

## Appendix 8: Key Services and Programs in Akhalkalaki Municipality



The European Union  
for Georgia  
ENPARD: Support to Agriculture  
and Rural Development



### Key Services & Programs in Akhalkalaki Municipality



## Appendix 8: Key Services and Programs in Akhalkalaki Municipality

### Municipal Services

The municipality takes care to develop special education institutions such as kindergartens, musical schools, sports schools, swimming pools, etc. Unfortunately, it does not have financial capacity to take care and develop special education institutions in the communities and currently it covers only the town of Akhalkalaki.

The municipality takes care for the local sewage and waste management. Currently, it covers the town Akhalkalaki and those villages where the road infrastructure is assessable.

Local government also provides social support to the local population. It uses the same subsistence valuation scoring criteria developed and administered by the Social Service Agency. The municipality finances residents with the scores up to 100 000. The margin of the financial support varies from 100 to 1 000 GEL. Financing is provided from the municipal fund and issued once in a year. The municipality supports war veterans (12) and exiles (displaced families). The municipality also supports people with a one-time payment of 1500 GEL for chemotherapy, haemo dialysis and leukemia. Parents with the new born children receive one-time payment of 250 GEL.

The Department of the Agricultural Development of the municipality is responsible for monitoring and reporting on agricultural issues. According to the information provided by the department several projects for agricultural development have been implemented by local/central government and international non-governmental organizations.

### Government initiatives

By Entrepreneurship Development Agency<sup>1</sup> (Enterprise Georgia) on behalf of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia:

- Micro and small businesses support program (Since 2014 to present). The program is designed to render financial support and consulting to micro and small businesses across Georgia
- Mountain development program (Since 2015 to present). The program is designed to render financial support and consulting to micro and small businesses in mountainous Georgia
- Hotel industry initiatives (Since 2016 to present). Entrepreneurs operating in the regions of Georgia can benefit from the new component of the State Program "Produce in Georgia" – Hotel Industry Incentive. According to the Government decision and based on the market demand<sup>2</sup>, the scheme was introduced to promote hospitality business across the country, attract the increased number of tourists, create jobs and develop the regions
- "Film in Georgia" (Since 2016 to present). It is a newly launched film industry incentive program that aims to promote Georgia as the Eastern European Film Destination by offering a 20% cash rebate on qualified expenses incurred in Georgia. The program aims to support the development of Georgia's film industry. An additional rebate of up to 5% is available if a production promotes Georgia as an attractive tourism destination. The program is implemented by the Enterprise Development Agency (EDA) under the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable

---

<sup>1</sup> Entrepreneurship Development Agency: <http://enterprisegeorgia.gov.ge>

<sup>2</sup> Hospitality and Real Estate Sector in Georgia 2016, .LEPL Invest in Georgia: <http://bit.ly/2tDpGGU>

## Appendix 8: Key Services and Programs in Akhalkalaki Municipality

Development in cooperation with the Georgian National Film Centre, part of the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia

By Agriculture Project Management Agency<sup>3</sup> on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia:

- Plant The Future (Since 2015 to present). The project "Plant the Future" is initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and is implemented by the Agricultural Project Management Agency under the "United Agroproject" with the state budget
- Program of Agro-production Promotion (Since 2015 to present). The Program is implemented within the framework of the "Agriculture Modernization, Market access and Resilience project" (AMMAR). The program is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Preferential Agro Credit Project (Since 2013 to present). Preferential Agro Credit Project has been initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and implemented by the Agricultural Projects Management Agency (APMA) since 27 March 2013 within the frames of "United Agroproject"
- Agro Insurance (Since 2014 to present). The Agricultural insurance program was put into force on September 1, 2014 and is purposed to develop the agricultural insurance market, promote agricultural activities, retain the income for the individuals with the occupation of the mentioned activities and reduce risks.
- Co-financing of Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises (Since 2013 to present). The project is initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia and is implemented by Agricultural Projects Management Agency, with financial support from the state budget. The project comprises two components: 1) Agricultural products processing enterprises co-financing component. 2) Storage enterprises co-financing component
- Produce in Georgia (Since 2014 to present). The programme 'Produce in Georgia' is implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia
- Seasonal Projects (Since 2014 to present). Agricultural Projects Management Agency performs various seasonal programs in accordance with the country demands. At present, there are two seasonal programs: Industrial tangerine support program (since 2014) and Project of Facilitation of Apple Sale (since 2014)

