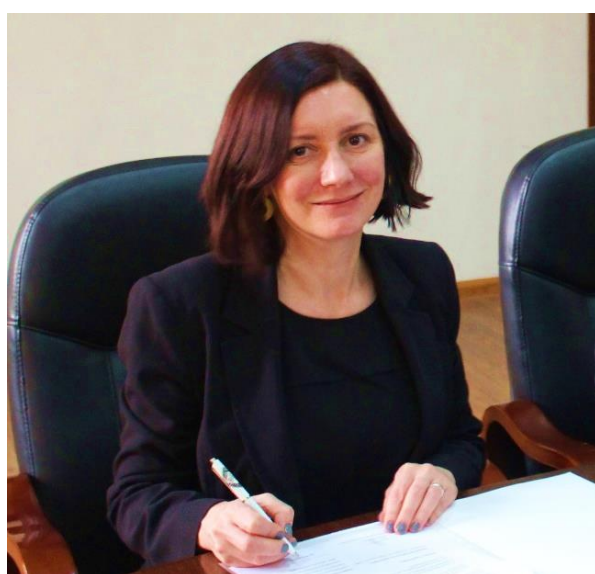




# PEOPLE IN NEED GEORGIA

NEWSLETTER #9: June 2020 | [WWW.PIN.GE](http://WWW.PIN.GE)



## Dear partners and colleagues,

This edition of the People in Need Georgia newsletter comes as the whole world is shaken by COVID-19. This pandemic has highlighted the inequalities within and between countries, but also brought inspiring examples of cooperation, solidarity, and creativity. At the time of writing, Georgia is globally recognized as one of the countries that has most successfully contained a potential public health crisis, through evidence-based policy and community action.

The PIN Georgia team rapidly adapted our approach to ensure we could continue our projects without risk to the public or colleagues, and meet the changing needs. In this newsletter you will read more about how PIN responded to COVID-19 pandemic by delivering essential hygiene and

protective equipment to vulnerable residents and staff of State institutions; provided expert guidance on legal and psychosocial questions raised by communities; and share information that keeps all of us safe.

Our colleagues worldwide have also been engaged in the fight against COVID-19, while continuing to provide urgent humanitarian assistance in fragile and conflicted-affected areas.

However, we believe that this initial response is just the first step. Like the rest of the world, Georgia is forecast to experience serious financial impacts from the pandemic. PIN is ready to support an economic recovery that is based upon inclusion, participation, and environmental protection, in order to build the resilience of Georgian communities to future shocks and stresses.

I would like to thank our donors and partners who support this important work, in particular the European Union, the Czech Development Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and SlovakAid.

### **Dion Battersby**

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# PIN's COVID-19 Response



## Ensuring a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19

In May, People in Need Georgia in coordination with the Agency for State Care and Assistance For the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking, successfully distributed personal protective equipment to boarding houses for people with disabilities in Dusheti, Martkopi and Dzevri. The distribution forms part of PIN's effort to ensure that the national COVID-19 response is disability-inclusive.

The provision of PPE is not only essential to reinforce preventive measures to promote health, hygiene and protection against COVID-19 but also in order to ensure that no one is left behind during this pandemic.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## LAG Tskaltubo continues information campaign in response to COVID-19

Now that life is gradually returning to the usual routine, it is extremely important to follow the WHO and Government post-COVID-19 safety recommendations.

To support this goal, members of LAG Tskaltubo have been putting up posters in public places and residential areas to promote safety measures and combat disinformation surrounding COVID-19.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## PIN's global response to the COVID-19 pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues its global assault, it's now clear that the world's most vulnerable communities will need long-term support that goes far beyond the health sector.

People in Need is responding to this unprecedented challenge in every country that we work – from Syria, where we are delivering food and hygiene kits to refugees, to Myanmar, where we are providing water filters to internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Learn more about our efforts to keep the most vulnerable safe.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## What is new in PIN?

