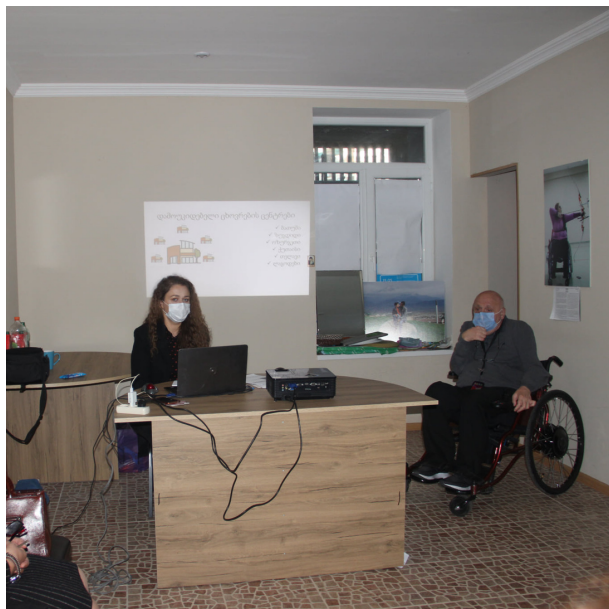


## Monthly Newsletter

# USAID – INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM IN GEORGIA



## ABOUT THE PROJECT:

In support of Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Georgian law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article N.5, the USAID Independent Living Program in Georgia will establish Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in six municipalities (Batumi, Zugdidi, Ozurgeti, Kutaisi, Telavi and Lagodekhi) of Georgia to assist persons with disabilities (PwDs) to achieve and maintain independent living (IL) by helping them to access services, overcome social, psychological and physical barriers, and by linking local municipalities, PwDs and service providers.

# RECENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

## PROGRAM VISITS TARGET MUNICIPALITIES RECRUITING LEADERS:

From the 16th through the 21st, thirteen informational meetings were held in the communities of Batumi, Kutaisi, Lagodekhi, Ozurgeti, Telavi, and Zugdidi. Over 110 interested persons attended.

Through the Program we're seeking to recruit 33 local "Leaders" (6 in each community) who will be employed at the ILCs. These "Leaders" will consist of Persons with Disabilities and/or family members and will serve the community as mentors, resources for information, and advocates.



## PROGRAM SELECTS LEADERS

After many competitive applications and interviews, the program selected 39 leaders for the ILCs in the six target municipalities.

## SELECTION OF TRAINERS

The Program had a call for trainers and based an intensive screening, have begun the selection. The trainings were planned to be in person, however in order to keep everyone safe and according to the regulations the trainings will be held online.

## THE UPCOMING TRAININGS FOR DECEMBER ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- The Philosophy of Independent Living (Introduction)  
- CIL Gia Dzeladze
- Understanding of Education systems' services for persons with disabilities (1 day)  
- Marika Zakareishvili
- Understanding of Social services for persons with disabilities (1 day)  
- Nana Gochiashvili ; Salome Chichinadze
- Understanding of Health services for persons with disabilities (1 day)  
- Ketevan Goginashvili
- Understanding Development Disorders and their needs (3 days)  
- MAC
- Occupational and physical therapy (4 days)  
- MAC

## KICK-OFF EVENT:

Over 50 participants attended and participated in a Program Kick-off Event, discussing the Program objectives, key challenges, and areas of collaboration. The participants included the USAID, Ministry of Health, Labor, and Social Affairs (MOHLSA), Ministry of Rural Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Coalition for Independent Living (CIL), National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), Caucasus Resource Research Center (CRRRC), and many other important stakeholders.

## FUTURE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

### TRAINING OF LEADERS

The 37 selected Leaders will participate in 11 intensive training modules before acting as leaders in the ILC. In December, the Leaders will attend the first round of online trainings on the following topics:

- Understanding Disability Needs
- Occupational therapy
- Inclusive, Social and Health Care services.

## AREA TO BE INVOLVED

Stakeholder meeting: January 28, 2021