

ATLANTA-TBILISI HEALTH PARTNERSHIP
AIHA FINAL REPORT SUSTAINABILITY GRANT
1999

I THE PARTNERS

The American International Health Alliance health partnership project between Atlanta, Georgia, and Tbilisi, Georgia, funded under a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development has existed since October of 1992, when the eleven charter partnerships were announced.

The **US Partners** in Atlanta, Georgia, have included through the years of the project:

- Grady Memorial Hospital, 1024-bed tertiary care facility in the heart of Atlanta, one of the nation's largest academic training hospitals;
- Emory University, including the School of Medicine and the School of Public Health;
- Morehouse School of Medicine, one of the nation's leading historically black medical institutions.
- Georgia State University brings strength in nursing education and business education.

The **Georgian Partners** in Tbilisi, Georgia, have included through the years of the project:

- The Ministry of Health, the government agency with responsibility for health policy and delivery;
- Tbilisi State Medical University, the historically leading educator of physicians in Georgia;
- City Hospital No. 2, one of the city's hospitals that had been designated by the government for upgrading to a health care facility emulating "western standards."
- Tbilisi State University, the large and highly respected university in Tbilisi with plans to develop modern schools of nursing and medicine.

II. PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

- **A. NILC:** To define the services and products of the NILC as part of an updated business plan, providing assistance in upgrading the resources of the NILC to enhance long term viability.
- **B. NGO/PVO:** To establish a Georgian NGO/Foundation and a sister PVO in Atlanta for the Partnership to collaborate on reaching program goals and long term. The Atlanta

Tbilisi Healthcare Partnership after seven years of activities in Georgia finally was transformed into Atlanta/Tbilisi foundation partners for health (FPFH). The foundation is an Institutional NGO, serving as umbrella organization for quasi-governmental (state owned limited liability societies) organizations (see below) to protect from unjustifiable taxation and attract funding from international organizations, serve as clearing-house for health initiatives and to support reorganization of health care system in country. Major interest will be given to Educational and Training programs in the different sectors of health and social care. The foundations' activities currently cover initiatives beyond planned programs.

The founding Partners of FPFH are:

- 1. NILC;
- 2. EMS;
- 3. Georgia Nursing Association;
- 4. Journal "Medicine and Pharmacology".

FPFH objectives are:

- Overall goal is to support improvement of the health status of the population of Georgia and to promote Georgian Health care system development.
- Collaboration with MOH in the creation of versatile health care system, support of health care management, human resource development and health insurance development.
- Support the establishment and development of primary health care, prevention and health promotion.
- Development of new system of medical and nursing education including continuous education network.
- Attract and coordinate assistance to NILC and EMS.
- Support of creation of modern western multiprofile hospitals.
- Participate in the further development of MCH services.
- Revival and improvement of care for elderly.
- Support the rehabilitation of disabled persons, and attract resources for their treatment and rehabilitation.
- Support healthy nutrition and rational drug use programs.
- Support AIDS TB and other socially dangerous disease prevention and treatment programs.

- Participate in development of Telemedicine and distance learning, training personnel and create country level network.
- Support informational and media activities.

Program areas of sustainability:

- Georgian NGO foundation and development of collaborative Partnership marketing and programs promotion plan.
- NILC
- EMS
- Nursing Association and professional Development.
- **C. Nursing:** To formulate and execute a coordinated marketing plan, working with the Georgian Nursing Association and Tbilisi State University.
- **D. EMS training center:** To formulate and execute a coordinated marketing plan. To provide inservice training to the leadership and trainers of the EMS Training Center to improve course content and training methodologies.
 - Emergency Medical Care provision for Georgian population in peace-time and emergency situations;
 - First Aid, Qualified and Special Emergency Care for Population during Disasters and Emergency Situations;
 - Medical equipment, medications backlog build-up, storage and replenish;
 - Medical-consulting teams dispatch in any point of Georgia after receiving a call; Emergency Care at the scene and patient transportation;
 - Involvement and participation in Health Care governmental and regional programs;
 - Emergency care training process for medical personnel /physicians, nurses/;
 - First aid training process for nonphysicians;
 - Improvement of emergency care at prehospital stage;
 - Providing the expose of educational materials /print and electronic resources/ in emergency care and first aid in Georgian for medical person-

nel and population;

- Searching of new medical information in emergency and disaster medicine in Internet and other network facilities and spreading of these information between health care professionals and population.

