

CARITAS CZECH REPUBLIC COUNTRY OFFICE in Georgia

We Help Where Needed

Results of Our Work in Numbers
2015-2026



GENERAL INFORMATION

Caritas Czech Republic's Country Office in Georgia was established in 2015.

The Georgian Country Office has more than 30 employees and collaborators.

Up to 80 projects have been implemented so far.

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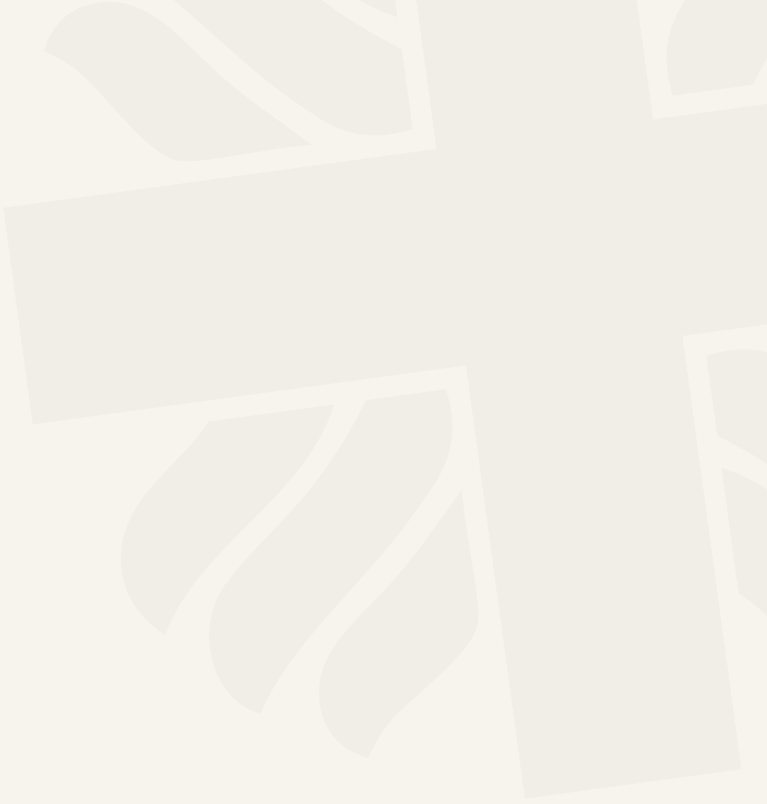
Country Director's Letter

Caritas Czech Republic has been working on development activities in Georgia since 2008 when the country program was launched. Until 2014, we mainly worked through cooperation with local partner organizations. A year later, Caritas Czech Republic's full-fledged mission was established and a new stage of my life, as the Country Director, started.

Georgia is an interesting country with its history and culture and its ethnically diverse population. Despite the frequency of hardships over the centuries, the Georgian people have always been striving to build a better country for their future generations.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and declaring Georgia as an independent state, we faced a number of challenges – we had to practically rebuild our country which turned out to be very difficult to deal with alone.

With this in mind and considering the long and positive history of our friendship with our Western partners, donor organizations from Europe and the US immediately offered a helping hand and have been assisting us in the development of our country already for more than 30 years. Caritas Czech Republic, a noted organization with 100 years of experience in helping out where needed, has turned out to be one of the main actors in this direction.



While establishing the country's mission, Caritas Czech Republic defined the core areas to support Georgia such as healthcare, social inclusion, rural development and environmental protection.

Caritas Czech Republic's team focuses on the most vulnerable groups in the country and strives to improve healthcare and social services available to the Georgian population and assists the Government of Georgia in the implementation of healthcare and social reforms. We aim at greater social inclusion and a stronger civil society and provide support to communities in rural mountainous regions to improve living conditions by strengthening skills and access to resources. Environmental protection is at the heart of several of our activities. We are extremely grateful to our international donor organizations and partners for all of their assistance in supporting our work.

In this publication, we are pleased to present the results of the years of our joint work together with our donors and local and international partners. We believe that with our support to the Georgian people, we are contributing to a better future for this country and changing the lives of each citizen of Georgia.

Ekaterine Meskhrikadze,
Caritas Czech Republic's Country Office Director



HEALTHCARE



Caritas Czech Republic has been supporting the Government of Georgia in implementing healthcare reforms nationwide since 2015. Our activities include improving and assuring the quality of primary care services, support for early detection and prevention of oncological diseases, developing and implementing digital health solutions and assuring quality of maternal and child healthcare services.

In recent years (2023–2025), Caritas Czech Republic has further expanded its portfolio to include large-scale system-strengthening interventions in mental health, immunization, digital health, and cancer care, in close cooperation with national and international partners, including Czech Development Agency (CzDA) the European Union (EU), the French Development Agency (AFD), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Our work focuses on strengthening national systems, improving quality of care, and ensuring equitable access to services, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Additionally, Caritas Czech Republic promotes public health awareness — including food safety and disease prevention — as a key component of strengthening community health systems.

Enhancement of Primary Healthcare

Primary healthcare is the “gateway” of the healthcare system – it protects a patient from the risk of the further development of diseases and prevents the next levels of healthcare from being overloaded. Caritas Czech Republic works on updating evidence-based clinical protocols, promotes the capacity-building of family doctors, and supports the introduction of a unified electronic management information system across the country.

Building on this long-term work, recent interventions have focused on integrating mental health into primary care through clinical pathways, large-scale training sessions, supportive supervision, and teleconsultations.



The capacities of primary healthcare medical personnel (**69 doctors and 74 nurses**) of 44 rural primary healthcare facilities of Dusheti and Zugdidi municipalities were strengthened in improving the quality of management of common acute and chronic health problems.



A total of **139 online training sessions** were conducted – 48 for Dusheti municipality medical personnel and 91 for Zugdidi municipality medical personnel.



A total of **132 on-site supportive supervision visits** were conducted – 48 visits to the Dusheti municipality and 84 visits to the Zugdidi municipality.



A total of **205 online supportive supervision sessions** were conducted – 86 of them for Dusheti municipality primary healthcare facilities and 119 for Zugdidi primary healthcare facilities.



