



UNITED
NATIONS
GEORGIA



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

GEORGIA 2021-2025

Tbilisi 2020



DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

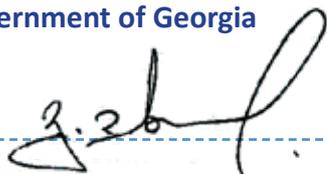
The Government of Georgia and the United Nations are committed to working together to achieve the national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations.

Building on the successes of our past cooperation, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework will guide the work of the Government of Georgia and the UN system until 2025.

The collective results expected from this Cooperation Framework will help Georgia to become a more prosperous and resilient country, with strong democratic institutions and equal opportunities for all, in line with the overarching aim of the Sustainable Development Goals of “Leaving No One Behind.”

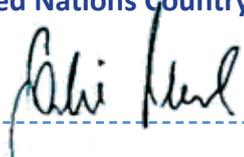
In signing hereafter, the partners endorse this Cooperation Framework and underscore their joint commitment towards the achievement of its results.

Government of Georgia



Giorgi Gakharia
Prime Minister of Georgia

United Nations Country Team

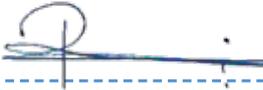


Sabine Machl
United Nations Resident Coordinator

2 October 2020 - Tbilisi, Georgia

AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

In witness thereof, the undersigned¹, being duly authorized, have signed this Government of Georgia and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period of 2021-2025 on 1 October 2020 in Tbilisi, underscoring their joint commitment to its priorities and cooperation results.

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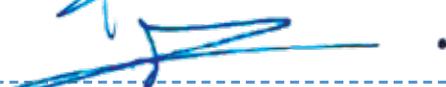
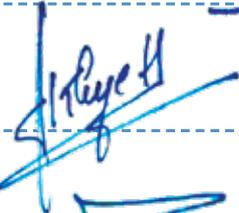
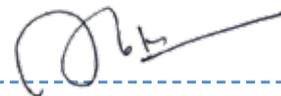
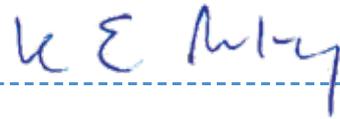




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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations in Georgia, as a long-standing partner of the Government has formulated the 2021-2025 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (hereafter the Cooperation Framework) in a participatory manner, which involved close collaboration and coordination with the Government of Georgia and a wide range of partners including development partners/donors, international financial institutions, civil society and academia. This Cooperation Framework, the United Nations' strategic plan of action for the next five years, takes into account the findings of the final evaluation of the current programming cycle (2016-2020), the development challenges identified in the Common Country Analysis, and is aligned with the national development priorities, including Georgia's EU integration aspiration and the country's international commitments under the 2030 Agenda and with special focus on international human rights and environmental obligations.

This Cooperation Framework represents the ambition of the UN System to Deliver as One and achieve transformative change, with greater transparency and accountability that meet Georgia's expectations, as we enter the Decade of Action for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since the adoption by the UN Member States of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, Georgia has moved up from a lower-middle income country to an upper-middle income one in 2018 based on the World Bank GNI per capita classification. Georgia is also characterised by high human development and aspires to the membership of the European Union (EU). The country has successfully reduced poverty even though income

and non-income inequalities remain high. In recent years, Georgia has carried out ambitious reforms, both in governance and economic management, and earned the reputation of a "star reformer". It has created a robust macroeconomic framework and conducive business environment. In 2020 World Bank's "Doing Business" report, Georgia ranks 7th out of 190 countries. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, growth was robust, averaging 4.8 percent between 2010 and 2019 with GDP per capita rising from PPP \$ 9,737 in 2010 to PPP \$ 15,014 in 2019. In 2020, the GDP is expected to decline by 4.8 percent rising again to 4 percent in 2021. Georgia has signed an Association Agreement with the EU and joined the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) that will allow the country to benefit from a preferential trade regime. EU accession is a top national priority.

The country has committed to the 2030 Agenda, nationalised the SDG targets and indicators, and set up an SDG Council and four Working Groups (Social Inclusion, Economic Development, Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection, and Democratic Governance) for monitoring the progress and mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into development planning. An analysis on accelerating progress towards SDGs shows that the national development planning and the Association Agreement together cover 93 percent of the national SDGs. The country presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2016 and the second in July 2020 to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Georgia has made significant progress in achieving the SDGs. As per the Global SDG Report, the country ranked 73

out of 162 countries. The country has done very well in terms of economic growth over the past decade, triggered by economic and governance reforms; built a strong legal and human rights framework; reduced poverty and improved living conditions; protected the poor and vulnerable through social protection; carried out anti-corruption reform which led to significant improvement in the ranking under Corruption Perception Index; and reformed public administration and judicial system.

CADRI assessment was conducted in 2015 and its findings were fully used in the elaboration of the National DRR Strategy, adopted in 2018 by the Government. The National DRR strategy and its action plan will end in 2021. In addition, a baseline assessment and comparative analysis was carried out in 2018 to identify the current gaps, challenges and setup for disaster risk reduction/management

(DRR/DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in the country, both at national and local levels, with comprehensive analytical information. Gaps were revealed in a number of categories that will be addressed during the Cooperation Framework timeframe to ensure institutional capacities are further developed to enable functional climate-induced risk management and early warning systems.

Yet, challenges remain and among them are the high vulnerability of the economy to external factors, shrinking and ageing population, dualism in the economy, regional disparities and the unresolved conflict in Georgia. The Common Country Analysis (CCA) highlighted the following challenges: spatial and social divides; high poverty (more than 20 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line), persisting inequalities; unresolved





conflict in Georgia with limited UN access to the conflict-affected areas; ageing population, and high out-migration; low productivity and competitiveness; human rights challenges faced, inter alia, by people living with disabilities, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection (refugees and humanitarian status holders), stateless persons, migrants, and ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI+ community; limited protection of labour rights; gaps in delivery of health, education and social services particularly for the vulnerable population segments; and climate change and environmental challenges, including a high risk of natural disasters. Having acknowledged substantive results made by Georgia in combating corruption and in order to maintain this progress and further consolidate an institutional democracy (a system of functional institutions free of corruption) efforts are being continued to achieve a high level

of transparency and accountability, increase access to information and public involvement and further refine the anticorruption mechanisms. Addressing issues related to anti-corruption activities and public trust in governance institutions, will remain a focus area for UN programming throughout the next cycle.

Building on the national SDG progress, as noted above, and keeping in mind that “leaving no one behind” is the central approach to this Cooperation Framework, the UN in collaboration and consultation with the Government of Georgia and other stakeholders will address the development challenges identified above to achieve the following vision based on one joint transformative strategic priority:

Enhanced human wellbeing, capabilities and social equality in Georgia by 2025.

The strategic priority above will be achieved through **5 outcomes** as identified below in the Cooperation Framework:

Outcome 1: *By 2025, all people in Georgia enjoy improved good governance, more open, resilient and accountable institutions, rule of law, equal access to justice, human rights, and increased representation and participation of women in decision-making.*

Outcome 2: *By 2025, all people in Georgia have equitable and inclusive access to quality, resilient and gender-sensitive services delivered in accordance with international human rights standards.*

Outcome 3: *By 2025, all people without discrimination benefit from a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy in Georgia.*

Outcome 4: *By 2025, conflict affected communities enjoy human rights, enhanced human security and resilience.*

Outcome 5: *By 2025, all people, without discrimination, enjoy enhanced resilience through improved environmental governance, climate action and sustainable management and use of natural resources in Georgia.*

Based on its convening role, comparative advantage and value proposition, the UN in Georgia will work through strategic interventions such as technical assistance, capacity building, leveraging partnerships and resources, advocacy, social mobilisation, brokering knowledge and piloting / scaling up innovations. The UN continues to assist Georgia in the COVID-19 response and recovery, seizing opportunities to improve the structural balance of the economy and accelerate digitalisation of a host of sectors ranging from production to the delivery of social services. The Cooperation Framework will further be guided by the following principles: leave no one behind; human rights-based approach; gender equality and women's empowerment; resilience; sustainability; and accountability. In addition, in the context of Georgia, environmental protection and innovation as well as decentralisation will be in the focus of attention in the coming period.

Under this Cooperation Framework, UN agencies will work both with the central government for the policy work and the local governments for community-based activities. The UN will also support the Government in strengthening its regional cooperation, especially with countries from

the wider Europe and Central Asia region, in key strategic areas. Given that European integration is a top national priority, the UN in Georgia will work in close collaboration with the EU and the Government for maximum synergy between the 2030 Agenda and the Association Agreement.

The Cooperation Framework will be governed by the Joint National-UN Steering Committee - co-chaired by the Prime Minister¹ and the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). The Steering Committee oversees programme implementation. Other stakeholders such as major development partners/donors, international financial institutions, civil society, academia and private sector can be included in this structure. The JSC will receive an Annual Results Report to review progress, implementation challenges and provide strategic direction and mid-course corrections, if needed.

Other governance structures to support the implementation of the Cooperation Framework include Results Groups, and several UNCT working

¹ Prime Minister may decide to authorize the Head of the Government's Administration to represent him/her at the Steering Committee meetings.



groups and teams including UN Theme Groups and UN Programme Support Groups. The Cooperation Framework will undergo a mandatory final independent evaluation in 2024, the penultimate year.

The Cooperation Framework will be operationalized through the Joint Work Plans and monitored based on indicators and baselines included in the Results Framework. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan for the entire period 2021-2025 will be regularly reviewed and updated to support the process.

The legal aspects of the UNSDCF are governed by the provisions in the legal annex at the end of this document.

The UN in Georgia will work in line with the global UN reform and collaborate on the Cooperation Framework that is based on stronger UN coordination function, national ownership and accountability to the host government and the people. It promotes resilience and risk-sensitivity and is rooted in the UN's normative mandate. The implementation and monitoring is further aligned with the national SDG indicators framework. Based on the configuration exercise to assess the UN system's fitness to deliver the agreed results. The UNCT will also explore non-conventional business models whereby it can tap also into non-resident agencies' expertise remotely and through regional presence.



CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA



The country has done very well in terms of economic growth over the past decade; carried out economic and governance reforms; reduced poverty and improved living conditions; protected the poor and vulnerable through social protection; carried out anti-corruption reform which led to significant improvement in ranking under Corruption Perception Index; and reformed public administration and judicial system. The country's universal health coverage and public administration reforms are cited as good examples. Also Georgia's response the COVID-19 pandemic has been recognized as exemplary.

Yet, challenges remain and among them are the high vulnerability of the economy to external shocks, shrinking population, dualism in the economy, low agricultural productivity, high regional disparities, and unresolved conflict in Georgia that severely affects the people in Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia². The governance reform, notably in judicial integrity and independence, and electoral reform is an ongoing

² For the purpose of the present UNSDCF document, Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia are hereinafter referred to as Abkhazia and South Ossetia

process. Parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place end of October 2020.

Georgia was quick to embrace the 2030 Agenda and was among the first countries to submit its Voluntary National Review Report in 2016. The government created the institutional framework for prioritization and nationalization of the SDGs and in 2019 adopted a national document on SDGs, which establishes priorities among the 17 goals, identifies 93 nationalized targets and indicators, and lays out arrangements for their annual monitoring. The second Voluntary National Review, prepared with UN support in Georgia, was presented (virtually) in July 2020, to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

A MAPS³ exercise was conducted in 2019 (February-April) to assess the degree to which the national and sub-national policy documents were aligned



with the SDGs. The results showed that the national strategies and the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) taken together cover 93 percent of the country's nationalised SDG targets. Thus, supporting the AA is also a way to promote progress on the SDGs. In contrast, greater understanding of

³ Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS)



the SDGs is needed at regional and municipal levels. In terms of the five “P”s, Georgia is more focused on “people” and “prosperity” followed by “peace” and “planet”. “Partnerships” receives least attention.

The MAPS mission also conducted a “complexity analysis” to determine the extent to which achievement of SDG in one area could help accelerate progress in other areas. Based on the specific SDG targets as having particularly high potential for cross-sectoral impact the study identified the following priority areas: (1) decentralised development (2) investing in young people (3) leaving no one behind and (4) going green with energy production and consumption.

From the “leave no one behind” perspective, the population segments that are the furthest behind seem to combine two characteristics: 1. intersection of multiple factors of vulnerability, and 2. lack of acknowledgement of their human rights in the dominant public discourse exacerbated by social norms. Through this prism, children living in poverty, persons with disabilities, specific categories of women and girls, older persons, ethnic and religious minorities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, informal economy workers constitute the groups of people who are the furthest behind due to multiple vulnerabilities. While definitive assessments of the impact of COVID-19 is not yet available, it is not difficult to visualise that the inequalities and vulnerabilities of the groups identified above, will be further aggravated.

The key drivers of inequalities include the dualism in economic development, leaving wide development gaps between rural and urban areas; in the post-Soviet period loss of industry and later weak integration of high-tech, FDI-led industry with domestic firms causing high technological unemployment; low productivity in rural areas and high underemployment; slow pace of social change, despite government’s strong commitment to implement the international human rights obligations and standards, to implement the

otherwise progressive legal and human rights framework, including anti-discrimination laws; remaining challenges in protection of rights and interests of workers and social protection coverage for the vulnerable groups; and gender stereotypes and social norms that reinforce inequalities of certain population segments.



Regional and cross-boundary contacts and cooperation are defined and limited by the conflicts and tensions within the South Caucasus, as well as involving the larger neighbours Russia and Turkey. The resulting absence of strong and active formal regional institutions leaves the door open for specific ad-hoc collaboration driven by mutual interests, such as facilitating energy routes among countries and regions. Current cooperation with the European post-Soviet countries happens mostly within the larger context of the cooperation with the EU in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy or the Eastern Partnership. For Georgia, European and Euro-Atlantic integration has been important, both in terms of a major opportunity to make progress on sustainable development, and in terms

.....
⁴ Spatial divides: urban-rural, ageing, poverty, gaps in human capital, etc.



of aligning itself with partners who can play a role in ensuring its security.

With regard to development financing, existing development assistance, government revenue, and foreign investments, continue to be important sources, but they are unlikely to be sufficient and sustainable in the long run. Given the upper middle-income status of the country, external assistance and donor funding may see a sharp fall. In the near future, it will be key to emphasise creating conditions that allow for a sharp increase in productivity and the engagement of private sector in funding development, while maintaining sufficiently high levels of growth to create fiscal space for such funding. If the implementation of commitments under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement continues to progress as planned, further financing opportunities will open up.

The potential risks that could adversely affect Georgia's development trajectory combine domestic, geo-political, as well as natural risk factors. Political polarization creates tensions and

limits the space for constructive reconciliation of differing opinions. Whether these divisions will widen or narrow depends heavily on the outcome of the 2020 parliamentary election, which will be conducted according to a mainly proportional system. The situation in and around Abkhazia and South Ossetia continues to pose political, military, and security risks. The volatile relations with Russia pose considerable risks for security and the economic situation in Georgia. In terms of natural risks, the country is vulnerable to earthquakes, floods, droughts, and landslides and climate change is expected to put further pressure on water resources and yield a greater frequency of extreme weather events. The country is also vulnerable to biological disasters.

Major gaps that need to be addressed to accelerate SDGs implementation represent horizontal issues that cut through multiple goals, such as inequalities and societal divides⁴, which then significantly affect other problems represented by gaps in human and institutional capacities, or productivity challenges. To respond to these gaps, it is useful to engage the

cross-cutting topics relating to reducing inequalities, including gender inequality, promoting peace and strong institutions, strengthening partnerships for sustainable development, and to focus on the need to enhance productivity, inclusivity, resilience, capacity of people and institutions, as well as innovation.

Georgia has so far managed the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic very well and prevented widespread community transmission. However, the impact on its economy and society will likely be a big setback going by the current assessments. According to the latest estimates the economy is projected to contract by almost 5 percent in 2020. Due to the fiscal stimulus, the fiscal deficit may grow

to 5.2 percent of GDP in 2020.⁵ The receipts from tourism are likely to shrink, based on the World Bank estimates⁶ poverty and pre-existing inequalities worldwide may worsen, and the vulnerabilities of the excluded groups may exacerbated thus jeopardising the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

The full impact of the COVID-19 outbreak remains to be seen as the number of cases continue to rise globally. The Cooperation Framework however does take into account currently available impact assessments and builds that into the Cooperation Framework narrative and indicators. As new evidence becomes available, the Cooperation Framework may be revised in consultation with the Government.

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⁵ World Bank Georgia (April 2020). <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/georgia/overview#3>

⁶ “Global Economic Prospects”, WB, June 2020; <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/33748>

“Protecting People and Economies: Integrated Policy Responses to COVID-19” WB, 2020 <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/33770>



CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA



2.1 Theory of Change

The theory of change of the Georgia Cooperation Framework is anchored in the 2030 Agenda which is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and seeks to strengthen peace in larger freedom by building partnerships. The principle of leaving no one behind recognises the primacy of people in development efforts. It entails reaching the poor and seeks to combat discrimination and inequalities. This approach is grounded in the human rights standards, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination, that are the foundational principles of the UN Charter.

Leaving no one behind means moving beyond income and looking at non-income inequalities and

discriminations (often multiple and intersecting); looking at intersectionality of discrimination; moving beyond averages and ensuring progress for all population groups at disaggregated level; and moving beyond today and addressing a whole new generation of inequalities triggered by climate change and technological transformations.⁷ Based on the information available so far, there has been differential impact of COVID-19 on different population segments. Any response to the epidemic must factor in this aspect and formulate LNOB-sensitive programmes of support.

