

Accountability Framework (AF)

April 2016

This Accountability framework summarizes those DRC commitments to our stakeholders in Georgia proper and Abkhazia that are additional to DRC's global accountability framework. The global accountability framework is valid for DRC and DDG everywhere; it is available on www.drc.dk.

Brief description of the Country Programme

DRC has been present in Georgia since 1999. DRC is committed to address issues related to the displacement of approximately 263,000 IDPs. Most displacement occurred as a result of the conflicts of early 1990s while 2008 war between Georgia and Russia created an additional wave of IDPs. Currently, the caseload consists of a complex mix of old and new IDPs, returnees or migrants in Georgian Proper and Abkhazia. Most recently, Syrians of Caucasian origins in Abkhazia were added to the group assisted by DRC. All in all, DRC's assists refugees, internally displaced people, as well as vulnerable individuals, local organizations and government institutions playing important role in development of sustainable initiatives for the benefit of the conflict affected populations.

In Georgia proper, DRC works on issues such as, but not limited to, development of durable housing to IDPs and vulnerable populations, protection and legal assistance to IDPs, livelihood support as well as capacity building of Georgian Government on IDP integration and migration management. DRC provides technical assistance on policy development and institutional capacity building on all issues related to displacement. DRC continues to work closely with and support key duty bearers and stakeholders – most notably the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories from Accommodation and Refugees (MRA).

In Abkhazia DRC primarily aspires to assist an estimated 45,000 people in Gali District who fled in the 1990s, but returned to their place of origin over the years. According to UNHCR, these individuals continue to live in an "IDP-like situation". To strike a balanced approach DRC also renders support to other parts of the war-affected areas and economically underdeveloped regions.

DRC currently works through one Head office in Tbilisi and 3 field offices in Zugdidi, Gali and Sukhumi, and employs about 80 staff members to implement projects.

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1. DRC's objectives, partners and stakeholders in Georgia proper and Abkhazia

The objective of DRC in Georgia proper and Abkhazia 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.

Beneficiaries

In Georgia proper and Abkhazia, DRC beneficiaries can be categorized in 5 different groups:

1) **IDPs from the 1992 conflicts (old caseload IDPs):** Approx. 230.000 IDPs, mainly Georgians, residing chiefly in Western Georgia and Tbilisi.

2) **IDPs from the 2008 conflict (new caseload IDPs):** Approx. 20.000 IDPs displaced by the conflict over South Ossetia in the summer of 2008. In principle those communities displaced from South Ossetia have been allocated living space in 36 new settlements outside Tbilisi, while those from the buffer zone or area close to South Ossetia have returned, and were provided with some cash compensation by the Government.

3) **Returnees to Abkhazia:** An estimated 45.000 persons have returned to Abkhazia, residing mainly in the Gali District. After the withdrawal of 3,000 local passports from ethnic Georgians in early 2014, the de facto authorities have unilaterally frozen the release of any new personal documents to Georgian speaking residents of Gali unless there is a clear indication and proof they do not hold Georgian passports. It is estimated that 50% of the Gali district population does not possess any valid personal document in Abkhazia. A new draft law on citizenship is under preparation, which might offer some kind of temporary solution.

4) **Syrians of Caucasian origin in Abkhazia.** This group is classified by the Abkhaz de facto authorities, as "repatriates", but under international humanitarian law as refugees. Between 2012 and 2013 467 Syrians of Abkhaz origin (131 households) arrived in Abkhazia including 147 children and 30 elderly. Until the spring of 2013, the Syrians were assisted by the de facto authorities in Abkhazia with accommodation, food, language classes, and monthly unemployment and child allowances. However, since the end of 2013, the "repatriation programme" has suffered drastic budget reductions, impacting the extent and quality of the assistance. As such, the Syrians face multiple challenges, particularly, access to the labor market, accommodation, access to basic services such as health, education and the issue of personal documentation.

5) **Eco migrants:** People displaced by ecological disasters. Their needs include shelter, income generation assistance, access to services and information.