III. KEY EVENTS and ACHIEVEMENTS

A. National Information Learning Centre

- The NILCs computer classroom has been used for training in the use of the Internet, MEDLINE Search, E-mail usage, MS Word, MS Excel, and PowerPoint. More than 210 persons, including 148 health professionals, have participated in NILC training sessions.
- 528 medical students, and 227 physicians are among the more than 1200 users who visited the NILC in 1998, performing 786 searches in Internet, 258 in MEDLINE/Ovid, and 587 e-mail transactions.
- 136 Persons have used NILC CD-ROM library of 70 titles.
- 584 Persons have used books from the NILC collection free of charge (118 titles)
- NILC staff has provided 375 searches for users at the site: 165 in MEDLINE/Ovid, and 210 in Internet. An additional 48 searches have been provided to the officials of Ministry of Health.
- Since April 1997, NILC issues the bi-weekly, bilingual bulletin, *Internet Medical Digest* (circulation 250-300 copies) and its shorter version, published in MOH Newspaper *Meditina* (3,000 copies). Already 49 issues of the Digest have been published, eight pages each covering the most interesting topics of public health, health promotion, cardiology, oncology, AIDS/HIV, infectious diseases, epidemiology, disease prevention and control, clinical pharmacology, obstetrics and gynecology, TB prevention and control, and micronutrient deficiency. Electronic versions are maintained on the NILC web page. The NILC recently received a \$40,000 from the World Bank grant for Digest publishing from the World Bank's Health Promotion Program. (\$13,500 for Digest support per se, and left - for dissemination of Digest material via newspaper *Meditina*).
- 268 requests for article delivery have been passed to the Emory Health Science Center Library as part of our interlibrary loan (ILL) agreement. 178 articles have been received through the ARIEL document delivery system (software provided with OSGF funds).
- The NILC web-page currently presents information about the healthcare system of Geor-

gia (Structure of the MOH, its departments, State Medical Insurance Company, List of Tbilisi healthcare institutions). Planned expansion of this site will include additional information about both local and international healthcare programs.

- Director Z. Kirtava and US partners Carol Burns and Dr. Kenneth Walker have developed business plan and two mega projects, one of which was presented to Open Society (Soros) Foundation – 460,000\$ for 2 year term, another – to Deputy State Secretary - \$14,5 mln over 5 year term, including around 2,6 mln in projects where NILC would participate.
- Already 3 NILC staff have completed 4-month training programs in telemedicine and space communications technology with Professor Roald Sagdeev at the East-West Space Science Center (EWSSC) at the University of Maryland. NILC Director Z. Kirtava has completed 1.5 month training under same program at the EWSSC-UMD. NASA sponsors this Program.
- 38 videoconference sessions have been held with the EWSSC. 4 videoconferences have been held with the University of Cincinnati reuniting Ms. Karen Marsh (former NILC Co-Director for 4 months under OSGF sponsorship) with her colleagues at the NILC.
- Recently NILC has started Cardiology Consultancy pilot project in Telemedicine - which is aimed to gather second opinion of cardiac surgeons from Germany, US and Turkey thus assisting Georgian personnel of CathLab at the Emergency Cardiology Center (ECC) of the MOH to evaluate coronary angiography files and design operational intervention plan. 35 angiography images from the ECC have been already scanned, maintained on the NILC web-server and sent by e-mail to ECC partners in Bad-Krozingen, Milwaukee and Istanbul.
- Ms. Carol Burns, Emory Health Science Center Library Director, was supposed to visit Tbilisi in 1999. Regretfully, this hadn't been achieved, as Ms. Burns only had time to accomplish this trip either in June or in October – both times, when Dr. Zviad Kirtava, her counterpart visited US. It was discussed and agreed with AIHA, that Dr. Zviad Kirtava had against of visit Ms. Burns 2 visits to Atlanta accomplished. Both times the business plan of the NILC, as well as application to Soros Foundation and plans for medical Informatics development in regard of return of Dr. David Sheshelidze, fellow at Vanderbilt University was discussed with.
- Director Zviad Kirtava has participated in the AIHA annual Conference in Washington, DC, in Nov, 1999. He also participated in AMIA annual conference and made platform presentation at the parallel workshop dedicated to the IT development in healthcare sector of CEE/NIS and organized by the AIHA.
- AIHA has made substantial hardware upgrade for the NILC. Cisco 1605 R Reuter, 2 servers, and 7 PCs have been upgraded and equipped with UPSs. NILC's used Pentium-120 PCs have been redistributed to the 1- Nursing Association (Lia Mamaladze), 2- Mtskheta-Mtianeti Partnership (Ketino Loria). Also 1 laptop was purchased from the LRC sustainability Grant (coordinated with Mark Storey)

