



Status: Preparation

PROJECT BRIEF
Rehabilitation of Rustavi Prison No. 6

UNDP Sector: Protection of Human Rights
Duration: Six months
Budget: 1.700.000, 00 EUR
Starting Date: 07 February 2005

Background:

The physical conditions in the prisons and pre-trial detention facilities in Georgia are well below acceptable norms. Most of the prisons suffer from overcrowding and very poor basic infrastructure, as a result of years of neglect. Prisons are still operating in Georgia in a way that deprives the detainees of basic civil rights; inadequate overcrowded infrastructures are at the root of the unacceptable humanitarian situation of the detainees. According to the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture, prison conditions in Georgia are among the worst in Europe. The Ministry of Justice has accordingly developed a strategy for penitentiary reform in 2002, and this paper sets the general direction the reform should take. As one of the most urgent issues to be addressed in this context to provide for some relief for the system, the Georgian Government has identified the opening of a nearly finished prison complex in Rustavi. The rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Rustavi Prison no 6. and complementary capacity-building measures have been identified as a high priority and a model project for catalysing the penitentiary reform process, combining security measures, humane living conditions and respect of human rights with new methods of prison management. Rustavi no. 6 is expected to function as a model prison, in terms of infrastructure, regime arrangements and prison management.

The European Commission is supporting the Ministry of Justice in its reform of the penitentiary sector through the TACIS Action Programme '2004 bis'. The EC decided to expand its support to the penitentiary reform and fund the rehabilitation of Rustavi 6 through its Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM), which allows for a six-month project implementation period. This project will be implemented with close cooperation with the current TACIS project.

Objective:

To provide the Georgian Government with an operational prison in conformity with minimum European standards to function as a model institution for the Georgian penitentiary system reform.

Activities:

The project is split into two components:

- 1) Rehabilitate Rustavi Prison No. 6.
- 2) Capacity development of prison staff and management of Rustavi Prison No. 6 in accordance with minimum international standards of human rights as well as prison management, principles and skills.

UNDP Georgia will implement the first component. The second component will focus on Rustavi Prison No. 6, but will as such also support Ministry of Justice and the Penitentiary department as a whole through the development of a wide range of relevant training modules, trainings and trainers for the penitentiary system in Georgia.

Expected results:

An operational prison, commissioned in conformity with minimum international standards.