

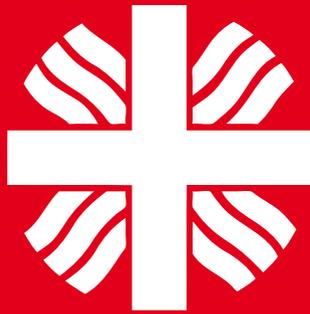


Caritas Georgia

# Opting For Life

ANNUAL REPORT 2009





caritas

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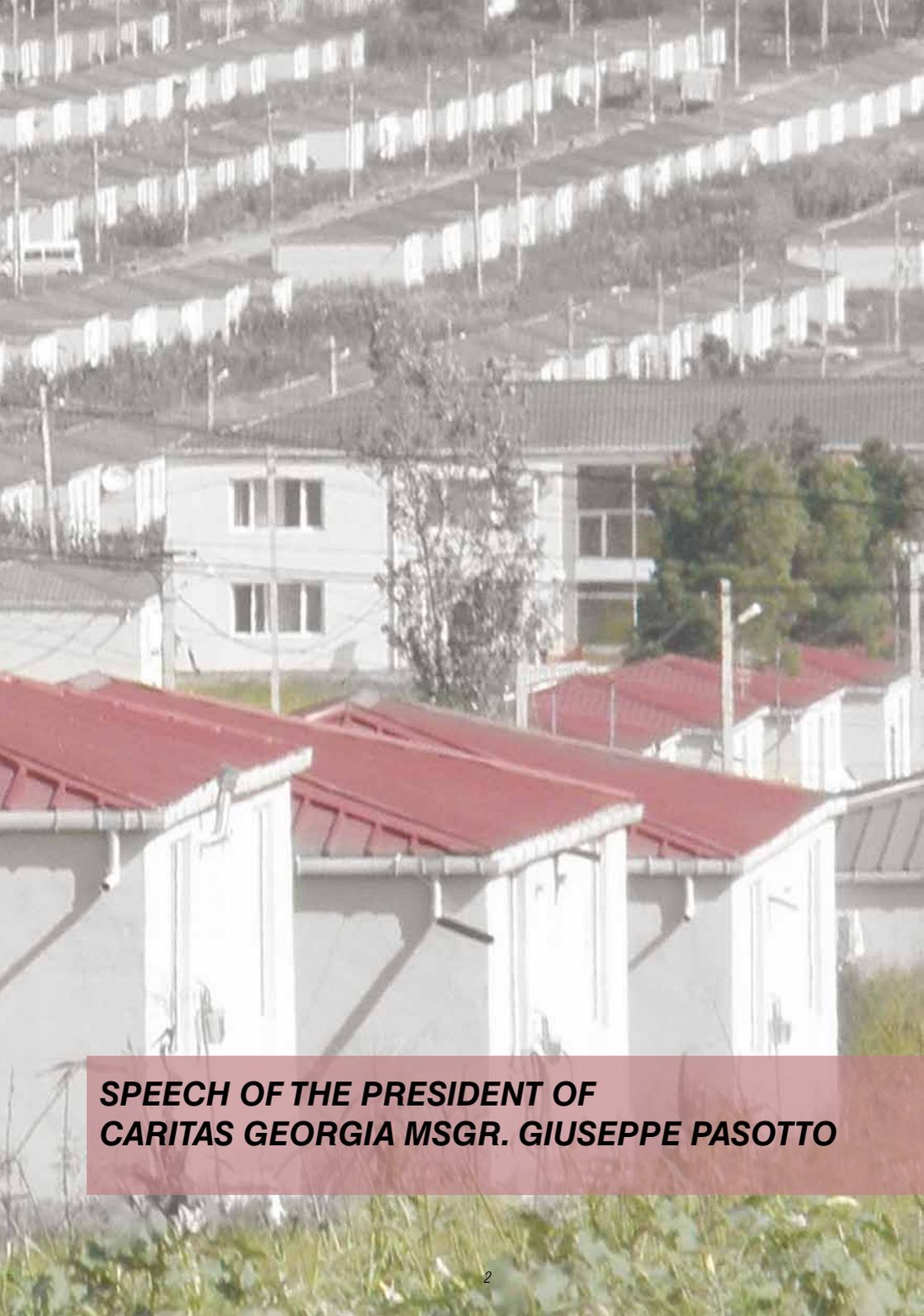
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***SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF  
CARITAS GEORGIA MSGR. GIUSEPPE PASOTTO***

How pleasant it is to hear a thank-you speech! When one expresses gratitude to us it means that one has perceived correctly the essence of our deed! However, to hear thank you is more appealing than to receive something because when you appreciate kindness of the other it is the only special, outspoken and true source of joy! Indeed! Even when we say thank you to someone there is an important phrase: “to give is more joyous than to receive.”