- NILC has succeeded to establish long-term cooperation with the Partnership for Peace Information Management System (PIMS). PIMS helped NILC to get more full text resources through the resources of the Uniform Service University of Health Sciences (USUHS), Bethesda, MD. Dr. Zviad Kirtava and Dr. Ken Walker met USUHS President, Admiral Dr. James Zimble, as well as Jim Hendrick and Dr. Rita Purcell (PIMS) in June, 1999 and agreed to organize their visit to Tbilisi in 2000.
- PIMS is going to establish high bandwidth wireless communication network in Tbilisi, Georgia between NILC/EMS, Central Clinical Hospital, Military Hospital and Military Medical School. These arrangements have been scheduled for Fall, 99, but have been postponed to early 2000.
- NILC staff (Z. Kirtava, D. Jorjoliani, D. Sheshelidze and K. Paposhvili) have presented paper titled **Telemedicine and Distance Learning - Georgia's yet limited experience and future perspectives** for TeleMed-98 Forum (London, U.K., Nov 24-26, 98), which have been selected not only for presentation, but also published in the *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare* in 1999(vol 5, Suppl. 1, S1:61-3).
- NILC personnel (Dr. Z. Kirtava, Dr. Kakha Paposhvili and Dr. David Jorjoliani) have drafted Georgia's **National Concept Plan for Telemedicine and Distance Medical Education**. This document was used as core structure for the corresponding chapters of the *National Health Policy of Georgia* and *National Strategy Plan for Health Policy Implementation 2000-2010*. These documents were discussed at the Donors Roundtable, organized by the WHO-EURO in Copenhagen, September, 1999 (Dr. Kirtava attended).
- NILC infocoordinator Helen Phagava made platform presentation at the AIHA workshop at the WHO-EURO in October, 1999.
- Printed resources - more than 130 medical textbooks;
- Multimedia resources - more than 80 CDs
- Online resources - Extended search capabilities in the following databases:
 - Medline/OVID - abstract collection from over 3,500 biomedical journals collected in the catalogue of the National Library of Medicine (NLM, USA); also - full-text articles from 15 most popular journals (provided by the AIHA/USAID)
 - MDConsult - full-text articles from 45 excellent medical journals, including Journals of and Clinics of collections, also on-line reference books, and Evidence Based Medicine collection (Provided by the Partnership for Peace Information management system - PIMS and Uniform Services University of Health Sciences - (USUHS, Bethesda, MD, USA);
 - Other Full-text electronic journals (more than 150) from the USUHS
 - EBSCO - provided by OSGF/Soros Foundation;

- Direct electronic delivery of full-text articles from Emory University Library (Atlanta, GA, USA) and USUHS Learning Resource Center, using Ariel document delivery software;
- Opportunity for the users of the NILC to search Internet, Medline and other resources, as well as use NILC's CD-library at the NILC computer class;
- Medical Web-publishing - abstracts and articles maintenance at the NILC server;
- Computer classes in IT (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet search, Medline search, E-mail) – 7 Pentium III PCs, provided by the AIHA;
- Local Area Network, uniting not only 17 PCs of the NILC, but 7 computers of the National Health Management Center, 10 computers of the Continuous Medical Education
- E-mail service for the users of the NILC, Internet link via radiomodem (128 kbps) to SaNet;
- Internet and Intranet Link to Partnership to Peace Information Management System (PIMS), PIMS Tbilisi wireless high bandwidth (2 mgb/s) WAN including Military Hospital, Military Medical School and Central Clinical Hospital, TSMU - through PIMS server via Satellite communication.
- Telemedicine services - scanning of still images and distribution of queries for second opinion gathering through AIHA-partners mailing list (around 150 clinics and thousands specialists throughout USA, CEE and NIS);
- Distance Medical Education – Interactive Courses developed in cooperation with International Medical Programs (IMP, NY, USA) and Bi-lingual bi-weekly bulletin *Internet Medical Digest* - information about health promotion and disease prevention.