- **50 computers** were handed over to rural doctors in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions.
- **200 doctors** were trained in doctor-patient communication, patient rights,

and bioethics through accredited courses.

- **10 clinical protocols** 10 clinical protocols in the management of non-communicable diseases and preventable conditions by primary healthcare were updated and approved by the Ministry of Health of Georgia.



- Capacity building in non-communicable disease management is being further strengthened through an online training and supervision programme starting in 2026, covering eight training modules implemented over 2026–2027.

- Multidisciplinary online case discussions between PHC providers and specialists are being conducted in 2026–2027 to strengthen clinical decision-making and coordination of care.

Support to implementation of National Mental Health Strategy

A key focus of recent interventions is the integration of mental health services into primary healthcare, in line with national reform priorities. Caritas Czech Republic supports the Government of Georgia in translating the National Mental Health Strategy into routine primary care practice through system-level interventions, capacity building, and quality assurance mechanisms.

These interventions contribute to the systemic and sustainable integration of mental health into primary healthcare services nationwide. Further activities focus on:



10 gender-sensitive mental health clinical

pathways were developed, covering a wide range of conditions including depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use disorders, personality disorders, and perinatal mental health. Dementia care was introduced as an additional priority area, expanding the scope of mental health services at primary care level.



- More than **1,700 family doctors** were trained nationwide through 871 training sessions, supported by a network of national facilitators.

- Supportive supervision and clinical audit systems were implemented across the country, including **827 online sessions** and on-site visits in **978 PHC facilities**.

- Mental health training was integrated into national continuing professional development (CPD) systems, with more than **1,000 doctors** completing accredited courses.

- Teleconsultation services were introduced in **88 PHC facilities**, enabling case-based consultations between family doctors and mental health specialists and improving quality of care.

- A national knowledge-sharing conference will be organized to disseminate results, lessons learned, and practical experience from the integration of mental health into primary healthcare.



Capacity strengthening of psychiatric nurses and nurse assistants is being introduced to improve early identification of risks, crisis response, and multidisciplinary care.



- Additional training modules were developed, including sexual and reproductive mental health, reaching **135 healthcare professionals** in Tbilisi and Batumi.
- Strengthening coordination between primary healthcare providers and social workers in identifying psychosocial risks, unsafe environments, violence, and mental health vulnerabilities.

- Additional training modules for social workers with a focus on mental health are being developed in coordination with national partners to ensure alignment and avoid duplication.
- Mental Health communication strategy and training programmes for child and adolescent mental health are being developed to support early identification and prevention.

IT Solutions for Improving the Healthcare System in Georgia

Caritas Czech Republic works on the development and implementation of a primary care management information system and an electronic medical records system nationwide. Electronic systems will enable Georgia to receive data from all primary healthcare facilities in an ordered form on the quality of clinical processes, including reliable and valid statistics on disease management and prevention activities.

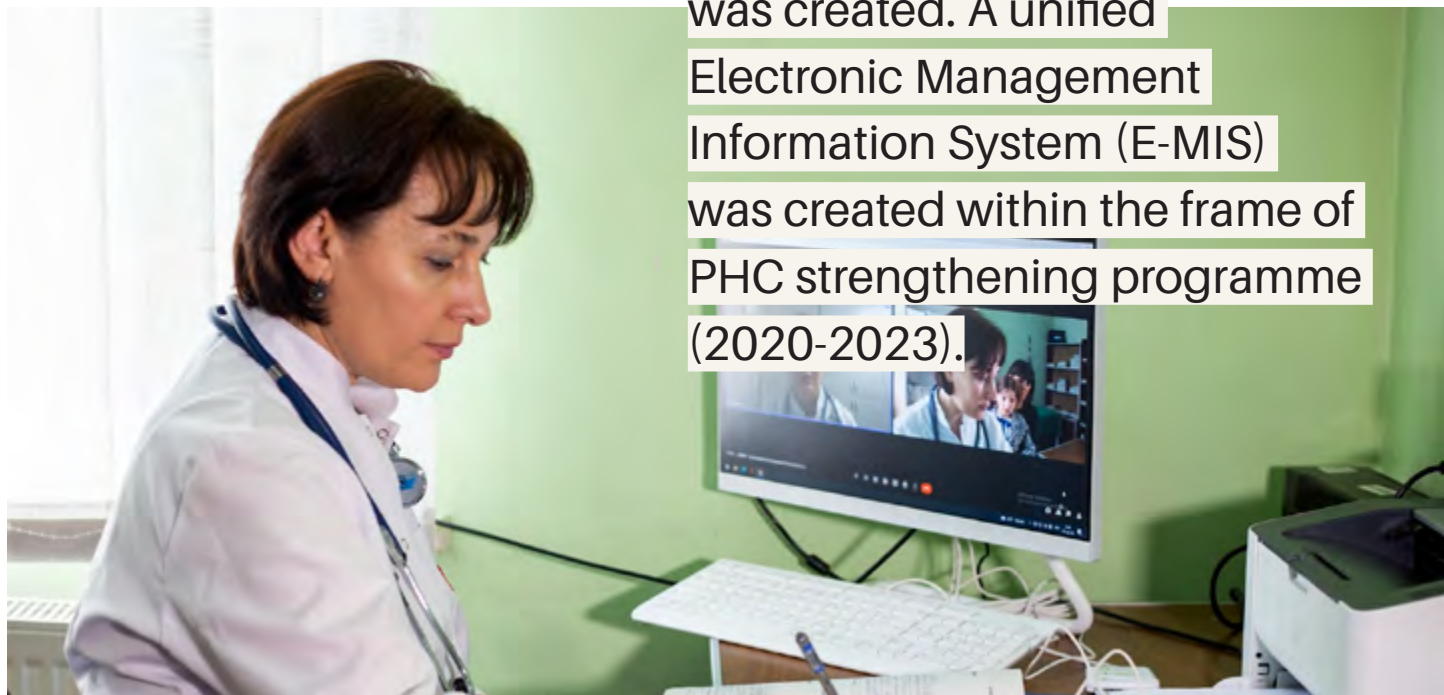
Electronic tools are used to measure and improve quality such as immunization coverage and cancer screening rates, quality monitoring of children's growth and development and the management of non-communicable diseases (hypertension, diabetes, cardio-vascular, etc.). The implementation of IT solutions is accompanied by on-site and remote training sessions provided to primary healthcare centers to familiarize them with the new software and help them master the use of the E-Systems.