On behalf of the whole Caritas Georgia I would like to say couple of words to express our sincere gladness, because we can say “thank you” this year as well! Caritas Georgia is well aware that it was made possible to do a lot due to donations received in 2009. When presenting projects implemented for those in need here in Georgia, one cannot help showing amazement at the contribution of different associations, people or countries, often quite unexpected and pleasant surprises, which afterwards have been transformed into specific initiatives owing to the Caritas Georgia’s diligent and tireless labor. Caritas Georgia expresses on behalf of the beneficiaries deep gratitude to all people who showed loving solidarity with those in need.

Whoever reads this brochure they will find in these pages only love, which is of indefinite strength, never vanishes completely, unites people around high ideals and becomes specific means for the start of the life, for support and renewal.

My cordial gratitude to everybody who has contributed to making the story set forth in this brochure a source of joy.

Giuseppe Pasotto

# OPENING ADDRESS OF FR. WITOLD SZULCZYNSKI, DIRECTOR OF CARITAS GEORGIA

Dear friends,

At the end of each year of our service I have to write an opening address to the Caritas Georgia annual report. I write “service” because the longer I work for Caritas the better I understand that what we do is a service for those in need. Pope Benedict XVI often uses this word in his encyclical letter “God is love” (Deus Caritas Est). I often recollect his words which have to be a main direction for us as the mercy servants.

For the last months Caritas Georgia along with its daily routine service (for the benefit of IDPs, indigent, earthquake victims) has done a lot and taken huge efforts in the reorganization process with the aid of Caritas Europe and others. We have not spared ourselves to make our organization more experienced. I know that the process of changes and reorganization is very important, but I think it is no less important for Caritas not to lose in this process its human and ecclesiastic features, spirituality, tenderness and love for those in need, everything we have been taking care for with great love during 16 years and is called by Holy Father “Humanity”: (DCE n 31). As Holy Father writes in his encyclical letter: “Yet, while professional competence is a primary, fundamental requirement, it is not of itself sufficient. We are dealing with human beings, and human beings always need something more than technically proper care. They need humanity. (DCE n 31). And further he says: “in addition to their necessary professional training, these charity workers need a “formation of the heart”: (DCE n 31). ... Let me site one more quote of the Holly Father : “Christian charitable activity ... is an embodiment of the love which man always needs.( DCE n 31) Yes we all need love, but I am sure that those in need, ill, homeless, outcast, street children need love most of all... as it is impossible to live without love.

Dear friends, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you for solidarity, for small or big donations, for the support of “Distant Adoption” project, for food, for clothes, for the equipment provided free of charge to our bakery and carpenter’s school, for



metal plates we used to repair roofs of the houses of population who suffered as a result of the conflict, for the assistance we received during the past years and still keep receiving. Thank you everybody once again. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude because behind those specific actions we see your “humanity,” see “a heart which sees,” as the Holy Father writes. I have been working at Caritas for 16 years now, from the time of its foundation. I have studied a lot during these years and keep studying day by day. We the employees of Caritas shall be “sign” of God’s beneficence. It is very important for me. During these years I have witnessed your disinterested love for those in need, your tenderness, politeness and warmth you are so capable of. Unfortunately such human qualities are very rare. I don’t know how many years God will allow me to serve those in need in Georgia through Caritas, but wherever I go I will never forget what I have experienced. Dear friends I will never forget your gifts to us and first of all the big belief, generosity, modesty, disinterested love and trust. Unfortunately it is rarer in the chaotic world of today to encounter such qualities.

We should have “the heart [which] sees where love is needed and acts accordingly” (DCE n 31). I would like to thank you with these words dear friends because your “heart sees” and “acts accordingly”.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to all employees of Caritas for their tireless labor and service, regardless the project they are involved in, position they hold and length of service. I have been cooperating with many of you for years and witnessed your selfless service; your warmth and cordiality towards those in need is an example of humanity for me. For many of you Caritas is not only work place, but it is much more. It is a place where you carry out your Christian and human aspirations. Dear colleagues thank you all very much!

