

## Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative

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On November 28<sup>th</sup> a presentation of the Community Activity Network (CAN) Database was held in the CHF International Gori Field Office. CHF (Georgia Employment and Infrastructure Initiative) implements a five-year project financed by USAID.

CHF started its activities in Georgia in 2002. This year the organization began activities in the Shida Kartli region as well; today 250 projects are underway in 40 districts throughout Georgia.

Various NGO, community, media, and governmental body representatives from different towns and districts were invited to the presentation, lead by Nana Berdzenishvili, the CHF International Gori POC manager,.

Ms. Nana talked in detail about the importance of the Community Activity Network Database. She mentioned that the database is a searchable web-based resource open to the public, enabling NGOs, government agencies and other stakeholders to post information about the communities with which they work and projects they are implementing throughout Georgia. CAN is unique in that it operates as a powerful search engine, allowing users to enter data and search for community activities being implemented in over 3,700 villages in Georgia. This Georgian database is an essential resource for the strategic coordination of development initiatives. CHF encourages any and all development agencies (including government, NGOs, CBOs and community groups) to enter information on any recent development initiatives taking place in all communities nation-wide.

As the CAN database is in the Georgian language it is easy for any organization around the country – in large and small communities alike – to log on to this database and enter information about the activities being carried out by that organization. Additionally, information can also be published in English to reach a broader audience.

The goal of GEII is to improve essential infrastructure services and generate income for an economically and socially empowered citizenry.

GEII aims to actively assist Georgian communities to:

- Engage in participatory planning and take action to improve services and infrastructure;
- Access resources and support by partnership with government, business, NGOs and communities;
- Promote entrepreneurship and create long and short-term employment opportunities;
- Advance stability and reduce conflict by undertaking joint community initiatives.

Interested person may visit web page for more information [www.chf.ge](http://www.chf.ge).

CHF plans to implement economical development project in Gori. We would like to remind you that it is a pilot project. CHF has completed activities in many communities. The project in Gori will be experimental and, if successful, the same projects will be implemented in other towns as well. Experienced professionals from various fields established the Gori Economic Development working group. This group will prioritize the directions for economic and social development within the town and will suggest these ideas to CHF.