By Agriculture Cooperative Development Agency<sup>4</sup> on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia:

- Support Beekeeping Agricultural Co-operatives (Since 2016 to present). The Program is to support beekeeping agricultural cooperatives by using modern technologies in the primary production of honey and other beekeeping products in Georgia
- Support Dairy Production Agricultural Co-operatives (Since 2017 to present). The Program is to support dairy production agricultural cooperatives to facilitate development of cooperation in the agricultural sector and in particular, to support the development of dairy production in Georgia

By Agriculture Information Consultation Center<sup>5</sup> in the municipality on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture:

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://apma.ge>

<sup>4</sup> <http://acda.gov.ge/index.php/eng>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.moa.gov.ge/En/Regions>

## Appendix 8: Key Services and Programs in Akhalkalaki Municipality

Agriculture Information Consultation Center provides regular consultations and information sharing to the farmers. It collects statistical data and shares agriculture related information to the public.

By Mechanization service centers<sup>6</sup> in the municipality on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture:

The Mechanization Service Center serves farmers with agricultural machinery, provides with agriculture related information and offers consultations and trainings on modern agricultural technologies. In addition, farmers of the municipality can also use Mechanization Service Centers from the neighbouring municipalities (for instance Akhaltsikhe). Along with the above listed functions, the center is equipped with the modern soil laboratory and it can offer fee-based soil analysis to the local farmers.

By Social Service Agency on behalf of the Ministry of Labor Health and Social Affairs<sup>7</sup>:

1. State pension – is 180 GEL for female over 60 and male over 65 years old. For the entire population of the Akhalkalaki there is additional 20% to pension as they are mountainous population. So the total payment is 216 GEL. This is universal monthly payment and does not depend on past work record.
2. State compensation – is provided to the retired list of state officials. The amount of the compensation varies and the criteria by which it is calculated is regulated by the law about *State Compensations and State Academic Scholarship*.
3. Household and utility subsidy - is provided to the war affected people and veterans, exiles and political repression families. There is also another category of participants working on the liquidation of the consequences of emergency on nuclear facilities in Chernobyl. The subsidy varies from the lowest 7GEL and highest 44GEL.
4. Single leave pay for pregnancy, delivery and child care, as well as adoption of newborns does not exceed 1000 GEL, this also includes paid vacation.
5. Social packages – are given to the people in case of disabilities; in case of a foreign citizen; in case of person having stateless status in Georgia; in case of a foreign citizen is granted by Georgian citizenship; in case of appointing a social package due to the establishment of a disability status; in case of appointing a social package due to death of the breadwinner; in the event of the death of a participant during the war or after the war in the event of the death of a warrant for his parent, spouse; in case of war participant; In case of war disabled; in case of appointing a social package for recognition as a victim of political repression; in case of the death of a person recognized as a victim of political repression in the case of his / her parental spouse; in case of loneliness. The criteria and the amount of the social package is regulated under the state act #279 on defining state packages. The amount starts from 100 GEL and does not exceed 600 GEL. There are significant amount of the people with disabilities in the municipality. Support to disabled – there are first and second groups of disabled of which the first group receives 100 GEL per month plus 20% as a resident of the mountainous area which is 120 GEL in total. The first second group of disables receive 180 GEL and 20% accordingly which is 216 GEL.

There are several types of the **social programs** as well such as subsistence allowance which is a score based system. The family has to apply to the unified database, the state agency

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://mechanization.ge>

<sup>7</sup> [http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=1](http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=1)

## Appendix 8: Key Services and Programs in Akhalkalaki Municipality

takes assessment based on specific criteria and provides certain scores. Based on that under 30 001 scores each family member received 60 GEL. If the family has child under 11 years old each child receives 10 GEL. From 30 001 to 57 001 scores each family member receives 50 GEL plus 10 GEL per each child under 11 years old. From 57 001 to 60 001 scores each family member received 40 GEL. From 60 001 to 650 001 scores each family member received 30 GEL. If the family has 65 001 to 100 001 scores family receives only 10 GEL per each child under 16.

