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TETRITSKARO LAG HANDED OVER PERSONAL
COMPUTERS TO SCHOOL STUDENTS



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As a Part of Fund-Raising, RDFG and Tetrtskaro LAG Handed Over Personal Computers to the School Students Relying on Modern Technology During COVID-19

The spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has noticeably changed our lives, we have faced new challenges and the virus made us learn the actions that had not been the part of our everyday lives before. The oddest event of our century turned out to be one of the biggest challenges for the educational systems of Georgia and the whole world. Teachers have adapted to the role of remote tutors, and school students have become dependent only on modern technologies – gadgets and the internet.

The new reality has become an exciting adventure for many children, however, those who do not have modern equipment and access to the internet to attend school lessons remotely, have been falling behind the school curriculum activities. Fatima, a third-grader and Zura, a first-grader, found themselves in a similar situation, along with dozens of school students living in the Tetrtskaro municipality - for these young people access to the school education has become a major problem during the COVID-19.



At the same time, when the pandemic took the form of a global challenge, the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) and Tetrtskaro Local Action Group (LAG) decided to help those people in need in the Tetrtskaro municipality who could not handle the crisis on their own. First, the target groups were identified, including the most vulnerable families and school students, then, RDFG and Tetrtskaro LAG raised funds to help them. With 6,911.53 of Georgian Gel accumulated so far, 7 personal computers have been procured, through

which 16 schoolchildren from the different villages of the Tetrtskaro municipality will be able to return to school e-learning activities.

Salome is from the Koda IDP settlement, she is in the tenth grade. Her passion is learning foreign languages, she is fluent in English and Russian. Receiving a personal computer as a gift was especially gratifying for her, because now, in addition to attending school lessons, she will be able to attend a free Spanish language course independently: ***"When I was in the seventh grade, I was***

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given a low grade in one of the subjects, which made me lose the chance to get a personal computer. I am very happy to discover that learning and hardworking are never lost. Receiving this PC now is especially important for me as I'm preparing for the university entrant exams next year".

Mariam and Goderdzi are from the settlement of Manglisi. Goderdzi loves to paint, especially cars. After receiving a computer, he is very excited and is looking forward to attending the history lessons, **"I love the lessons conducted by my teacher Matsatso very much!"**. As for Mariam, she loves dancing, but as their grandmother tells us, the children cannot attend dance or painting classes:

"They have been sitting here in the yard since 10 am, waiting for your appearance. They are so much excited to get back to the school remote activities and to be able to get involved in all that like everyone else. You could not do anything better than this for my children".



In parallel with the procurement of personal computers, RDFG has also provided school students living in the Tetrtskaro Municipality with the internet so that during the pandemic they can get involved not only in remote school lessons but also actively participate in Young Farmers Centers (YFC) activities.

DONATE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED AND SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE E-LEARNING EQUIPMENT

You can still contribute to improving the lives of those people who struggle to cope with the COVID-19 crisis on their own!

To make donation, please, visit www.rdfg.ge

To overcome the crisis caused by the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the money you donate will help people who are left without basic income and have limited access to food; also, the school students who do not have access to the school e-learning equipment due to the lack of computers or internet accessibility, and thus, are falling behind the school curriculum activities.

U.S. Assistance Strengthens Georgia's Response to COVID-19

Tbilisi - May 14, 2020 - USAID/Georgia Mission Director Peter Wiebler joined Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Ioseb Chelidze and Head of Georgia's Emergency Situations Management Service Temur Mghebrishvili handed over field hospital tents provided to Georgia by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The field hospital tents will enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of the Emergency Management Service (EMS) of Georgia and support the safety of communities across Georgia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to a request from the Emergency Management Service (EMS) of Georgia, the USAID Zrda Activity, through its partner the

Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG), rapidly sourced and procured hospital field tents with a total area of more than 45 m² and heated technical field tents with a total area of more than 20 m². The tents will be deployed to quarantine zones across Georgia and after the crisis, will be handed over to the CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) Incidents Response Division (Rapid response team) of the Fire and Rescue Forces Department at the Emergency Management Service of Georgia. Provision of the tents is part of a larger

effort by the U.S. Government to support Georgia's immediate COVID-19 response and help build its emergency preparedness capacity through upgraded equipment and enhanced training.