In recent years, digital health interventions have been significantly expanded to include cancer registry upgrades, immunization systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) monitoring platforms, and telemedicine solutions.

Caritas Czech Republic has been involved in remote monitoring of 0-6 child growth and development in 50 rural ambulatories. Both family doctors and early intervention specialists were trained in providing teleconsultations to facilitate service delivery in distant areas where the early care is unavailable.



- Within the Czech-Aid supported „Cancer prevention and Care Enhancement Programme”, an electronic SMS-based invitation system for cancer screening was developed and aligned with national policy from 2026.



A Unified Electronic Management

Information System (E-MIS)

including Electronic Medical Records for Primary Healthcare was created. A unified Electronic Management Information System (E-MIS) was created within the frame of PHC strengthening programme (2020-2023).

- Implementation from 2026. E-MIS in pilot facilities, a total of **157 online training sessions and 104 on-site visits** were conducted for rural primary healthcare facilities and 5 primary healthcare centers.

- Within UNICEF's Immunization Programme, a digital immunization system with automated reminder functions (SMS, email, mobile app) was introduced across 63 PHC facilities.

- Within the Czech-Aid supported „Cancer prevention and Care Enhancement Programme”, an electronic SMS-based invitation system for cancer screening was developed and aligned with national policy for implementation from 2026.

- Within the UNICEF supported WASH initiative: Electronic WASH monitoring systems for healthcare facilities, and schools were developed in line with WHO/UNICEF standards.

- A total of **80 online training sessions and 42 on-site visits** were conducted in the Dusheti municipality. A total of 65 online trainings and 53 site visits were conducted in the Zugdidi municipality.

- Within the UNICEF supported WASH initiative: Electronic WASH monitoring systems for healthcare facilities, and schools were developed in line with WHO/UNICEF standards.



The COVID-19 Laboratory information

system was built for effective COVID-19 surveillance and 30 trainings in the use of laboratory information system were provided to **456 specialists** working at the NCDC's Lugar Health Research laboratory and zonal district laboratories in the cities of Batumi and Kutaisi.



The electronic platform of unified queues, telemedicine and referrals for primary healthcare was created and introduced in 5 primary healthcare facilities of Tbilisi, 16 rural ambulatories of the Dusheti municipality and 28 rural ambulatories of the Zugdidi municipality.





A country-wide online
system for booking
COVID-19 vaccinations was
created.



Increased Quality of Pediatric Care

Since 2020, Caritas Czech Republic has been actively working on improving the quality of child health and development services through the training of rural doctors and practice facilitation. The work carried out includes updating the pediatric protocols and the provision of respective training sessions and supportive supervision for rural healthcare practitioners all over the country.



2 clinical protocols for the management of hospital-

associated pneumonia and ventilation-associated pneumonia of pediatric patients at the hospital were designed and approved by the Ministry of Health of Georgia. **200 pediatricians** were trained respectively.





5 clinical protocols in pediatric topics –

Management of upper and lower respiratory infection in children by family doctors, management of acute diarrhea in children by PHC, children with fever – clinical management by PHC, monitoring and screening of child development by family doctors – have been designed and approved by the Ministry of Health of Georgia.



376 trainings and 514 supervision meetings were delivered to medical personnel.



40 nursing protocols were updated, and **9 nursing protocols** were created in 2019 with the purpose of the quality assurance of nursing practice at hospitals and long-term care facilities.



The State Protocol on the Diagnosis and Management of COVID-19 Infection in Pediatric Patients was elaborated and approved by the Ministry of Health of Georgia.



Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment of Oncological Diseases

Since 2010, Caritas Czech Republic has been working to support cancer prevention, which includes both awareness-raising information campaigns and the capacity-building of medical staff. One of the main turning points of our organization was the establishment of the Zugdidi Screening Center in 2019 and equipping it in accordance with modern standards.



The Zugdidi Screening Center was built in 2018-

2019 and equipped with the latest generation mammography machine, colposcope, ultrasound equipment, surgical instruments, and laboratory inventory.



In 2020, **120 family doctors** from Samegrelo underwent training sessions in oncology.



In 2020-2021, **more than 6 000 citizens** of West Georgia attended awareness-raising campaigns related to cancer prevention and screening.





In 2022, the Rukhi and Batumi public hospitals were equipped with **modern minimally invasive surgical devices** and their medical personnel was trained in onco-gynecological topics.



Caritas Czech Republic continues to support the Government of Georgia in strengthening cancer prevention, early detection, and care systems through integrated interventions at primary healthcare level, capacity building of medical personnel, digital solutions, and public awareness activities. The programme builds on previous investments and focuses on improving quality of care, patient pathways, and service utilization nationwide.



More than **900 PHC staff** from all over

Georgia will receive online learning, on-site supportive supervision, and clinical audits to improve quality of care in cancer and other non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory condition.

- In 2025, a nationwide baseline **KAP survey on breast and cervical cancer** screening was conducted, informing evidence-based interventions.
- Public education campaigns were implemented nationwide through digital media, TV, radio, and printed materials, including dissemination of **posters across approximately 950 PHC facilities**. Campaigns will continue in 2026-2027.





484 healthcare professionals were trained in patient communication in cancer screening and care.

- A comprehensive **cancer patient pathway roadmap** was developed, covering the full continuum of care from screening to treatment.



- In 2025, **485 primary healthcare doctors and nurses** were trained in communication and promotion of healthy lifestyles, strengthening prevention and patient engagement. Same number of PHC and screening centers staff will be trained in 2026.

- In December 2025, **20 national trainers** were prepared in oncology and non-communicable disease (NCD) management to support large-scale capacity building.

- More than 900 PHC staff from all over Georgia will receive online learning, on-site supportive supervision, and clinical audits to improve quality of care in cancer and other non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory condition.

- Family doctors will be offered to enroll in accredited online CPD courses in oncology and NCDs starting from 2026, ensuring continuous professional development and alignment with national standards.