Projects:

- PIMS Tbilisi Network to provide high bandwidth wireless communication to Military Medical and Emergency Medicine Institutions - Partnership for Peace Information Management System (PIMS, Chantilly, VA, USA)
- Interactive Distance Medical Education - Interactive Courses developed in cooperation with International Medical Programs (IMP, NY, USA) and PIMS.
- Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) – open source platform development in cooperation with Partnership for Peace (PfP) Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, George C. Marshall Center (Garmish-Partenkirchen, Germany), International Relations and Security Network (ISN), and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Zurich, Switzerland)
- *T Basic Course* Conversion to web-based source for ADL – in Cooperation with ADL group

at Joint Forces Command, Joint Distributed Learning Center (Suffolk, VA, USA)

- Medical doctors Journal Club - in cooperation with Georgian Cardiology Association, UMCOR and different Pharmaceutical Companies representations in Georgia (Pfizer, Servier, Berlin-Chemie, Merck, Bristol Meyers Squibb, Glaxo, etc.)
- ***NILC Staff:*** Director, 3 Deputy Directors (Technical, Medical Informatics, Learning Programs), Info-coordinator, technical assistant, web-designer, administrative assistant/IT class teacher, accountant.

B. NGO/PVO

- FPFH initialized relationship between EMS and number of international umbrella organizations in promoting training seminars for their employs and also tailoring special programs, to avoid overlap in emergency medical training (Save the children activity in Georgia).
- By FPFH was initialized the relationship between East-West Space Center (Director Prof.R.Sagdeev) at Maryland University and MOH and subsequently NILC.Four specialist were trained in USA and generous allowance given. One of them performed outstanding work in developing special software for calculating space orbits for launching satellites.
- FPFH is currently involved in several international projects aimed to improve overall health care system functioning.
- Active collaboration with TSU and MOH in reestablishment of University grade nursing school at TSU with financial contract for 25 Nurses and Social workers to be trained during four years (Each year). In addition agreement was negotiated to develop continuous education al program for all Georgia nurses and State program for nursing development will be guided by FPFH in close collaboration with National Nursing Center, also established with close joint efforts of FPFH and Nursing Association together with MOH.
- FPFH initiative resulted in Establishment within Tbilisi State University the Health Science Center (Director Archil Kobaladze) to coordinate all efforts in the field of medical and Health education,Health management education Nursing education as well as creation of TSU health system mainly oriented toward HMO/managed care type of services
- Foundation was instrumental in number of initiatives in the field of Rational Drug use approach development in Georgia and still is active in this field.
- FPFH was one of the major players in attracting PIMS toward military/civilian cutting edge activities in Georgia.Currently PIMS is firmly established institution with its high speed LAN system in Tbilisi and based on Foundations umbrella organizations local support.
- Next project is International Medical Programs Corporation(IMP) attraction to start

their highly technological and innovative programs base on Distance learning philosophy and video streaming modern digital technology in Georgia. Project is in its active progressing stage and created tremendous interest from Medical Society. First distance learning course took place in November in Modern cardiology. Four others will be held before March 2001, followed with continuous update of data presented. All data is accessible through PIMSW LAN. Focal Point for IMP is NILC. Moderator is Dr. Archil Kobaladze.

- Through PPFH established relationship between PIMS and NILC further development occurred and currently NILC staff receives constant training opportunities through PPFH European network.
- PPFH through close relationship with MOH started Council of Europe's three years contractor Health technology assessment program development for Georgia health care system. First seminar was held at our premises December 9th.
- PPFH is one of the founding members of Georgian Association of Telemedicine and pioneers in telemedicine concept development in country.

C. EMS

Resources

1. **Center of Disaster and Emergency Medicine** with its staff and facilities, established on the basis of EMS TC. Nowadays, EMS TC is the independent part of the CDEM structure and proceeding from this stable source of the governmental financial support. **Printed resources** - more than 80 medical textbooks;

2. **Multimedia resources** - more than 50 CD-Roms

3. **Online resources:**

- Internet,
- Medline/OVID
- MDConsult
- USUHS on-line resources
- EBSCO on-line and CD-Rom collection;

4. **Hardware** UNIX server, 6 computers, scanner, 2 printers, etc. provided within EMS TC, LRC and PIMS projects) ;

5. **Curricula/training programs** provided by American partners and worked out in EMS TC for medical personnel and non-physicians - main training program for medical personnel in emergency care, specially adopted program for nurses, First Aid at Work (four day course), First Aid at Work (two day course), First Aid/ABC & CPR (one day course), Advanced First Aid (7 day course), Medical Education and Inter-Regional Harmonization Program For Nuclear Ac-

cident Preparedness. ;

6. **Manuals** in first aid and emergency care, worked out in EMS TC;

7. **Teacher-training equipment** (mannequins, simulators, phantoms, demonstrating aids and other facilities) give an opportunity to organize practical sessions and disaster simulation, which helps the students to become familiar with the different practical skills (CPR, ABC, Primary & Secondary Survey, Casualty Handling, Intubation, Central and Peripheral Line Insertion Technique, Cricothireotomy, Intraosseous Injection techniques and so on). All lectures created in the center are made as the PowerPoint presentations;

8. **The intellectual resources of instructors and staff.** Instructors of the center were trained on the basis of the specially adopted program in USA and NIS countries. Except of these few instructors received knowledge in Emergency Care in United Kingdom, Scotland, Aberdeen. Since the opening the center staff take part in different workshops and conferences which take place in USA, Italy, United Kingdom, NIS countries.