A photograph of several people sitting around a table in a meeting room. The people are dressed in business attire. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a brown jacket is looking towards the right. Behind him, a woman with purple hair and glasses is looking forward. To the left, another man with glasses is looking towards the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. An orange text box is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

## **STRUCTURAL CHANGES**

*Caritas Georgia has started 2009 year by introducing new system of management. New structure has been formed and responsibilities have been clearly distributed. Four main programs and their managing units have been outlined, such as:*



- × Social and Medical program
- × Youth program
- × Development program
- × Emergency situation program

The major innovation is a decentralization of Caritas Georgia. Each program transfers gradually to independent work. While they had to make each step following a centralized decision before, now each program chooses direction of its work and makes independent decisions about the innovations and changes within the program.

Equally important are changes in terms of financial management. Introduction of a position of financial manager and new financial policy redistributed the system of accountability and made better organized the process of work in the finance department.

Caritas Georgia received fundamental assistance from Caritas Europe in the course of carrying out reorganization for which we thank a lot all the participants of this process.



## **SOCIAL AND MEDICAL PROGRAM**

*Aim of the social and medical program of Caritas Georgia is to improve the quality of life of those people who need temporary or permanent assistance by way of health and psycho-social status improvement. Starting from 1995 medical group of Caritas kept expanding their activity area and service sphere and today this program acts in several main directions.*



- × Primary health care;
- × Rehabilitation;
- × Home-Care;
- × Humanitarian aid;
- × Reintegration;
- × Shelter.

The program is designed for the most unprotected members of the population, particularly, for elderly and poor people, pensioners below the poverty line, disabled, physically challenged and bedridden patients, IDPs from Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Akhagori and Gori regions, HIV and AIDS inhibited people.

Alongside Social and Medical Program holds trainings of personnel on a regular

basis with the assistant of local and foreign consultants. During 2009 doctors and nurses attended different trainings and seminars for their professional development. They are: Project Cycle Management, Advocacy and Lobbying, Presentation skills, Psychiatry, Palliative Care, Practical Advices for different diseases and etc.

Social and Medical Program includes the educational activities. Educational brochures are published for medical personnel, patients and members of their families. There one can find discussions on issues the beneficiaries are interested in and the description of modern methods of patient care, treatment and diagnoses.





## **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

Caritas Georgia implements 3 projects within the framework of primary health care. Those are: Polyclinics in Tbilisi and Kutaisi and 5 medical centers of primary health care in Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The projects provide primary health service to the most unprotected population of Georgia. The beneficiaries receive advice from professional doctors and specialists, diagnostic study is carried out by means of electrocardiography and ultrasonography, they undergo different treatment procedures and if necessary they are provided with necessary medicines.

Primary health care projects of Caritas Georgia are implemented in compliance with all the existing programs in Georgia. They also actively cooperate with local government agencies and medical establishments.

During 2009 health care was provided to 2000 needy citizens within the framework of the primary health care projects.

## **REHABILITATION**

The rehabilitation centre of Caritas Georgia has been operating since 2006. Its aim is to provide service to chronic patients or patients being in recovery phase by providing medical or disease-prevention procedures. The center is equipped with state-of-the-art physiotherapeutic apparatus and training devices. The beneficiaries are able to receive here a high quality rehabilitation care, particularly: electrophoresis, ultraphonophoresis, magneto and laser therapy, massotherapy and therapeutic massage, lymphography, kinesotherapy, etc.

In 2009 more than 1200 beneficiaries underwent rehabilitation.

## **HOME-CARE SERVICE**

Caritas Georgia has been successfully providing home care services for the most unprotected people for over 15 years. The designed and proved methodology is expanding every year. In 2009 project in Gori and adjacent villages were added to Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Ozurgeti home care services. The number of beneficiaries is increasing every year. Those are disabled and bedridden people who are not able to take care of themselves.

Home-care services consider the provision of complex services to beneficiaries which include: Medical and psycho-social, intermediary and advocacy services. They include the patients' relations with nongovernmental and governmental organizations, providing information about their rights and benefits and their assistance in getting the benefits they are entitled to receive.

Beneficiaries receive daily medical and sanitary-hygienic service from professional nurses and social workers; they learn how to take care of themselves and are provided with hot meal. It should be mentioned that quite often "Caritas" is the only opportunity for the Home-Care beneficiaries to interact with the world...

In 2009, around 500 patients were registered in home care projects.

## **HUMANITARIAN AID**

In spite of the fact that partner organizations suspended consultations and financing, Caritas Georgia is continuing to implement humanitarian response projects, such as providing free Soup-kitchens. At present they are still priority and necessary as they were in the very first days of the establishment. Unfortunately the number of the poor is not decreasing in Georgia, but it is increasing with years. The Soup-kitchens in Tbilisi and Kutaisi serve the most at-risk groups of the population – lonely elderly people, children, homeless, poor and the most vulnerable families with multiple children.