“USAID thanks to the generosity of the American people has been able to support the Government of Georgia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic here in the country. Here with our partners at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, EMS we handed over 2 tents that USAID and our partners procured to help EMS respond to cope





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RDFG'S RAPID RESPONSE TO COVID-19

and ultimately control the spread of the virus in Georgia. It is obviously important for Georgia's immediate response to keep its citizens healthy and safe, but also it's critical to get the country back on a path to economic growth and stability that USAID and US Government have been supporting Georgia so long to continue", - USAID/Georgia Mission Director Peter Wiebler said on May 14.

"On behalf of the Government of Georgia, I would like to take this opportunity and once again thank the U.S. Government for its continuous support to Georgia in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak. Handing over these field hospital tents is one more signal of the strength of the Georgian-American partnership. We hope this assistance will further enhance preparedness and response capabilities of the EMS as well as safety of communities across the country", - Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs,



Ioseb Chelidze said on Thursday.

To date, the U.S. Government, through USAID and other agencies, has deployed a range of resources to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 globally. In Georgia, the U.S. Government has responded rapidly to the pandemic by partnering with Georgia's Government, civil society, and private sector to prevent the spread of disease, support essential public services, and help prepare for the economic recovery from the pandemic.

Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) works

through its Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Center to enhance the resilience of communities to disasters caused by manmade and natural hazards and promote the culture of prevention through provision of coordinated and systematic awareness-raising, capacity building and technical assistance in the field of DRR to communities, state and non-state actors at national and local levels. In the framework of the USAID Zrda Activity in Georgia, the mentioned center implements disaster risk reduction activities in project target municipalities.

For more information, please, visit: www.rdfg.ge

RDFG's Remote Services and E-Learning Activities as a Rapid Response to COVID-19

Tetritskaro Municipality, Spring 2020 – as a rapid response to the COVID-19 crisis, with the support of the Tetritskaro Local Action Group (LAG), the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) moved the ENPARD Tetritskaro project to an electronic model. Despite the current situation, the Tetritskaro LAG General Assembly (89 people) continued activities envisaged by the project's grants component and discussed and approved the results of the third grant competition remotely. At the same time, the Tetritskaro LAG has been actively working on an awareness-raising campaign about the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), under which information posters in Georgian, Azerbaijani and Armenian were being distributed both electronically and locally.

For the continuous implementation of the various actions planned within the project, the following activities were conducted by RDFG: Employment Shuttle –



individual and group sessions electronically, webinars; Video materials for the Tetritskaro LAG members prepared by the RDFG team; Communication with the Tetritskaro LAG members electronically; Provision of awareness-raising materials on COVID-19 through the RDFG Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) Center; Provision of video materials for the project's VET component; Video training sessions for the Young Farmers Centers (YFC) through the RDFG Farmer Field Schools.

On March 11, 2020, to prevent further spread of the COVID-19, in line with the recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO), the

Government of Georgia and the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) moved to the remote working model. All planned events and meetings requiring the involvement of the rural population were canceled – RDFG team continued conducting all the projects' activities electronically.

For more information, please, visit: www.rdfg.ge



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SUCCESS STORIES DURING COVID 19

RDFG beneficiary in Tetritskaro Donated her Paintings to Help Vulnerable Families During Covid-19

Ia Arsenishvili is a Georgian painter, her drawings are well-known among art lovers - she has been participating in local and international exhibitions for decades. Ia is from the Tetritskaro municipality, Kvemo Kartli region. She inherited a country house from her ancestors and returned to the city of Tetritskaro to launch a family hotel together with her 3 children. "Artist's House" is a place with a special concept - each room is represented with its unique interior design decorated with Ia's paintings, hand-made plates, porcelain dishes, and beautiful mirrors with colorful tiles. Annually, the place hosts Ia's masterclasses and biennials, attracting Georgian artists, as well as foreign visitors.

