



Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism (COBERM)

*Funded by the European Union and implemented
by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*



What is COBERM

COBERM is a rapid response mechanism that aims to enhance peace dividends and foster a peaceful transformation of conflicts in Georgia. COBERM supports confidence building opportunities which seek to prevent and transform conflicts in Georgia through:

- Increase direct people-to-people contacts across conflict divides to counter myths/prejudices and foster the culture of tolerance between and within communities affected and/or at risk of a violent conflict;
- Strengthen local and national peace building initiatives to provide direct peace dividends to communities affected and/or at risk of a violent conflict; and
- Enhance peace and development through increased capacities within communities, civil society, media and governments to mediate political differences in constructive ways.

Progress to Date

To achieve the objectives of COBERM, UNDP Georgia invited individuals, civil society organizations, representatives of academia, national and local authorities to submit their project ideas.

COBERM Round 2

Eighty-six project ideas have been submitted for the second round. Each was evaluated against the set criteria and 35 organizations and initiative groups were invited to submit full project proposals. The proposals were then assessed according to the projects' eligibility, relevance, proposed methodology and sustainability, and 17 projects were selected for funding (total value of EUR 934,481). All projects will be implemented by mid November 2011.

COBERM Round 2 Financial Analyses

Total Amount available for grants	EUR 1,965,750
Round 2 Projects approved for funding	EUR 934,481
Remaining Available Funds	EUR 1,031,269

COBERM Round 2 Thematic Analyses

Theme	EUR	# of projects	%
Youth & education	48,626	2	5
Agriculture & business development	200,214	3	21
Culture & Sports	35,957	2	4
Community Mobilization/Capacity Building	148,499	3	16
People diplomacy, dialogue & policy research	402,448	3	43
Human Rights	42,476	1	5
Health	56,261	1	6
Total	934,481	17	100

Feature Stories

Cheese Market and Bakery in Shida-Kartli

The Cheese Market and Bakery help creating a secure place in the village of Zemo Nikozi for both Ossetians and Georgians by giving them the opportunity to trade cheese and other agricultural products as well as for solving the bread shortage problem in several villages across the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL). The initiative attempts to contribute to confidence building in this area and to support freedom of movement across the ABL. To date, the Cheese Market and Bakery building has been procured, rehabilitated and equipped. Cheese sellers and bakery employees were identified and trained. The Cheese Market and Bakery will start operation in the spring of 2011.

Cooperation of Georgian and Ossetian Farmers

This project aims to train farmers on detecting plant diseases at early stages and on managing pesticides. At the end of the training, farmers will receive express diagnostic tool kits. In addition, vegetable seedlings of modern varieties will be distributed to Georgian and Ossetian farmers for improving their harvest (20-50% cost sharing will be required from the farmers).

Summer Peacekeeping School

Cross-ethnic relations between young people in Abkhazia are in the focus of this project. The summer peacekeeping school will bring together members of the active youth clubs to teach young people communication skills, build confidence, and tackle stereotypes in order to create environment for positive inter-ethnic relations. The summer camp will test a new educational programme that can be replicated in the future.

Future Outlook

COBERM is currently reviewing 60 new project ideas received for the 3rd round. Final decision on the funding will be made by the end of March 2011.

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EUROPEAN UNION

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COBERM Round 2 Project Outlines