Partners and stakeholders

Stakeholders consist of a wide range of formally elected and recognized government bodies at local and central levels, partly recognized de facto authorities at central and local level (i.e. Abkhazia), local community representatives and community bodies.

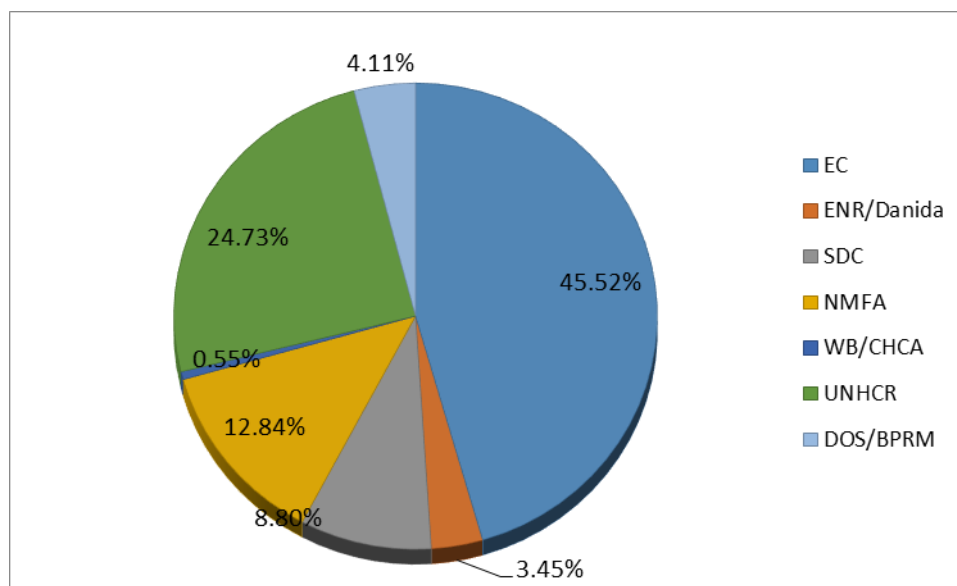
DRC has three levels of interlinked partnership:

1. Strategic level partnerships with key institutions such as donors and Governments
2. Operational/capacity building level partnerships with Georgian LNGOs
3. Community partnerships with beneficiaries.

The following partners currently support DRC's work in Georgia proper and Abkhazia as donors:

- European Union
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA)
- UNHCR
- Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (NMFA)
- World Bank
- DRC project funds

The chart below describes the Donor contribution in percentage against to the total budget of the program As of March 2016:



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

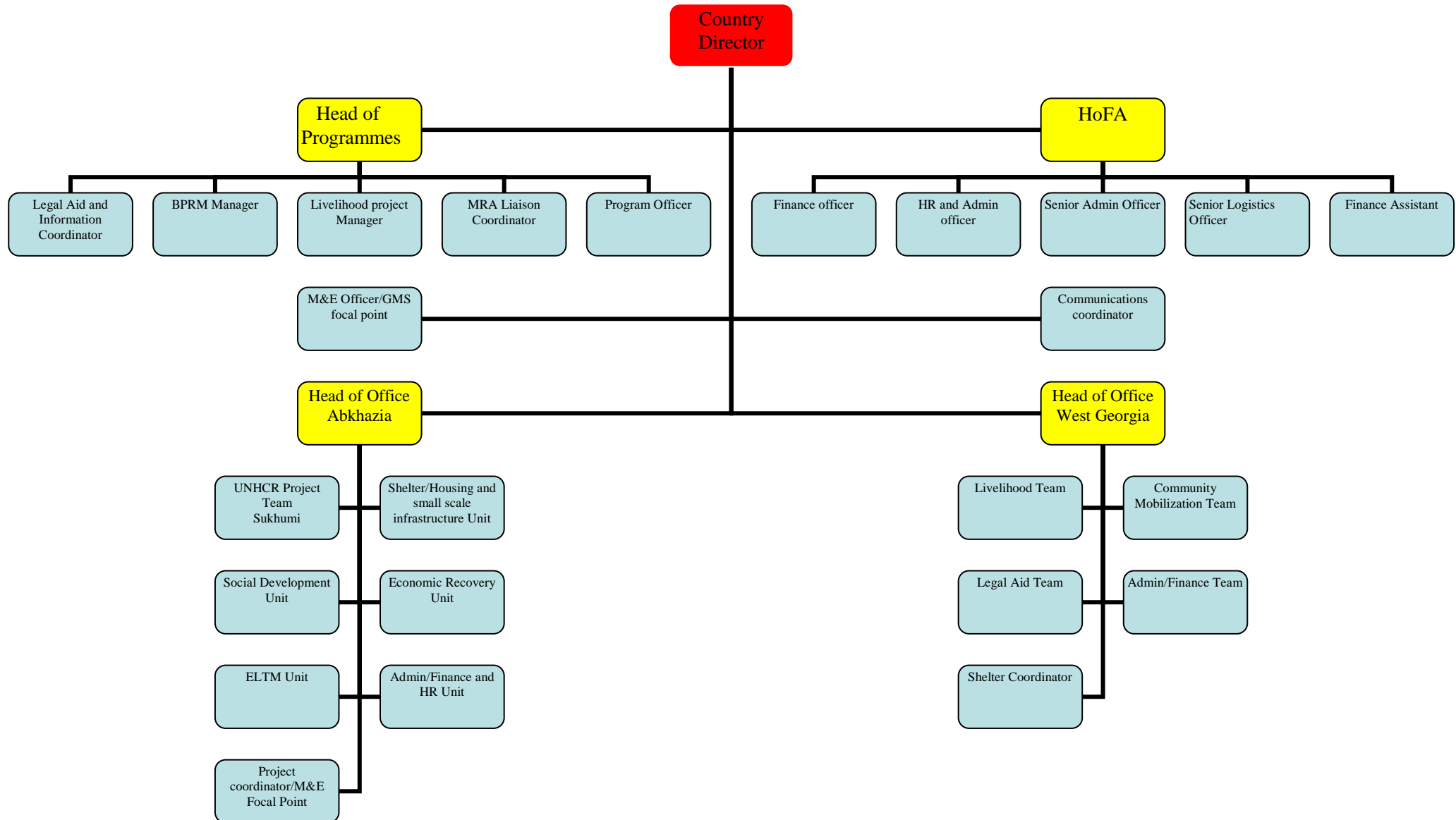
DRC's main partners among local NGOs in Georgia proper are:

- Humanitarian Center "Aphazeti" (CHCA)
- IDP women association "Consent"

In Georgia Proper, DRC cooperates very closely with the following main duty bearers:

- MRA (Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Accommodation and Refugees)
- LEPL IDP Livelihood Agency
- State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI)

2. DRC Organization Chart



3. Standards and codes

DRC in Georgia proper and Abkhazia follows all codes and standards accepted by DRC globally as well as local codes and standards. In general the operation follows

- DRC Operations Handbook;
- DRC Program Handbook
- Staff Code of Conduct
- CoC reporting and complaints response mechanisms
- HAP and Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS)
- HR manual
- Induction trainings package
- Pre-departure brief procedures
- Labor codes in all areas of operation
- NGO registration requirements and visa regimes

4. DRC 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 - An effective and accessible beneficiary complaints mechanism is in place to ensure that beneficiaries can hold DRC accountable for the decisions made in project implementation. 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 operation in Georgia proper and Abkhazia has also developed fully functional CoC (code of conduct) Reporting Gate A procedures and established relevant CoC Committee.