- Multidisciplinary online case discussions between PHC providers and specialists are being conducted to strengthen clinical decision-making and coordination of care.

Strengthening Cancer Data Systems and Digital Solutions



The national cancer registry was upgraded



An electronic **SMS-based invitation system for cancer screening** was developed and aligned with national policy for implementation from 2026.



Pediatric Oncology and International Cooperation



6 Georgian specialists completed advanced clinical internships in pediatric oncology in leading Czech hospitals.



The Zugdidi Screening Center and Iashvili Children's Hospital were further strengthened through the provision of modern diagnostic equipment.



A national **pediatric oncology residency programme** was developed in cooperation with Czech experts.

Strengthening Immunization Systems and Addressing Vaccination Backsliding

With the assistance of the Government of Republic of Korea/UNICEF, Caritas Czech Republic supported immunization system strengthening in Rustavi, Gori, and Marneuli municipalities through digital solutions, capacity building, and community engagement.



A digital vaccination reminder system was

developed and operationalized, enabling automated SMS, email, and app-based notifications.



Nearly **300 healthcare workers** were trained across 63 PHC facilities.



273 providers were trained in interpersonal communication to address vaccine hesitancy.



266 providers benefited from supportive supervision and mentorship programmes.



Digital dashboards and activities tools were introduced for **real-time tracking of vaccination coverage**.



Communication campaigns reached over **300,000 people**, while social media monitoring addressed over **180 cases of misinformation**.

Strengthening WASH Systems in Healthcare and Schools

Caritas Czech Republic supported the Government of Georgia in strengthening WASH systems in healthcare and educational institutions through digital monitoring, capacity building, and infection prevention measures.

● **530 rural PHC facilities** were trained in infection prevention and control (IPC).

● **10 master trainers** were prepared to support nationwide rollout across 935 facilities.



Electronic WASH monitoring systems

were developed for healthcare facilities in line with WHO/ UNICEF JMP standards.

● Digital monitoring systems for schools were introduced, including climate-resilient WASH indicators.





Development of the HIV Self-Testing Support Service Protocol

Georgia has a significant stigma around the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). This is the reason why it is a challenge for people in risk groups to decide to get tested for HIV, thereby increasing the number of people infected without knowing their HIV status. Caritas Czech Republic supported the development of the behaviorally informed message box, which has been tested for effectiveness in motivating people to self-test for HIV. Based on the research results, the most effective communication messages were selected for the development of follow-up campaigns by the respective governmental entities.



An HIV self-testing support service protocol has been

developed, and **5 doctors and 7 peer consultants** were trained respectively in order to provide stigma-free advisory.



Interventions During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Caritas Czech Republic rapidly tailored most of its activities to cope with the severe situation caused by the spread of the virus. This included the updating of clinical protocols and adapting them to the challenges caused by the pandemic, ensuring the respective capacity-building activities for healthcare practitioners and the provision of computers to rural ambulatories enabling them to remotely manage the conditions of patients.



974 doctors from 10 regions of Georgia

participated in the training sessions on the management of suspicious cases of COVID-19 at the primary healthcare level and **300 pediatricians** were trained in the management of COVID-19 cases.



41 computers were handed over to rural doctors in West Georgia for improving work processes in COVID-19 pandemic settings as well as ensuring attendance to COVID-19 related online training sessions.





A training cycle in the management of side effects of COVID-19 vaccination for **1156 rural doctors** was held in **10 regions of Georgia**.



1160 rural doctors from all **10 regions** of Georgia received supportive supervision and expert consultation from 32 practice facilitators on the management of COVID-19 in children and improvement of the quality of child health and development.



28 ambulatories of the Zugdidi municipality received personal protective equipment during COVID-19 as well as **hundreds of personal computers, glucometers, pressure devices, and pulse oximeters. 55 oxygen concentrators** were delivered to the Georgian Medical Holding.



Up to **300 pediatricians** in Tbilisi and the regions were trained to implement new protocols for the diagnosis and management of the COVID-19 infection in pediatric patients.



About **200 doctors** of the online clinic for the management of COVID-patients were trained on the principles of effective telephone communication and practical issues related to vaccination against COVID-19.

Raised Awareness on Food Safety

In 2024-2025 Caritas Czech Republic expanded its work to include awareness-raising on food safety through the EU-supported initiative “Regions and People for Food Safety”. The project strengthened food safety practices and improved knowledge among communities.

By empowering civil society, engaging schools, and cooperating with national authorities, the initiative promoted a coordinated and sustainable approach, with a focus on rural and vulnerable populations.



More than 200,000 people reached

through awareness campaigns.



6 regional CSOs strengthened through grants and capacity building.





54 teachers trained to
support the long-term
integration of food safety topics
into education.





SOCIAL CARE



Caritas Czech Republic has been addressing the disability issue for years with the aim of protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and providing them with proper services.

Since 2020, we have been carrying out a large-scale initiative to support the Government of Georgia in the deinstitutionalization process. This implies the development of relevant legislative initiatives and the provision of family-type homes and services for persons with disabilities living under state care.

In 2015-2021, we carried out an initiative to provide quality and affordable services for children with the autism spectrum disorder as a result of which the environment for such children and their families in Georgia has significantly improved.

In 2017-2022, one of the main focuses of our work was the support for the most vulnerable members of society – children with severe disabilities. To improve the quality of their lives and to alleviate their conditions, we contributed to the creation of a new Long-Term and Palliative Care Unit at the Zhvania Children's Hospital in Tbilisi.

In 2022, Caritas Czech Republic carried out another very important initiative in support to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) under the Joint Program Leave No One Behind — From Policy and Principles to Practice in Disability-Inclusive Development in Georgia.

In 2023, Caritas Czech Republic actively engaged in an EU-funded initiative under EU4Youth programme aimed at bolstering the employability and digital and entrepreneurial skills of marginalized youth, including individuals with disabilities and NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training). This initiative extends its support to foster their active engagement in democratic processes and labor markets across Georgia, Moldova and Armenia.

In 2023-2025, Caritas Czech Republic supported the Government of Georgia in strengthening early childhood intervention (ECI), early care, and inclusive preschool education systems through policy development, service expansion, capacity building, and public awareness.

