

Humanitarian Accountability Framework (HAF)

November 2011

1. Brief description of the regional programme

DRC has been operational in South Caucasus since 1996 where a social and economic rehabilitation program was launched in Azerbaijan, and in 1999 a similar programme was established in Georgia. Since the conflict in Georgia in August 2008, DRC's programme in Georgia including Abkhazia has focussed on IDP shelter, livelihoods, legal assistance and protection. In Georgia (excluding Abkhazia), DRC has implemented projects to support civil society and government structures to better address the needs of IDPs. In Azerbaijan, DRC supports undocumented refugees from Chechnya, Iran and Afghanistan with livelihoods assistance. DRC works with IDP communities in rural communities with livelihoods and youth participation.

Today the programmes in South Caucasus are merged into one operation in accordance with the DRC regional assistance framework with a regional head office in Tbilisi and several field offices in our area of operation. The current portfolio includes activities such as shelter rehabilitation, minor infrastructure projects, economic development, technical support on migration issues, community development and capacity development. DRC is currently working in Azerbaijan, Georgia proper and Abkhazia and our beneficiaries include returnees, IDPs, vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants, as well as Ministries, municipalities and national NGOs.

2. DRC's objectives, partners and stakeholders in South Caucasus

The objective of DRC in the South Caucasus is to provide displaced individuals with durable solutions through voluntary return and local integration sustained by multi-sectoral support which includes vulnerable conflict-affected local residents and government structures. The overall objective is supported by the following activities:

- In West and Central Georgia, DRC works to improve the living conditions, coping mechanisms and local integration of IDPs living in temporary housing through social rehabilitation, institutional development, shelter repair, micro-enterprise development and advocacy.
- In Abkhazia, DRC promotes sustainable livelihoods for spontaneous returnees and local population/host communities through income generation, shelter and community mobilisation programmes.
- In Azerbaijan, DRC projects focus on local integration and sustainable return options mainly by micro-enterprise development and support to civil society.

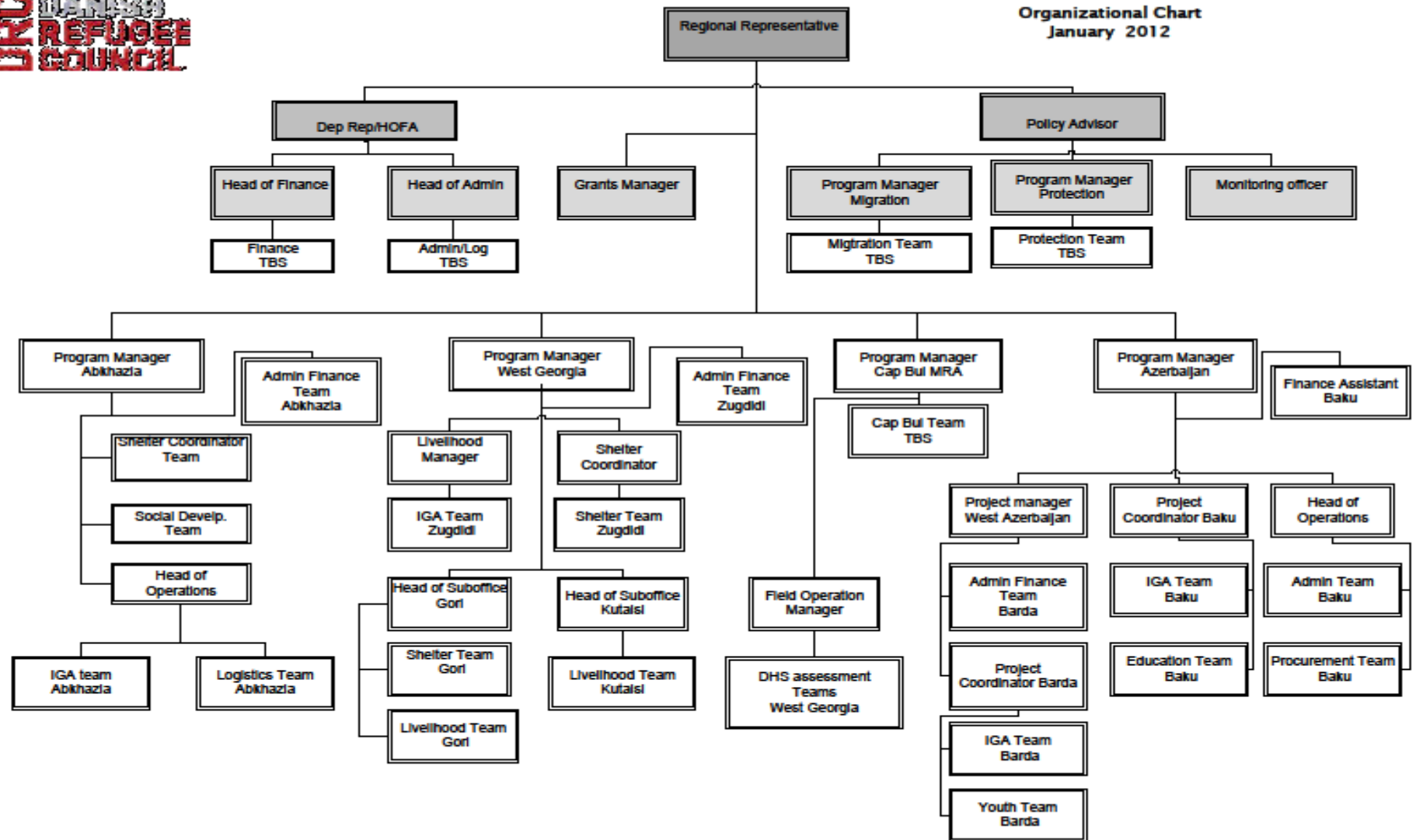
Partners and stakeholders

The following partners currently support DRC's work in the South Caucasus as donors:

- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Union (EU)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
- StatoilHydro
- Private donations
- DRC's own funds

DRC cooperates and coordinates its work with local municipalities and governmental structures in all programme areas as well as with many local, non-governmental and international organisations active in the region.