As mentioned above inequalities have been identified as key challenges to inclusive, sustainable and resilient development. Georgia, with 20 percent

⁷ Human Development Report 2019

population below the national poverty line, faces not only one of the highest income inequalities in the region, but also multiple and overlapping forms of non-income inequalities are displayed. Additional development challenges are: (1) spatial and social divides⁸ (2) population displacement due to unresolved conflict (3) ageing and shrinking population (4) governance challenges including those relating to improved access to justice and anti-corruption measures (5) climate change and environmental degradation (6) gaps in human capital including skills mismatch (7) lack of social cohesion and trust and (8) enhancement of the evidence-based decision making and policy coherence.

These development challenges are further compounded by uneven reforms and an economic structure that resulted in loss of all of its industry with the collapse of the Soviet Union making the country excessively rural. Agriculture contributes around 8 percent (7.8% 2018 and 7.2% in 2019) to the GDP and employs 38 percent of total employment. The economy is characterised by dualism with islands of prosperity, mainly urban, coexisting with rural, hinterland dependent on low-productivity agriculture that serves more as a safety net than a vibrant, productive sector of the economy.

Unresolved long-term conflict has affected large sections of population. These conflict-affected communities face the risk of their human rights being denied and their living conditions being less than optimal. They may not have access to social services, human security and peace. Despite restricted access to conflict-affected areas, the UN in Georgia identifies interventions that support the communities in these areas with services and human security.

Georgia is attracting FDI, amid its high rank in “doing business” index. With appropriate policy measures, the country can be very effective in leveraging this to either promote domestic industry through backward linkages and complementary investments or to integrate more with the world economy to reap productivity gains. The solution pathways thus include improved competitiveness of the private

sector through innovations. The issue of uneven spatial development is addressed by strong focus on sustainable and inclusive rural development in particular by focus on high-productivity non-farm rural enterprises.

Poverty reduction has been significant but still not commensurate with the impressive growth the country has had over the past decade. There is also growing dependence of the poor on pensions and social transfers. For the poor in Georgia, income from pensions and social transfers is almost as important as income from employment and agricultural activities.⁹ The economy is characterised by high degree of informality with most jobs created in agriculture or informal services and 34.7% in the formal sector.



Demographic dynamics mentioned above can seriously threaten the long-term development prospects of the country. The population has been declining in absolute terms and is likely to decline further from 3.7 million today to 3.0 million by 2060. Unless the current workforce is activated, including through improved youth and women’s labour force participation, as well as stimulating engagement of the human capital/skills of diaspora and returned nationals, mainly representing labour migrants abroad, the country will face skills shortage reducing its opportunity to leverage gains it has made through economic reforms. Enhancing the productivity of the workforce through health, knowledge and skills, as also leveraging the increasing longevity, the second

⁸ Spatial divides: urban-rural, ageing, poverty, gaps in human capital, etc.

⁹ Georgia: From reformer to performer, World Bank Diagnostic, 2018

demographic dividend, can be the way forward to manage the demographic dynamics. The solutions pathways and the outcomes under this Cooperation Framework therefore aim at promoting women's LFPR through strengthened day-care system for children and elderly, reskilling women who have been out of employment for some time and offering more flexible jobs. COVID-19 has particularly been detrimental to women's employment as many of them were employed in the most hard-hit sectors (tourism, travel, hospitality) and this will be a particular focus of the Cooperation Framework. Returning migrants will also be assisted whose remittances have dried up, thereby increasing the poverty levels of the remittance-dependent households.

Linked to the above is the issue of investment in human capital. The health and education outcomes at present are not commensurate with the investment made or regional standards. If the country has to take advantage of the global / European integration, it must invest in improving the quality of workforce with a focus on those left behind. The Cooperation Framework thus envisages strengthening of systems that would deliver quality and inclusive social services.

The uneven economic outcomes also affect the practical implementation of the human rights framework in the country. Economic inequalities translate into social inequalities further reinforced by social stereotypes and stigma. Despite the impressive social transformation within the last decade, gender stereotypes still prevent women, especially in rural areas, to realize their full potential in social and political realms. As stigmatization of persons with physical disabilities decreases in the country, stigmatization of persons with mental disabilities, remains, as well as stereotypical attitudes towards ethnic and religious minorities, people with non-dominant sexual orientation and gender identity. The LNOB is thus the central theme of this Cooperation Framework cutting across all other thematic interventions. By using the human rights lens, the Cooperation Framework links the development challenges faced by each of the

marginalised population segments to the human rights agenda Georgia has committed to¹⁰.

Climate change and environmental degradation are major challenges along with climate-induced extreme weather events and disasters. The proposed interventions aim at mainstreaming climate change in sector policies and promote the concept of "building back better" which combines the principles of the sustainable development and the Sendai framework.

The theory of change is thus focused not only on improving the economic conditions but also empowering people, giving them voice and holding the state, as primary duty bearer, accountable to them. A strong governance system and institutions that promote rule of law, access to justice and enforce constitutionally guaranteed human rights and labour rights is a sine qua non for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Within the human rights framework, full implementation of the anti-discrimination laws will not only protect the vulnerable and the marginalised but also help combat deep-rooted social prejudices and stigma against certain population segments. The solution pathways or the outcomes therefore strongly focus on promoting rule of laws, access to justice and elimination of discrimination through improved institutions. By supporting the government in evidence-based decision-making through improved and disaggregated data collection, the UN in Georgia will contribute to more granular understanding of the vulnerable groups and address the same through appropriate policy interventions.

Gender equality in general and improved labour force participation by women in particular is known for making a positive contribution to the GDP and conversely keeping women out of labour force implies significant loss of GDP. Gender discriminatory and unequal unpaid care work, women's low political participation, GBV and low participation in labour force are some of the manifestations of gender inequality in the country. COVID-19 has had disproportionate impact on women as they had to spend more time in unpaid care work, had less time for their own gainful employment and became

¹⁰ UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on Cooperation with Georgia (Aug 2020) <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/45/54>

vulnerable to heightened risk of domestic violence. Equal societies are also known to be sustainable in natural resource management and environmental governance and more resilient. The latest Human Development Report 2019 makes a compelling case against inequalities in human development and emphasises that as long as inequalities persist, full achievement of SDGs is not possible. There are also simulations that show that globally there has been a decline in human development since the COVID-19

outbreak which is equivalent to the progress in human development of the past 6 years¹¹.

In the light of the above, the Cooperation Framework is anchored around contributing to sustainable and inclusive development leaving no one behind as the unifying idea for the UN system in Georgia.

Based on extensive consultations with internal (UN Country Team) and external stakeholders most of which were held online (in view of the COVID-19

.....
¹¹ Human Development: Assessing the Crisis, Envisioning the Recovery, UNDP, 2020

The Cooperation Framework further:

- (1)** builds on and is informed by the evaluation of the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD: 2016-2020) carried out in 2019;
- (2)** mainstreams the Guiding Principles (1) leave no one behind (2) human rights-based approach (3) gender equality and women's empowerment (4) resilience (5) sustainability and (6) accountability;
- (3)** recognises the opportunity offered by the EU Association Agreement and the country's aspirations for EU accession and the strong

alignment that AA chapters have with the SDG agenda thus making a cohesive and integrated development pathway possible;

- (4)** keeps in mind the assumptions for the change to happen and the risks that could affect the development trajectory; and

- (5)** builds on the UN's comparative advantages namely its normative mandate, its positioning in the country as a long-standing partner and its capacity (human and financial).
-

situation), the UN system in Georgia, comprising UN agencies, funds, and programmes, agreed upon the following as the one forward-looking overarching and transformative priority for the new five-year Cooperation Framework (2021-2025):

Enhanced human wellbeing, capabilities and social equality in Georgia by 2025.

It is through this strategic priority and associated **5 outcomes** and **15 outputs** that the UN in Georgia will contribute to the attainment of the SDGs and the realisation of the national development vision.

UNSDCF Georgia (2021-2025): Theory of Change



2.1.1 COVID-19 Impact and UN's response in Georgia

In addition to the above, the Cooperation Framework will be informed by, and draw lessons from, the impact of COVID-19 on Georgia's

development trajectory particularly to build resilience. While the pandemic is still unfolding and more evidence-based assessments will be forthcoming in near future, following are the immediately known impacts of COVID-19

-
- The country is projected to register the lowest growth in over a decade (4-5 percent contraction) in GDP in 2020.¹²
 - The revenues have fallen due to lower economic activities and expenditure on immediate response to the pandemic through social protection programme expanded (4.0 percent of GDP was approved for this) leading to fiscal imbalance
 - There was a sharp rise in unemployment both due to closure of economic activities (including MSMEs, a big employer) in the country and return of migrant labourers, with 500,000 Georgians at risk of “downward mobility”¹³
 - More people are projected to fall into poverty which is likely to increase by 2.8 percentage points¹⁴; inequality may also have risen, with women facing higher levels of poverty as they will be the first to withdraw from labour force due to increased household burden¹⁵
 - Trade and tourism / hospitality sectors have been hit very hard and along with that women who provide the largest workforce to these sectors. Exports declined by 16 percent and imports by 19 percent in first half of 2020.¹⁶ Tourism receipts also collapsed with little hope of its revival in near future. This comes at a time when Georgia was hoping to leverage this sector for sustainable growth.
 - Supply chains in agriculture faced pressure due to temporary closure of agricultural markets and transport ban causing loss of exports, employment and supply of essentials in the country as well as inputs
 - As challenges related to human rights, including labour rights, remain - it is important to enhance work and address socio-economic results of COVID-19 pandemic to better protect social, economic and labour rights in the country.
 - vulnerable groups are particularly affected. Women reported significant increase in their domestic workload, domestic violence and deterioration in mental health.
 - People with disabilities are hit the hardest and are concerned about the rise in cost of medical treatment and access to other services. Care services for children with disabilities are also affected¹⁷.
 - Digital divide became sharply highlighted with most services, children’s education and online therapy of children with disabilities, requiring digital connectivity which is an issue in rural areas / households in poverty.
 - Global evidence suggests that older persons are also likely to face difficulties in accessing healthcare and other services, isolation and domestic violence¹⁸.

¹² World Bank estimates

¹³ This could mean open unemployment, underemployment or contraction of wages and incomes. Source: Building Back Better in Georgia (UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Offer)

¹⁴ World Bank estimates

¹⁵ Rapid Gender Assessment of the COVID-19 Situation in Georgia

<https://georgia.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/08/rapid-gender-assessment-of-the-covid-19-situation-in-georgia>

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ UNCIEF reports data, CPD Presentation at the UNSDCF Validation Workshop Page 8

¹⁸ UNFPA Global Technical Brief – “Implications of COVID-19 for older persons: Response to Pandemic”; UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19. WHO brief on the issues of violence against older persons and COVID19. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-and-violence-against-older-people> publication on the abuse and neglect towards older persons reported from different countries of the world <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/neglect-and-abuse-older-people-around-world-intensified-covid-19>

The UN system in Georgia was quick to support the response of the Government to the COVID-19 pandemic: Georgia was among the first countries to receive support from the COVID-19 MPTF to address urgent needs during the onset of the crisis. All AFPs re-programmed in consultation with their respective donors their existing programmes. The

UN organised several rounds of discussions with development partners, including the IFIs and the Administration of the Government. A first socio-economic response plan was finalised by the UNCT in August 2020 and also included support to Abkhazia to counter the pandemic.



2.2. Strategic Priorities for the Cooperation Framework

The UN Country Team, after extensive consultations¹⁹, decided to identify one joint transformative Strategic Priority (SP) for this Cooperation Framework which is to contribute to human wellbeing, capabilities and social equality in Georgia.

“Human well-being” encompasses material well-being, health, education, social protection, voice, access to a clean and safe environment and resilience that transforms Georgia towards sustainable development.

“Capabilities” represent investment in human capital, notably youth, through quality education, skills education, health, sexual and reproductive

health, healthy lifestyles, life skills, and social protection.

The “Social equality” component of the priority is the underlying unifying idea for the UN system in Georgia that cross-cuts all thematic interventions. It implies particular focus on population groups that are, or are at risk of being, left behind, from the development process. Strengthening governance institutions, at national and local levels, for evidence-based policy making and service delivery and promoting social cohesion is further encapsulated in the strategic priority statement.

The UN in Georgia will work towards enhanced human security, especially for but not limited to the conflict-affected communities, by improving their access to services, livelihoods and decent employment opportunities, through dialogue and building social cohesion; transparent and accountable governance institutions including judiciary to protect and guarantee human rights; building capacities of national and local governments for evidence-based policy making and service delivery; combatting and preventing violence including against women and children; investing in human capital and ensuring

¹⁹ As mentioned above the priority is based on the independent evaluation of UN PSD (2016-2020), findings from the Common Country Analysis, the consultative prioritisation and theory of change exercise. In addition broad consultations with citizens, conflict-affected people, migrants, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless, academia, civil society, the Government and development partners (conducted in virtual fashion owing to the COVID-19 pandemic) were held during May and June 2020.

equitable access to quality services (health, education and social protection) especially by the vulnerable groups; and building resilient communities through ambitious climate action, sustainable management of natural resources and disaster risk reduction. The UN system will also help the government meet its international human rights obligations.

In partnership with the government and other national institutions, as well as the development partners, the UN in Georgia will work for full realization of human

rights for all, with a focus on the rights of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, migrants, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless, informal economy workers, displaced persons, people living in conflict-affected areas, people living in poverty, LGBTI and other vulnerable groups who are likely to be disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

2.3 Intended Development Results

The UN in Georgia, as a long-standing and trusted partner of the government, remains committed to assisting the government in, and contributing to, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Based on its comparative advantages and in collaboration with other stakeholders, the UN system in Georgia will work towards realising the strategic priority of enhancing human wellbeing, capabilities and social equality through 5 outcomes and 15 outputs, which for both categories are multi-agency results.

While the five outcomes are broad results (institutional, legislative or behavioural) that are critical for catalysing progress towards the desired impact, and to which other partners also contribute, the outputs will be the results – changes in capacities, knowledge of individuals or institutions or availability of new products / services - where the UN system, working through its partners, will have more direct control and be accountable for the same.

The UN system - based on mandate, capacity and positioning in key thematic areas of this Cooperation Framework - will work through strategic interventions such as technical assistance, capacity building, leveraging partnerships and resources, social mobilisation, brokering knowledge and piloting / scaling up innovations. The UN system will also be ready to continue supporting the

Government respond to and manage the impact of COVID-19.

The UN in Georgia will support all SDGs and specific targets linked to the national / sectoral policies and strategies. The UN recognises that contribution to the 2030 Agenda also contributes to achievement of human rights. The SDG agenda is well-aligned with the Georgian national and European integration priorities as mentioned earlier.

Addressing various forms of inequalities is a unifying idea for programmatic interventions within the Cooperation Framework. The Cooperation Framework will target the vulnerable groups as mentioned in Section 2.4. In addition, the Cooperation Framework will follow the guiding principles described in section 2.1 and will work through sub-regional and regional programmes in a number of key areas. It will further support strengthening of statistical capacity for collection of disaggregated data to promote evidence-based policy-making and analysing differential impact of policies on vulnerable groups. National and local government will be involved for the policy level work and activities on the ground in collaboration with local partners including civil society and in line with the Decentralization Strategy adopted on 31 December 2019.

The UN will continue to work in close collaboration with the development partners, many of whom are in the midst of preparing their own new cooperation and support strategies, as it is paramount to maximise the synergies of support. In Georgia, the

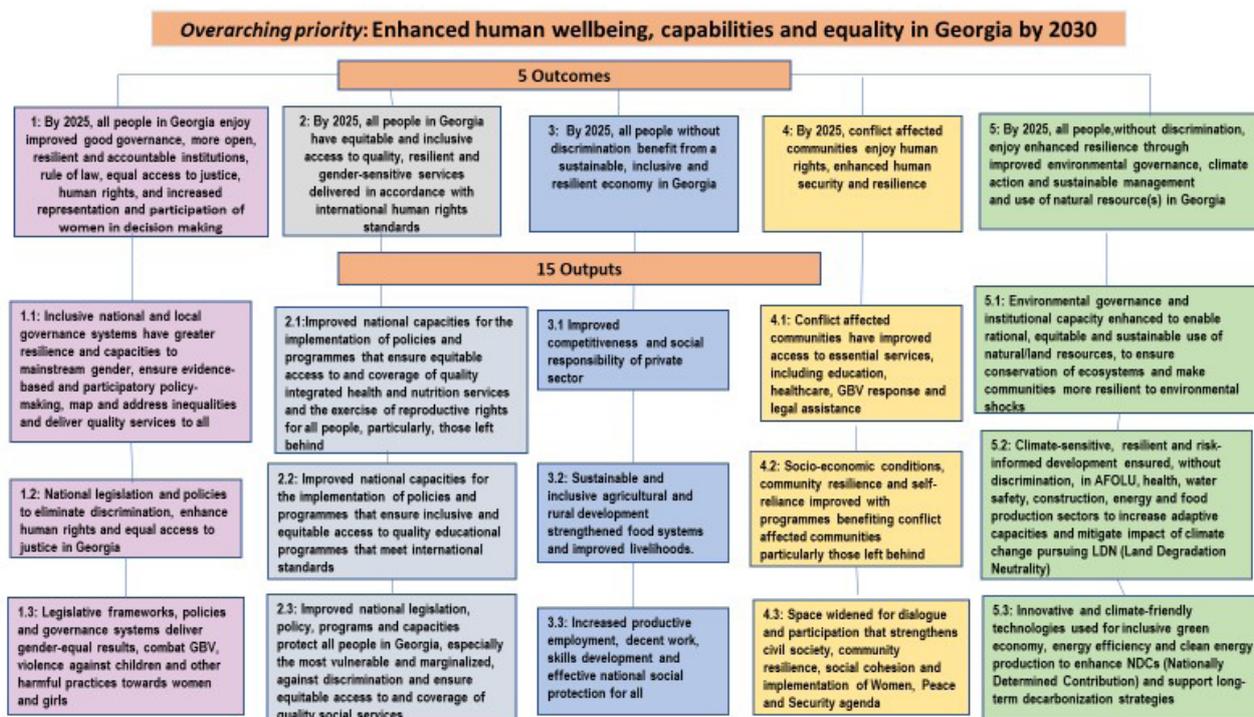
RC leads the development partner coordination group. The formulation of the Cooperation Framework has been very timely and has offered a unique opportunity to further enhance results and strengthen co-operation in support of the government's priorities in the next five years and beyond. This cooperation is further buttressed by the "results driven approach" which can then be further refined in the six sectoral working groups. Those thematic groups are co-chaired by one government Ministry and a development partner representative and they will meet throughout the programme cycle.

