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Swiss Cooperation Office  
South Caucasus

# Rebuilding Returnees' Housing and Livelihoods in Ergneti (Shida Kartli)



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<b>Project title</b>	<b>Rebuilding Returnees' Housing and Livelihoods in Ergneti (Shida Kartli)</b>
<b>General information</b>	Region: Village Ergneti, Shida Kartli (Georgia) Duration: 15.11.2011 - 30.04.2013 Budget: CHF 1'060'000 (SDC); CHF 59'070 (DRC)
<b>Project partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementing partner: Danish Refugee Council (DRC)</li><li>• Institutional partner: Shida Kartli Governor's Office in Gori, Gori District Municipality</li></ul>
<b>Project objectives</b>	The project aims at contributing to the improvement of living conditions and increase of livelihoods of returnees to Ergneti village (Shida Kartli) to make their return and reintegration sustainable and stable in a long-run.
<b>Background</b>	The August 2008 Russian-Georgian war had a major impact on the Shida Kartli region, adjacent to Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia. For several months after the war, a large part of this region constituted a buffer zone, controlled by the Russian troops, from which much of its population fled. A majority of residents has since returned, however, they had to cope with the loss of homes, land plots, livestock, transport and agricultural equipment. The economic and social situation in Shida Kartli deteriorated considerably. 414 female and 336 male returnees to Ergneti do not have adequate living conditions and livelihood means to stay permanently in their houses, while if assisted they are committed to remain there and revive their sources of revenue. Return process needs to be supported not only with housing projects but with broader livelihood

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and economic regeneration packages to address short- and long-term needs. The given project is in line with the Government's goal and Swiss Cooperation Strategy for the South Caucasus 2008-2012 as it envisages the support of the displaced and other conflict affected population's integration in Georgia in a comprehensive and balanced way.

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### Project activities

- Individual assessments of all damaged houses of returnee families will be conducted together with local authorities; final beneficiaries will be selected jointly by the project partners.
- An in-depth economic assessment of Ergneti village will be undertaken to measure economic development opportunities/constraints, existing potential of natural and human resources, economic recovery options, etc.
- DRC will contribute to the increase of the conflict affected population's income-earning capacities by distributing small business grants on the basis of business applications.

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### Expected results

- 51 houses of returnees are repaired, thus prevented from further deterioration.
- 51 returnee families are able to move into their pre-conflict homes.
- Approximately 50 small business grants are distributed to returnees; as a result the returnees get increased income-earning opportunities.
- Ergneti village and its inhabitants benefit from having an economic assessment of the village, which can be shared with the Government and donors for further follow-up.



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