Strengthening Early Childhood Intervention and Inclusive Education Systems



A Medium-term Strategy and Action Plan for Early Childhood

Intervention was developed, providing a comprehensive framework for sector development.



Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for coordination from early

identification to referral and inclusion were developed and introduced as a key technical tool.



Intersectoral coordination guidelines were elaborated to

strengthen cooperation between health, social protection, and education sectors.



A national situational study on early care, preschool education, and

inclusive education was conducted, providing an evidence base for policy and programmatic decisions.



5 Early Childhood Development

(ECD/ECI) centers were established, renovated, or equipped in Tbilisi, Dusheti, Gardabani, and Mtskheta.

More than **100 vulnerable children** were enrolled in newly established services, while additional children benefited from improved access and reduced waiting lists.

Services were aligned with national standards and integrated into the state social protection system.

60 Early Childhood Intervention specialists and 17 supervisors were trained through accredited programmes.



18 national trainers were prepared through a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme, ensuring sustainability of training systems.



More than **200 preschool professionals** were trained in inclusive education across seven municipalities.

35 personal assistants were trained and integrated into preschool settings to support children with developmental delays.

Inclusive education strategies were developed, adopted, and implemented in seven municipalities (Tbilisi, Dusheti, Rustavi, Chiatura, Gardabani, Mtskheta, Bolnisi municipalities).

21 kindergartens were equipped with toys, developmental materials, and motor activity spaces to improve accessibility and learning environments.

Monitoring and evaluation tools for ECI services were developed and piloted in **12 service provider organizations**.

5 nationwide awareness campaigns were implemented to increase visibility of early childhood development, inclusion, and early intervention services.

Strengthening Deinstitutionalization and Community-Based Services for persons with specific requirements (2020-2023)

Caritas Czech Republic supported the Government of Georgia in advancing the deinstitutionalization process by developing alternative care services, strengthening policy frameworks, and promoting independent living for persons with specific requirements.



6 family-type homes for persons with specific requirements were procured, rehabilitated, equipped, and handed over to the State Care Agency.



A DI Committee under the Ministry of Health was established and coordinated by Caritas Czech Republic, bringing together over 70 stakeholders and development partners.



A national Deinstitutionalization (DI) Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030) was developed and approved, providing a comprehensive framework for transformation of residential care services.



36 beneficiaries were successfully transferred from large residential institutions to community-based family-type homes.

- **115 persons with specific requirements** from Dusheti and Martkofi boarding homes received psycho-emotional support and preparation for independent living.
- A multidisciplinary assessment system was introduced, including biopsychosocial assessment tools and individualized transition plans for beneficiaries.



Public awareness campaigns, stakeholder consultations, and advocacy activities were implemented to promote disability rights and community-based care solutions.

- **A national homecare service model and quality assurance standard** were developed and approved by the Ministry, with dedicated state funding allocated for implementation.
- Quality standards for family-type homes were developed and applied to all newly established services.
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks for social services were developed and approved to ensure quality and human rights-based service provision.



This intervention represents a significant step towards replacing institutional care with community-based, rights-based services in Georgia.

Promoting Disability-Inclusive Healthcare Services

Persons with specific requirements still face various challenges when accessing health and social care services in Georgia. These challenges include not only physical barriers to healthcare facilities, but also stigma, discriminatory attitudes, and limited capacity of healthcare professionals to provide inclusive and rights-based services. In response, Caritas Czech Republic, together with its partner organizations, supported the analysis and revision of national health legislation to promote alignment with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and improve accessibility and quality of care.



In 2022, 4 healthcare-related laws were analyzed to assess their compliance with UNCRPD requirements, and recommendations for legislative changes were submitted to the Parliament of Georgia to support the development of more inclusive and disability-friendly healthcare services.



Quality and Accessible Services for Children with the autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

Children with the autism spectrum disorder and their families in Georgia face various challenges. Most of these issues relate to the early identification of autism as well as financial and geographic access to therapy services across the country. One of the main obstacles is the insufficient preparation of primary health care professionals to identify the risk of autism and refer children to relevant rehabilitation centers. On the other hand, local specialists in the regions lack the professional skills to provide quality care to children with ASD. Many municipalities still do not have the necessary tools for a full diagnostic assessment of children with a suspected autism spectrum disorder. There are a lot of municipalities where the local government does not fund the provision of autism services. During 2015-2021, Caritas Czech Republic, together with its local partners, autism service providers and The Government of Georgia, worked actively to establish new autism centers, providing quality autism services and create a supportive environment for children and their families in Georgia.

- **113 autism specialists** from all over Georgia were trained in the diagnosis and management of the autism spectrum disorder.
- **12 autism professionals** were trained in the introductory Early Start Denver Model (ESDM Model) and 30 specialists were trained in the SCERTS Model.
- **15 autism specialists** were prepared at an ABA supervisor level.
- **4 autism centers** (in the cities of Telavi, Kutaisi, Kobuleti and Zugdidi) had their capacities strengthened and **3 new autism services** (the Akhaltsikhe municipality and the cities of Ozurgeti and Ambrolauri) were established.
- **1447 children** were screened to assess the risk of autism spectrum disorder.



A State Protocol on the identification, diagnosis and management of the autism spectrum disorder was developed and approved by the Ministry of Health of Georgia.





National Autism Service Standards were

developed and approved by
the Government of Georgia.





● **111 children** were assessed through the Gold Standard of autism diagnosis – ADOS-2.

● **41 behavior therapists** were trained in using evidence-based assessment methods used for working with people with autism spectrum disorder (ABLLS-R, Essential for Living).

● **3 inclusive education classes** were opened in the regions of Georgia in public kindergartens in the cities of Telavi, Zugdidi and Tbilisi.

● The Assessment of Basic Learning and Language Skills – Revised (ABLLS-R) as well as the functional Skills Assessment Tool – Essential for Living (EFL) were translated into Georgian and adapted.

● Inclusive preschool education was strengthened through the development, adoption, and enforcement of inclusive education strategies in seven municipalities and the provision of toys and developmental materials to 21 kindergartens, creating more accessible and inclusive learning environments for children with developmental delays.