#	Project title	Project brief description
1	Georgian-South Ossetian Conflict: Researching Peace	The project is conceived as a parallel research process aimed at exploring prospects for peace and reconciliation in the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict., will be conducted by Georgian analysts on one hand and whereas the South Ossetian analysts, respectively. As a result, a number of policy papers will be published and disseminated among decision-makers and the wider community in Tbilisi, Tskhinvali and Washington, as well as by the internet and media more broadly.
2	Facilitating Cooperation among Georgian and Ossetian Farmers	This project aims to train farmers on detecting plant diseases at early stages and on managing pesticides. At the end of the training, farmers will receive express diagnostic tool kits. In addition, vegetable seedlings of modern varieties will be distributed to Georgian and Ossetian farmers for improving their harvest (with 20-50% cost sharing from the farmers).
3	Support to Akhgori House of Students and Youth	The project aims to provide better educational conditions to local youth in order to create safe and worthy development opportunities for local population and also to generate stable motivation for them to remain in their native area.
4	Summer Peacekeeping School	Cross-ethnic relations between young people in Abkhazia are in the focus of this project. The summer peacekeeping school will bring together members of the active youth clubs to teach young people communication skills, build confidence, and tackle stereotypes in order to create environment for positive inter-ethnic relations. The summer camp will test a new educational programme that can be replicated in the future.
5	Capacity Building of Civil Activists	The project aims to develop new community leaders within South Ossetia as a resource for peace building. Conducting a simple community needs analysis and provide trainings to address the identified needs and certain social problems. As a result of the trainings up to 10 small scale socially useful projects will be implemented.
6	Empowering Georgian and Ossetian Youth in Shida Kartli	The project will contribute to the process of mobilization of resources of the young leaders living in mixed Georgia-Ossetian villages of Shida Kartli region. The project supports strengthening of institutional capacities of local initiative groups through participation in Integrative educational activities and Internships.
7	The other picture of War	The project will collect positive stories about the cases of mutual assistance, support, interaction of people in representative communities divided by conflict. The stories will be collected in special book which is planned to be published in three languages Georgian, English and Russian (500 copies each).
8	Spotlight on Gali - giving a voice to Abkhazia's Georgian community	The project aims to build an enhanced, sustained network of Abkhazian and local Georgian journalists working together. Increase coverage of Gali-related issues in the Abkhazian mainstream media, and awareness of the issues across Abkhazian society. Build capacities of local media workers.
9	Confidence Building in South Ossetia through Economic Co-operation	Contribute to confidence building within South Ossetia by strengthening people-to people contact between Georgian and Ossetian inhabitants including strengthening dialogue between them through economic co-operation. The project helps with development of agricultural farms and wood manufacturing workshops.
10	Development of peace-building potential of the Georgian and Ossetian women	Promote the engagement of Georgian and Ossetian women from South Ossetia into peace-building, creation of conditions for inter - and intra community dialogue. Deepening the understanding of the attitudes and concerns of war-affected women in South Ossetia (Ossetian, Georgian women). Provide trainings focused on both team building and skills building.
11	From Heart to Heart	Organize medical support in Tbilisi for the Abkhaz patients seeking health care across ABL.
12	Research of Identity: Abkhazians living in Adjara	Carry out new research on ethnic and linguistic identity of the Abkhazians living in Adjara, including linguistic and folk materials, collection of video and audio materials on folk and ethnographic features, collect socio-linguistic information with the purpose to create an online electronic data base, share the collected materials and documentaries with inhabitants of Abkhazia.
13	Eyewitness Reporters Cause Change	Contribute to cross-community relations by tackling the problem of information exchange constraints within and between regions of Georgia. Active Involving of local residents and media for proper information dissemination. Conducting public discussions and trainings to contribute to tolerance, and conflict reduction.
14	Peace Journalism for Confidence Building	Enhance closer relations and confidence building between societies divided by the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and August 2008 war, through the deconstruction of enemy images and further cooperation. Creation of a common informational space and elaboration of a joint editorial policy.
15	Georgian-Abkhaz Online Conflict Analysis, Policy, Advocacy	Devise an online course, forum, and repository of materials to directly influence conflict analysis, policy development and advocacy across the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict in nongovernmental and governmental sectors to promote creative problem solving, confidence building, and conflict transformation.
16	Archives Without Borders	The project intends to establish close relationship with the scientists of Abkhazia to incorporate their needs and interests in selection of archive documents to be delivered from the Georgian archives to the Abkhazian side. Digital copies of historical documents will be prepared and handed over to Abkhazian researchers.

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17	Supporting Capacity Building for Provision of Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Services in Abkhazia, Georgia	The Goal of this project is to contribute to confidence building between the sides of the conflict by fostering direct dialogue of health professionals. The project will conduct a workshop on breast and cervical cancer screening guidelines and management which is designed in such a manner, that participants will get acquainted with the modern guidelines for breast and cervical cancer screening programmes and management modalities, as well as will discuss ways forward for introduction of breast and cervical cancer screening programme in Abkhazia and Georgia.
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