

# Women Initiative Group Sewing Activities

A UNHCR *Women Leading for Livelihoods* Project



## PROJECT GOAL

Empower refugee women in Georgia through the creation of a sewing workshop

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### LOCATION

Omalo, Georgia

### DURATION

12 months

### DONOR

HRH Princess Haya  
Bint Al Hussein of  
Jordan

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Norwegian Refugee  
Council  
[www.nrc.no](http://www.nrc.no)

## BACKGROUND

Omalo is an isolated village with a significant population of refugees displaced by the violence in neighboring Chechnya. There are no income-generating activities in Omalo besides animal husbandry and agriculture, and therefore women refugees - the principal caregivers in their families - have almost no opportunities to gain income. **The Omalo sewing workshop is the first attempt at creating a viable commercial enterprise in the village.** Entirely staffed and managed by women, its purpose is to meet a demand for various items that to date has not been met by local production capacity. The women employed in the center produce items like bed linen, mattresses, blankets, prayer carpets, prayer gowns and dresses, all of which are in high demand in the area. The production is sold on regional and central markets as well as to art shops in Tbilisi. The refugee and local women engaged in the project receive 15 percent of the revenues derived from the sales of each product.

## OBJECTIVES

- Improve **self-reliance** among refugee women by encouraging income generating activities
- To **build capacity** of refugee women in craftmaking

## ACTIVITIES

- **Production of items in high demand** in the area of Omalo
- **Processing and dyeing** of wool
- **Training in needlework craft skills** (sewing, embroidery, knitting and felt)

## OUTPUTS AND IMPACT

- The material and economic situation of 14 women and their families has improved
- Traditional crafts are preserved and developed
- Relations between the host community and the refugees have improved

Visit Women Leading for Livelihoods at [www.unhcr.org/wll](http://www.unhcr.org/wll)