5. List of current projects

Project #	Project title	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Relevant authorities	Star-End dates	Funding Donors/Budget	Implementing Partners
513-713	Vulnerable Household's Accommodation and Community Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Samegrelo (West Georgia) 2013-2015	Integration of IDPs and vulnerable populations in West Georgia	11,039 IDPs and Vulnerable Population	MRA and Local Authorities	01/06/2013-31/05/2016	SDC 1,500,000 CHF	N/A
513-732	Rehabilitating Accommodations for Conflict Affected Vulnerable Persons and Spontaneous Returnees in Abkhazia	To make a sound and durable contribution to the <i>general improvement of living conditions</i> of the population in Abkhazia in 15 selected geographical target areas still affected by the effects of the 1992-93 conflict.	780 War affected vulnerable population	N/A	08/07/2013-30/06/2016	SDC 1,500,000 CHF	N/A
515-502	Improved access to education and access to social rights for Georgian-speaking returnees in South-East Abkhazia (Georgia)	To Sustain the return process and reintegration of the Georgian community living in South-East Abkhazia.	1500 War affected vulnerable population	N/A	01/01/2015-31/12/2016	Norwegian MFA 10,500,000 NOK	Ochamchire Youth House
515-632	Creating better opportunities for youth in Gali District, Abkhazia	To support sustainable return for the Georgian-speaking population to Abkhazia by initiating quick-impact initiatives in the field of education and by creating new economic opportunities for youth.	215 War affected vulnerable population	Abkhazian de facto Authority of Gali District	01/04/2015-01/02/2017	DANIDA 2,200,000 DKK	N/A

516-501	Improving Livelihoods for Persons of Concern from Syria in Abkhazia (phase II)	Restoration and Development of Livelihoods	82 Persons of concern of Syrian nationality	Abkhazian de facto Ministry of Foreign Affairs	01/01/2016-31/12/2016	UNHCR 394,776.03 USD	N/A
516-503	Support to peaceful coexistence and improvement of livelihoods for persons of concern from Syria and Ukraine in Abkhazia	To contribute to community life revitalization and promote social integration in areas hosting large numbers of Syrians and Ukrainians through the implementation of community-based projects	3,040 Syrian and Ukrainian Refugees and Asylum – seekers and host communities	Abkhaz State Committee on Repatriation	01/01/2016-30/09/2016	UNHCR 400,000 USD 539,627.74 USD (revised)	N/A
515-597	From Dependency to Self-Sufficiency Innovative, effective and scalable Livelihood solutions for Georgia	Restoration and Development of Livelihoods Institutional and Organizational Change	1,275 IDPs and war affected/host communities, Local NGOs and Government Institutions	MRA, Livelihood LEPL	09/03/2015-08/10/2016	EuropeAid 2,222,222 EUR (including co-funding) 2,000,000 EUR (direct fund)	CHCA and 6 local NGOs
515-753	Consolidating IDP integration in Georgia (CIIG)	To support the integration of IDPs in local communities through the provision of sustainable protection and livelihoods solutions.	13,000 IDPs, CSOs, CBOs, Condominiums, Legal Service Aid LEPL	MRA, Livelihood LEPL, Ombudsman's Office	29/09/2015-28/09/2016	BPRM 200,000 USD	IDP Women Association "Consent"
516-550	Implementation and Evaluation of Land Leasing Pilot for IDPs in Georgia	Promoting participatory and integrated social and civic development of IDP communities	100 IDPs and host communities	MRA, Ministry of Agriculture, local Authorities.	19/01/2016-31/05/2016	World Bank 23,970 USD	CHCA

6. Core Humanitarian standard commitments and Accountability Improvement Plan

- A clear policy commitment to needs-based action is set out;
- The needs and capacities of communities are consistently assessed;
- The context and stakeholders are systematically, objectively and continuously analyzed;
- Security plans are in place;
- Projects progresses are monitored and all unnecessary delays mitigated;
- Personal information collected from communities and people affected by crisis are systematically safeguarded;
- Exit strategy is planned and known to all relevant staff and stakeholders;
- Information about programmes and deliverables is shared to and easily accessible for communities and people affected by crisis;
- Beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders are aware of expected behaviour of DRC staff;
- All complaints are analysed annually;
- All necessary information is shared with partners, coordination groups and other relevant stakeholders;
- Lessons learned from past experiences are shared with staff or relevant stakeholders;
- Specific and relevant plans for staff evaluation and development are in place;
- Financial risk assessment process is ongoing.