In Soup-kitchens the beneficiaries receive hot meals every day. Over the weekends they receive additional portion of bread and other types of food.





## **RE-INTEGRATION**

Besides providing food and medical care the most important is cooperation and re-integration into society. In this direction Caritas Georgia is implementing project Harmony which aims at the reintegration of the isolated people, use their experience and develop relationships between generations.

The project Harmony has been working since 2006 and receives a lot of elderly people every day. The beneficiaries are able to meet one another, organize different cultural events and evenings, attend different classes. They organize excursions for the beneficiaries; take them to the theatre and cinema, to the museums. They are provided with medical, psychological and legal consultations. The center guests have access to primary health care and rehabilitation center services. Here, they can take care of personal hygiene, they can take the shower.

It should be noted the work which Caritas accomplishes in developing and maintaining valuable relationships between the elderly and youth. These relationships are beneficial bridges for both groups, since it helps psychological rehabilitation and re-integration into society of both, elderly and the younger generation. In 2009, 50 elders were registered in the project "Harmony."

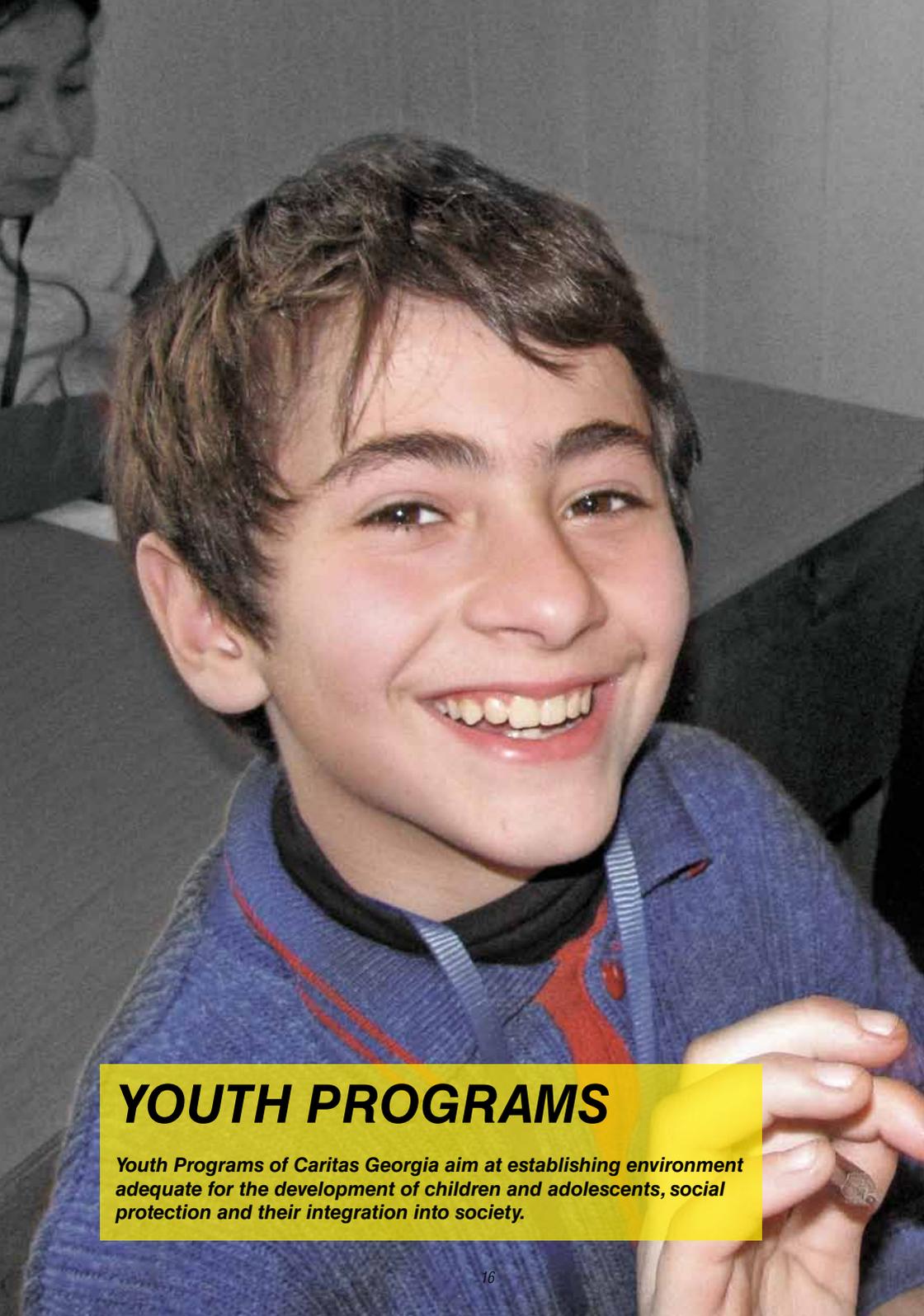
## **SHELTERS**

The Batumi shelter for homeless – Friendly Heart is the only one in Batumi and it is in popular demand. The shelter is taking care of the homeless and poor population who have to spend nights under the open sky. The beneficiaries are able to spend night in a comfortable environment, receive substantial food which the Lutheran Church has been providing for several years. Additionally the project House of Hope helps the shelter beneficiaries to give up bad habits and to the extent possible provide employment. A small house in village Khelvachauri is their place of residence. The beneficiaries are able to work in the hothouses and orchards and through physical labor get over alcohol drug addiction.

In 2009 the shelter visited 25-30 people every day and there live 8 young people in House of Hope.

In 1999, His Holiness The Pope of Rome John Paul II officially opened the Shelter for homeless built by Caritas Georgia. At present the building is run by the Missionaries of Charity, but “Caritas Georgia” keeps the close collaboration with the Shelter, assisting in technical issues, supporting with food products in order to keep the functioning of the Shelter, as the service is very essential for today’s Georgia.





## ***YOUTH PROGRAMS***

*Youth Programs of Caritas Georgia aim at establishing environment adequate for the development of children and adolescents, social protection and their integration into society.*



For the achievement of the goal Caritas Georgia is working in four directions:

- × General education and psycho-social rehabilitation
- × Vocational (professional) education and art therapy
- × Shelter
- × Work with street children