The Cooperation Framework builds upon the Annual Development Partnership Forum in January 2020, which was co-chaired by the PM and the RC on behalf of all development partners including the IFIs, and which identified these key thematic priority areas: sustainable, inclusive and "green" economic growth; poverty reduction; the protection of human rights as well as the advancement of the rule of law and judicial reforms. In addition, strengthening democratic institutions, building human capital and tackling challenges that are posed by climate change were also emphasised as was the operationalization of the decentralization strategy adopted at the end of 2019.



2.4 Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Partnerships

The UN in Georgia has identified one strategic transformative priority, five outcomes and fifteen outputs, as shown below.



In subsequent sections, each outcome section first provides a theory of change for the formulated outcome, as determined through consultations, and describes the pathways to reach the same. These sections also provide SDG targets that the outcomes will contribute to, the related national strategies and policies, and the contributing UN agencies.

The partnerships (existing and planned) needed to effectively contribute to the outcomes are also indicated. As the UN in Georgia is one among many contributors to the outcomes, the UN will work in collaboration with these other stakeholders for better synergy and also ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts.

The Government of Georgia (ministries and government agencies) are primary partners and jointly responsible for results. For effective

implementation and to enhance development outcomes, partnerships will be continued with inter alia the development partners including IFIs, the civil society including human rights defenders, private sector, and academia. Where feasible, regional and sub-regional organizations may also be considered for partnership. The UN agencies will explore additional partnerships as the Cooperation Framework unfolds and agencies formulate their own Country Programmes and projects thereunder.

The population segments identified (in Section 2.2) as excluded or at risk of being excluded within the LNOB framework will be targeted by the UN in Georgia under the relevant outcomes discussed below.

Contributing UN Entities

UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, ILO, UN WOMEN, UNODC

2.4.1 Cooperation Framework Outcome 1:

By 2025, all people in Georgia enjoy improved good governance, more open, resilient and accountable institutions, rule of law, equal access to justice, human rights¹¹ and increased representation and participation of women in decision making

Three Outputs that contribute to Outcome 1 are as follows:



Theory of Change

Effective and accountable institutions and respective systems and processes will continue to ensure and advance delivery of quality public services for the

people living in the country following the “leaving no one behind” principle, thus contributing to realization of the SDGs.

The above outcome will be achieved *if*:

1. good governance principles are upheld;
2. the legislature functions in accordance with its expanded institutional mandate with focus on government oversight and greater citizen engagement in the legislative process;
3. the national legislation is further aligned with international standards and sub-national policies and strategies aligned with national priorities;
4. the institutions have the capacity and independence to protect and promote human rights and gender equality;
5. judicial system is enhanced to make it more transparent, sensitive to vulnerable groups, independent, accountable and accessible, and free legal aid is available to a wider range of the vulnerable groups;
6. other arms of justice system - the law enforcement and penitentiary, probation and crime prevention systems, are also reformed and adequate checks and balances are in place;
7. Child rights protection framework is built on the “best interest of the child” principle and adopts child-centered approaches in the judiciary, education, social protection, poverty eradication, and protection from violence utilizing national mechanisms, such as the Code of the Rights of the Child;
8. Enabling environment is created for women and girls to realize their full potential in all aspects of life, including greater inclusion in the formal labour market and the meaningful representation in decision making at all levels;
9. women are further empowered to exercise their human rights, GBV / DV and harmful practices are continuously prevented and adequately responded to through efficient law-enforcement and multi-sectoral approach;
10. the statistical systems are improved to regularly collect disaggregated data for evidence-based policy-making to promote better understanding, mapping, impact analysis and addressing of inequalities in the country;
11. there is effective, non-partisan and merit-based public administration, in line with the new Public Administration Roadmap, that is accountable and responsive to people’s needs;
12. anti-corruption laws and policies are fully enforced, and preventive measures taken;
13. decentralisation reform carried out and local administration is empowered with capacity and resources to deliver quality public services including through digitisation;
14. there is enhanced civic space, especially for youth and people in conflict-affected areas, for their participation in social and economic spheres and in making decisions affecting their lives;
15. social cohesion and trust is built, social stereotypical are shuttered manifesting transformation towards a more equitable society;
16. there is more independent and impartial media and civil society and they act as effective watchdogs;
17. refugee laws and asylum procedures comply with the international standards and steps are taken to end statelessness;
18. the population data systems are improved for results-based planning and regular collection of time-use data encouraged (to assess women’s unpaid care work and to build social care infrastructure); and
19. population dynamics, including ageing, declining population and emigration, are further analysed and judiciously addressed through human rights and evidence-based policies and programmes, with special focus on targeted countrywide approach to address aging and harness migration potential.

In order to achieve the above results, the UN System in Georgia will mobilize its efforts to further support the Public Administration Reform, civil society for strengthening social accountability and more inclusive outcomes, open governance reform, and implementation of the Decentralization and National Human Rights Strategies as well as of recommendations on the UN Human Rights mechanisms (UPR, Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council), improve the system of checks-and-balances and enhance access to independent and impartial media and civil society. Activities will aim at political and economic empowerment of women including introduction of family friendly policies and enforcement of national strategies and action plans that concern gender equality, ending violence and harmful practices against women, girls and children, capacity building of professionals in the healthcare, social and justice systems and strengthening national agencies and municipalities for better implementation and monitoring of child-sensitive social protection programmes. Jointly with the Government, the UN will work on improving national asylum systems and

processes, promote open and affordable access to justice and integrated and reliable population data systems; support improved understanding of population dynamics and addressing ageing.

The strong emphasis that AA lays on the democratic governance and human rights will be leveraged to improve rule of law and governance institutions in the country. Euro-Atlantic and European integration thus offers an opportunity not only in terms of trade and investment but also in improving institutions. Compliance with the European human rights standards will also promote sustainability of development results.

The key risks stem from the impact of COVID-19 outbreak. Pre-existing social inequalities are likely to get further accentuated. This could lead to social unrest and may jeopardise governance reforms if people's expectations are not met. Curtailment of freedoms, including media and social media freedoms, in the name of combating "fake news" may also materialise as a risk factor. Addressing the COVID-19 impact may divert resources from development including governance reforms.

Vulnerable Groups

Specific categories of children²⁰, youth, informal sector workers, older persons, migrants, IDPs, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless persons, communities living in conflict-affected areas, and subsistence farmers, people living in remote areas, specific categories of women (e.g victims of domestic violence and trafficking), ethnic and religious minorities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, and persons with disabilities.

²⁰ Particularly children experiencing violence and abuse, children living and working in the streets, children with disabilities, and children in conflict with the law especially during the arrest and investigation stage and in pre-trial detention (United Nations Children's Fund, Situation Analysis of Children's and Women's Rights in Georgia, 2019, pp. 41, 50, 56, 60)

Partnerships

The Parliament of Georgia; Georgian Bar Association; the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia; the Supreme Court; High Council of Justice of Georgia; High School of Justice; Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI); Mediators Association of Georgia; the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG); Civil Service Bureau (CSB); Municipal Authorities; Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Ajara; Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG); Public Service Development Agency; Digital Governance Agency; Ministry of Justice; LEPL Public Service Hall; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; Public Defender of Georgia; State Inspector's Office; Inter-agency Human Rights Council Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports; Legal Aid Service; the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA),

National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat); LEPL National Environmental Agency (NEA); LEPL Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia (APA); Gender Equality Council of the Parliament; Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Issues; : LEPL Agency For State Care And Assistance For the (Statutory) Victims of Human trafficking Border Police; Police Academy; civil society representing the LNOB groups, academia, media, employers organizations; and trade unions.

Relevant National Policies / Strategies

The 2017-2030 State Concept on Demographic Security; State Policy Concept on Population Ageing; the National Strategy for the Development of the Official Statistics of Georgia 2020-2023; the Decentralization Strategy 2020-2025; Strategy on Development of High Mountain Settlements of Georgia (2019-2023); the Public Administration Reform (PAR) Roadmap (2015-2020) and the new PAR strategy for 2021-2024 (to be finalized by December 2020); the Public Service Design, Delivery, Quality Assurance and Pricing Strategy and its Action Plan for 2020-2021 (pending for GoG

approval); the Open Parliament Action Plan 2021-2022 (in process of development); the Supreme Council of Ajara Openness Action Plan 2020-2021 (under approval); the Migration Strategy 2016-2020 (Migration Strategy 2021-2030 under development); the Human Rights Strategy 2021-2030 (under the development); the State Inspector's Service Institutional Strategy 2021-2022; the Judicial Reforms Strategy (2017-2021); the Strategy on Reforming the Justice System Reform in Georgia (Part of the Criminal Justice System Reform Strategy) 2019; the National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons 2019-2020; the 2020-2030 National Youth Policy Concept; the 2020-25 State Youth Strategy and its Action Plan (being developed); the 2018-2020 National Action Plan on Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of victims; the National Human Rights Action Plan 2018-2020; The 2018-2020 National Action Plan of Georgia for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security; National Strategy 2019-2023 for Labour and Employment Policy of Georgia, Action Plan 2019-2021 of the National Strategy for Labour and Employment Policy; and the Code on the Rights of the Child.



Contributing UN Entities

UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, IOM, UNOPS, OHCHR, UN WOMEN, UNODC

2.4.2 Cooperation Framework Outcome 2:

By 2025, all people in Georgia have equitable and inclusive access to quality, resilient and gender-sensitive services delivered in accordance with international human rights standards

There are three Outputs that lead to reaching the Outcome 2:

2.1: Improved national capacities for the implementation of policies and programmes that ensure equitable access to and coverage of quality integrated health and nutrition services and the exercise of reproductive rights for all people, particularly, those left behind



Alignment to SDGs:

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

2.2: Improved national capacities for the implementation of policies and programmes that ensure inclusive and equitable access to quality educational programmes that meet international standards



Alignment to SDGs:

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

2.3: Improved national legislation, policy, programmes and capacities protect all people in Georgia, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, against discrimination, and ensure equitable access to and coverage of quality social services



Alignment to SDGs:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Theory of Change

Joint activities are being developed and implemented by the UN in the areas of health, education, and other social services. These efforts contribute to an improved enabling environment for the delivery, promotion and monitoring of quality and inclusive health²¹, education and social

services and aim to ensure that persons, especially those who have been left behind, have increased and equitable access to quality and affordable health, education and social services and are better protected from violence and exploitation. A focus on the horizontal and vertical extension of social protection programmes will address lifecycle social risks such as maternity and loss of earnings, disability, old age and access to a nexus of integrated social and labour market service.

²¹ Targeted health policies and services include sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including adolescent SRH, maternal and child health and nutrition (MCH+N), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), prevention and management of high-burden non-communicable diseases (NCDs), integrated prevention and response to HIV/TB/Viral Hepatitis with focus on key populations, and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

Key structural barriers to the quality, availability, accessibility, coverage and appropriateness of services are tackled and the outcome above will be achieved *if*:

1. Human Rights based approaches are further integrated in evidence-based policy making; legal/regulatory framework is further enriched with child-centred and gender-sensitive approaches;
2. authorities at national and local levels have the increased capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of services that respond to diverse needs of people in Georgia regardless of age, gender identity, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, health, employment status, settlement type, and migration status and are able to address negative social norms;
3. appropriate leadership and domestic funding allocations are in place;
4. the health system is further strengthened to provide affordable and quality health services, both preventive and curative ensuring resilient health care systems, with well-supplied, equipped, and adequate health care infrastructure and plays a role in standard setting, certification and quality control;
5. Primary Health Care (PHC) as a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for universal health coverage and health-related SDGs, is further strengthened;
6. authorities at national and local levels are better prepared to respond to emergencies and maintain critical services for the population;
7. non-communicable diseases and targeted communicable diseases are controlled and awareness is raised;
8. awareness about applicable legislation, rights and obligations to children, youth, women, elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTI+ persons, IDPs, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless persons, migrants, informal economy workers, workers who lose their incomes and key population groups at risk of HIV, TB and viral hepatitis is increased;
9. recommendations of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and those of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons are implemented;
10. there is improved and equitable access to quality education with long-term learning outcomes, skills education that is geared towards market needs;
11. social protection system is further strengthened through improved coverage, adequacy and efficiency;
12. investment is made particularly in women's health, education and skills, and also in childcare and elderly care, for women to realise their full potential

For reaching this Outcome, it is essential that coordination and planning for delivery of quality multi-sectoral people-centered services are improved, systems are strengthened through improved guidance and standards, strategic partnerships with national and local authorities, civil society, trade unions, employers' organisations, private sector, professional associations, media, CBOs, academia and youth are strengthened and there is a skilled and capacitated health, education and social services workforce. Positive dynamics of continuous cooperative efforts of the UN system is secured through the work towards strengthening systems for service delivery, improvement of preventive and curative service quality and empowerment of communities and individuals aware about their rights and capable to address

harmful social norms and practices, stigma and all types of discrimination.

As noted earlier, compliance with European human rights standards will contribute to more equitable delivery of services including social protection of the marginalised groups.

The need to address the COVID-19 impact may divert healthcare resources to combating COVID-19 which may affect normal health care. This will particularly affect the vulnerable groups with pre-existing health issues who may postpone healthcare and may suffer. The children also face risk from disrupted education. Remote areas are particularly at risk of being excluded. Fiscal crunch may affect social protection services when these are needed the most.

Vulnerable Groups

Specific categories of children, youth, informal economy workers, older persons, migrants, IDPs, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless persons, communities living around the ABLs, and subsistence farmers, specific categories of women (e.g victims of domestic violence and trafficking), women facing intersectional discrimination ethnic and religious minorities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, persons with disabilities and key population groups at risk of HIV, TB and viral hepatitis

Partnerships

Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoIDP&LHSA); Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports; Vocational Training Institutes; Trade Union of Health Workers; employers' organization Civil Society; National Statistics Office of Georgia; National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC); the Parliament of Georgia; Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; Public Defender's Office; Municipal Service Providers' Association; Public Service Development Agency (PSDA); State Employment Agency (under MoIDP&LHSA); Administration of the Government of Georgia; Social Service Agency (SSA) (under MoIDP&LHSA), Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Trafficking, local governance bodies, professional associations, academia, NGOs, International Organizations, media

Relevant National Policies

The Vision for Developing the Healthcare System in Georgia by 2030; 2017-2030 State Concept on Demographic Security; 2020-2030 National Youth Policy Concept; 2021-25 National Youth Strategy (under development) ; the 2017-2030 National Strategy on Maternal and Newborn Health and related Reproductive Health issues; the Georgia HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2019-2022; the 2021-24 National Action Plan on Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of victims (survivors) (to be developed and adopted); the Comprehensive MYP for

Immunization for Georgia, 2016-2021; the National Annual Immunization Plans; the National Tobacco Control Strategy (in force since 2013); the Non-Communicable Disease National Strategy (2021-25) (to be developed and adopted); the Unified Strategy for Education and Science of Georgia 2017-2021; the National Human Rights Strategy of Georgia 2021-2030 (is being developed and to be adopted) and its respective action plans. National Strategy 2019-2023 for Labour and Employment Policy of Georgia; Action Plan 2019-2021 of the National Strategy for Labour and Employment Policy; and the Code on the Rights of the Child.



Contributing UN Entities

FAO, ILO, UNDP, UN Women, IOM, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNECE, IFAD

2.4.3 Cooperation Framework Outcome 3:

By 2025, all people without discrimination benefit from a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy in Georgia.

Respective **three Outputs** under the **Outcome 3** are given below:

3.1: Improved competitiveness and social responsibility of private sector



Alignment to SDGs:

SDG 8.1 (Economic Growth);
SDG 8.2 (Economic Productivity);
SDG 8.9 (Promoting Sustainable Tourism);
SDG 9.2 (Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization);
SDG 9.3 (SMEs Access to Financial Services); and
SDG 9.b (Technology Development, Research and Innovation).