Ia Arsenishvili is one of the winners of the EU- funded project "Rural Development for



for Sustainable Growth of the Tetritskaro Municipality". Among the applications for the second grant competition of the project, Tetritskaro Local Action Group (LAG) considered Ia's project to be especially important to support the development of rural tourism, as the latter is one of the main priorities of the ENPARD Tetritskaro project. With the grant amount of 32 722 GEL obtained in the framework of the project, an art workshop will be arranged in the yard, renovation of an existing conference hall will be accomplished, bathrooms and furniture will be added to the house, and the yard will be improved with the new pavement.

The beneficiary believes that the implementation of the project will allow her to hold more larger-scale masterclasses and biennials, thus, make the Tetritskaro Municipality more attractive for local and international art-lovers and tourists:

"Before I started running my family hotel, I got an international guide certificate and traveled to lots of regions of Georgia to get acquainted with how other family hotels



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SUCCESS STORIES DURING COVID 19

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work. I often host tourists who are not accompanied either by guides or translators. When I realize that they know nothing about the place, I try to introduce the municipality, its history, and often take the guests for sightseeing, too".

As usual, Ia spends a lot of time in the "Artist's House", trying to offer the most comfortable and diverse services to her guests. The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly changed Ia's agenda. at the first stage, she stayed in the municipality and helped local vulnerable families with basic items and food. However, after the municipality was quarantined, she returned to Tbilisi to her children and continued working. Unfortunately, she cannot support remotely those locals left without basic income and food during the crisis.

Recently, Ia heard about the Tetrtskaro Local Action Group (LAG) and the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia joint donation campaign, aiming to help local vulnerable families



and decided to donate her paintings to the charity fund:

"Anyone could electronically select a painting from the album that matched their taste. The more expensive a painting was sold, the better, as the money was directly transferred to the charity fund. Information concerning how the LAG is supporting concrete families with the donated money is transparent and gradually updated on the LAG and RDFG web pages".

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Georgian healthcare system effectively copes with the pandemic caused by the novel Coronavirus. However, in some regions of the country the number

of people infected with the Covid-19 is relatively high, making it necessary to declare the quarantine in those areas. Unfortunately, the Tetrtskaro municipality is one of them. Mentioned reality has further aggravated the daily lives of the families left without the basic income and food.

Considering the reality the municipality now faces, the Tetrtskaro LAG and RDFG are raising funds to help the most vulnerable families living in Tetrtskaro and children who, due to lack of proper equipment, do not have access to the e-learning materials and as a result fall behind school curriculum activities.

For more information, please, visit:

www.tetrtskarolag.ge

www.rdfg.ge



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SUCCESS STORIES DURING COVID 19

Innovative Approach of the ENPARD Tetrtskaro Beneficiary in Response to Covid-19 Challenge

Giorgi Avchaleli, 32, is from the village of Marabda of the Tetrtskaro Municipality. Over the years, he and his father have successfully run a local agriculture machineries store. While selling such kind of goods, Giorgi noticed that there was a great demand for agriculture machineries services, too, however, there was not a local provider with high-quality and modern equipment in the municipality. This is where the idea came from – to start a business that would offer modern agri-services to the local farmers.

Giorgi believed that to achieve his goal, it was necessary to get acquainted with the practices of Western countries – so he traveled to Europe several times and was introduced to the modern approaches in the



field of agriculture. During his trip to Germany, he met his future wife with whom he returned to his village in Georgia and soon got financial support in the framework of the EU-funded ENPARD Tetrtskaro grant competition.