Since 1997 Caritas Georgia has been step-by-step improving different methods and means for the requirements revealed as a result of work with beneficiaries and taking into account advice received from foreign consultants. At present each child or adolescent included in the youth program

of Caritas Georgia are able to get education and grow professionally, to be recognized as members of the society and integrate into it.

The beneficiaries of youth programs of Caritas Georgia are children lacking care aged 6-18 so called “street children” and problem children, children from the families below poverty line, IDPs, children affected by psycho-social trauma and victims of violence....

During 2009 within the framework of youth programs 16 projects were implemented in different regions of Georgia.





## **GENERAL EDUCATION AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL REHABILITATION**

During 2009 year within the framework of youth programs 4 youth rehabilitation centers were operating in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Gori and in village Arali in Samtskhe – Javakheti.

Youth rehabilitation centers aim at psychological rehabilitation of the children in order to prevent their institutionalization and provide general or professional education.

The beneficiaries in youth centers were provided with food and psychological assistance. The children were receiving additional and professional education. Particularly the beneficiaries have been attending classes of song, Georgian National Dance, drama, as well as participating in puppet shows. The children had an access to the English and Italian language classes. They have been able to take advantage of computer classes.

During 2009 the rehabilitation centers received total 450 children.

Youth educational and rehabilitation centers take care of intellectual as well as physical education and development of the beneficiaries. Development of vital, academic and functional skills will favor independent and healthy lifestyle of children and adolescents in future.





### **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND ART THERAPY**

Art therapy aims at psycho-social rehabilitation through professional education of children and adolescents. Art Studio operates in this direction within the framework of youth programs. The studio integrates different workshops. Particularly, carpet weaving, teka (felt), cloisonné, engraving, wood carving, ceramics, iconography and carpentry workshops and

classes of architecture and design.

In 2009 four exhibitions of children's works were held. The best works were identified and the authors were encouraged.

In 2009 a three month project was implemented which enabled twenty IDP adolescents to master teka and cloisonné.

In 2009, 170 children lacking care mastered different skills in professional workshops.

## ***SHELTER FOR THE CHILDREN LACKING PARENTAL CARE***

Caritas Georgia opened the first shelter for children in 2000, which later was based in Caritas House (Project under the name “Our House”). The project “Our House” served 30 children. The shelter aims at establishing family environment for the children lacking parental care, and prepare them for future independent life.

