



Enhance Psychosocial Rehabilitation in Surami (EPRS) - Project Proposal

Problem Description

People with mental health problems represent one of the most vulnerable and isolated groups in Georgia, who are subject to systematic and drastic violations of basic human rights. The living conditions and practices of ill-treatment in inpatient psychiatric institutions were brought to the attention of wider society by the special TV report¹ preceded by the numerous monitoring reports by the Public Defender of Georgia² and non-governmental human rights organizations³. Particularly poor conditions were revealed in East Georgia Mental Health Centre⁴ (hereinafter "Centre"), which were evaluated as degrading and alarming requiring urgent actions.

Rotary Club Tbilisi Ambassador (RCTA) conducted many site visits to the Centre and as expected observed extremely poor infrastructural conditions, hampering the restoration of health of patients. The survey revealed that due to the lack of space, patients with severe cases of psychosis are placed with patients who do not experience similar severity of mental health issues, which hinders therapeutic treatment. In order to provide patients with severe and chronic mental health conditions with effective multidisciplinary treatment, including art, labor and recreational therapies, one of the hospital buildings has to be **reconstructed and the patients with chronic mental health has to be accommodated there. It is also necessary to develop hospital-based programs of trainings and work integration, in order to promote the psychosocial rehabilitation and support economic development of the community.**

Currently, a separate building which should accommodate patients with chronic state has extremely poor hygienic conditions: there is no heating system and cold/hot water, sewerage system is outdated, restrooms and bathrooms are not functional and persistent unpleasant odors in the corridors creates unhealthy environment for living. Due to the above, the building has been closed. The hospital management has acquired co-funding to renovate the restrooms/bathrooms, water, heating and sewerage systems.

Project Objectives and Activities

RCTA proposes a 24-month project – to Enhance Psychosocial Rehabilitation in Surami (EPRS), which aims *to create adequate psychosocial rehabilitation environment for persons with mental health issues and support economic development of the community.*

Objective 1: To improve water, heating and sanitation infrastructure and promote better hygiene standards for the patients in remission/chronic mental health state, personnel and family members. Patients who are in chronic state will receive basic treatment with medication as well as undergo proper multidisciplinary psychological rehabilitation in the separate renovated building. The patients will have increased opportunities of privacy and what is most important - adequate living environment.

¹ <https://www.imedi.ge/ge/video/21870/patsientebis-koveldgiuroba-suramis-psiqiatriul-klinikashi--imedis-kviris-reportaji-dakhuruli-zonidan>

² https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/OPCAT/NPM/NPM_Georgia_2017.pdf

³ <http://www.humanrights.ge/admin/editor/uploads/pdf/fsiqiatriuli-eng-fuul.pdf>

⁴ Formerly known as Surami Psychiatric Hospital

The project will provide rehabilitation for both the restrooms and bathrooms in the building for only 42 sq. m. from the 570 sq. m. total area. The works also cover replacement of the sewerage system, installation of hot/cold water and heating system. The design will take into account the special needs of patients and women.

Along with creating the adequate infrastructure, the project also intends to promote better hygiene standards for the patients, personnel and visiting family members. The group of professionals involving psychologist, social worker, occupational instructor and gynecologist conduct 4 one-day seminars on the hygiene practices and self-care for patients, personnel and family members. The budget required for this phase is **18,722 USD**.

Objective 2: Support economic empowerment of the Persons with mental health issues and the community in general.

The project aims to enhance agricultural working skills and knowledge of the patients with mental health issues, who have spent many years in the institution and need to be ready for the social and economic reintegration in the community. The Centre provides services to people with mental health issues who live in rural regions of Shida Kartli and Samtskhe Javakheti. Therefore after leaving the clinic, the patients will have enough skills and knowledge to work on land and earn for living. Within the project **two greenhouses** will be built on the territory of the Centre, where patients have opportunity to plant, take care and harvest the vegetables, walk in green and live in ecologically clean environment. The project will hire two specialists locally who will take care of the two greenhouses and deliver the patients 2 theoretical and continuous practical trainings in effective agricultural work. The Centre has 35997 sq.m. territory out of which only one-third is exploited, the rest of the territory is free and can be used for building the greenhouses. The two greenhouses will occupy 400 sq. meters area and harvested vegetables will be consumed by the local community.

Objective 3: Empowerment of the Patients with mental health issues by treatment in a special clinic on site.

The patients no longer need to do nothing and spend their day without constant treatment and they don't have to face the struggles alone. Whether they are dealing with an emotional, stress-related or psychiatric issue, they'll get help from a trained care team who rehabilitate them and treat all mental illnesses in adults at a state-of-the-art facility. They'll have the support, privacy and treatment they need to get back to their best self as much as possible.

Objective 4: Raise Awareness of the society and advocacy campaign for multiplying results in the other mental health centers.

The case of the East Georgia Mental Health Centre will be the showcase for the government of Georgia and donor organizations and will work as an example for devoting resources to the other Mental Health Centres similar to Surami Centre. There are 8 other Mental Health Centres like this in the country and the patients undergoing treatment in any of those experience same poor practices as described above.

Project will prepare and share materials in the communities in order to raise awareness about the rights of the persons with mental health problems in 9 regions of Georgia where the Centres are located. The materials will include the flyers and brochures and electronic newsletters to reach the society through social media.

Rotary Club Tbilisi Ambassador

Project will do advocacy with the government to encourage them creating adequate living and treatment conditions for the patients of the other 8 Mental Health Centers. The project team will conduct totally 9 meetings with the regional and central government to inform them in details about the showcase of East Georgia Mental Health Centre.

The project team will conduct continuous monitoring and evaluation of the project. The representatives will visit the site every three month to assess the progress of the works undertaken and ensure that activities are following the initial plan given in the project proposal. Throughout 24 month project team will visit the Centre 8 times and have continuous contact with the Centre management.

The project will focus on the most viable objective that consider with Government Mission & Vision and lies in one area of focus. We suggest that we focus on Training and the clinic.

The club has already received pledges from other clubs in the District and a club in the United States for about \$20,000. The minimum Rotary Foundation Grant may not be less than \$30,000 and not less than 15,000 from the World Fund of the Rotary Foundation.

The club is already qualifies to apply for the grant but without The Ministry of Health approval and signing an MOU, nothing may happen.