Children's Long-term and Palliative Care Services in Georgia

Since 2017, Caritas Czech Republic has been working on the development of long-term care services focused on the social and medical needs of children with severe disabilities under state care. The support provided envisaged the establishment of a long-term and palliative care unit – Medical-Social House at the Zhvania Pediatric Academic Clinic in Tbilisi, its provision with all of the necessary medical equipment, the elaboration of a package of regulatory documentation for the creation of long-term and palliative care services and capacity-building for medical personnel.



Medical-Social House, a structure for long-term care

of children, was established on the fifth floor of the newly built Zhvania Pediatric Academic Clinic of TSMU and was provided with medical equipment.



● A package of **regulatory documentation for the creation of a long-term care system** was prepared.

● Child-Oriented Care – **a training course based on the bio-psycho-social model of long-term care for children, was created.**

● The personnel of the clinic were trained, and **the Pediatric Long-term Care manual was prepared** and published.

● More than **200 doctors from across the country underwent a training course** on new standards of doctor-patient communication accredited by the Ministry of Health of Georgia.

● A new **clinical protocol on the management of several pediatric nosologies was prepared**, and appropriate accredited training was provided to the pediatricians employed in various clinics in the country.

● A special multi-sensory room – **Snnozelen MSE was created and equipped** at the children's Fireflies Land hospice. The medical personnel of the clinic underwent appropriate training on its use.



Upskilling digital competencies and career management skills of youth with specific requirements

In 2023-2025, CCR promoted social inclusion and youth empowerment by supporting young people with specific requirements in developing digital and career management skills. Through an EU-funded regional initiative Implemented in Georgia, Armenia and Moldova, the organization strengthened employment support services, enhanced the capacity of civil society actors, and improved access to digital opportunities for youth, including persons with specific requirements and those not in education or employment.



More than 720 youth with specific

requirements (including NEETs and persons with disabilities) directly supported through digital skills training and career counselling.



596 young people received individual digital career consultations.



360 youth participated in digital skills training programmes.



- **78 career advisors** trained, strengthening employment support services across three countries.
- **76 CSO representatives** trained through regional Training of Trainers (ToTs) on digital competencies.
- **9 CSOs supported** through grants and capacity-building to deliver digital training.

- **10 awareness-raising webinars** conducted, reaching more than **530 participants** across the region.
- **6 networking events** organized, engaging **310 stakeholders** from CSOs, businesses, and public sector.



422 participants
engaged in Digital Skills
and Employment Festivals
in Georgia, Armenia, and
Moldova.





RURAL DEVELOPMENT



The growth of highland regions is part of Georgia's regional development policy. However, it requires a specific approach as mountainous settlements, contrary to other regions of the country, have limited agricultural resources, fewer economic opportunities, and are more at risk of natural disasters. Caritas Czech Republic's rural development initiatives include supporting local farmers and entrepreneurs in mountainous settlements of Georgia and providing trainings and consultations tailored to the local needs. Our interventions contribute to Georgia's national sustainable development goals.



Development of Rural Mountainous Areas

As part of its rural development activities, Caritas Czech Republic focuses on improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in mountainous regions of Georgia.

Thanks to funding from the European Union's ENPARD program, we have been supporting the socio-economic development in the Khulo municipality for four years. Under the project, we promoted the LEADER approach through the establishment of a Local Action Group (LAG), alongside supporting the youth activation, capacity building, and local entrepreneur support through the provision of grants.

Since 2015 Caritas Czech Republic has been supporting the Tusheti community, focusing on the development of traditional farming systems, including wool processing practices. The initiative has also supported tourism development and the value chain through a variety of material and technical support.

During 2021-2022, our support focused on the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions to strengthen local entrepreneurs and socially vulnerable families through material and technical assistance.



Khulo Municipality (Adjara A/R) Local Action Group



65 LAG members were trained in the LEADER approach and the LAG concept.

(LAG) established.



68 rural business were supported (including 35 start-ups).



220 beneficiaries trained in business management and marketing.



273 beneficiaries trained in agriculture, tourism, and environmental management, including pasture management, eco-tourism, and disaster risk reduction.



A Local Development Strategy, including a tourism development strategy for the Khulo municipality, developed based on the LEADER approach.

- **500 jobs** were created in Tusheti Community (Akhmeta Municipality, Kakheti Region).
- Wool processing productivity significantly increased, with shepherds improving shearing capacity from **20 to 200 sheep per day**.
- **5 professional shearing teams** established, ensuring sustainable service provision in the region.
- In Tusheti **15 shepherds** trained in improved wool sorting and handling techniques, enhancing product quality.
- Market linkages established, enabling sales of higher-quality wool at increased prices.
- Wool processing enterprise expanded production from **22 to 60 tons**, with **income increasing by 172%**.
- **2 wool-processing and handicraft workshops** supported in Alvani, strengthening local value chain.
- **15 women** were employed and trained in traditional wool and felt production techniques in Tusheti.
- Local handicraft businesses strengthened, including an **87% increase in income** for supported entrepreneurs.
- New market access established, including partnerships with design stores in Tbilisi.



● **13 new or improved economic activities** introduced, including tourism, beekeeping, food processing, and handicrafts.

● **7 rural businesses** supported through small grants.



The first medical aid service was established in Tusheti and attract new donors.

● **80% of Tusheti farmers** adopted improved potato seeds, introduced by the project.

● **Crop yields increased by up to 100%**, significantly improving food security and income.

● **Over 40 farmers** trained in modern and sustainable agricultural practices.

● New income streams created through livestock, agriculture, handicrafts, and tourism.



● Local products promoted and sold, enhancing visibility and generating additional revenue for communities.



More than 50% of beneficiaries increased their income.

Supporting Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Region



40 jobs preserved during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping stabilize local livelihoods.

- **26 small and medium enterprises (SMEs)** supported.
- **Over 40 SME representatives** trained in marketing, sales, and business development.
- Targeted consultations provided, supporting business adaptation during lockdown conditions.
- **846 individuals** were supported with agricultural inputs, including poultry and basic farming resources to maintain their livelihood activities during COVID-19.