With the obtained grant amount of 30,370 GEL, Giorgi's project was provided with agriculture equipment, which offers unprecedented services at an optimal price. "Agro House" is the name of the center, which is currently headed by Giorgi and his wife together: **"As usual, locals choose us because we have new**

equipment and offer high-quality services – let's take corn sowing for example. The quality of such service is reflected in the fact that during the sowing process, our equipment does not leave a place between crops, as well as due to the small size of the equipment, we cultivate almost every part of the land. That is why one prefers to pay more and get the highest-quality services".

According to Giorgi, the awareness of the "Agro House" has significantly increased during the last year. For comparison, he



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shows his own statistical analysis, according to which he made a total of 15 orders in April 2019, while this year he cultivated 65 plots of land in the same period. Moreover, 35% of his customers have cultivated the land for the first time.

In the framework of the Governmental regulations restricting the activities of various fields during the spread of the novel Coronavirus, agro-works were not included, therefore, Giorgi continued his works as usual, applying innovative approach in his practice – his main task was to follow the safety standards and in parallel to provide the customers with the services without interruption: ***“Receiving the order, its implementation and monitoring looks like this: the customer electronically sends me the cadastral code of the land he wants to cultivate, after which I take the responsibility for the highest quality of***

the required works. Before cultivation of the land, as well as during the process and after the completion of the works, the customer is sent a photo-video material so that he can monitor the process himself. Finally, he can pay by bank transfer or by VISA/Master Card. Most importantly, each tractor has a constantly updated supply of disinfectants, face masks, and disposable gloves”.

In the framework of the EU-funded ENPARD Programme, Tetrtskaro Local Action Group (LAG) General Assembly considered Giorgi's project especially important to achieve one of the project main priorities – support the competitiveness and modernization of agricultural and non-agricultural initiatives. Thus, Giorgi Avchaleli got funding of 30,370 GEL to develop his local agricultural service named “Agro House”.

Within the framework of ENPARD Tetrtskaro

project, Giorgi Avchaleli was handed 2 tractors and one was procured by him as a contribution to his business idea – all the mentioned tractors have different volumes. Furthermore, his business was equipped with 2 arable plows, 2 vertical rototillers, cultivators, 2 lawn-mowers, hay collector, field treatment apparatus, fruit treatment apparatus, fertilizer, importer sowing machine, corn and bean sowing machine, potato Sowing, potato extractor, and land sowing machine – all procured and handed within the project.

Tetrtskaro Local Action Group (LAG) was established with the support of the EU-funded ENPARD project “Rural Development for Sustainable Growth in the Tetrtskaro Municipality” implemented by Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG). The LAG serves as a multisectoral cooperation platform and brings together civil society, private and public sectors to promote the local development process in the municipality. The Tetrtskaro LAG, with a membership of 89 Tetrtskaro residents, represents 20 local communities, including national and religious minorities, as well as IDPs and eco-migrants residing in the Tetrtskaro municipality.



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ENPARD TETRITSKARO GRANTS COMPETITION RESULTS

The Results of the ENPARD Tetrtskaro Third Grant Competition is Now Available

*All in all, 19 rural initiatives
have been supported*

In the framework of the EU-funded project “Rural Development for Sustainable Growth for Tetrtskaro Municipality”, Tetrtskaro local action group (LAG) General Assembly remotely discussed and approved the results of the third grant competition. All in all, 19 rural initiatives have been supported.

The third stage funded projects per meet the priorities of the Tetrtskaro Local Development Strategy (LDS) 2018-2022, elaborated by the Tetrtskaro Local Action Group in 2018:

- Support local tourism development – **3 applications.**
- Support competitiveness and modernization of the agricultural and non-agricultural

initiatives – **9 applications.**

- Environmental protection, management of natural resources and DRR – **3 application.**
- Development/rehabilitation of rural infrastructure – **4 applications.**

The mentioned 19 rural development initiatives funded within the third phase of the grant competition, facilitate to create, and preserve 99 workplaces, responding to the increase income and livelihood sources of the targeted community representatives.