In 2009, taking into account the Governmental priorities and consultations from Polish partner organization the transformation of the shelter was decided. Two more family type houses were opened. The children from the project “Our House” were divided in three age groups. 16 children were left in the project “Our House” and the rest 14 children passed in two new family type houses. The new model is more family environment oriented, where children are fully involved in everyday family activities. They provide the children with food, medical care, clothes and personal care items. There is developed an individual development plan for each child – beneficiary. It is necessary to identify desires of each child and offer proper activities for the development of the desired skills. The children learn how to organize free time correctly and goal-oriented. They are involved in educational, cultural and sports and fitness events. At the same time the children learn how to take care of themselves, do the housework which helps them to develop the sense of independence.





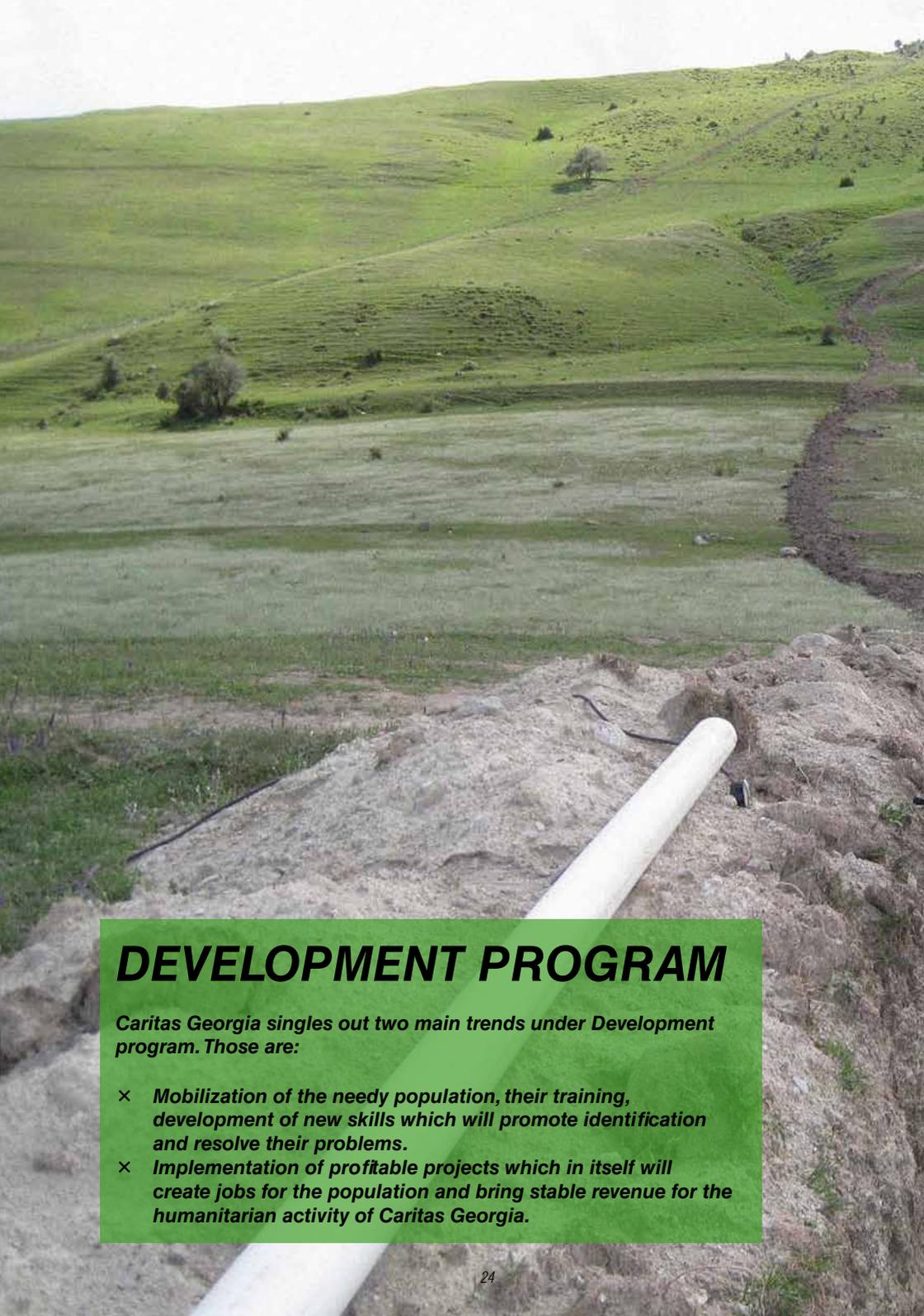
## **WORK WITH STREET CHILDREN**

“Caritas Georgia” started to work with street children in 2007. The first mobile groups (teams) were staffed with volunteers. They used to visit the assembly places of children and they studied their problems on site. At present integrated work is going on with the children. Besides mobile work on site, an open type day center is functioning. The street children have possibility to have a warm shower, wash their clothes and have dinner.