In 2022-2023, a two year initiative was carried out to increase the income of the farmers living in the Tusheti and Pshav-Khevsureti areas as well as the Khulo municipality by changing their practices related to animal husbandry with a view to more effective and sustainable management methods.



27 grants awarded to farmers and veterinarians, enabling modernization of livestock production.



Over 75 farmers and extension specialists trained in livestock management, feeding, biosecurity, and sustainable agricultural practices.

6 artificial insemination (AI) specialists trained and more than 100 procedures conducted, improving cattle genetics and productivity.



Demonstration pasture plots established in all targeted regions, promoting sustainable land use and improved grazing practices.

More than 90 farmers received tailored consultations, improving animal health, feeding practices, and farm management.

75 farmers trained in sanitary and phytosanitary standards, strengthening compliance with food safety and market requirements.

73 farmers trained in business planning and access to finance, with 16 business plans developed and increased membership in the Georgian Farmers' Association.

Market linkages strengthened through study visits, networking events, and **28 agreements** signed between farmers and buyers.

Cold storage facility supported in Tusheti, improving local meat value chains and market access.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Environmental pollution remains one of the major challenges of the modern world. Contemporary urban, industrial, economic, and technological development has brought significant benefits to mankind but, on the contrary, its consequences have negatively impacted the quality of human life and health. Georgia is currently facing environmental challenges caused by direct human activity and the global consequences of climate change. Recognizing this, Caritas Czech Republic integrates environmental protection with disaster risk reduction (DRR) across its interventions. The organization promotes sustainable practices such as waste segregation, recycling, and wastewater management, while also strengthening community resilience and preparedness for climate-induced risks.

Waste and Wastewater Management

Since 2018, Caritas Czech Republic's environmental activities focus on raising awareness about the importance of sustainable waste management and introducing relevant practices in rural Georgia. In this regard, our organization has been actively supporting the development of infrastructure in the regions for waste collection, separation and recycling and introducing waste separation, recycling and composting practices in the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region and providing respective technical assistance in the Dusheti and Khulo municipalities.

- **Waste recycling models** were developed for the Oni, Ambrolauri, Lentekhi and Tsageri municipalities and approved by the municipal governments.

- **The Intermunicipal waste recycling model** for the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region was developed and approved by the regional government.

- **127 farmers** underwent capacity-building sessions in composting practices.



3 waste collection vehicles and 299

waste bins were procured and handed over to the Oni, Ambrolauri, Tsageri, Lentekhi, Dusheti and Khulo municipalities. The Oni municipality has also received **1 assanization** vehicle to manage waste from the wastewater treatment facilities.





- **56 subsistence farmers and 15 schools** were supported with all necessary equipment for making compost in the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region.
- **30 teachers** went through the training on environmental education and 459 pupils and youth in the circular economy in the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region.

- **A strategy and action plan for waste-water management** was developed and shared with the Oni municipality government and the municipal water supply network maintenance center.
- **25 representatives** from public administration, self-government and civil society increased their capacities in wastewater treatment and best practices/solutions.
- **8 model wastewater infrastructures** were installed in the Oni municipality.

Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2024, Caritas Czech Republic addressed the growing risks posed by climate-induced hazards in mountainous regions of Georgia. Recent events in Oni Municipality, including the devastating disaster in Shovi where a glacial mudflow caused significant loss of life and destruction, have highlighted the urgent need for stronger disaster preparedness, early warning mechanisms, and community awareness.

Implemented in close cooperation with local authorities, schools, and communities, the project introduced a comprehensive, community-based disaster risk management system combining evidence-based planning, capacity building, and practical simulation exercises.

A municipal **risk assessment, emergency management plan, and disaster risk communication strategy** were developed and institutionalized, ensuring long-term preparedness and coordinated response to climate-induced hazards such as floods, landslides, and earthquakes.



More than 5 awareness campaigns and school

initiatives implemented, including youth-led climate resilience actions.





258 community members trained in disaster risk reduction (DRR).



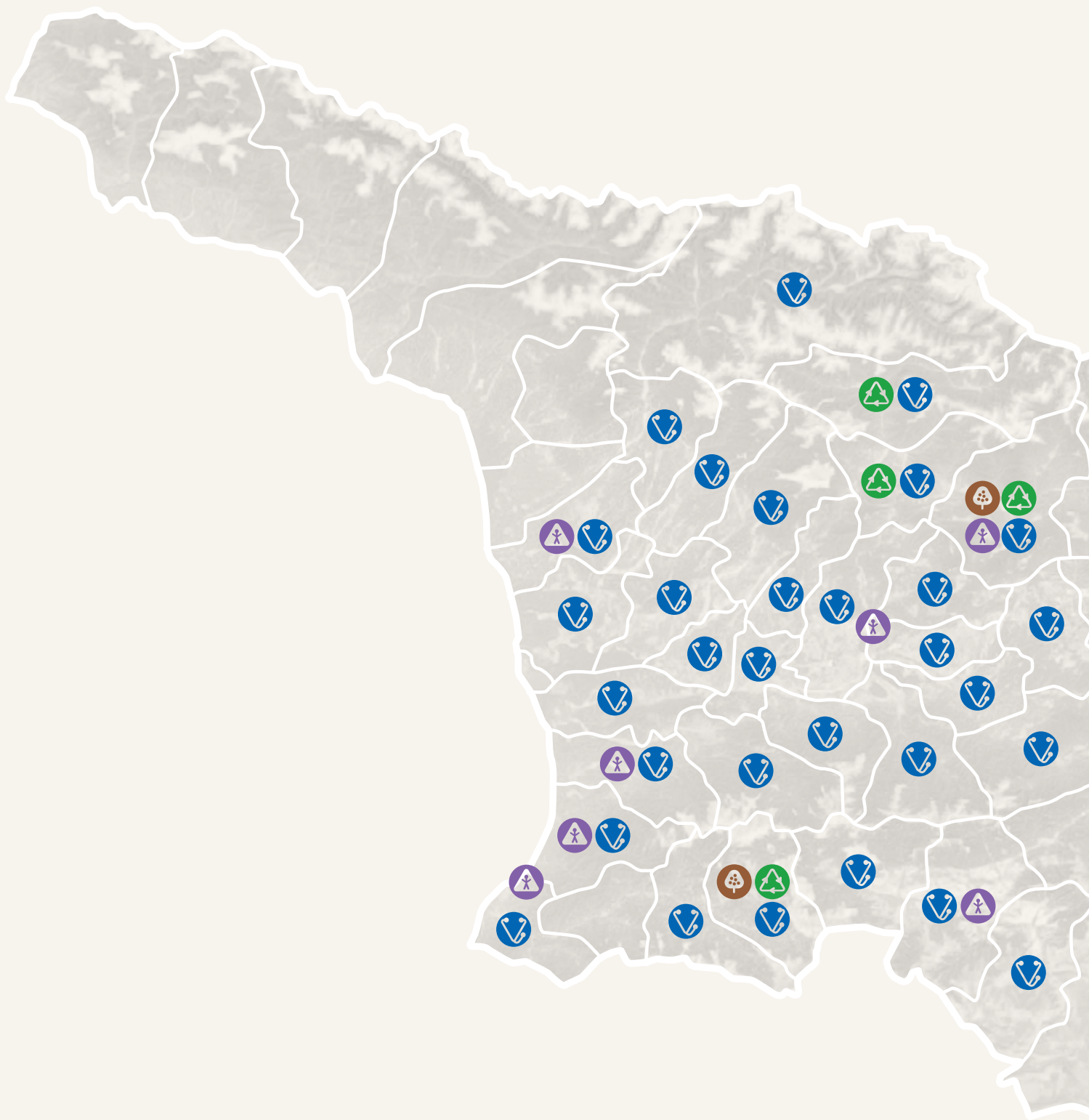
● **Oni municipality was equipped** with a comprehensive risk assessment, emergency plan, and communication strategy.

