

Kaspi, December 2018

# FIELD TRIP REPORT



Green Alternative

The field trip was organized under [Green Alternative's](#) project “Advocacy for transparent and accountable mineral resources governance in Georgia”, project implemented in cooperation with the [South Caucasus Regional Office of the Heinrich Boell Foundation](#).

The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of Green Alternative and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the views of the South Caucasus Regional Office of the Heinrich Boell Foundation.



© Green Alternative, 2018

39b Paliashvili St., IV floor  
0179 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel./Fax: (995 32) 222 38 74  
[greenalt@greenalt.org](mailto:greenalt@greenalt.org)  
[www.greenalt.org](http://www.greenalt.org)

## Contents

Summary .....	3
1. Environmental Impact .....	4
1.1 Air Pollution .....	4
1.2 Noise .....	4
1.3 Damaged Roads .....	4
1.4 Damaged Sewage System .....	5
2. Social Impact .....	5
2.1 Health Issues .....	5
2.2 Unemployment .....	6
2.3 Social Projects .....	6

## Summary

In December 2018, the Green Alternative staff carried out a field trip to the town of Kaspi in order to collect information about environmental and social impacts of the HeidelbergCement Georgia plant.

During the field trip, we interviewed the population of Kaspi, specifically: residents of Parnavazi Street (Plant District), Chavchavadze Street, Saakadze Street, Ephraim II Street and Tevdore Street (Varjaani settlement). The total of 30 people was interviewed.

As a result of the field trip, the following key problems were identified:

- air pollution;
- noise and dust caused by the plant operation;
- damage to roads caused by the movement of HeidelbergCement vehicles;
- sewage system in the state of disrepair;
- waste chaotically dumped in the town;
- health issues;
- unemployment.

The infrastructure in the town of Kaspi is partially in order. The population has natural gas supply and scheduled supply of water. The roads and the sewage system in town are in order with the exception of Parnavazi Street (Plant District).

# 1. Environmental Impact

## 1.1 Air Pollution

Polluted air is one of the main problems facing the population of Kaspi. People mainly complain about the air pollution caused by the HeidelbergCement plants and by the movement of the company vehicles. According to the locals, the situation is especially bad in summer when humidity levels are lower. Residents say that the company waters the road on hot summer days but that this is not sufficient. The trucks emit considerable volumes of exhaust gasses, making it impossible to even breathe there in summer. According to the residents of Parnavazi Street, decades ago, when the plant was owned by the state, vehicles were washed before leaving the plant; this is not the case today.

Some of the residents believe that the situation has relatively improved compared to previous years, since the company replaced its machines and installed filters.

## 1.2 Noise

One of the reasons of discontent for the residents of Parnavazi Street (Plant District) is the noise caused by the facility operation. The plant works 24 hours a day. The locals say that they are bothered by constant noise at night. They also complain about the noise caused by constant movement of vehicles.

## 1.3 Damaged Roads

The roads in the town of Kaspi are in order. Parnavazi Street is an exception. The road there is damaged and muddy (especially when it rains). The state of affairs is similar at the entrance of the plant itself.



According to the local population, the situation never changes as the roads are being watered on hot summer days too. Meanwhile, the trucks are constantly moving along the road, damaging it.

The residents said that they have, on multiple occasions, addressed both the municipal administration and the company, asking to fix the road. To this day, no one has considered their request. HeidelbergCement says that this is the duty of

the local administration while the administration is re-directing people to the company.



The residents of Parnavazi Street told us that they have even organized several rallies due to this problem, but to no avail. They also said that the company is periodically filling the pits on the road. However, no restoration of the road as a whole has ever been carried out.

The residents of Parnavazi Street also said that the company could use a bypass road and not use this one; however, this is a relatively

longer route and, correspondingly, the company is not using it.

#### **1.4 Damaged Sewage System**

The sewage system in the town is mostly in order. There is a problem at 1, Parnavazi Street: the system there has been damaged for several months now, with sewage flowing out right outside the building entrance. According to the residents, the conditions in the building have been insanitary and the occupants have been bothered by the smell for several months now. The population believes that the damage to the sewage system was caused by the movement of heavy-duty vehicles. The building residents have sent numerous letters to various state institutions but received no response to any of them to this day.



## **2. Social Impact**

### **2.1 Health Issues**

The majority of local residents said in interviews that the incidence of asthma and various other diseases has increased substantially due to the functioning of the cement plant. Several people who have young children told us that allergies are especially widespread among children. "I have been treating my child for months now using numerous medicines but we still have no results, many children in the kindergarten have the same problem," a resident of the plant settlement told us.

## 2.2 Unemployment

The survey demonstrated that unemployment is one of the significant problems. Most of the town resident are self-employed.

An absolute majority of the respondents said that they and other local residents want to work for the company but this has proved impossible. They said that hiring happens mainly based on personal connections. In addition, the work is done mostly by the machines, so the company does not need additional workers.

According to the residents of the plant settlement, only nine people from 80 households on their street are employed. Most of the young people are unemployed. They have addressed the company asking to be hired many times but their requests have not been satisfied. "It is easier to get into Parliament than start working at this plant," a Plant District resident said.

As the locals told us, the working conditions of those employed are normal. They are fed and have health insurance. The average salary is GEL 500-600.

As for the construction of a new plant, the construction workers are mostly Chinese and the residence camps for them are set up on Parnavazi Street.

## 2.3 Social Projects

According to the town residents, the company has not implemented any social projects, save for the football field which it built several years ago. Most of the respondents on Parnavazi Street said that, so far, the company has done nothing to compensate the damage it has inflicted on the local population. "We do not benefit from the plant in any way. The air is polluted, we cannot breathe, the roads are damaged by the movement of their vehicles and the plant would not even fix that," a Plant District resident said.