9. **Office space** (296 sq.) was renovated to accommodate the specific training process;

10. **LRC** (Learning Resource Center) was established in the EMS TC with the support of AIHA - access to electronic resources - Internet, CD-Roms, textbooks, journals, etc; reinforcement of the lectures; creation of the new curriculums. Staff training in computer skills.

11. **Kutaisi and Batumi satellite centers**, including EMS TC satellite centers, sanavia and consultation services.

12. **CDEM/EMS TC Dispatch Control Center** (alarm center) with the multichanal three-digit phone number "001" with free of charge mobile and long-distance national connections. The capabilities of the center give opportunity to pass information via DIALOGIC interface boards and to storage in the CDEM original databases.

13. **TelCoNet** – telemedicine software developed in the EMS TC. The above-mentioned software with other CDEM facilities will give opportunity to connect medical institutions working within Emergency and Disaster Medicine in Georgia.

Projects:

- PIMS project - storage, processing and exchange of Medical Information; coordination of Civil and Military Medical Services; development of educational modules; distance learning; telemedicine
- Interactive Distance Medical Education - Interactive Courses developed in cooperation with International Medical Programs (IMP, NY, USA) and PIMS.
- The UNDP/DMPT project - creation of a Disaster Management System including two components: 1) a regional mode covering the Caucasus; and 2) a national mode for Georgia. Implementation of information and training resources in emergency and disaster medicine will give further practical realization to an active structure for Georgia and

the whole Caucasian Region.

- Establishment of toxicological informational consulting service within the framework of the CDEM
- "Healthy Generation", which provide development of the curriculum, textbook and first aid training for school pupils;
- "Medical Information Bank/Database in emergency service and disaster medicine";
- "Trauma Prevention Project", developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Health Care of Georgia. The trauma prevention project includes the development of educational-training methods; creation and publishing of educational materials, quarterly newsletters; distribution of printed materials in population; software development for trauma related data input, storage, retrieval and transmission; trauma epidemiology investigation on the different hi-ways of Georgia;
- Creation of the electronic textbook in first aid and emergency medicine;
- Implementation of "Hospital Stage Emergency Medical Care" training program in Georgia for further development of the emergency service in our country;
- Implementation of basic program in disaster medicine

Achievements

- 25 training courses were held during the reporting period. Among them 9 were carried out on the base of the main training program, 16 - on the base of special training programs in first aid, BLS, BTLS for nonphysicians and children. The whole number of trained persons was 198.
- Russian and English courses were especially composed for non-Georgian speakers and was held first Russian training course.
- Several curriculums were composed in the center
 - training program in first aid (one day program);
 - Advanced first aid (ten-day program). This program was created for the employees of different companies working within Western Road Pipeline Project.
- Prepared color illustrated first aid textbook.
- EMS TC created presentation for disaster simulation in PowerPoint with animations, audio- and videofiles.
- Nine training courses were held in Batumi satellite center during the reporting period. All these courses were within First Aid training program (four-day course). 130 per-

sons were trained. All of them were sailors of Georgian navy.