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### Let's be part of the change

Did you know that civil society actors play a crucial role in raising awareness on social issues and bringing about positive change in societies? People in Need has launched a new programme that will strengthen emerging civil society organisations, grassroots civic initiatives and social movements in Georgia. This initiative is part of a multi-country project to empower civil society actors to be drivers of change in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. Don't hesitate to visit our website. [LEARN MORE](#)



### Seeing is believing

Youth are the future, which is why People in Need Georgia has launched another project that recognises young people as active citizens. The goal is to increase media literacy skills and critical thinking among Georgian youth and encourage engagement in community issues and democratic processes. People in Need Georgia works with an innovative teaching methodology that uses documentary films and activities to educate and empower the next generation of active citizens. If you are interested in supporting youth to make a change in their communities take a look at the project on our website. [LEARN MORE](#)

## WEBINARS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

### LAG Tskaltubo provides legal advice to stay protected during the coronavirus outbreak

As the coronavirus crisis continues, it's important to stay legally protected. LAG Tskaltubo released a video consultation in coordination with Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) in order to provide legal advice during COVID-19. In the video, Zaal Gorgidze, a representative from GYLA, answers questions from the residents of Tskaltubo regarding labour relations and tenure. If you are also concerned about the impact COVID-19 might have in your life, check out our video.

### Are you taking care of your mental health during COVID-19 crisis?

LAG Tskaltubo and the Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT) joined forces to tackle the disruptive effects of COVID-19 on mental health in the newest video consultation. Click on the video and watch Tea Panchulidze, a psychologist from GCRT, discuss COVID-19 challenges, implications for life after COVID-19 and tips to cope with stress and anxiety. Don't miss this opportunity and make sure you are following all the self-care steps to take care of your mental health.



# Documentaries That Will Change Your Life

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## Giovanni and the Water Ballet

During the pandemic, People in Need has been sharing films to watch at home including the documentary "Giovanni and the Water Ballet". It tells the story of 10-year-old Giovanni whose dream is to be the first boy to compete in the Dutch Synchronized Swimming Championships. This film challenges gender stereotypes, showing that traditional gender norms should not stand in the way of achieving our goals.



## The Collector of Bedford Street

For another inspirational watch, we suggest you see this documentary about Larry Selman, an exemplary community activist and fundraiser. Larry has an intellectual disability and his work collecting thousands of dollars for people in need has been a great source of inspiration worldwide. Don't miss the chance to know more about his influential life.





## Meet Local Heroes



### **Zestaponuri, a successful example of PIN's long-lasting impact**

Countless businesses in Georgia, as in the rest of the world, have been forced by COVID-19 to cease operations. Throughout this difficult and unprecedented time, the dairy cooperative “Zestaponuri” continues operating at a full capacity. Zestaponuri was established in 2016 as a part of a PIN Georgia project within the framework of the European Union's ENPARD program. Since then, its products have made their way to the shelves of many large, local, and international supermarkets. Today, after 4 years from its establishment, Zestaponuri is a synonym of success and well-managed business in the region even in times of COVID-19. Learn more about Zestaponuri in this [\*\*INSPIRATIONAL VIDEO\*\*](#)



### **Welcome Shukia, new executive director of LAG Aragvi**

It is our pleasure to introduce Shukia Tsiklauri, the new Executive Director of the Local Action Group (LAG) Aragvi. In her new role, Shukia will be cooperating with the People in Need team to bring prosperity and development to her native region of Aragvi. Shukia notes that she has always dreamed of contributing to the growth of this beautiful region, and she is looking forward to working to improve the lives of its residents. [\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

## PIN Team



### It's all about teamwork in PIN Georgia

The whole PIN – Georgia team had the chance to meet last February in snowy Borjomi. PIN Georgia colleagues participated in a three-day workshop to begin co-creation of the new Country Programme Strategy. It was an enriching exercise to better understand the reality of the Georgian context and to reflect on PIN Georgia's future role and desired impact. The workshop provided a useful platform for all PIN Georgia colleagues to provide their input on past results, lessons learned and interesting approaches. Prepare yourselves because new strategies and perspectives are coming up!



### Big thanks to donors and partners



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