The service provided by the subprogram of supporting war veterans' rehabilitation offers: free doctor-specialists consultation; Physiotherapy and laboratory-instrumental research; conduct balneological procedures; Treatment of therapeutic physical and manual therapy procedures.

Supporting disabled people by providing wheel chairs, hearing aids and other rehabilitation items/equipment.

Promote social integration of the deaf people.

There are some municipalities in Georgia which have day centers where enrolled beneficiaries receive meals, educational needs assessment and support, support personal skills improvement trainings, medical and ambulatory check-up, identification and improvement of the behavioral disorders, inclusive education etc. Unfortunately, such a facility does not exist in Akhalkalaki.

Community organizations subprogram for people with disabilities include: provision with housing, daily services and three meals, provision with primary medical care, organizing ambulatory and stationary medical services if necessary; develop and implement individual service program for beneficiaries in order to improve the quality of independence; develop professional skills (taking into consideration the individual possibilities and wishes of beneficiaries - selection, training, and practical application); provide appropriate items for all age and sex with seasonal clothing and items of personal hygiene; implementing activities that facilitate integration into society. This type of subprogram is not provided in Akhalkalaki municipality.

There is another state program to provide shelter with persons with mental disorders.

According to the Decree No. 262 of March 31, 2014 of the Government of Georgia, state program for promotion improvement of demographic situation aims to provide material incentives. From January 1, 2017 Samtskhe-Javakheti got involved in this program. Beneficiary is granted monthly financial assistance in the mountainous region for the residents - 200 GEL. Monetary assistance will be issued to the child until the age of 2 years.

There are **child care services** as well which includes:

Adoption of child;

Appointing child caregiver;

Alternate forms of child care:

- a) Foster care - on the basis of a contract concluded between the state and the recipient family, it is for a certain period of time ensuring the child is raised in the family condition;
- b) Placement of children in small family type homes and bringing them family environment;
- c) Reintegration is to promote children's return from children's homes to biological families. In the case of reintegration, raising the social functioning of the family, strengthening it and minimizing the risks of returning to the child institution;

## Appendix 8: Key Services and Programs in Akhalkalaki Municipality

Child protection from violence;

Family support preventive activities: day centers and food provision for children at risk of abandonment;

Children's rehabilitation and abilitation;

Children's early development - objective of subprogram is to stimulate development of children with disabilities, or to encourage social cohesion, to strengthen the child and the family, to prevent and abandon possibilities;

Providing shelter for homeless children;

Emergency assistance for the families with children having critical condition and satisfy their urgent needs.

There are other healthcare services which includes:

National health care;

Special healthcare programs for beneficiaries (tuberculosis, HIV, diabetes, drug abuse, etc);

Support with the medicines to the chronical diseases;

C-haepatitis.

By National Food Agency<sup>8</sup> regional office in Akhalkalaki on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia:

National Food Agency carries out food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary control of foodstuffs. The objective of the control is to determine compliance with the requirements of legislation in the field of food / animal food safety, veterinary and plant protection. State control is carried out by the following mechanisms: Inspection, Monitoring; Supervision, documentary inspection, sample taking.

There are 5 food safety specialists working in Samtskhe-Javakheti regional NFA located in Akhaltsikhe who visit Akhalkalaki municipalitues to implement their duties.

The most important functions of the Veterinary Department of the NFA are to ensure the control of circulation of veterinary medicine; Animal identification-registration and control; Veterinary services for business operators including vaccinatio; Diagnosis of animal diseases within its competence; Supervision of animals migration (including seasonal pastures); Supervision of collection, utilization and destruction of biological waste (except dangerous and medical waste). There are several diseases which are covered by the state vaccination program, such as Anthrax, brucellosis, Foot and Mouth Disease, Rabies, Sheep and Goat Pox, Lumpy Skin Disease, CCHF. The veterinary department in Akhalkalaki has 16 employees out of which 14 are veterinarians and 2 paravets. It has to be noted that there are no female veterinarians working for the NFA. Also, this sector is missing young specialists. The youngest veterinarian is 45 years old. The sector has transportation problem as the veterinarians are not paid well for transportation which is provided by themselves. There is a need for the laboratory locally, which may include free and paid services.

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://nfa.gov.ge/en/>