- Special training course in Advanced first aid (10-day course) was composed for non-medical personnel from Ratcha region. The course was funded by OSGF foundation within Ratcha region Renewal Project. The students of the training course (16 persons) were inhabitants of high mountain villages in Ratcha, who will provide emergency care and first aid until ambulance arrival.
- Lead up activity for opening of satellite centers in Kutaisi and Batumi were performed:
 - Training for trainers was held for the satellite centers;
 - Dimitri Makhatadze have visited Batumi and paved the way for opening the satellite center;
 - The opening ceremony and first training course in Batumi with the participation of the EMS TC was held in July, 1999
- Two employees of EMS TC (Nino Kopadze, Oliko Asatiani) had attended workshop in Web publishing, organized by Open Society Georgia Foundation.
- In June three members of EMS Center Nino Lortkipanidze, Alexander Chichinadze and Zaza Meladze took part in the Medical Education and Inter-Regional Harmonization program for Nuclear Accident Preparedness training in Erevan, Armenia.
- Training course /18-22 October 1999/ within the Medical Education and Inter-Regional Harmonization program for Nuclear Accident Preparedness was also held in EMS TC. Basic lectures of the course was kindly provided by American partners and used, and also instructors of the center enriched these lectures with different graphics, pictures, diagrams, and tables. Printed materials were translated in Georgian.
- EMS TC was involved in NATO - PIMS and UN Development Program (UNDP), which is one of the most important points on the way of the Disaster and Emergency Medicine Service developing by the modern world standards in Georgia.
- Strategic plan of LRC was compiled and sent to the coordinators of the LRC project.
- Creation of the consulting network and telemedicine project was started in 1999. The main objective of the both projects is improving of the efficacy and quality of the medical emergency care.
- Two representatives of the EMS TC took participation in AIHA annual conference in Washington (D.Makhatadze and O.Asatiani, the last one was also participant of infocoordinators' workshop and American Medical Informatics Association conference). Several presentations were hold by the both panelists. Dimitri Makhatadze had presentation "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow of the EMS TC", the main theme of the presentation was EMS TC and it's satellite center opened in Batumi in August 1999. Developmental and organization work for establishment of the Center of Disaster and Emergency Medicine, problems of EMS TC were discussed also during EMS Training Centers' sessions. The title of the second panelist's presentation was "Use of LRC Resources for preparation of training materials". Two poster session presentations were demonstrated, also. One

about EMS TC and the other about its Learning Resource Center.

- AIHA has made substantial hardware upgrade for the EMS TC.
- Center of Disaster and Emergency Medicine (CDEM) was established on the basis of the Emergency Medical Service Training Center in September, 1999. The decision to accept the EMS TC model as the national one was made by the MOH and includes creating the whole structure in Georgia. The functions of the center possibilities are defined by the conducting/coordinating in the sphere of the disaster and emergency medicine in Georgia by practical skills, training and methodical activity. CDEM structure is discussed as the EMS TC and branches, Disaster Medicine Center and Kutaisi Branch integrity. Additionally the bases for the practical activities in Tbilisi and in seven regions of Georgia, also two floors well constructed building (800 sq.) with the additional outdoor square for equipment storage (Ambulances, Mobile Medical Response Group, etc.).

D. Nursing

- Space was given for nursing school and nursing learning resource center by Tbilisi State University
- Curricula were developed for both undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees
- Selection and training of faculty, on site and by visits to Georgia State University in Atlanta, were accomplished
- The plans have been awaiting the commitment of tuition scholarships for twenty-three students (twenty nurses and three social workers) by the MOH. This has just happened and TSU has matched the funds. The nursing school and learning resource center will open in 2001.

IV. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

A. National Information Learning Centre

- NILC has received no funding from the Ministry of Health in 1999 due to severe budget deficit.
- NILC still hasn't received remaining debt of 16,000 GEL (around 8,500\$) for its programs performed in 1998.
- NILC spends around 3,000\$ per year on diesel for generator, which is hardly possible to sustain.
- NILC has limited chances to become full scale ISP, as the local telephone switch is heavily overused and badly non-reliable, so most of our former remote users have chosen to apply to other sources of the Internet provision.

- staff member have left the NILC in 1999-2000, as the financing situation has regressed.
- NILC needs special marketing plan as our skills and resources are not necessary.
- There is limited number of successful healthcare/medical institutions yet in Tbilisi, which limits NILC's chance to achieve the sustainability, development of more computer centers with Internet access also limited our chance to become universal service providers. Therefore – medical informatics resources, health-related searches, and health database development, combined with software development and web-development should be a major tasks and wheels to drive to the next Millennium.

B. NGO/PVO

- It is clear that without existing background PPFH will never be able to become sustainable and successful as it is now. The transition toward sustainability was much more difficult than one could have anticipated. The reason is local conditions and lack of focus, because of many pressing demands financially on the MOH and other organizations.

C. EMS

- CDEM has not received all funding from the Ministry of Health in 1999 due to severe budget deficit
- EMS TC shares expenses for generator's diesel, which is hardly possible to sustain.
- Strategic health institutions' medical personnel training possibility (20 persons in 1999, 45 – in 2000 and 150 – in 2001) within governmental backing program..

D. Nursing:

- Starting a new school requiring space and faculty salaries is very difficult in the precarious economic situation of Georgia at this time.

