

Overview of PH Work in Georgia

PH International first conducted programs with Georgia in 1988, hosting the first group of Georgian school children to travel to America on an exchange. PH continued with a series of performing arts and student exchanges between Georgian and American communities between 1988 and 1990 and, in November of 1989, brought the very first group of American school children to travel to Georgia, visiting Tbilisi and Gurjanni, where they stayed with host families, performed for the community and attended school with their Georgian counterparts.

In 1990, PH made a more long-term commitment to Georgia when PH accepted the invitation of the Ministry of Education to teach English and conduct professional development workshops for teachers throughout Georgia for nine months. During this time, Project Harmony solidified a strong network of professionals and partner institutions committed to the principles of cultural and professional exchange between the US and Georgia. This experience led directly to a series of educator training programs and student exchanges between Georgians and Americans that took place in the early 1990s.

In spring 2000, PH established a permanent field office in Tbilisi. Since that time, PH has implemented wide-reaching programs in its four core areas of work of Community Development, Information Technology, Educational Development, and Professional Development.

Last 5 years, PH International in Georgia was engaged in implementing five different programs and assisting schools nationwide to enhance civic education, raising community awareness about juvenile justice issues, promoting positive changes in public safety and juvenile crime prevention, providing additional English language after school programs for disadvantaged youth and improving English language skills among Georgian school teachers.

Last 5 Year Program Portfolio in Georgia:

1. USAID funded Applied Civic Education and Teacher Training Program (2010-2014)
2. INL, US Department of State funded Georgia Community Action and Linkages for Legal Socialization Program (2013 - 2014)
3. US Embassy funded English Access Microscholarship Programs (2011 - 2015)
4. US Embassy / US Department of State funded Intensive Course for Teachers of English Program (2012 - 2014)
5. US Embassy / US Department of State funded English Language through Civic Education Program (2011-2013)

Applied Civic Education and Teacher Training Program (ACETT)

The goal of ACETT is to improve the quality and scope of school-based civic education and encourage participation of youth in Georgia's civic and democratic processes. Program works in 30% of Georgian schools in all regions of Georgia. In the beginning of the program, in 2010, a nationwide Civic Education Needs Assessment was carried out, providing a framework for program activities. As part of the program 4 civics supplemental textbooks were developed and printed to better enable teachers to respond to the needs of the civic education curriculum. Civics supplemental textbooks were introduced and delivered free of charge to all 740 program partner schools, including Armenian and Azerbaijani language schools. A 50-hour civics teacher training program was designed and accredited by the appropriate state agency. 813 civics teachers took this training course and up to 740 school administrators took part in one-day seminars about civic education. A National Forum of Civics Teachers, the first professional body in civics was created. In the frame of the program more than 450 school-based civics clubs have been established and successfully operate, school civics club manual created. More than 200 active civics clubs, were awarded with office equipment to support their activities. Since 2010, 555 mini-grant projects have been supported by ACETT and up to 711 young leaders and 53 civics teachers have been trained in the use of social media. Summer camps "I am Active Citizen" hosted more than 800 students and civics teachers and 170 students were trained in debate and public speaking. In addition, integration camps hosted 48 students and 24 teachers. 1103 students took part in the Youth Forums in all regions of Georgia. Regional and national competitions recognize and stimulate student initiatives and nationwide debate tournaments are arranged. A bilingual civics education website, www.civics.ge provides civic education resources, news and information about ACETT support to teachers, students and parents. A second website, www.initiatives.ge serves as a web portal that connects students, teachers, volunteers and mini-grant support in ways that encourage participation and collaboration in support of local civic initiatives. Besides, regional network of civics clubs was created www.civicsnet.ge. Program is implemented by PH International in collaboration with the Center for Training and Consultancy and regional Georgian non-governmental organizations under the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Program is supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