3.2: Sustainable and inclusive agricultural and rural development, strengthened food systems and improved livelihoods



Alignment to SDGs:

SDG 1.2 (National Poverty);
SDG 2.3 (Agricultural productivity);
SDG 2.4 (Food production systems);
SDG 2.A (Rural Investment);
SDG 8.2 (Economic productivity)

3.3: Increased decent work, including productive employment, skills development and effective national social protection for all



Alignment to SDGs:

SDG 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 (Social Protection, Equal Access to Economic Means for Men and Women);
SDG 5.4 (Unpaid Work and Shared Household Responsibilities);
SDG 8.5 (Full Employment);
SDG 8.6 (Youth Employment); and
SDG 10.4 (Fiscal Wage and Social Protection]
SDG 10.7 (Orderly, safe, regular migration)

Theory of Change

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth which creates equal opportunities can be sustained if factors impeding creation of jobs, poverty

reduction and improvement of competitiveness and inclusiveness, promotion of decent work and livelihoods are addressed.

The outcome above will be achieved *if*:

1. the economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis are addressed in a timely fashion;
 2. poverty is reduced inter alia through support of job creation;
 3. there is increased private sector competitiveness through cluster development, entrepreneurship, trade capacity building, technological advancement, and investments to promote pro-poor growth while at the same time respecting the environmental and safety and security and other labour standards
 4. compliance capacity of quality infrastructure institutions and private sector strengthened to increase export and access new markets;
 5. livelihoods are strengthened;
 6. agriculture sector is made more productive and there are innovative employment opportunities in rural areas through integrated rural development, with focus on small, youth and women farmers and economic diversification;
 7. sustainable and inclusive tourism is promoted to improve income for vulnerable groups of population restored in the post-COVID-19 context and further;
 8. underemployment and informal employment are addressed and full and productive employment promoted by enhancing formalisation of economy;
 9. all aspects of decent work (employment, social protection, social dialogue and international labour standards) are realized;
 10. social protection system is strengthened including by implementing both passive and active labour market interventions;
 11. market-linked skills are available through appropriate skills education especially for the NEET youth in line with the new skills sector strategy;
 12. innovation is promoted to enhance productivity and competitiveness;
 13. the agri-food systems become sustainable and the responsibility is taken for the entire value chains to improve production, food quality, safety and nutrition, while building livelihoods' resilience and reducing environmental impact;
 14. there is adequate protection at work in compliance with international labour standards; in compliance with the recommendations of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations (April 2019);
 15. conditions are improved for adequate and equitable labour force participation and employment opportunities to women and the vulnerable groups, people with disabilities, youth and minorities.
 16. women's unpaid work will be measured, recognised and mainstreamed in development discourse; and shared household responsibilities promoted;
 17. women's labour force participation is improved through investment in childcare services, elderly care services, greater sharing of household work, and skilling / reskilling of women and creating labour market conditions for them to increase their employment opportunities
 18. regular data collection on time-use data will be promoted as a step towards building social care infrastructure;
 19. Enhanced national policies for sustainable transport connectivity and trade facilitation.
 20. Supporting transitions towards smart and sustainable cities including improved capacities among local and national government officials to develop and implement sustainable urban policies.
-

The UN in Georgia will support an integrated vision of economic growth as a means for sustainable advancement of human capabilities and well-being, policies and programmes that promote people-centered economic and business

models, an enabling environment and business opportunities for investment while respecting human rights and labour rights and environmental impact.

Creation of decent work for all working population segments including migrants and asylum seekers, , and implementation of activities against child labour, human trafficking, as well as promotion of social support programmes and improvement of population's economic prospects will result in sustained productivity improvement, introduction of responsible business practices and increased living standards. MSMEs that represent 90 percent of the total enterprises and 67 percent of total business employment will be particularly targeted for assistance, especially women and youth-led enterprises. Entrepreneurship will be promoted through strengthening competitiveness, access to technologies, markets, finance, skills development that will ensure jobs creation, decent employment and strengthening livelihoods in urban and rural areas. Agricultural productivity will be enhanced by investing in agriculture, developing agricultural value chain with focus on diversification, innovative technologies, cooperation and addressing structural bottlenecks such as fragmentation of land. Farmers' production capacities will be improved and access

to infrastructure and services will be increased. Particular attention will be paid towards promotion of terroir products in order to strengthen the position of the farmers in the agricultural value chains and link them to tourism sector.

At the same time, disparities between urban and rural areas will be addressed through maximization of agriculture potential and diversification of rural economy. Overall poverty and inequality will be reduced through the enhanced realisation of decent work, including productive employment, strengthened livelihoods and inclusive social protection in line with international labour standards.

Georgia's farther engagement in global economic processes, among them integration into the regional markets should continue in the future. Regional and sub-regional integration will open up wider markets for its products and labour movement. One of the tools for this is further development of its domestic industry through innovations and technological improvement and upgradation of skills that UN will work towards, as note above.

The key risk is the closure of the small enterprises following COVID-19 outbreak and resulting unemployment notably in sectors like travel, tourism and hospitality. This is a potential trigger of conflict. Foreign investment may also be adversely affected. Attempts at enhancing the competitiveness of the economy risk being put on hold.

Vulnerable Groups

Unemployed persons especially women and youth, child labourers, informal sector workers, older persons, migrants, IDPs, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless persons, communities living around the ABLs, and family farmers, specific categories of women (e.g victims of domestic violence and trafficking), pregnant women, ethnic and religious minorities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, and persons with disabilities.

Partnerships

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Finance Training Academy (LEPL); Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Diaspora Relations Department); Enterprise Georgia; Georgian Innovations and Technology Agency (GITA); Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA), Maritime Transport Agency; State Procurement Agency; Georgian national Agency for Standards and Metrology (GeoSTM); Georgian Accreditation Center (GAC); National Food Agency (NFA); Ministry of Internally

Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs; Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT); Ministry of Justice/State Commission on Migration Issues; Inter-Agency Commission on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues;

Agrarian Committee of the Parliament of Georgia; Gender Equality Council of the Parliament; Public Defender's Office; Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Georgian Trade Unions Confederation; Georgian Employers Association; Municipalities; Private Sector; and Civil Society representing the LNOB groups.

Relevant National Policies

Human Rights Strategy 2014-2020 and Action Plan (Chapter on Business and Human Rights); Social-economic Development Strategy of Georgia – Georgia 2020; National Strategy 2019-2023 for Labour and Employment Policy of Georgia; Action Plan 2019-2021 of the National Strategy for Labour and Employment Policy; the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027; National Youth Policy Concept 2020-2030; Georgia 2020 (Competitiveness of the Private Sector); SME Development Strategy of Georgia 2016-2020; State Migration Strategy 2016-2020 (Chapter VIII

Migration & Development); Tourism Strategy of Georgia 2025; State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan for 2015-2020; Regional Development Programme 2018-2021; VET Development Strategy 2013-2020; Human Rights Strategy 2014-2020 and Action Plan (Chapter on Business and Human Rights); National Strategy 2019-2023 for Labour and Employment Policy of Georgia; SME Development Strategy of Georgia 2016-2020; Youth Policy Concept (2020-2030); National Youth Strategy 2025; and the Code on the Rights of the Child; 2020-2022 Programme for Integrated Development of Pilot regions of Georgia.

Contributing UN Entities

UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, UN Women, UNODC

2.4.4 Cooperation Framework Outcome 4:

By 2025, conflict affected communities enjoy human rights, enhanced human security and resilience

Outcome 4 will consist of three Outputs that are agreed to be:

4.1: Conflict affected communities have improved access to essential services, including education, healthcare, GBV response and legal assistance



Alignment to SDGs:

SDG 1 (No Poverty),
SDG 2 (Zero hunger),
SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being),
SDG 4 (Quality Education)
SDG 5 (Gender Equality)
SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and
SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

4.2: Socio-economic conditions, community resilience and self-reliance improved with programmes benefiting conflict affected communities particularly those left behind



Alignment to SDGs:

SDG 1 (No Poverty),
SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being),
SDG 4 (Quality Education)
SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and
SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

4.3: Space widened for dialogue and participation that strengthens civil society, community resilience, social cohesion and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda



Alignment to SDGs:

SDG 1 (No Poverty),
SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being),
SDG 4 (Quality Education)
SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and
SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

Theory of Change

The above outcome will be achieved *if*:

1. equal opportunities are provided for all conflict-affected communities by overcoming the key barriers to freedom of movement, access to rights, livelihoods, quality healthcare, education including non-formal education and other services;
 2. community resilience on the ground is enhanced to contribute to the lasting peace;
 3. the State Strategy on IDPs is implemented in partnership with conflict-affected communities, authorities, development actors, and civil society;
 4. Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security is implemented in close partnership between the government, local communities and women's CSOs;
 5. Women participate meaningfully at all levels of peace talks and in confidence building measures;
 6. the state resources are strategically used, so that IDPs enjoy better socio-economic integration with improved livelihoods, social services and long-term sustainable development;
 7. conflict-affected communities, especially women and children have greater access to social services, information and free legal services, including the protection against violence and abuse;
 8. women and girls in conflict-affected areas have increased access to quality health, including child, and reproductive health services, leading to the improvement of health, including reproductive, maternal and child health;
 9. there is improvement of capacities within conflict affected communities to demand the protection of their rights and enjoy equitable access to basic and enhanced social services;
 10. women in conflict-affected areas have the skills and there are childcare and elderly care services, and more equitable sharing of household work, to enable women to seek employment;
 11. the prospects for long term coexistence are enhanced and the state policy complies with the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement and shifts from "status based" to "needs based" assistance;
 12. the local services meet nationally approved guidelines and standards;
 13. the population in Abkhazia and if the UN is permitted access, in South Ossetia are informed and they are able to obtain relevant documentation to access their rights including freedom of movement, access to education without discrimination and access to employment opportunities;
 14. there is space for dialogue leading to reconciliation and sustainable peace within and across the divided communities through grassroots and civil society driven initiatives; and
 15. confidence building measures, empowerment of "agents for peace" and an enabling environment for people-to-people contacts results in a change of attitudes and behaviour of societies across the dividing lines.
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No geographic distinction is made of the conflict affected communities and the term encompasses all people who live on the either side of the ABLs (administrative boundary lines) in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and those IDPs (with or without official status) who live in other parts of the country (rural or urban), particularly along the ABLs.

UN programmes will further work in close synergy with those implemented by the Government. Leveraging the unique (though limited) access the UN system has in Abkhazia, the UN will work to improve access to labour markets, health, including reproductive health, education (including non-formal education) and social services as well as legal assistance, both for people living on territories under the Georgian government's control and those living in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It will be specifically ensured that the conflict affected communities are equally covered for the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery including support contributing to food security such as provision of agricultural inputs and improved subsistence farming/production of cash crops, as 21 percent IDPs and 49.7 percent of individuals in Abkhazia (74 percent in Gali) live in rural areas.



The on-going “borderization” process will entail further hardships for the population living close to the ABL. The UN in Georgia will pay particular attention to human security and confidence building aspects by strengthening peace champions, organising dialogues around community-level projects, building resilience and preventing escalation of conflict. It will identify the best possible mechanisms of how women, especially those affected by conflict, are not only heard but able to meaningfully participate at all levels.

The unresolved conflict will continue to cast its shadow over peace and security situation in the region. Though the final solution may be some distance away, and Georgia continues to address the issue at the Geneva International Discussions co-chaired by the EU, UN and OSCE, the UN in the meanwhile will continue to provide, services and support based on international humanitarian principles to conflict affected communities.

Limited access to the conflict affected areas and UN's inability to collect information on the community needs and provide any support to them is a key risk. This can also hinder UN's efforts at “building back better”. COVID-19 may affect dialogue and peace-building activities due to the social distancing restrictions imposed during COVID-19.

The UN Georgia will also leverage the regional experience in addressing the needs of conflict affected populations through the opportunities provided by different platforms that exist on the sub-regional and regional levels. The sub-regional interactions in the Eastern European format will be prioritized given that the countries in this sub-region face somewhat similar problems and challenges in integrating conflict affected communities. The UN-supported sub-regional platform on SDG promotion will be utilized to increase the level of interaction and experience sharing among civil society actors working on peace and security issues.

Vulnerable Groups

Conflict-affected communities especially specific categories of children, youth, informal sector workers, older persons, migrants, IDPs, refugees, stateless persons, communities living around the ABLs, and family farmers, specific categories of women (e.g. victims of domestic violence and trafficking), women facing intersectional discrimination, ethnic and religious minorities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, and persons with disabilities.

Partnerships

Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; Legal Aid Service; Consortium Legal Aid Georgia; Action Against Hunger; Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Issues the Public Defender's Office; NGOs representing the LNOB groups.

Relevant National Policies

Foreign Policy Strategy of Georgia 2019-2022; Georgia's State Strategy on IDPs; National Action Plan of Georgia for Implementation of the UN SCR on Women, Peace and Security; Georgia's State Strategy on Occupied Territories – Engagement

through Cooperation; Georgia's peace initiative – "A Step to a Better Future"; Migration Strategy; Forthcoming Human Rights Strategy, the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027, EU-Georgia Association Agreement; and the Code on the Rights of the Child.



Contributing UN Entities

FAO, UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, WHO, UNECE, UNOPS, UNIDO, UN Women, UNEP, UNICRI, IFAD, UNDRR

2.4.5 Cooperation Framework Outcome 5:

By 2025, all people, without discrimination, enjoy enhanced resilience through improved environmental governance, climate action and sustainable management and use of natural resources in Georgia.

Three Outputs under the Outcome 5 reflect consolidated efforts of the UN Agencies in Georgia towards the following directions:

5.1: Environmental governance and institutional capacity enhanced to enable rational, equitable and sustainable use of natural/land resources, to ensure conservation of ecosystems and make communities more resilient to environmental shocks;

5.2: Climate-sensitive, resilient and risk-informed development ensured without discrimination in AFOLU, health, water safety, construction, energy and food production sectors to increase adaptive capacities and mitigate impact of climate change pursuing LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality)

5.3: Innovative and climate-friendly technologies used for inclusive green economy, energy efficiency and clean energy production to enhance NDCs (Nationally Determined Contribution) and support long-term decarbonisation strategies.



Alignment to SDGs:
 SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being;
 SDG 6 Water and Sanitation;
 SDG 7 Affordable Clean Energy;
 SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities;
 SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities;
 SDG 13 Climate Action;
 SDG 14 Life under Water; and
 SDG 15 Life on Land



Alignment to SDGs:
 SDG 6 Water and Sanitation;
 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy;
 SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities;
 SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and
 SDG 13 Climate Action



Alignment to SDGs:
 SDG 2 Zero Hunger;
 SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy;
 SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth;
 SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities
 SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and
 SDG 13 Climate Action

Theory of Change

Climate-sensitive and low-carbon development, sustainable land and natural resource use practices, supply of affordable and clean energy along with equal focus on the reduced production and use of toxic chemicals represent the necessary

conditions for resilience, wellbeing, health and improved livelihoods of the Georgian population and is crucial for the sustainable development of the country.

The outcome 5 will be achieved *if*:

1. there is strong legal, institutional and policy framework that facilitates rational and sustainable use of natural and land resources, including strategic environmental assessments, forest landscape restoration and others, that recognises differential interface of women with natural resources, and conservation of natural habitats and eco-systems;
2. the community-level adaptive capacities for climate risk management, disaster preparedness and functional multi-hazard early warning systems are enhanced;
3. enhance and promote resilient and climate-proof connectivity infrastructure as both social and economic development accelerator;
4. innovative, diverse and smart energy solutions, promoting energy efficiency and enhanced share of renewables, are adopted;
5. resource-efficient and low-carbon industrial production technologies are promoted;
6. the country achieves GHG reduction in line with the commitments under the Paris Agreement and the EU standards;
7. sector policies are sensitive to and mainstream climate change that acknowledges differential impact of climate change on women and vulnerable groups;
8. there is effective waste management, especially of hazardous, industrial and e-waste;
9. air-quality and natural resources are effectively managed to minimise harmful health impact, loss of lives and productivity; and
10. there is growing awareness about environmental protection and climate change including through the education system.
11. there are enhanced legal, institutional and policy frameworks to enable the private sector and people (including but not limited to migrants, remittance-recipients, disaster-displacees, persons with disabilities) to support and/or invest in climate action or green transition
12. governance-human rights-environment nexus is strengthened.

Throughout the new programming cycle, UN agencies will model their programmes to advocate for climate smart and risk informed development planning and implementation in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) management, food production, fisheries, sustainable forest management, eco-tourism, industry, health, energy and construction sectors. Efforts and resources will be mobilized to implement legal, organizational and environmental management measures so that the production and use of substances that cause

serious damage to human health and environment are reduced.

Women bear disproportionate burden of disasters, climate related risks and environmental degradation. This takes the form of reduced incomes and increased household work to provide for food, water and care. Yet they are seldom part of the decision-making and their local knowledge seldom made use of for adaptation and risk reduction. Under the Cooperation Framework, UN will promote

representation of women in key decision-making bodies at national and local levels.

The UN System will continue its support for increasing adaptive capacities for climate risk management, disaster preparedness and functional multi-hazard early warning systems; in line with the CADRI DRR capacity assessment,²² it will build capacities to reduce disaster risk and enhanced preparedness at national and community-level and work to mainstream DRR in various sectoral policies including education; it will support the National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction the country is about to start developing; it will promote innovative and smart energy solutions and sustainable industrial technologies and help in adaptation and mitigation of climate change, reduce land degradation and ensure shared prosperity and well-being at local, regional and national scales.