V CONTACTS

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Web Sites:

National Information Learning Center

<http://www.nilc.org.ge>

Emergency Medical Services Training Center

<http://www.nilc.org.ge/ems/index.html>

Atlanta-Tbilisi Health Partnership

<http://www.emory.edu/MED/EXCHANGE/HKW/>

Tbilisi State Medical University

<http://www.nilc.org.ge/medun/index.htm>

VI IMPACT ON THE US PARTNERS

- Funding for educational activities--e.g., a nursing school--is very difficult to come by from Western governmental organizations and other funding institutions. This includes: salaries; funding for space and equipment.
- The chaotic economic situation in Georgia now, with the poverty of tax revenues, makes planning for long-term institutions, such as the nursing school, exceedingly difficult

VII OTHER

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH

Foundation

Bylaws

Paragraph 1. General Rules

- 1.1. Partnership for Health Foundation (herein “the Foundation”) is hereby founded on the basis of the civil law of Georgia and conducts its activities in accordance with this law, other Georgian legislation and these bylaws.
- 1.2. The name of the foundation is hereby known as the “Partnership for Health”.
- 1.3. The foundation is a legal entity, which may from time to time maintain local and foreign currency accounts in Georgian and foreign bank offices.
- 1.4. The foundation on its own behalf, is authorized to enter into contracts, purchase fortunate and private nonfortunate rights, take responsibilities and be plaintiff or defendant in the court, and exercise all other rights as a foundation under Georgia civil law.
- 1.5. The foundation has a seal with its name and emblem, stamper and other appropriate prerequisites.

- 1.6. The foundation address is: 51 Javakhishvili street, 380002, Tbilisi, Georgia.
Àtn: Archil Kobaladze, M.D. Ph.D.

Paragraph 2.
Goals and objectives

- 2.1. The goal of the foundation is to support improvement of the health status of the population of Georgia and to promote Georgian health care system development.
In order to achieve the above mentioned goal, the following objectives are identified:
- Collaboration with the Georgian Ministry of Health to support the creation of a versatile health care system, support of health care management, financing and health insurance development.
 - Support the establishment and development of primary health care, disease prevention, and health promotion.
 - Support the development of a new system of medical and nursing education, primarily through training of general practitioners, public health specialists, and health care managers. Support the creation of university based nursing education, collaboration with various professional associations in this direction, and support the development of continued medical and nursing education network.
 - Attract and coordinate organizational, technical, and financial assistance from the national and international agencies to the National Information Learning Center.
 - Support the Emergency Medical Service Training Center's activities to ensure its further development and expansion.
 - Support the creation of modern western multiprofile hospitals, which will serve as the basic institutions for training of new administrative, financial and medical personnel, personnel training for administrative and clinical skills development, and provision of certain equipment and supplies.
 - Support the maternal and child health services development in order to accelerate specialists' training in neonatal resuscitation, family planning and perinatal care.
 - Revival and improvement of care for the elderly.
 - Support the rehabilitation of disabled persons, and attract resources for their treatment

and rehabilitation.

- Development, implementation, and support of healthy nutrition and rational drug use programs.
- Support and development of regional health care services.
- Support AIDS, Tuberculosis, and other socially dangerous diseases' control programs.
- Development of telemedicine and teleradiology as new medical and diagnostic directions in Georgia; creation of an international system with multiple connections and training of appropriate personnel.
- Organize training and experience exchange in international organizations to improve qualifications of Georgian specialists.
- Editorial, publicational, and informational activities (newspapers, journals, express-bulletins, TV programs) to support the above-mentioned activities and attract resources.

Paragraph 3.
Rights and Responsibilities of the Founders

- 3.1. Every legal entity of Georgia or any foreign country, which agrees with these bylaws and participates in the activities of the foundation can be a founder of the foundation.
- 3.2. Establishment of the foundation is executed in written form due to the decision of empowered body of a legal person.
- 3.3. A founder of the foundation has the right to leave the membership any time after written notice..
- 3.4. The founders of the foundation are required to:
 - Participate in the performance of the objectives of the foundation.
 - Provide appropriate support to the implementation of the goals and objectives identified by the bylaws.

- Ensure confidentiality of the activities of the foundation.

Paragraph 4. Structure

4.1. The highest authority of the foundation is the Board of Trustees, which represents founders and invited representatives. The Board of Trustees meets every 6 months or in the case of need, upon request of one quarter of the founders.

4.2. The members of the Board of Trustees shall be informed about the meeting by two weeks advance written notice and announcement in press.

The meeting is authorized if a majority of members of the Board of Trustees is present. Simple majority makes decision if any other rule is not included in the bylaw.

To make a decision about changes in the bylaws two third of votes of the present members are necessary; to make a decision about a change of the goals of the foundation four fifths of votes of all members are necessary.