3. Organigram for DRC South Caucasus including staff line functions



4. In addition to DRC's global Humanitarian Accountability Framework, DRC South Caucasus is committed to working within or meeting the requirements of the following codes and standards:

- Labour codes in all areas of operation
- NGO registration requirements and visa regimes
- Internationally acknowledge standards for humanitarian work (e.g. SPHERE standards and HAP standards generally)
- DRC Code of Conduct for employees

5. DRC South Caucasus relations to beneficiaries

DRC seeks to the extent possible to ensure beneficiaries' participation throughout the project cycle. This is e.g. secured through the two approaches/initiatives explained below:

Community Based Development - DRC seeks to work closely with communities and in this process addresses the needs identified by beneficiaries themselves. DRC staff are in constant dialogue with beneficiaries in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project using participatory approaches. Through this process, communities are empowered to identify their most pressing needs, which DRC will then respond to and advocate for in relevant forums.

Complaint mechanisms - A formal complaints mechanism operates across the region. Communities and beneficiaries are informed by DRC staff about the complaints mechanism and how to use it. All valid complaints are accepted and responded to by the DRC complaints board.

DRC South Caucasus is committed to provision of information to beneficiaries and other stakeholders on the projects that are implemented through the Project Information Sheets (PIS) which are available in local languages in each office across the region. Quarterly progress reports are available as well in local languages.

6. List of current projects

Project title	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Relevant authorities	Funding donors	Implementing Partners
Capacity Development Programme for the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodations	Capacity building of MRA and support of privatization process	MRA, IDPs	MRA	EC TA	N/A
Durable Solutions - A way forward for IDPs	Support to durable housing solutions and reintegration for IDPs	IDPs, vulnerable host population, MRA	MRA (local and central level)	SIDA	NRC, GYLA, SPF, LPI, OFFH, IDPWA, Fund Sukhumi, CHCA
Abkhazia Economic Development	IGA	Residents and returnees	Local administration	Danish MFA	N/A
Return & Resettlement –Children’s Participation in Decision Making	To empower Internally Displaced Children in Azerbaijan to make their concerns, opinions and desires in matters related to resettlement and return included in planning and implementation of the return and resettlement programmes of the Government of Azerbaijan	IDP Children’s, parents and teachers associations.	Cabinet of Ministry for IDP’s and refugees.	EU	Local NGO’s – Azerbaijan Young Lawyer Union (AYLU) and HAYAT
Local integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan – Strategies of Improving Lives in Displacement	Stabilizing and improving living conditions of refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan	Refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan	Cabinet of Ministry for IDP’s and refugees	EU	Azerbaijan Young Lawyer Union (AYLU)
Vulnerable Household Accommodation and Community Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project in Samegrelo, West Georgia	Basic Shelter Assistance to vulnerable population Community Infrastructure Project	Local Vulnerable households Extremely Vulnerable Households	Social Department	SDC	N/A
Durable Housing Solutions Framework (DHS)	Durable Housing	IDPs, MRA	MRA, local authorities	EU	N/A
Integ.Rehab. and Income Support to Residents and Returnees in Abkhazia	Shelter	Residents and Returnees	Local Administration	SDC	N/A
Consolidating Reintegration Activities in Georgia (CRAG)	Reintegration	Returning migrants, Georgian institutions	Govt of Georgia	EU	ICMPD , NALAG
Small and Medium Enterprise projects - Azerbaijan	Improving self-reliance of IDPs and boost economic activity in New Government Funded IDP Settlements (NGFS).	IDPs	Cabinet of Ministry for IDP’s and refugees	Statoil	N/A
Increased livelihood opportunities for returnees to South Abkhazia	IGA	Residents and Returnees	Local Administration	UNHCR	N/A

Local integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan – Strategies of Improving Lives in Displacement	Stabilizing and improving living conditions of refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan	Refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan	Cabinet of Ministry for IDP's and refugees.	UNHCR	Azerbaijan Young Lawyer Union (AYLU)
Livelihood Support to Ecological Migrants	Livelihood Grants to Ecological Migrants	Eco migrants		DRC Own Funds	N/A
Resettlement in Poti	SMEs, training of municipal officials, development of an employment strategy	Municipal Authorities	Poti Municipality	EU	Civitas Georgica
Increasing the level of self-reliance and economic integration of IDPs residing in Samegrelo	IGA	IDPs who received durable solution	Local Administration	UNHCR	N/A

7. Essence of Accountability Baseline and Accountability Improvement Plan

- The contextual HAF has been developed and is available through DRC's website and in field offices (in local languages).
- Project information sheets developed, translated and available in all offices
- DRC-SC Regional office in Tbilisi is hiring for the "Accountability and Contracts Officer" who will be the focal point for all HAP issues in the region (hiring by the end of December, 2011)
- Having a dedicated person for HAP in 2010 DRC-SC will focus on accountability & HAP compliance with LNGO partners