Planned interventions will also focus on strengthening of evidence-based policies, regulatory frameworks, guidance and standards as well as improving country's capacity in the direction of Health Impact Assessment (HIA). UN avails itself in support of the Government of Georgia to design better targeted interventions to prevent and respond to climate-driven disaster risks, promote Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and effective fulfilment of environmental health outcomes. In addition to the global Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) referring to the above mentioned spheres Georgia is a party to two regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements as well, such as: Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; and Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

At the same time, UN will support Government and industries in the adoption of the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) concept as an important prerequisite towards circular economy principle. UN will optimize production process to phase out toxic chemical such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and to reduce GHG emission

through improved energy efficiency. Technical assistance will also be provided to increase the share of renewable energy sources for productive activities, especially in the remote and rural areas.

In no other area regional cooperation is as important as in combating climate change and addressing disaster risks. The South Caucasus is expected to have a huge negative impact of climate change with negative implications for agriculture. Extreme weather events can easily turn into disasters. Compliance of Georgia with the European environmental standards, including those on emissions, and promoting clean energy are other opportunities the UN in Georgia will work towards. The current forums like the meetings of the Eastern Partnership countries will be tapped to explore ways to establish effective national mechanisms and accelerate climate action.

Extreme weather events such as floods on top of the COVID-19 crisis may aggravate risks and derail capacity building efforts for climate-change adaptation and mainstreaming climate change and DRR in sector policies. COVID-19 may also affect the plans to promote eco-tourism.

Vulnerable Groups

People living in disaster-prone areas, urban / industrial areas facing air pollution. Rural population, people with underlying environmental health problems, people with little access to clean energy, food-insecure households, specific categories of children, youth, informal sector workers, older persons, migrants, IDPs, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless persons, communities living around the ABLs, and family (women) farmers, specific categories of women (e.g victims of domestic violence and trafficking, rural women), ethnic and religious minorities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, and persons with disabilities.

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²² Georgia: Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment, Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative-UNDP, 2014

Partnerships

Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia; LEPL IDPs, Ecomigrants and Livelihoods Agency; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (including the National Environmental Agency, National Forestry Agency, Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia, Agriculture and Rural Development Agency and Environmental Information and Education Center), Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; Emergency Management Service (Ministry of Internal Affairs); National Center for Disease Control & Public Health; National Security Council/National Crisis Management Center; Parliament of Georgia (and Parliamentary committees), NGOs representing the LNOB groups, local communities, municipalities and local authorities, research institutions, international organizations, trade unions, employers organisations, business community, women and youth groups, mass-media.

Relevant National Policies /Strategies

Third National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia 2017-2021 (NEAP 3); the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027 (Goal 2. Sustainable usage of natural resources, retaining the eco-system, adaptation to climate change); National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia 2014-2020; Second National Action Program to Combat Desertification 2014-2022; National Waste Management Strategy for 2016-2030 and Action Plan for 2016-2020; Tbilisi Resilience Strategy; National Renewable Energy Action Plan; National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) (2019-2020); Law on Energy and Water Supply also, Law on Energy Efficiency Law on Energy Labelling, Law on Energy Efficiency of Buildings and Law on Promoting the Production and Use of Energy from Renewable Sources; New Forest Code; National Environment and Health Action Plan 2018-2022 of Georgia (NEHAP 2); Updated NDC/Paris Agreement; Climate Action Plan; Regional Development Programme 2018-2021; Main Directions of the State Policy in Energy Sector of Georgia; Long-term Low Emission development Strategy; and the Code on the Rights of the Child.

2.5 Synergies between Cooperation Framework outcomes

The five outcomes proposed in this Cooperation Framework are interlinked. By closely working in collaboration with development partners the UN in Georgia will generate synergies to accelerate progress towards SDGs despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Resilience as a cross-cutting issue has never been as important as it is now. The Cooperation Framework focuses on building resilience across all outcomes. Achievement in one outcome will create synergies with other outcomes given the alignment with SDGs that are interlinked. Particular focus on LNOB groups will provide much higher returns. For example, investment in quality education with equal access especially by women

(Outcome 2, Output 2.2) will have beneficial impact on women's labour force participation and their employment prospects (outcome 3, Output 3.3.) Impact on reproductive health outcomes will also be positive and this will improve women's status in the family and community. Improved education of the women and girls from lowest income quintiles and ethnic / religious minorities will particularly pay high returns. Investment in skills building will potentially reduce the emigration and loss of workforce besides enabling better backward linkages between the FDI-led firms and domestic firms (Outcome 1).

Better compliance with human rights standards will promote more inclusive development. By promoting more responsive, transparent and accountable governance institutions (Outcome 1) and promoting greater digitalisation the service delivery improves and becomes more resilient even in the wake of a disaster such as a pandemic. While appropriate

policies are needed, improved governance and rule of law also create conditions for the private sector and business to flourish (Outcome 3).

Achievements under Outcome 1 will contribute to making decision-making more evidence-based and gender responsive and enhance public trust in the governance institutions. Non-discriminatory application of laws will promote peace and ensure that no one is left behind.

Sustainable use of natural resources, developing resilience to climate change and combating disaster risks (Outcome 5) define the boundaries of growth and prosperity (Outcome 3). Vulnerability to climate change, depletion and degradation of natural resources (land, water, forests), and epidemics / pandemics can limit service delivery and economic growth and if the risk materialises cause a setback to the growth already achieved. Poor air quality and pollution caused by hazardous chemicals (Outcome 5) has direct effect on health (Outcome 2) and, through productivity losses, growth (Outcome 3).

A disaster or a pandemic (Outcome 5) can divert resources from development to emergency response and shrink fiscal space for the Government to provide for social services (health, education and social protection) with adverse impact on Outcome 2. Conflict and absence of peace prevents the country from tapping into the full potential of trade across dividing lines or provide social services to the residents in conflict-affected areas.

The outcomes under this Cooperation Framework are inextricably linked with the human rights processes and the international commitments the country has made. Georgia's strengthened capacity to comply with and implement these commitments, under the UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures, (Outcome 1), will significantly contribute to increased gender equality and the inclusion of vulnerable groups (the overarching theme of the Cooperation Framework) and have an effect on all the other outcomes. Georgia has a number of overdue reports to be submitted to the treaty bodies, such as CESCR and CAT. The next UPR review is scheduled to take place in January 2021 and the recommendations will be reflected in the Cooperation Framework at appropriate time.



The guiding principles, including the human rights-based approach and gender equality, cut across all five outcomes and will contribute to synergies. Non-discrimination and rule of law (Outcome 1) will promote social cohesion and trust, which is both a goal in itself and an instrument for sustainable growth. In line with LNOB principle, this will promote inclusion of vulnerable groups, children at risk, minorities, IDPs, asylum-seekers, persons with international protection, stateless persons (Outcomes 1 and 4).

The country's compliance with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) will contribute to realisation of ambitious climate action on adaptation and mitigation (Outcome 5) and greater resilience to disasters.

The overarching approach will be one that is based on capacity development of national partners, thereby promoting national ownership and sustainability of results. A major emphasis is on building capacity of local governance systems for them to deliver quality services, including to the most vulnerable.

Achievement of outcomes can be accelerated with improved regional cooperation. In addition Georgia will benefit from the approximation of technical standards with those of the EU and the DCFTA and improve the economy's competitiveness and ability to access foreign markets.²³ The membership of regional structures can catalyse solutions to the development challenges being addressed under the outcomes. Regional collaboration will be particularly fruitful in the areas of disaster risk reduction, trade and connectivity, population movements, water, energy, climate change, peace and security, and youth exchange among others.

The UN will maintain facilitation of regional partnerships in various sectors, including but not limited to disaster risk reduction, with a special focus on climate-induced risk management, sustainable management of water resources in transboundary river basins and facilitate implementation of regional agreements on water resources and/or emergency management in South Caucasus countries. The UN will cooperate with regional UN offices for promoting the European integration agenda, regional trade facilitation, as well as cooperation in common programmatic topics: agriculture and rural development, private sector competitiveness, skills development, green growth and energy efficient and environmentally friendly production.

While the synergy among all the outcomes and indeed the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) have been well-recognised, the Cooperation Framework is also mindful of the potential trade-offs and tensions between the outcomes and the three

dimensions. The pursuit of the private-sector led accelerated growth and prosperity can conflict with the outcome on environmental sustainability unless the Government has the ability and willingness to regulate private sector. The environmental goals often get subordinated to economic goals. Leaving no one behind could increase the cost of service delivery and conflict with the efficiency objective as the authorities may have to reach out to remote locations to include smaller number of people. There are possible trade-offs between the short-term and long-term goals. Higher growth and inequality can also often conflict as growth is often accompanied by increase in inequalities as is the Georgian experience. Persistent inequalities will conflict with long term growth objectives if the poorest households suffer from poor health and low productivity as a result of inequality. While intuitively it is known that equal societies are more caring about environment, the studies in other countries show that the environmental impact of pursuit of equality as a goal could go either way. Allocating more resources for managing the COVID-19 could conflict with longer term development goals. Preventive investment such as in disaster risk reduction, despite its potential for high returns, often gets relegated to secondary position and yields to more immediate development priorities. Despite these trade-offs, the UN in Georgia will support the Government in moving away from the "business as usual" approach to development and minimising the trade-offs and mitigating the likely negative distributional effects, among others, by actively pursuing "leave no one behind" principle as the central theme of the UN's development cooperation.

²³ The Common Country Analysis, 2020

2.6 Sustainability

The Cooperation Framework has been designed in consultation with the national government and other stakeholders as well as the development partners present in Georgia. It addresses the development challenges the country is currently facing and is fully

aligned with the national priorities. Georgia has full ownership of the 2030 Agenda and has significantly nationalised the SDG indicators and targets. The UN in Georgia will promote integration of SDGs in the national and sub-national development planning for sustainable results. Georgia has also set up the institutional mechanism to monitor progress and take corrective action as necessary. The Government



has swiftly and decisively acted to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and is taking steps to mitigate the socio-economic impact especially on the most affected segments of the population. The UN in Georgia is working closely with the Government to address damage to SDGs inflicted by the pandemic and to putting the country back on the path to achieve the 2030 Agenda by “building back better”.

Georgia aspires to EU membership and this will prompt change not only in the economic and social policies but also in governance structures and institutions. The close alignment of the 2030 Agenda with national development policies as well as EU standards will strengthen sustainability. The free trade regime with different jurisdictions (EU/DCFTA, EFTA, Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the UK, China, Turkey, former Soviet Union Countries) as well as Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) with US, Canada and Japan, gives opportunity to Georgia’s exporters to have a direct free (without customs duty) access to the nearly 2.3 billion population market. This is not only an opportunity for Georgia’s producers and exporters, but also for neighbouring countries in the region,

since they can benefit from it. A simplified tax regime and low number of taxes creates attractive business opportunities for trade and investment.

Black Sea ports of Georgia play an important role in trade and logistic not only for Georgia, but also for other countries in the region, for instance Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Central Asian states. Georgia is a transport corridor connecting Armenia to its main trade partner, the Russian Federation.

Important regional and global pipelines go via Georgia: The South Caucasus Pipeline (Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum Gaz Pipeline) and the North-South Main Gas Pipeline. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) and the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP) transport oil through the territory of Georgia.

Georgia is a member of regional organizations, such as GUAM and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

UN contribution will be in capacity building of public institutions involved in regional cooperation, in supporting business initiatives aiming at regional cooperation.

The MAPS exercise showed that bulk of SDG indicators are aligned with those of the EU and the corresponding sector policies. As EU accession is the top national priority, appropriate policies will be formulated, and necessary reforms carried out to promote European integration. This will contribute to the achievement of SDGs and sustainability of results. The UNCT had consultations with the EU specifically in January 2020 to find the best complementarities.

Capacity building and strengthening the national and sub-national institutions will contribute to the sustainability of results. In parallel, in compliance with normative frameworks – international and European human rights requirements - the country will have set up and institutionalised the mechanisms to implement its obligations. This will ensure that the rights of the vulnerable groups are upheld and thus the LNOB as the key guiding principle, remain sustainable even beyond 2025. A similar impact is expected from the country's compliance with the MEAs: at the end of the CF cycle, and with UN support, the country will have set up institutional mechanisms and acquired capacities to mainstream climate action and disaster risk reduction in development planning and capacity to report on, and comply with, the international obligations under the multi-lateral environmental agreements.

This would promote sustainability of results in the climate action and environmental governance areas.

As part of the UN reform, there will be a strong focus on policy support and systemic changes. Catalytic interventions aimed at innovations will be an important part of the Cooperation Framework and a contributory factor to sustainability. Similarly, the improved governance outcomes in terms of policy coherence and inter-sectoral coordination will ensure that the results sustain even after the end of the Cooperation Framework implementation period. By promoting the concept of “building back better” that combines the principles of disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, the UN in Georgia will use the COVID-19 pandemic, and indeed other climate emergencies, as an opportunity to create more resilient society and mainstream resilience as a guiding principle of sustainable development.

During the Partnership forum on 29 January 2020 the SDGs figured prominently and the whole-of-society approach towards reaching Georgia's ambitious development agenda was highlighted. The RC underlined on behalf of all development partners that their efforts will only focus on sustainable results that contribute to inclusive growth and avoid duplication.

2.7 UN Comparative Advantages and UNCT Configuration

The UN Country Team in Georgia currently comprises 14 resident and 4 non-resident agencies, funds and programmes. There is no change in the resident agencies and the number of non-resident signatories is 2. The UN Country Team is the key inter-agency decision-making and coordinating body on programmes and operational matters. The UNCT reviews the progress under the Cooperation Framework, report progress to the Government of

Georgia through the Joint Steering Committee and make course corrections as necessary.

Together, the UN family represents the individual and collective strength of technical expertise, knowledge, experience and trust of the Government and other stakeholders. It further represents transparency and efficiency in operations. The UN has been a long-standing partner of the Government and is committed to supporting the Government to realise national development goals and priorities. The UN system leverages knowledge, partnerships and resources, and is the custodian of international human rights norms and values. It is a facilitator and convener of multi-stakeholder engagement and

development discourse; knowledge broker; provider of regional / global best practice and a partner that offers catalytic solutions. Given its regional and global presence, the UN also contributes to cross-border partnerships and collaboration. The UN has been quick to respond to national needs, including emergencies such as the COVID-19 outbreak, and a credible and non-partisan partner of Georgia.

The UN in Georgia plays an important role in development coordination. This role will be leveraged to enhance progress towards the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda by building synergies with development partners, including IFIs, and avoiding duplication. The Results Groups created around sectors / SDGs with broad-based membership from the development partners, government and civil society is a potent mechanism for development coordination. The UN in Georgia will work closely with partners from the government, local government, development partners including IFIs, national and international civil society, private sector and media. The consensus around the 2030 Agenda and development priorities built during the annual development forums, steered by the government, and agreement on the identified vulnerable groups, nexus between the AA and the SDG framework, and the coinciding of development partners' programme cycle to the UN Cooperation Framework are positive signs and have been built upon.

A UNCT configuration exercise was undertaken to assess the UNCT Georgia's technical, operational and financial capacity to contribute to and achieve the strategic priorities, outcomes and outputs under the UNSDCF 2021-2025. The configuration process was carried out among 16 UN entities of which 13 were resident. The configuration process followed a participatory approach. The UN entities were asked to make a self-assessment of their capacities in multiple areas and the results compiled. The configuration was then shared with and endorsed by the Government of Georgia and they remain open to further discussion as the situation evolves.

The trajectory towards 2030 will be strongly influenced by the global and regional developments post-COVID-19 and the country's aspiration for EU

accession. Given the small size of the economy and demographic transition, the country will need to become an integral part of the regional framework for realising its growth potential. UN in Georgia understands this context and will continue to reconfigure itself and, by linking closely with regional support mechanisms, collaborate with the Government towards the 2030 Agenda.

The overall assessment is that the UNCT in its current form has the necessary technical, functional and operational expertise and capacity to deliver on the commitments made in the Cooperation Framework. The UN entities have strong back up from their respective regional offices (and headquarters) which can be leveraged for knowledge, resources and technical expertise. The UNCT will continue to improve in a few areas to respond to the emerging situation. The UN entities follow different business models depending on the national needs and priorities. They will ensure synergies within the system and with other development partners and avoid duplication. Particular attention will be on the non-resident UN entities to ensure their full involvement in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework. UN in Georgia will work cost-efficiently by undertaking joint programmes and making use of joint operations where feasible. The configuration will be reviewed annually but UN entities commit to inform UNCT if any changes in configuration take place meanwhile that may affect their delivery of results under the Cooperation Framework.

A Funding Framework exercise aligned with the overall SDG financing will be undertaken after signing this Cooperation Framework. The UN funding is catalytic, in that it is used to mobilise other innovative and non-conventional sources of funds, and complementary as it is a part of the existing much larger financial resources for the SDGs (public and private, internal and external). The UN funding will also be based on an assessment of, and potential for leveraging, the contributions of other development partners.



CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



3.1 Implementation Strategy and Strategic Partnerships

Multi-stakeholder Engagement

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires multi-stakeholder engagement. The UN in Georgia enjoys a broad-based and vibrant partnership with the Government, IFIs, bilateral development partners, private sector, civil society, academia and media. As mentioned above in Georgia the UN RC chairs the Development Partners Coordination Group and also co-chairs the Annual Development Partners Forum together with the Prime Minister and the SDG council with the Head of the Administration of the Government. Therefore, all partners will continue to

be engaged and strategic coordination around the 2030 Agenda facilitated.

The outcome on inclusive and resilient economy requires close collaboration with the private sector to create decent jobs and provide business solutions to societal problems. With an improved investment climate for the private sector, and enabling conditions created by the Government, the UN will try to partner with private sector, philanthropic organizations, and strive to make the growth more inclusive for women and vulnerable groups such as displaced persons (including people displaced by disasters) and persons with disabilities. This could be achieved by institutionalising Corporate Social Responsibility programmes and making a strong business case for more inclusive growth by engaging

with private sector on issues around human rights, gender equality, human capital investment (through skills), sustainable production and environmental sustainability. The private sector brings with it, apart from financial resources and innovations, a vast network of partners including policy-makers.

As mentioned earlier, many development partners are in the midst of preparing or have prepared their own cooperation and support strategies. This opportunity has been used to exchange notes and information in order to ensure complementarity of support. The World Bank and the IMF are members of the UNCT and the other IFIs have joined the development partner coordination group in the second half of 2019. The six thematic/ sectoral working groups co-chaired by one Ministry and one representative of the development partners, is an excellent mechanism for sector coordination and collaboration for synergy and avoiding duplication.

The active participation of development partners in the Sustainable Development Goals Inter-Agency Council (SDG Council), co-chaired by the Head of the Administration of the Government and the RC should also enrich the 2030 Agenda and contribute to significant progress on the SDGs, among others, by aligning SDGs with the development partners' own strategic areas of cooperation.

Civil society has been a long-standing partner of the UN in Georgia and cooperation will be further deepened. Civil society capacity will be built to enhance its role in advocating for change and acting as a watchdog over human rights and socio-economic reforms and policies. Civil society's proximity to and credibility with the public, and hence the local knowledge it has, will be tapped to promote greater inclusion. Civil society in Georgia is a natural partner as it offers inclusive ways of working and can advance the goal of "leaving no one behind" effectively. CSOs often work closely with marginalized segments of the population and are the key target groups in this Cooperation Framework. Their supportive and complementary role in delivering health, education and social protection will be particularly



important. Civil society is also well positioned to hold the government accountable and make local administration more transparent and responsive. The UN will work to build civil society capacities and expand civic space while partnering with CSOs to promote dialogue and jointly advocate for change.

The UN in Georgia will provide a non-partisan and reliable platform for organising development discourse around strategic issues with multiple partners including academia and media and help Government achieve its development objectives. UN will promote not only intra-UN coordination for making UN work more effective and efficient. The RC will continue to facilitate coordination among development partners and between development partners (including UN) and the Government.

3.2 Joint Workplans

The Joint Work Plans (JWP) are the mechanism to operationalize the Cooperation Framework. They are prepared on a multi-year basis and contain planned interventions and resource contributions from the UN agencies that will achieve the outputs and therefore contribute to the achievement of outcomes. A JWP contains information about the outputs, targets and funding available and to be mobilised for each output. Agencies are not required to prepare their separate work plans and a JWP can replace agency-specific work plan.

A JWP is a critical instrument as it avoids duplication, fragmented approaches and ensures UN-wide coherence in collective programming for the country. The JWPs do not replace the UN agencies' own Work Plans but the two are in fact the mirror images with the agencies picking up outcomes and

outputs and respective indicators and activities from the JWP.

The JWPs also form the basis for preparing the Annual Performance Review and Annual Country Results Report. They are drafted by the Results Groups and finalized by the RCO based on the UN agencies' commitments in the Cooperation Framework as manifested in outcomes and outputs.

The JWPs, aligned with the SDG framework and national priorities of Georgia, undergo annual reviews to gauge progress made and suggest course corrections, if any. The outputs in the JWP reflect the aggregate of sub-outputs (or activities) which are the individual "agency contributions" to the output for which they are accountable.

The JWPs are digitised in UN INFO. The Results Groups will record, report against and update as necessary the JWPs directly in UN INFO.



3.3. Governance

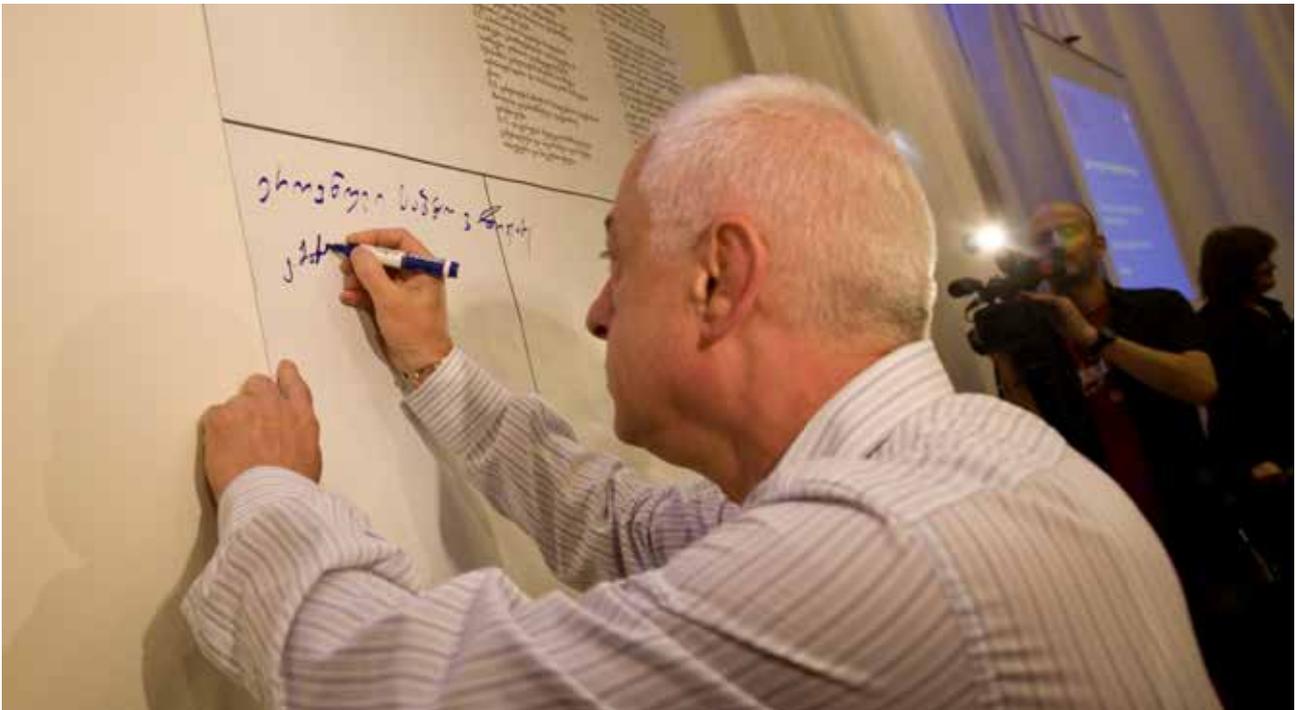
Coordination Mechanisms

The overall focal and coordinating body for the UN in Georgia will be the Administration of the Government/Office of the Prime Minister. The contributing UN agencies, funds and programmes (resident and non-resident) will work through their own respective coordinating bodies under the overall coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator. The UN in Georgia will work in line with the global UN reform and collaborate on the Cooperation Framework that is based on stronger UN coordination function, promotes greater accountability to Georgia and its people, is based on the principle of national ownership, promotes resilience and risk-sensitivity, and is rooted in the UN's normative mandate. The implementation and monitoring is further aligned with the national SDG indicators framework.

The Joint National-UN Steering Committee (JSC) will be the highest governing body to provide strategic direction to the Cooperation Framework and monitor and review the overall performance and progress. The JSC will be co-chaired by the Prime Minister²⁴ and the UN Resident Coordinator, on behalf of the UN in Georgia. In consultations with the Government, the JSC will include key development partners such as the EU, IFIs, bilateral development partners/donors, or representatives from private sector and civil society including specific population groups as needed.

The JSC will meet at least once every year to take stock of the progress under the Cooperation Framework based on the Joint Work-Plan and progress reports prepared by the UNCT. The RC will present the UN's annual results report including the UNCT's achievements, challenges, opportunities, learning and adaptations in implementing the Cooperation Framework. The JSC will also review the UNCT configuration periodically.

²⁴ The Prime Minister may decide to authorize the Head of the Government's Administration to represent him/her at the Steering Committee meetings



UN Country Team (UNCT)

The UN Country Team is the apex decision-making and coordinating body in the country composed of resident and non-resident agencies, funds and programmes. It is chaired by the Resident Coordinator and provides technical guidance on the 2030 Agenda and UN coordination matters. The UNCT takes stock of the progress and provides guidance and direction to the Results Groups, the Thematic Groups and the Programme Support Groups (including OMT). The dual accountability system ensures that the country representatives remain fully accountable to their respective entities on individual mandates, while periodically reporting to the RC on their individual activities and on their respective contributions to the results of the UN development system towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the country level on the basis of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the “Cooperation Framework”)

The SDG Council

The Sustainable Development Goals Inter-Agency Council (the SDG Council) co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the Head of the Administration of the Government, as well as the four thematic working groups under the Council, are an important part of the Cooperation Framework implementation. The SDG Council is responsible for the nationalisation of SDG targets and indicators, collection of statistics for reporting progress (including VNR), creating public awareness about SDGs, mainstreaming SDGs in the development planning and policies, guide implementation and monitoring of SDGs, and flag any implementation issues. Collaboration with the SDG Council during the Cooperation Framework implementation will enhance the sector coordination and contribute to significant progress on the interlinked SDGs.

UN Results Groups

The Results Groups are an integral part of the Cooperation Framework governance structure and ensures coherence, relevance and effectiveness of programme implementation. These are joint working groups established by the UN and the Government. One Results Group is set up for each outcome area. As there are five outcome areas, the UNCT will set up five Results Groups to support the implementation of the Cooperation Framework as follows:



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1. Effective, transparent and accountable institutions
 2. Equal and inclusive access to quality services
 3. Inclusive economy and human capital development (jobs / livelihoods)
 4. Human security and resilience
 5. Environment and climate change
-



The Results Groups will be represented by the contributing UN agencies, funds and programmes (resident and non-resident) and government representatives. Additional external members may join if deemed appropriate. Each Results Group is chaired or co-chaired by UN Heads of agencies or designated senior representatives.

These groups will work as technical groups towards coordinating the activities related to the achievement of the outcomes / outputs. They will record, with the support of the RCO, progress, challenges, opportunities and new learning and provide feedback to the Joint Steering Committee. They provide an assurance function to the UNCT, the development community and people at large. By constant monitoring of results, and risk monitoring, they are best placed to recommend course corrections to the Cooperation Framework through Joint Work Plan. Under the leadership of the UNRC, and with the support of the RCO the Results Groups will prepare and be the custodian of the Joint Work Plans and meet at least twice a year,

with ad-hoc meetings organized as required.

The Results Groups will also prepare, in consultation with key stakeholders with the support of the RCO, the Annual Performance Review before the Joint Steering Committee meetings. They will work in collaboration with the MEL Group and deliver on MEL Plan. It is also expected that they will share the key results with the UNCG for joint communications and advocacy. They will identify opportunities for improved inter-agency cooperation including by taking up joint programmes.

As far as possible, the Results Groups will align with the other existing sector working groups for example those set up by the Government and also the six joint sector working groups established by the development partners. The Results Groups are an important platform for further mainstreaming the guiding principles including LNOB and ensuring that these principles are uniformly adhered to by the UN agencies.

UN Thematic and Programme Support Groups

The UN in Georgia has set up the following thematic and programme support groups in support of the implementation of the Cooperation Framework:

The extended **Gender Theme Group (GTG)** comprises all the gender focal points from the agencies as well as from the focal points of the key development partners working towards gender equality and the empowerment of women. GTG is chaired by UN Women. The GTG functions as the technical support on gender mainstreaming in the UN programming, builds demand-driven staff capacity on gender and coordinates agencies contributions to advancing the gender equality and women's empowerment. It also takes the lead in guiding the UN SWAP report which assesses the extent to which UN mainstreams gender equality in various programming documents and operations. It also leads and coordinates UN Agencies inputs in UNCT CEDAW reporting.

The **Joint Team on HIV/AIDS** is mandated to ensure cohesion and effectiveness of the UN contribution to the national response to HIV/AIDS in Georgia geared towards achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support.

The **Human Rights Theme Group** exchanges information on human rights developments in Georgia; develops joint UNCT submissions to international human rights mechanisms (Treaty Bodies, UPR); considers the implications of comments made by the ILO Supervisory Bodies for the work of the UN, and recommends human rights advocacy issues and strategies to the UN Resident Coordinator.

The **Disaster Management Country Team (DMCT)** aims to promote coordinated inter-agency emergency preparedness and response; and supports the Government in emergency response preparedness recognising the primary role of the Government in all matters of disaster management. The UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia/DMCT Chair and the Government of Georgia intend to renew a MoU, which aims to enhance cooperation in the areas of preparedness and response to emergencies, as well as information exchange and coordination during disaster preparedness and

response.

UN supports national authorities in setting effective



humanitarian response coordination structures and implementation mechanisms grounded on the high relevance of humanitarian and development nexus issues, including a harmonized approach to needs assessment, and ensures regular emergency response learning opportunities for the government counterparts.

The **Theme Group on Youth Development** strengthens coordinated action in the UN system to support achievement of Georgia's national and international commitments towards Youth Development, including by supporting the implementation of United Nations Global Strategy - Youth 2030 in Georgia; and support establishing a partnership platform to attract and channel investments in youth-related programming.

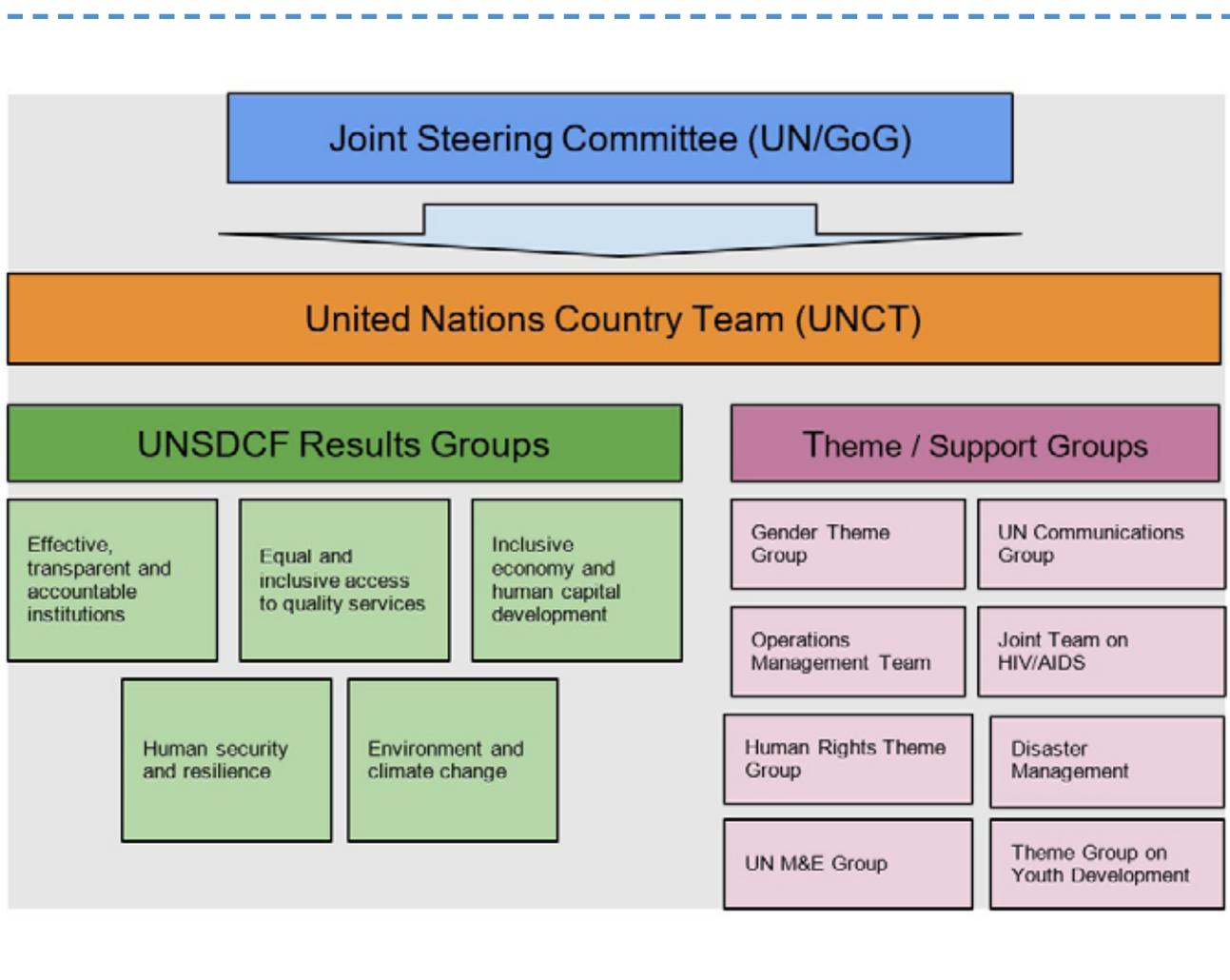
The **UN M&E Group** is composed of M&E focal points from the UN agencies and is tasked to monitor progress of the Cooperation Framework against the

indicators and targets established in the Results Matrix of the CF. It will work closely with the Results Group and prepare periodic progress reports for the UNRC, the government and wider dissemination.