English Access Microscholarship Program – Access Program

The purpose of the English Access Microscholarship Program (Access Program) is to make the study of English more accessible to adolescents from economically disadvantaged background. While working on their language skills, the participants become familiar with aspects of US culture and thus develop a deeper understanding of current issues in North American society. A greater sensitivity to cultural differences, coupled with the acquired language skills, enable the participants to take advantage of opportunities that had previously been unavailable to them. The program works with 250 economically-underprivileged students aged 13-17 in ten regions of Georgia (Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Batumi, Telavi, Rustavi, Gori, Ozurgeti, Akhaltsikhe, Ambrolauri, Poti), providing two year, 420 hour after-school, one – week summer day camp and enrichment activities at no cost to the students and enhancing not only their English language skills but developing increased self-confidence, stronger critical thinking skills, and increased opportunities for study or employment. PH International works with local NGO partners in all target locations to provide English language instructions three times a week, as well as involve locally-based Peace Corps volunteers and American Corners in enrichment activities. Program addresses three main areas: 1) English language acquisition 2) Appreciation, respect and interest in western values and in other cultures, customs and beliefs and 3) Personal development, through developing leadership and interpersonal skills. Program is implemented by PH International in partnership with AMIDEAST and fhi 360 under the financial support of US Department of State.

Georgia Community Action and Linkages for Legal Socialization Program (GE CALLS)

The program aims to encourage schools and community groups to plan for and adopt new programs that reduce delinquency, providing access to training and materials that support those activities. The ultimate beneficiaries of Georgia CALLS are school students, youth at risk, juvenile offenders, and their families that participate in program activities. GE CALLS works in three main components: 1) School-based Prevention Programs, through which 20 secondary schools, including 4 serving minority communities, will undertake creative and sustainable new initiatives for the prevention of juvenile crime in partnership with local law enforcement and community resources. 2) Support for Community-Led Prevention Initiatives, through which new and effective non-school community-based initiatives will serve as localized, sustainable models for the prevention of and response to juvenile crime in Georgia and 3) Strengthening the Diversion Program for Juvenile Offenders, through which this component will strengthen capacity in Georgia for mediation and diversion as key aspects of restorative justice approaches for juvenile offenders. Program is implemented by PH International in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sciences and the Ministry of Internal Affairs under the financial support of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US Department of State.

English Language Teaching Support Programs

English Language through Civic Education Program

The goal of ELCE was to improve English language teaching and learning in Georgian schools. The direct beneficiaries of this were Georgian teachers of English for grades 1 through 12 and the students they taught. PH International and its partners has introduced, tested, and produced standard supplementary materials. In the frame of the project, seven American English Language Teacher Trainers (ELTTs) served the regions of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Imereti, Adjara, Shida Kartli, Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Guria. These ELTTs worked directly with teachers in workshop and in-class settings. Training sessions were followed by classroom observations and feedback. The focus was on developing a model or models that would be effective regardless of the school setting, be it urban or rural, Georgian or minority, large or small. Over the duration of program, ELCE worked with 378 English teachers in grades 1-12 from over 185 schools across the country, testing new approaches and materials for English language instruction and civic education through English language. All partner 185 schools received technologies packages, which consisted of DVD players, speakers, laptop computers, 3 in 1 printer/scanner/copiers. In addition program offered summer institutes for high performing teachers, nationwide English language conferences, Open Lesson Weeks and outside of class activities.

Intensive Course for Teachers of English

The goal of ICTE was to enable teacher trainers to lead their peers in professional development, providing training to Georgian teachers nationwide. Program provided 18 day specialized training for 30 experienced and skilled Georgian school teachers of English in the U.S. as peer trainers that can train other teachers in modern learner centered teaching techniques and combining English language and cultural instruction. In addition, program provided a 50 hour intensive course in Georgia for selected 20 teachers in modern learner-centered teaching techniques for language learning, supplementary lessons and materials that reinforce English language acquisition through content on American, western culture and civic values; It also offered applied learning opportunities with 60 students in the English language summer camp. As part of the follow-on events social media, networking, and a series of incentive opportunities were used to encourage and challenge participants to fulfill commitments to apply learning and expand the impact of the ICTE program in Georgian communities.