunity to participate in a further competitive selection process for vacant positions of public notaries.
- Promoting development of the bar capacity and broadening access to legal aid in Eastern Georgia: The Mission supported the Centre for the local NGO Protection of Constitutional Rights (CPCR) to: provide free legal aid for the residents of Kakheti and Shida Kartli regions; and to organise legal clinic education programmes for the students of law faculties of Telavi and Gori state universities.
- Promoting legal publications: The Mission has supported the development of a range of publications including the printing of constitutions of foreign countries and a legal journal.

Activities

ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF SECURITY

OSCE/CIHR VoIPe



Please also see activities listed in PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Economic Security

The Mission continued to focus on developing small- and medium-sized enterprises, on supporting the fight against corruption, and on providing economic policy guidance to the Government. Additionally, the Mission actively supported local good governance initiatives in regions outside Tbilisi. Activities included:

- Analysing the country's economic security. The focus of this extensive review, which was conducted by the Mission in co-operation with the National Security Council, was economic growth and sound economic policy planning.
- Supporting good governance resource centres in Gardabani and Marneuli. These centres aim at assisting local Governments to develop and implement their budgets, and to disseminate information to villages in these regions which have large national minorities.
- Supporting anti-corruption initiatives. The Mission is helping NGOs monitor Georgia's commitments to implement the anti-corruption recommendations made by OECD. Furthermore, the Mission supported an initiative to support the Government's



plans to implement an Inspector General Law that would be responsible for monitoring the financial activities of each of the ministries in Georgia.

- Supporting Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise Development for Youth. The Mission is supporting a Business Consultancy Centre in the Gali region of Abkhazia. The centre is providing training and support to entrepreneurs in the region.
- Organising a youth summer camp on entrepreneurship. During the camp, training was held for young people from all over Georgia on the basics of entrepreneurship.

Environmental Security

The Mission established an Aarhus Centre in co-operation with the Georgian Ministry of Environment in Tbilisi in December 2005 and recently two more centres in the Kvemo Kartli region of Georgia. The aim of the Centres is to promote the principles of the Aarhus Convention signed by Georgia in 2003, and to help build trust between the Government and civil society sectors by working on environmental matters.

Environmental problems can result in instability and potentially in conflict. Assisted by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities the Mission supported the OSCE-UN Environment and Security Initiative in developing projects that tackle issues of environmental concern.

Environmental education is crucial in developing people's understanding of environmental issues. The Mission is also funding the continuation and further development of environmental clubs in Georgia. There will be 25 clubs each with 15 to 30 youth all over Georgia. They meet once a week to



discuss environmental issues and they undertake specific activities, such as cleaning up garbage in city parks.

The Mission is also working with schools in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia to promote energy efficiency. By working with schools in several districts, the Mission is teaching how to insulate their homes and make them more energy efficient.

The Mission is also continuing to support the OSCE-NATO River Monitoring Project, in which data on the Kura River is collated. In this, its fourth year, new equipment was acquired for the scientists to now test for persistent organic pollutants and radionuclides.

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