The **UN Communications Group (UNCG)** works on communicating the UN results and advocate for development change. The members of this group are the communications focal points from UN agencies. It organises joint communications on key issues and proactively organises the various marking of relevant UN days to create awareness and enhance visibility. The UNCG is headed by the RCO who reports regularly to the UNCT.

The **Operations Management Team (OMT)** comprises operations focal points and provide support and advice to the UNCT to improve efficiency in operations by harmonizing business operations. It will explore opportunities for taking up common back office services, as much as possible, to undertake common procurement, recruitment, logistics, ICT and other services to become cost-efficient.

The organigram of the Joint Steering Committee and its relationship with other implementation mechanisms may be seen below:



3.4 Cash Transfer Modalities

Where relevant, the UN and the Government have initiated the process required for applying the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT). The stipulations below apply to the UN agencies – UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA – that make direct cash transfers to implementing partners.

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the work plans agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:



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1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
 - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
 2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing

Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;

3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for program implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities.

The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the

public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The

Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of program implementation based on the findings of program monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in 30 days.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 30 days.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, program monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided

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1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies;
 2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring; and

3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.
-





by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan, will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the relevant UN organization will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received.

The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans, and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds.

Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the relevant UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds.



CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN



4.1 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan

For the purpose of establishing an M&E and Learning (MEL) Plan for the Cooperation Framework, an inter- agency M&E and Learning (MEL) Group has been established. The MEL Group will have the following functions:

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1. Establish the baselines, indicators, data collection needs and means of verification;
 2. Support the Results Groups in regular monitoring of results using the M&E framework;
 3. Coordinate agency-specific data collection;
 4. Undertake analysis and staff capacity development activities;
 5. Support in UNSDCF regular reviews and reporting;
 6. Suggest innovative means to collect data such as mobile-based / digital technologies to collect real-time data as necessary.
-

The MEL Group draws upon the expertise from across the UN agencies whose M&E plans will be derived from and be synchronised with the UNSDCF MEL Plan. The monitoring of gender equity results will be additionally supported by Gender Theme Group (GTG).

Data for monitoring and reporting on the performance of the Cooperation Framework will be collected from multiple sources such as State Statistical Office, MICS, Voluntary National Reviews, national reports to the human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, UPR, updates on the

recommendations of the Special Procedures), concluding observations of the UN Treaty Bodies, UPR working group reports, reports of the multiple surveys led by different UN agencies, and global reports and indices.

Monitoring will be a regular and continuous exercise with a view to track progress towards planned results and draw lessons and course-correct Joint Working Plans where necessary, in consultation with the government.

The key elements of the monitoring of the Cooperation Framework will be as follows:

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1. Cooperation Framework Annual review and reporting (UNCT) – MEL Group takes the lead to consolidate monitoring information from the Results Groups and UNCT and provides data for an Annual Report to be prepared by the Resident Coordinator’s Office for the Annual Review by the Joint Steering Committee.
 2. UN entity specific monitoring and evaluation activities in relation to their sub-outputs and resources (Agency Contributions) – these will be recorded by relevant UN entities directly into the UN INFO.
 3. Joint monitoring of UN Joint Programmes and projects –
 4. Semi-annual meetings of the UN Results Groups - for routine progress monitoring and reviews to track progress towards UNSDCF outcomes (at least two meetings will be jointly with full UNCT – of which one before the Annual Review at the end of the year).

4.1.1 Risks and Opportunities

The key *risks* include political risks stemming from a change in the national priorities; risk of escalation of conflict; limited national absorption capacity – frequent staff turnover and lack of institutional memory; external risks such as those posed by pandemics and others such as disasters and economic shocks; non-availability of projected donor funds or change in donor priorities or interest of the government in UN system’s support; and risk of unintentional social or environmental harm.

These risks will be managed by developing a risk management system; aligning UNSDCF with the national priorities including the European integration agenda; encouraging government cost-

sharing; stronger partnership with stakeholders and development coordination; UN flexibility to be able to position itself and respond quickly to changing context and new priorities; revising the UNSDCF results matrix should the national priorities change; and following “do no harm” principle, especially while implementing activities in conflict-affected areas, and compliance with the social and environmental standards.

The key opportunities include the access, albeit limited, that the UN has to Abkhazia (and possibly during the upcoming cycle also South Ossetia) and its connections with the affected population directly and through civil society; integrating the SDG agenda with European integration; strong ownership and extensive nationalisation of SDGs and setting up

SDG monitoring mechanisms (for example, the SDG Council); joint efforts at SDG-linked disaggregated data strengthening; advocacy for joint programming

in true spirit of delivering as one; and expanded innovative partnerships including with the private sector for achieving the SDGs.

4.1.2 Cooperation Framework Review and Reporting

The UN Country Results will be reviewed at least once in a year by the Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the Prime Minister²⁵ and the UN Resident Coordinator. The JSC will undertake the annual review based on the Annual UN Country Results Report which will be prepared by the Resident Coordinator's Office (working with the Results Groups and the M&E Group) before the JSC meeting. The Annual Review is an important exercise to report progress and undertake any revisions in the light of new evidence and make course corrections, if needed, in the CF through the Joint Work Plans. This also serves an important accountability function. In particular now that we need to focus on development in emergency mode this will be of utmost importance

The Annual UN Country Results Report for the JSC will also highlight any challenges in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework. The Report describes the outputs delivered for which the UN system is directly responsible and also outcomes where UN system is one of the contributors. The results thus reported will relate to SDG targets and national priorities. The Report will be part of the Government data system and feed into the six thematic working groups organized for donor coordination under the Government Administration and the Voluntary National Reviews.

²⁵ Prime Minister may decide to authorize the Head of the Government's Administration to represent him/her at the Steering Committee meetings

4.2 Evaluation Plan

An evaluation of the Cooperation Framework will be carried out independently in the penultimate year of the CF cycle. As the UN agencies themselves will carry out evaluations of their own programmes, and there will also be evaluations of the joint programmes, the CF evaluation will be informed by these evaluations and, these evaluation processes will be linked and mutually reinforcing and not duplicate efforts. The Cooperation Framework evaluation is the main instrument that holds the UN system accountable within the system, to the donors, the government and the people.

The evaluation of the Cooperation Framework will be guided by the norms and standards of the UNEG (UN Evaluation Group). The UNCT and the Government will establish a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan that consists of all the evaluations planned by the UN system and individual agencies over the programme cycle. The evaluation of the CF will be carried out with full engagement of the Government and other national partners. The evaluation of the Cooperation Framework will assess its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. It will also comment on the partnerships and cross-cutting themes. While the impact may be difficult to judge in the penultimate year of the CF, tentative impact directions will be assessed.

The evaluation will be participatory and gauge the influence of the Cooperation Framework on the lives of the people, especially the vulnerable groups, who would be the main target groups and will be interviewed during the evaluation process. The evaluation will particularly comment on the extent to which the guiding principles, particularly the LNOB principle, was followed and how the vulnerable groups benefited from the programmes.



Annex 1: The Cooperation Framework Results Matrix

National development priorities: The four national priorities are 1/security, 2/economic development and jobs, 3/ education and human capital and 4/ open governance, that are translated into focused interventions aiming at a) eradication of poverty, through inclusive sustainable and smart economic development b) development of high quality and accessible education and social welfare; c) civil service reform; d) addressing gender gap in all spheres of society; e) regional development, agriculture and environment protection; f) enhancement of Georgia's economic policy and key economic reforms; g) increasing human capital and h) identifying effective methods of conflict prevention and resolution.

Regional frameworks: EU Association Agreement (Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States and Georgia), Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Agreement, Member of the Council of Europe and OSCE

SDGs and Targets: Georgia has adopted 17 SDGs and attributed national priority to 93 global targets. Nationalization of SDGs outlined 200 national indicators

Strategic Priority: Enhanced human wellbeing, capabilities and equality in Georgia by 2030.

Partners for Outcome 1:

The Parliament of Georgia; Georgian Bar Association; the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia; the Supreme Court; High Council of Justice of Georgia; High School of Justice; Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI); Mediators Association of Georgia; the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG); Civil Service Bureau (CSB); Municipal Authorities; Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Ajara; Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG); Public Service Development Agency; Digital Governance Agency; Ministry of Justice; LEPL Public Service Hall; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; Public Defender of Georgia; State Inspector's Office; Inter-agency Human Rights Council Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports; Legal Aid Service; the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat); LEPL National Environmental Agency (NEA); LEPL Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia (APA); Gender Equality Council of the Parliament; Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Issues; : LEPL Agency For State Care And Assistance For the (Statutory) Victims of Human trafficking Border Police; Police Academy; civil society representing the LNOB groups, academia, media, employers organizations; and trade unions

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
Outcome 1: By 2025, all people in Georgia enjoy improved good governance, more open, resilient and accountable institutions, rule of law, equal access to justice, human rights , and increased representation and participation of women in decision making	1.1 Voice and Accountability Index NSDG 16.6.2.2 (Global Target (GT) 16.6) Custodian: UNDP Contributors: UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, UNOHCHR, ILO, IOM	2018: 56%	higher than the baseline index	Worldwide Governance Indicators, World Bank	
	1.2 Rule of Law Index NSDG 16.6.2.5 (Global Target (GT) 16.6) Custodian: UNDP Contributors: UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, UNOHCHR, ILO, IOM, UNODC	2018: 64%	higher than the baseline index	Worldwide Governance Indicators, World Bank	

²⁶ The use of the term Human Rights in this document refers to all international human rights norms and standards, i.e. not just those contained in UN Human Rights instruments but also those contained in other human rights instruments, such as ILO Conventions.

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	<p>1.3 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</p> <p>NSDG: 5.6.1 (GT) 5.6)</p> <p>Custodian Agency and Lead Reporter: UNFPA</p> <p>Contributor: UN Women</p>	Baseline: 79.2% (2018);	Target: 85% (2025)	GEOSTAT, Georgia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, pp. 137-139	
	<p>1.4 Disaggregated data from Population and Housing Census 2023 publicly accessible online for evidence-based policy making, mapping and addressing inequalities and SDG monitoring</p> <p>Custodian: UNFPA</p>	Baseline: No (2020)	Target: Yes (2025)	GEOSTAT, Georgia UNFPA reports	
	<p>1.5 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18</p> <p>NSDG: 5.3.1 (GT) 5.3)</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNFPA</p> <p>Contributors: UNICEF, UN Women</p>	Baseline: 13.9% (2018);	Target: 10% (2025)	GEOSTAT, Georgia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, pp. 24, 246-247.	
	<p>1.6 Women in decision-making</p> <p>1. Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (SDG indicator 5.5.1) (GT5.5)</p> <p>2. Proportion of elected women mayors (country-specific indicator SDG 5.5.1.1) (GT 5.5)</p> <p>3. Proportions of women in the judiciary (country-specific indicator 16.7.1.3) (GT 16.7)</p> <p>4. Proportion of women in I and II rank positions (country-specific indicator 5.5.2.1) (GT 5.5)</p> <p>Custodian: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: UN Women, UNFPA</p>	<p>Women in decision-making</p> <p>1.(a)1. Women's representation in the Parliament of Georgia is 14.8% (22 women and 127 men).</p> <p>1.(a)2. Women's representation in the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara is 9.5% (2 women and 19 men).</p> <p>1 (b) Women's representation in local governments is 13.5% (277 women and 1,781 men).</p> <p>2. 1.6% - Of the 64 mayors of self-governing cities and communities, only one is a woman.</p> <p>3. In the courts, women make up 53.7% of the 306 active judges</p> <p>4. Of I and II rank managerial positions, 39% are held by women, and 61% are held by men</p>	<p>Women in decision-making</p> <p>1. (a). 1. at least 20%</p> <p>1. (a). 2. at least 20%</p> <p>1. (b). at least 20%</p> <p>2. at least 20%</p> <p>3. Keep and/or improve the status quo</p> <p>4. Close to 50/50</p>	<p>Women in decision-making</p> <p>1. (a)1. GEOSTAT, Women and Men in Georgia 2019, p. 76.</p> <p>1.(a)2. Adjara Supreme Council, "Members of the Supreme Council". Available at http://www.sca.ge/geo/static/107/umaghlesi-sabchos-tsevrebi.</p> <p>1 (b) GEOSTAT, "Gender Statistics: Local self-governance". Available at http://gender.geostat.ge/gender/index.php?action=Influence%20and%20Power (accessed in March 2020).</p> <p>2. UNDP and the GEC, Gender Equality in Georgia: Barriers and Recommendations, vol. 1, p. 9.</p> <p>3. GEOSTAT, Women and Men in Georgia 2019, p. 77</p> <p>4. Civil Service Bureau, Civil Service Bureau Activity Report 2018, p. 36</p>	

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
<p>Output 1.1</p> <p>Inclusive national and local governance systems have greater resilience and capacities to mainstream gender, migration and ensure evidence-based and participatory policy-making, map and address inequalities and deliver quality services to all</p>	<p>1.1.1 Percentage of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services (by sex)</p> <p>NSDG: 16.6.2 (GT 16.6)</p> <p>Custodian: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: UNICEF, UN Women, IOM</p>	<p>Ratio of population in 2015, satisfied with services received during the previous 12 months from the following institutions:</p> <p>112: 91%</p> <p>Police: 70%</p> <p>Public Service Hall - 96%</p> <p>Mayor's office - 57%</p>	<p>Keep or improve the status quo</p>	<p>NDI Survey</p>	
	<p>1.1.2 For the facilitation of the integration of foreigners, including refugees, returned migrants, humanitarian status holders, immigrants with the right of residence and stateless living in Georgia the existence of: a) institutional and b) legal framework.</p> <p>NSDG 10.7.1.2 (GT 10.7)</p> <p>Custodian: UNHCR,</p> <p>Contributor: IOM</p>	<p>Baseline (2021):</p> <p>For refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless:</p> <p>a) Partially; b) Partially</p> <p>For immigrants with right of residence:</p> <p>a) No; b) No.</p> <p>For Returned Migrants</p> <p>a) Yes</p> <p>b) No</p>	<p>Target (2025):</p> <p>For refugees, humanitarian status holders and stateless:</p> <p>a) Achieved; b) Achieved</p> <p>For immigrants with right of residence:</p> <p>a) Yes; b) Yes</p> <p>For Returned Migrants</p> <p>a) Yes</p> <p>b) Yes</p>	<p>UNHCR and Partners' reports</p> <p>MoLHSA</p> <p>Livelihoods Agency; IOM</p>	
	<p>1.1.3 Number of policies/procedures adopted by the Government of Georgia that aim at improvement of institutionalization of gender equality and gender mainstreaming</p> <p>NSDG 5.1.1. (GT 5.1)</p> <p>Custodian: UN Women</p> <p>Contributor: UNFPA, UNDP</p>	<p>1 (2020) - Gender Equality Law adopted in 2010.</p> <p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment National Action Plan in place 2018-2020</p>	<p>3 (GoG Guide on Gender Mainstreaming; Amendments to GE Law; Bylaws introducing Gender Responsive Budgeting).</p>	<p>Government of Georgia CEDAW report;</p> <p>Government of Georgia National-level Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Beijing +25, available on-line at: https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/64/national-reviews/georgia.pdf?la=en&vs=2350</p>	
	<p>1.1.4 The capacity and professionalism of male and female public servants at local and national levels strengthened to better serve their constituency</p> <p>NSDG: 16.6.2.1 (GT 16.6)</p> <p>Custodian: UNDP</p> <p>Contributor: UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM</p>	<p>a/ Baseline data on implementation of public servants' professional development plans to be established in 2021</p> <p>b/ 15% of public servants enhanced their capacities through attending professional development courses</p>	<p>a/ By 2025 50% of public agencies fulfill organizational professional development plans</p> <p>b/ By 2025 50% of male and female public servants have improved their knowledge and skills through participating in capacity development activities</p>	<p>Electronic Human Resource Management System (HRMS) operated by the Civil Service Bureau of Georgia / Annual Reports of Civil Service Bureau of Georgia</p>	<p>The government continues to assign political priority to civil service reform and promotes professional and merit-based civil service; Key public service staff guiding change are valued and retained in public service.</p>

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	1.1.5 Quality/level of evidence-based and participatory law-making processes and executive oversight Custodian: UNDP Contributor: IOM, UNODC NSDG 16.6.2.2 (GT 16.6)	Baseline 2020: Score – 59/100	Target 2025: Score – 65/100	Georgia National Integrity System (NIS) Assessments Assessment of the Performance of the Parliament of Georgia by Transparency International (annual and/or per parliamentary term)	Parliament's new Rules of Procedure are effectively applied in practice; Parliament remains committed to open governance reforms
Output 1.2 National legislation and policies to eliminate discrimination, enhance human rights and equal access to justice in Georgia	1.2.1 Number and/or percentage of people, including juveniles, in contact with justice and administrative bodies, including collective labour dispute cases, who are subject to a diversion order or alternative measure for dispute resolution or custodial sentence [related to NSDG 16.3.1.1.] (GT 16.3) Custodian: ILO Contributors: UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC	1/ Baseline 2013-2020 (as of July 2020): 250 court mediation civil cases referred to 4 mediation courts centers in Tbilisi, Gori, Rustavi and Mtskheta Juveniles – 59% State labour dispute mediation services: 4 mediation cases in 2019 Number of Collective Bargaining Agreements concluded at sectoral and enterprise levels: 4 in 2019	Target: at least 50% increase in referrals to alternative dispute resolution cases in Georgia by 2023 Juveniles – 70% State labour dispute mediation services: at least 2 cases every year At least 8 during 2021 -2025	Verification source: Annual Report on Court mediation of LEPL Mediators Association of Georgia, Statistics of relevant court mediation centers National data systems, reports of the Criminal Justice Reform Inter-Agency Coordination Council, reports of the Human Rights Secretariat MoIDPLHSA GTUC	High Council of Justice successfully implements Court Mediation Programme Mediation cases will be referred to court mediation centers There are certified mediators in the relevant geographical areas
	1.2.2 Implementation Rate of the National Human Rights Strategy 2021-2030 NSDG 16.3.1.1. (GT 16.3) Custodian: UNDP Lead reporter: OHCHR Contributors: UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA	1/ National Human Rights Strategy 2021-2030 is in the process of elaboration	1/ 60% of strategic priorities and objectives are implemented 2/ 40% of strategic priorities and objectives under the Gender Equality chapter implemented	1/ Implementation reports of NHRSAP; PDO Annual reports	National Human Rights Strategy is adopted Political system remains stable prior and after the parliamentary elections, as well as after the pandemic. The Administration of the Government of Georgia engages in the UN Agencies interventions and ensures a continuous and smooth level of cooperation.

