



Accountability in Aid Delivery – The Renovation of Collective Centers for Georgia’s Internally Displaced Persons

- **The majority of IDPs interviewed were saying that their living conditions have improved in the renovated collective centers;**
- **Five out of 22 collective centers visited were in rather good conditions while 17 buildings revealed serious defects after the repair works were completed;**
- **MDF and the construction companies failed to fix the renovation defects;**
- **The self-privatization of renovated apartments has been delayed.**

23 September, 2011

Tbilisi - Transparency International Georgia (TI Georgia) has issued a new report about the renovation of collective centers for Georgia’s internally displaced persons. The report was prepared within the Making Aid Work for Georgia project with the financial support of the Open Society Georgia Foundation.

The report aimed to assess the quality of renovation of old collective centers in western Georgia, which was managed by the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia (MDF) between January 2009 and January 2011, and to grasp IDPs’ general attitudes and opinions about the renovations. TI Georgia has also provided a brief explanation about how the MDF works with the tendered construction companies and what their role is in terms of the renovations.

The report focused on western Georgia where MDF managed approximately 80 percent of all its housing rehabilitation projects for IDPs. There have been concerns that the renovation of a number of collective centers in western Georgia has not been of high quality.

The key findings of this study are:

- The majority of IDPs TI Georgia spoke with were generally satisfied with the rehabilitation of their apartments, saying that these now look better and provide more privacy than before.
- Five out of 22 collective centers visited were in rather good conditions and did not have any major renovation defects.
- 17 collective centers revealed serious defects after the repair works were completed. Dampness and mould appears to be a major structural problem which is due to the unfixed drainage systems. The same holds true for the outdated sewage infrastructure which did not seem to have undergone serious renovation. The quality of building materials and repair works in these sites was not of high quality.
- In the 17 collective centers, mentioned above, MDF and the construction companies failed to fix the renovation defects within the one year liability period.



- The delayed self-privatization of renovated collective centers remains another major issue of concern.

Based on these findings TI Georgia makes the following recommendations for relevant agencies, including MDF, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees (MRA) and local municipalities:

- The MRA, local municipalities and the MDF should better coordinate the selection and structural assessment of existing buildings for rehabilitation.
- The repair works need to be tailor-made to the particular needs and conditions of each building concerned.
- The MDF should improve its defects documentation and supervision mechanism.
- The new redress mechanism for IDPs' complaints about the quality of renovation to their housing should be well-explained to IDPs.
- The MRA and local municipalities need to improve their service delivery to IDPs to solve the water, gas and waste management problems in the renovated collective centers.
- The MRA should provide specific timeline for the privatization of each collective center, communicate it with IDPs and finalize the privatization process by the end of 2011, as promised.

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This study was made possible by the generous support of the Open Society – Georgia Foundation. The views expressed here reflect TI Georgia's views only.