The psychologist is working with the children. There are several study groups (circles) in the center: sewing, computer, decorative carving and embroidering.

In 2009 mobile-complex work was carried out for 300 children.

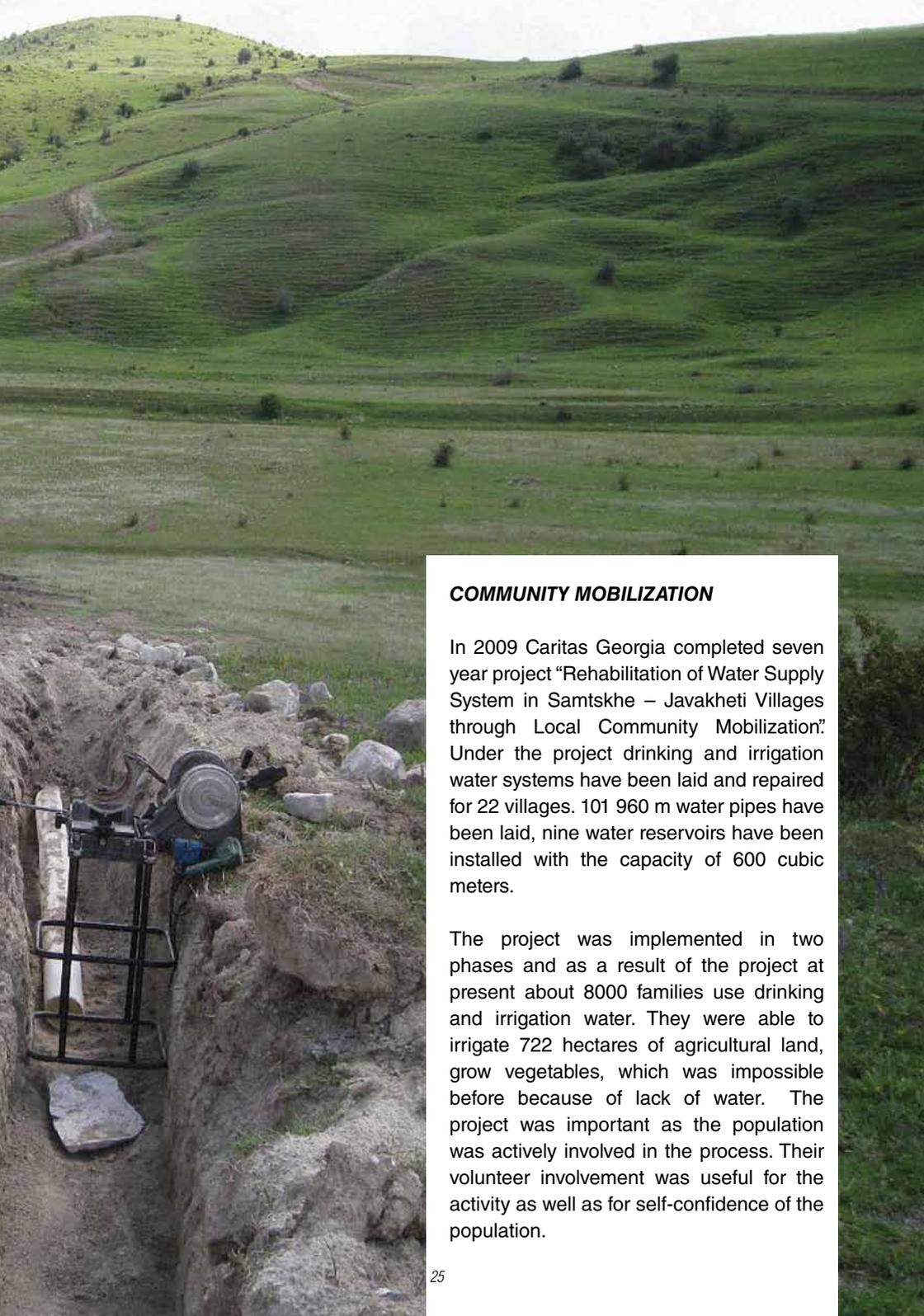


A photograph of a rural landscape with rolling green hills. In the foreground, a white pipe is laid out on a dirt path. The hills are covered in green grass and some small trees. The sky is overcast.

