

**Country Context,
Strengths & Weaknesses of Mental
Health System**
Mental Health Project for Georgia

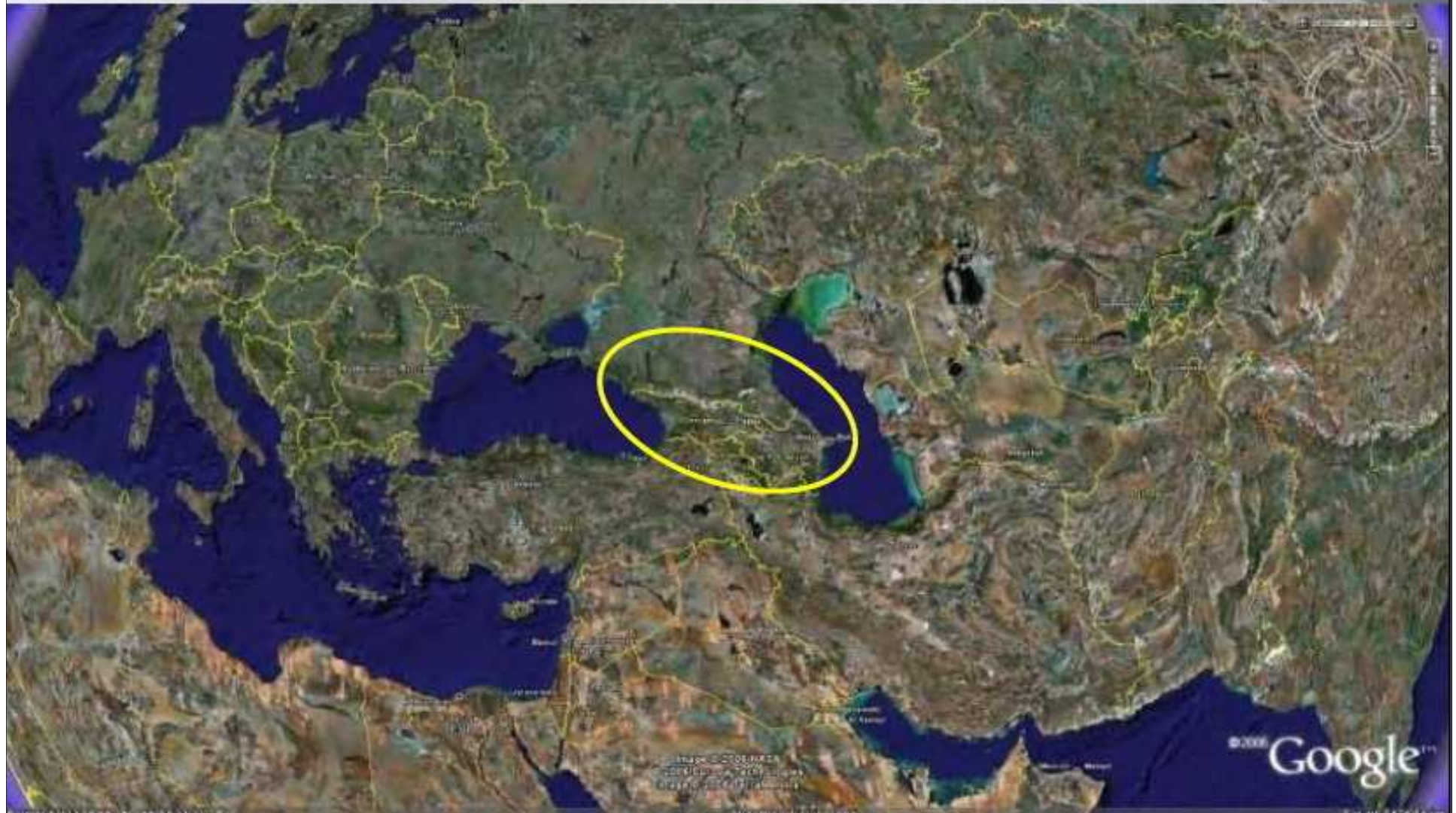
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CAUCASUS

Eastern Europe & Western Asia



Between the Black and Caspian Sea, Great & Small Caucasian Mountains





Skiing areas - between 3000 to 2000 m above the sea level



Seaside Parks



Georgia Country context

Area	- 70 000 sq. km.
Population	- 4.5 million (Rural 47.6 %) - 7% of the population are IDPs
Life expectancy at birth	- Male : 62 yrs., Female : 67 yrs.
Religious group	- Majority of the population are Christians
Economy	- Lower middle income group
Poverty:	- 40% of population below poverty level
Literacy rate	- Male : 100%, Female : 98%
Language:	- The official language is Georgian

Source : Policies and practices for mental health in Europe , WHO, 2008

WHO AIMS, National Mental Health Survey, Georgia 2006

Country context

- Health budget** - **1.5 % of GDP**
- Mental health budget** - **2.9 % of health budget**
- Psychiatrist** - **5.6 / 100,000 population**
- Number of psychiatric beds** - **29 / 100,000 population**

Source : Policies and practices for mental health in Europe , WHO, 2008

Main strengths of the mental health system

- Updated “Law on Psychiatry Care” which meets international standards
- Good examples of community-based demonstration projects mainly implemented by NGOs
- Network of outpatient mental health facilities
- Sufficient number of psychiatrists as compared to other countries

Main weaknesses of the mental health system

- Limited financial resources in mental health
- Low quality of care and fragmented and ineffective mental health service delivery, community based mental health system is not developed
- Education level of mental health staff is not sufficient, especially in psychosocial treatments

Rationale of the project proposal submitted

By support of donors and state several excellent pilot projects-community-based alternatives to institutionalization are operated as demonstration projects in Georgia.

Now state are able to give very little funding for this services;
But Government provided premises for the development of a community mental health network;

Now they need further development and support, because main donor (Cordaid from Holland) phased out from Georgia in 2008, and some of them may closed.

There is need to develop mental health action plan in which will be described how to spread experience of this pilot projects.

TITLE OF THE PROJECT

**Development of Community Based
Mental Health Services in Georgia**

Duration of the project: 36 months

Objectives of the project

Overall objective

To improve the quality of life of people with mental disorders by introducing high quality mental health care services that are appropriate, accessible and affordable

To elaborate an evidence-based mental health action plan

To create a functional network of accessible community mental health care services in one district, which will serve as a model for the rest of the country

To enhance the capacity and knowledge of main policy makers on community based mental health care organization.

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

- 1. In one district, the network of contemporary community mental health care services will be established, which will function as a pilot for whole Georgia**
- 2. Mental health services management and quality will improve**
- 3. Education of mental health staff on psychosocial interventions will improve;**
- 4. Segregation and institutionalization of people with mental disabilities will be reduced;**