For the results of the grant competition, follow the [link](#).

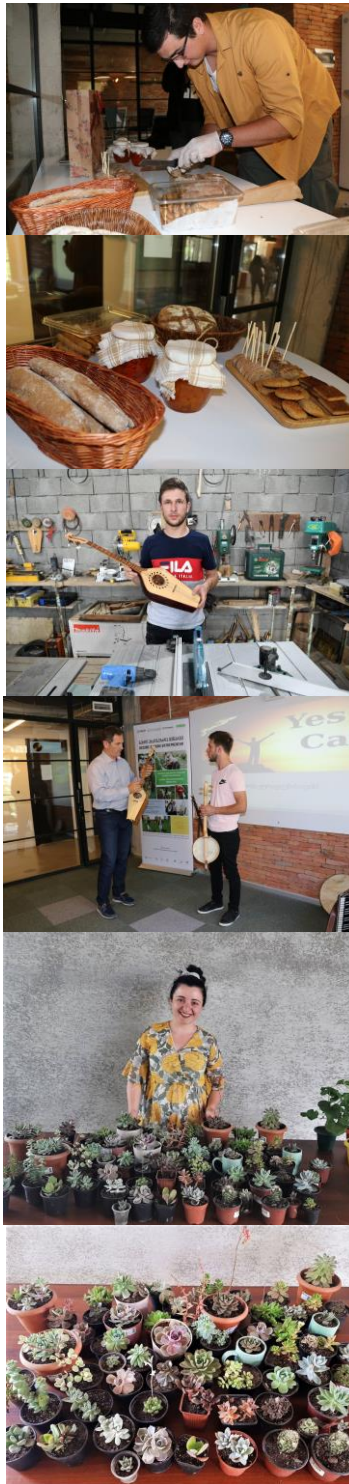
The Project “Rural Development for Sustainable Growth for Tetrtskaro Municipality” is implemented by the Association Rural Development for Future Georgia (RDFG) with the financial support of European Union, under the European Neighborhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development in

Georgia – ENPARD II. The project partners are Agro-Technology Association, ATA and Lithuanian Local Action Groups Network, VVTG.



RDFG is Announcing for the Participation in the Final Phase of the Youth Entrepreneurship Program

Association Rural
 Development for Future
 Georgia (RDFG), within the
 USAID Zrda Activity in
 Georgia, is announcing for
 the participation in the
 phase III of the Regional
 Youth Entrepreneurship
 Program (Program) aiming
 to strengthen rural youth
 through entrepreneurship.
 Within the program, at least
 3 winner business projects
 will be selected by the
 Grant Selection Committee
 and will be awarded grants
 with the maximum value of
 10 000 GEL per project.
 The Program is supported
 by Enterprise Georgia,
 Creative Georgia,
 Georgia's Innovation and
 Technology Agency,
 National Tourism
 Administration, Agricultural
 Projects' Management
 Agency, Financial Inclusion
 Organization Crystal,
 National Bank of Georgia,
 and TBC Bank.



Within the I and II phases of
 the program held in
 Summer and Fall of 2019,
 10 winner projects were
 eventually selected and
 awarded grants.

Meet the winners of the program's phase I:

Giorgi Khuroshvili Living
 Near the Occupational
 Border Line-

<https://bit.ly/2yUkAxd>

Salome Kardava Thinking
 to Bring her Parents from
 the Other Side of the
 Occupational Line:

<https://bit.ly/2yWqhLh>

Giorgi Niparishvili
 Preserving Georgian Folk
 Tradition Inherited from
 Ancestors:

<https://bit.ly/3gHrHKJ>

**To get more information
 about the project and to
 register, please, visit:**

<https://bit.ly/2BiyB8K>



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