## ***DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM***

***Caritas Georgia singles out two main trends under Development program. Those are:***

- × Mobilization of the needy population, their training, development of new skills which will promote identification and resolve their problems.***
- × Implementation of profitable projects which in itself will create jobs for the population and bring stable revenue for the humanitarian activity of Caritas Georgia.***



### **COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION**

In 2009 Caritas Georgia completed seven year project “Rehabilitation of Water Supply System in Samtskhe – Javakheti Villages through Local Community Mobilization”. Under the project drinking and irrigation water systems have been laid and repaired for 22 villages. 101 960 m water pipes have been laid, nine water reservoirs have been installed with the capacity of 600 cubic meters.

The project was implemented in two phases and as a result of the project at present about 8000 families use drinking and irrigation water. They were able to irrigate 722 hectares of agricultural land, grow vegetables, which was impossible before because of lack of water. The project was important as the population was actively involved in the process. Their volunteer involvement was useful for the activity as well as for self-confidence of the population.

### **INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS**

During 2009 income generating projects of Caritas Georgia continued their activity. Since the very beginning “Caritas Georgia” established four income generating projects.

- × Bakery and Pizzeria “Panetteria,” Tbilisi
- × Bakery “Trento,” Kutaisi
- × Mini-Block Factory
- × Car Repairing Workshop LTD “San Zeno”

The main goals of the income generating projects are: establishment of small enterprises meeting up-to-date standards, assistance of charitable activities, creation of new jobs places and training of youth people. Though global crisis interrupted the work of some of the projects, it was possible to keep stability and we didn't suffer damage.

2009 was successful for Tbilisi bakery/pizza parlour Panetteria which gained much profit in comparison with the previous years. At the same time a repair of new pizza parlour started in the central part of the city which will open in 2010 and bring more profit to the project.







## **EMERGENCY SITUATION PROGRAM**

*In 2009 Caritas Georgia continued to support the population who suffered as a result of conflict of August 2008. Two main directions will be retained within the humanitarian aid framework such as food and non-food assistance, medical and psychological rehabilitation.*



## IN 2009

- × After of conflict of August 2008, Caritas Georgia opened the Soup-Kitchen and 800 individuals received dinner and bread at the collective center for IDPs in Isani district;
- × 1100 persons received the bread products on daily basis.
- × 430 children passed rehabilitation course and received informal education;
- × 1670 individuals received winter footwear;
- × 1000 families received domestic appliances (gas-cylinders, pots, set of plates);
- × 553 families and 25 organizations of 13 villages in Gori region received 1500 m3 of firewood;
- × 2320 families received 116000 kilograms of flour;
- × Population of Ergneti village in the conflict zone received 4700 m2 of roofing material.
- × 15200 kg. second-hand cloths were distributed;
- × 15 696kg. food products were dispensed;
- × 20 internally displaced young people gained teqa and enameling professional skills.



Alongside with humanitarian aid, Caritas Georgia started to implement long-term/development projects within the Emergency program.

A kindergarten was refurbished in the Shavshebi village which will serve along with local children the children living in the settlement of IDPs. The building is not for children only but it will be a venue for the public gathering and community mobilization activities.

Construction/rehabilitation of two kindergartens started in Gori region in June, 2009. The former building of kindergarten, was totally rehabilitated in Plavi village and the construction of new building started in Gori town district of Tsmindatskali near the IDP settlement called "Karaleti". Mentioned two kindergartens will be finished in 2010 and host in total 180 children.



Our Facilitating Partner – Deutscher Caritasverband, nominated by Caritas Internationalis sent in September 2009 Mr. Claus Hemker, consultant architect for the External Evaluation of the project. It was very useful exercise for us and we are very pleased for some tools the consultant has shared with us during his visit to the sites and our working session at the Caritas office.



On 8 September 2009 in Racha-Lechkhumi mountainous region of Georgia was grade 6 earthquake. The earthquake damaged and destroyed many houses and hundreds of people were left homeless. Caritas Georgia managed from the very beginning to mobilize forces and help the population left in open air. The Caritas team delivered 200 tents and 462 sleeping-bags and handed over to the local administration. Furthermore, Caritas together with the Embassy of Poland distributed 80 child sleeping beds and mattresses.

Project of rehabilitation of kindergarten damaged as a result of the earthquake was designed in 2009 and will start in 2010 in Imereti town of Sachkhere.



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