● **6 school emergency preparedness plans** was developed.

● **9 simulation exercises were conducted**, reaching **188 participants** across all schools.

● **More than 100 community members were engaged** in risk validation workshops.

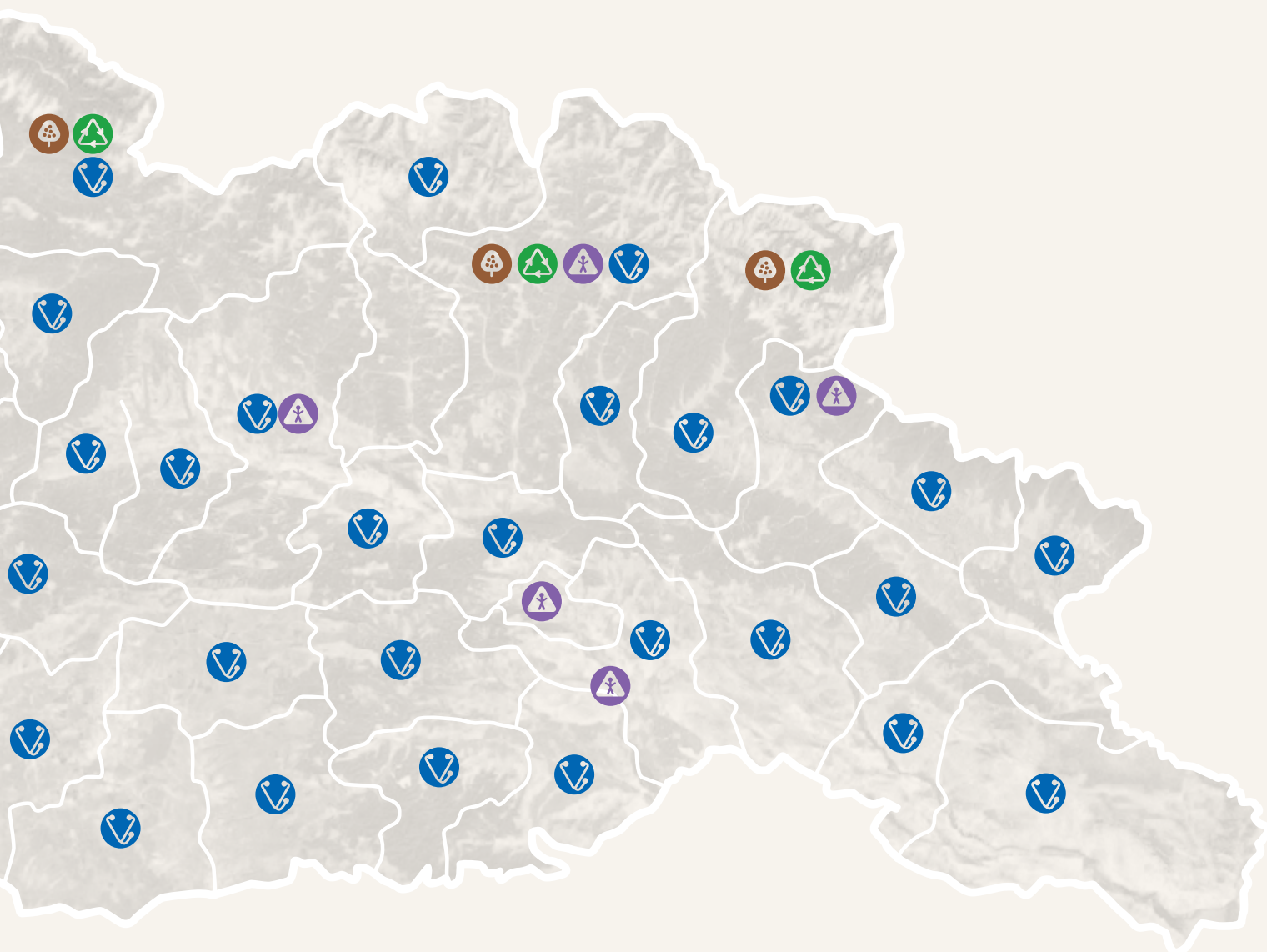
● **Technical capacity was increased by 70%** among municipal staff and high-risk communities.



PROJECT MAP

The markers on the map indicate the areas of Caritas Czech Republic's work in different municipalities of Georgia.

-  **HEALTHCARE**
-  **SOCIAL CARE**
-  **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
-  **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



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