The decision is valid if the issue was included in the agenda of the meeting.

If members do not attend a meeting they can participate in the voting in written form. In this case they are equalized to present members.

4.3. General meetings of the Board of Trustees shall include:

- Adopts and makes changes and in the bylaws.
- Elects a chairman, executive board and inspection committee.
- Considers decisions about particularly important issues of the foundation activities, adopts major directions of activities, organizational structure, plans, reports and budgets of the executive board and the inspection committee.

4.4. The general meeting of the Board of Trustees is authorized to suspend decisions and activities of the Executive Board, declare them invalid or claim to abolish them if they contradict the law of Georgia or these bylaws.

4.5. The executive unit of the foundation is the Executive Board, which is elected by the meeting for a two-year period.

4.6. The Executive Board consists of a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Responsible Secretary

and Chief Accountant. The chairman determines frequency and agenda of the meetings, and considers reports of departments and sections.

- 4.7. The Executive Board executes decisions of the Board of Trustees, distributes responsibilities, and conducts general management of financial and economic activities of the foundation.
- 4.8. The chairman or the deputy of the Executive Board briefs the Board of Trustees of the Executive Boards' activities at least every two months.
- 4.9. The Executive Board is authorized to make a decision if the meeting is attended by two thirds of the members, including the chairman or the deputy. A simple majority makes a decision if the action is not prohibited by the bylaws.
- 4.10. Decisions of the executive board meetings must be recorded in minutes signed by the attending members.
- 4.11. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board are elected for a two-year terms, with the right to reelection. The Chairman's duties include:
- Invite and moderate meetings of the Executive Board.
 - Sign agreements.
 - Open and close bank accounts.
 - Operate resource and fortune.
 - Execute decisions of the Board of Trustees.
- 4.12. In case of absence or illness of the Executive Board Chairman, the Deputy Chariman shall perform his responsibilities.

**Paragraph 5.
Duration**

- 5.1. The foundation is established with an open expiration date.

**Paragraph 6.
Property and Revenue Source**

- 6.1. The foundation can own any real or personal property.
- 6.2. Fortune and resources of the foundation are created through investment of the founders, donations, and other activities allowed by the law of Georgia.
- 6.3. The revenue of the foundation will be used for performance of the goals and objectives of the foundation and is not allowed to be distributed among the founders.
- 6.4. A yearly report, in the appropriate format, about the status of the fortune of the foundation must be prepared and given to the Board of Trustees within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the fiscal year.

**Paragraph 7.
Enterprising activities**

- 7.1. The foundation has right to conduct enterprising activities.
- 7.2. The foundation has right to establish various legal enterprises and agencies due to the ‘“Law on Entrepreneurship”’ and conduct legally allowed various enterprising activities.
- 7.3. Enterprising activities, which are supportive activities serve the overall goal and do not change the status of the Foundation as a non-profit legal entity. Distribution of the profit from the above-mentioned activities among the founders is not allowed.

**Paragraph 8.
Reimbursement of damage**

- 8.1. The foundation shall indemnify its representatives while performing actions related to their responsibilities on the foundations’ behalf. Notwithstanding the foregoing the Foundation is not required to indemnify its representatives for gross negligence or consequences of illegal actions.
- 8.2. Persons empowered for representation must conduct their activities with conscientiousness. If they do not perform this responsibility they must answer for the damage to the foundation. Refusal of reimbursement of damage is invalid if it is necessary to ensure requirements of third persons.
- 8.3. The founders are not responsible for obligations of the foundation. The foundation as well

is not responsible for the obligations of the founders.

Paragraph 9.
Reorganization and Liquidation

- 9.1. Reorganisation of the foundation is executed due to defined rule.
- 9.2. Liquidation of the foundation is executed in the following cases:
- Bankruptcy or abolishment of registration.
 - Decision of the Board of Trustees.
 - Conduction of activities forbidden by Georgian legislation due to a defined rule.
 - Decision of the Ministry of Justice.
- 9.3. The Board of Trustees executes liquidation of the foundation. If there is a disagreement between members of the Board of Trustees about liquidation issues, the liquidation is executed by the liquidators appointed by the Ministry of Justice due to legally defined rule.
- 9.4. In case of liquidation of the foundation current activities must be finished, requirements must be determined and creditors satisfied. The remained fortune is determined in cash. Based on the decision of the Ministry of Justice persons authorized for the fortune can be:
- Foundation with similar goals.
 - Charitable organizations.
 - The state.
- 9.5. Information about liquidation must be announced. The fortune can be distributed within a year after announcement.