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	<p>1.2.3 % recommendations accepted in the 3rd cycle of UPR implemented or actions taken; % recommendations by UN Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs implemented or actions taken; % issues of non-conformity raised in comments of the ILO supervisory bodies implemented.</p> <p>Custodian: OHCHR Contributor: ILO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP NSDG (Crosscutting)</p>	<p>2013: Mid-term evaluation of implementation of 2nd cycle compiled by UPR-Info 99/133 assessed accepted recommendations (74.4%) fully or partially implemented</p> <p>2017: 4 issues assessed by the UN Human Rights Committee as follow-up to the recommendations issued by this Committee in 2013. 1 received a grade of A, 2 received a grade of B, 1 received a grade of C</p> <p>As of November 2019, the Supervisory Bodies of the ILO have raised 13 issues of non-conformity with regard to the application of the 8 Fundamental Human Rights Conventions and 1 of the Governance Convention (C122) of the ILO.</p>	<p>at least 85% of recommendations fully or partially implemented</p> <p>At least 60% of issues raised by the ILO Supervisory Bodies fully or partially implemented</p>	<p>Reports by international and national NGOs specializing in assessment of recommendations; reports by the UN Treaty Bodies; reports of the ILO Supervisory Bodies</p>	<p>The State continues cooperation with UN Human Rights mechanisms</p>
<p>Output 1.3</p> <p>Legislative frameworks, policies and governance systems deliver gender-equal results, combat GBV, violence against children and other harmful practices towards women and girls</p>	<p>1.3.1 Existence of an adopted and costed EAW & DV National Action Plan and its implementation rate</p> <p>Custodian: UN Women Contributor: UNFPA NSDG: 5.1.1 (GT 5.1)</p>	<p>Yes (Current EAW & DV NAP covers 2018-2020) - implementation rate to be determined in 2021.</p>	<p>Yes & 90% implementation rate</p>	<p>Governmental Decree Approving the NAP; Independent monitoring report of the NAP implementation by the PDO</p>	
	<p>1.3.2 Proportion of males and females, subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence by sex and age in the previous 12 months</p> <p>NSDG: 16.1.1.3 (GT 16.1) Custodian: UN Women Contributor: UNICEF</p>	<p>2017: Female - 3.2%</p> <p>* Note: Includes only for women: physical, psychological or sexual violence on the part of the partner and sexual violence on the part of the non-partner</p> <p>69% of children 1-14 experience any type of violent discipline in the last month</p>	<p>Children 0-14: 58.65%</p>	<p>GEOSTAT, UN Women and the EU for Georgia, National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia 2017 (UN Women, 2018), p. 45. (This Study will be replicated in 2022); MICS; PDO reports; and/or other surveys</p>	
	<p>1.3.3. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-64 subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner:</p> <p>a) in the previous 12 months, by form of violence b) in her lifetime by form of violence</p> <p>NSDG: 5.2.1 (GT5.2) Custodian: UN Women Contributors: UNICEF, UNFPA</p>	<p>a) 3.5 % of women (aged 15-64) experienced physical, sexual and/or psychological intimate partner violence (IPV); 3.2% of women experienced psychological abuse; 2.8% of women experienced economic abuse; and 1% experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner within the previous 12 months (2017)</p> <p>b) 13.6 % of women (aged 15-64) experienced physical, sexual and/or psychological intimate partner violence; 13% of women experienced psychological abuse; 9.6% of women experienced economic abuse; and 6% experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner in her lifetime (2017)</p>	<p>Due to UN and other state and non-state patterns' interventions the disclosure of such facts of violence may increase resulting in higher prevalence rates, therefore, we are refraining from setting clear targets for these indicators.</p>	<p>GEOSTAT, UN Women and the EU for Georgia, National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia 2017 (UN Women, 2018), p. 45. (This Study will be replicated in 2022)</p>	

Partners for Outcome 2:	Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoIDP&LH-SA); Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports; Vocational Training Institutes; Trade Union of Health Workers; employers' organization Civil Society; National Statistics Office of Georgia; National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC); the Parliament of Georgia; Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; Public Defender's Office; Municipal Service Providers' Association; Public Service Development Agency (PSDA); State Employment Agency (under MoIDP&LHSA); Administration of the Government of Georgia; Social Service Agency (SSA) (under MoIDP&LHSA), Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Trafficking, local governance bodies, professional associations, academia, NGOs, International Organizations, media
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Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
Outcome 2 By 2025, all people in Georgia have equitable and inclusive access to quality, resilient and gender-sensitive services delivered in accordance with international human rights standards	2.1. Maternal Mortality Ratio NSDG: 3.1.1 (Global Target (GT) 3.1) Lead Reporter: UNFPA Contributors: WHO, UNICEF	25 per 100,000 live births (2017)	20 per 100,000 live births (2025)	MMEIG NCDC Statistical Yearbook	
	2.2. Under-five mortality rate NSDG: 3.2.1 (GT 3.2) Lead Reporter: UNICEF Contributors: WHO, UNFPA	11 (2017)	6 (2025)	IGME	
	2.3 Gender Development Index (GDI) NSDG: 5.2 (GT 5.2) Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: UN Women, UNFPA	0.979 (2018) (Group 1)	Stay in Group 1 and further improve GDI value by 2025	GDI - UNDP, Human Development Reports, Table 4: Gender Development Index. Available on-line at: http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-4-gender-development-index	
	2.5 Percentage of women and girls who experience violence and seek help from formal institutions Lead Reporter: UN Women Contributor: UNFPA	26% (2017)	36% (2023)	GEOSTAT / UN Women / EU, National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia (2017). (This Study will be replicated in 2022)	
	2.5 Number of out of school children (OOSC) (primary and secondary school age) NSDG 4.1.2 (GT 4.1) Lead Reporter: UNICEF	15,000 (2019)	2,000 (2025)	MoESCS data	
	2.6 Number of new HIV infections per 1000 population, by sex and age NSDG: 3.3.1. (GT 3.3) Lead Reporter: UNFPA Contributors: WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC	HIV incidence – 0.18. per 1000 population, Male - 0.28 Female - 0.08 0-14 - 0.03 per 15-24 _ 0.17 25 + _ 0.23	HIV incidence- 0.2 per 1000 population (2025) Male - 0.29 Female - 0.19 0-14 - 0.04 15-24 - 0.27 25 + - 0.24	NCDC/IDACIRC - based on the UNAIDS spectrum estimates Data Source National AIDS Health Management System	
	2.7 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease NSDG 3.4.1 (GT 3.4) Lead Reporter: WHO Contributor: UNFPA	CVD - 537.7 cases per 100,000 persons Cancer - 175.6 cases per 100,000 persons Diabetes 24.2 cases per 100,000 persons	½ Reduction by 2030 from baseline	NCDC Statistical Yearbook	National Strategy and AP on Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control to be updated

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
Output 2.1 Improved national capacities for the implementation of policies and programmes that ensure equitable access to and coverage of quality integrated health ^① and nutrition services and the exercise of reproductive rights for all people, particularly, those left behind	2.1.1. Coverage with at least eight (8) antenatal care visits NSDG: 3.1.1 (GT 3.1) Lead Reporter: UNFPA Contributors: UNICEF, WHO	42% (2019)	Target: 70% (2025)	NCDC Health Statistical Yearbook	
	2.1.2. EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis achieved NSDG: 3.3.1 (GT 3.3) Lead Reporter: WHO Contributors: UNFPA, UNICEF	No (2020)	Yes (2025)	WHO and MoH data	
	2.1.3. Number of encounters with the PHC units/outpatients facilities, providing essential health services per capita/per year NSDG 3.8.1 (GT 3.8) Lead Reporter: WHO Contributors: UNICEF, UNFPA	3.6 visits (2019)	at least 4 visits (2025)	NCDC Health Statistical Yearbook	Ongoing primary health care reform progressing with PHC package extended and financial protection improved
	2.1.4 Share of districts with DTP3 containing vaccine coverage below 80 per cent NSDG 3.8.1 (GT 3.8) Lead Reporter: UNICEF Contributors: WHO	1.3% (2018)	0%	WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting	
	2.1.5 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older NSDG 3.a.1 (GT 3.a) Lead Reporter: WHO Contributors: UNICEF, UNFPA	Both – 29.7% Men – 54.2% Women – 5.2% (2018)	25% (2025)	NCDC/WHO data	Government of Georgia is committed to implement a WHO FCTC
Output 2.2 Improved national capacities for the implementation of policies and programmes that ensure inclusive and equitable access to quality educational programmes that meet international standards	2.2.1 Participation of children in organized educational process, by sex, by ethnicity (one year before the official school age) NSDG: 4.2.2 (GT 4.2) Lead Reporter: UNICEF Contributor: UNOPS	2019: Total 89.6%; boys - 87.5%; girls - 92.2%; Georgian - 93.5%, Azerbaijanians - 48%, Armenians - 76.1% (2018)	95% (disaggregated by sex and ethnicity)	MoESCS Administrative data	
	2.2.2. # of children with special educational needs (SEN) and/or children with disabilities (CWD) participating into mainstream education NSDG 4.a.1 (GT 4.a) Lead Reporter: UNICEF	7,371 school age CWD out of a total 11,500 CWD mainstreamed in education	8,171 school age CWD (2025)	MoESCS Administrative data	
	2.2.3. Human Rights, gender equality and/or reproductive health and rights issues are integrated into the teachers' a) pre- and b) in-service training programmes/ systems NSDG: 4.c.1 (GT 4.c) Lead Reporter: UNICEF Contributors: UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP	a) No (2020) b) No (2020)	a) Yes (2025); b) Yes, in 9 IHEs (2025);	MoESCS Administrative data	

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
<p>Output 2.3</p> <p>Improved national legislation, policy, programs and capacities protect all people in Georgia, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, against discrimination and ensure equitable access to and coverage of quality social services</p>	<p>2.3.1 Improved inclusive and gender sensitive legislation and policy ensuring the rights of all PwDs</p> <p>NSDG: 10.3.1 (GT 10.3)</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women</p>	<p>Action Plans in place for implementation of the Georgia's Law on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (as envisaged by the Law)</p> <p>Legislation on accessible environment and accessibility of information and communication technologies not in line with international standards</p> <p>National Human Rights Strategy 2014 – 2020 covers policy on PwDs</p>	<p>of persons with disabilities are adopted;</p> <p>National Accessibility Plan is developed</p> <p>Guidelines with recommendations on the development of national standards on accessible information and communications technologies is developed</p> <p>National Human Rights Strategy for 2021-2030 is developed and published on www.matsne.gov.ge</p> <p>Recommendations on accessing services and addressing SRH, GVB/VAW issues for PwDs in National Programmes, Policies and Plans developed.</p>	<p>www.matsne.gov.ge</p> <p>UN Agencies' Reports;</p>	
	<p>2.3.2 Capacity of systems and institutions improved to deliver rights-based and integrated social services, including for persons with disabilities and victims of trafficking in human beings (THB)</p> <p>NSDG: 1.3.1 (GT 1.3)</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: UNFPA, IOM</p>	<p>a/No national guiding documents to provide disability friendly SRHR and GBV services for women and young persons with disabilities (2019).</p> <p>b/No local level action plans on social services to PwDs in selected municipalities (2019);</p> <p>c/Integrated information management system at the municipal level does not exist (2019).;</p> <p>d/ 60% of all THB victims officially recognized as such make use of state-administered protection services (2019).</p>	<p>a/ National service provision guiding documents on SRHR and GBV developed; SOPs integrating disability friendly services into the national mechanism on VAW/DV developed (2025);</p> <p>b/ Strategy and Action Plan on Social Services to PwDs in selected municipalities (Shuakhevi and Akhaltsikhe) are adopted and implementation ongoing</p> <p>At least 70% of activities for the reporting year implemented by target municipalities (2025);</p> <p>c/Integrated information management system is used for the informed policy planning, implementation and evaluation (2025);</p> <p>d/5% of all THB victims officially recognized as such make use of state-administered protection services (2025);</p>	<p>MoH documents (SRHR/GBV Rights-Based Service Provision Guidelines, protocols, SOP), Reports;</p> <p>Annual report of the State Care Fund and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings;</p> <p>Annual US State Department THB report;</p> <p>Council of Europe's GRETA monitoring reports.</p>	
	<p>2.3.3. Number of shelters and crisis centers for DV victims/ survivors functional funded from the State Budget</p> <p>NSDG: 5.2.1 (GT 5.2)</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UN Women</p> <p>Contributors: UNDP, UNFPA</p>	<p>5 Shelters (2020)</p> <p>5 Crisis centres (2020)</p>	<p>6 Shelters (2025)</p> <p>7 Crisis centres (2025)</p>	<p>State and non-state partners' reports to GREVIO and CEDAW</p>	

Partners for Outcome 3:	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Finance Training Academy (LEPL); Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Diaspora Relations Department); Enterprise Georgia; Georgian Innovations and Technology Agency (GITA); Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA), Maritime Transport Agency; State Procurement Agency; Georgian national Agency for Standards and Metrology (GeoSTM); Georgian Accreditation Center (GAC); National Food Agency (NFA); Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs; Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT); Ministry of Justice/State Commission on Migration Issues; Inter-Agency Commission on Human Rights and Gender Equality Issues; Agrarian Committee of the Parliament of Georgia; Gender Equality Council of the Parliament; Public Defender's Office; Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Georgian Trade Unions Confederation; Georgian Employers Association; Municipalities; Private Sector; and Civil Society representing the LNOB groups.
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Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
Outcome 3 By 2025, all people without discrimination benefit from a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy in Georgia	3.1. Proportion of population, including children, living below the national poverty line, by location (urban/rural) and by sex NSDG: 1.2.1 (Global Target (GT) 1.2) Custodian: FAO Contributing: UNICEF, UNDP, IOM, UNIDO, IFAD, ILO, UN Women	3.1. 2019: 19,5% (national) 16,4% (urban), 23,7%(rural) 19,6% (male), 19,4%(female) 24,4% (children)	3.1. Reduced by 3-4 percentage points	3.1. Geostat	
	3.2 Unemployment rate by rural/urban by sex, age and persons with disabilities) NSDG 8.5.2 (GT 8.5) Custodian: UNDP Contributing: FAO, UNIDO, UN Women, IOM, IFAD, ILO	TBI based on LFS new survey data in the mid of 2021	TBI according to new baseline	Geostat	
	3.3 Gender pay gap NSDG: 8.5.1. & 5.5.1.2.; (GT 8.5 and 5.5) Custodian: UN Women Contributor: ILO	Monthly Gender Pay Gap - 35.5% (2019) (Preliminary data, the finalized data will be published by GEOSTAT on October 8, 2020)	Monthly Gender Pay Gap – 32%	Monthly Gender Pay Gap -Establishment Survey, GEOSTAT, 2019. Hourly Gender Pay Gap – LFS, GEOSTAT, new survey data in the mid of 2021	
	3.4 Labor force participation rate, by sex and age NSDG: 8.5.2 (GT 8.5) Custodian: UN Women, Contributor: ILO	TBI based on LFS new survey data in the mid of 2021	TBI based on LFS new survey data in the mid of 2021	LFS, GEOSTAT, new survey data in the mid of 2021	
Output 3.1 Improved competitiveness and social responsibility of private sector	3.1.1. Number of new services introduced by providers within business development infrastructure, including innovations, ecosystem and formalizing informal enterprises NSDG 9.3.1. (GT 9.3) Custodian: UNDP Contributors: UNIDO, ILO	Limited number of services	At least 4 new services introduced	UNDP, UNIDO project report GEOSTAT and NSDGs	
	3.1.2: % of companies in selected clusters demonstrating at least 20% growth rate in turnover or export NSDG 9.3.1. (GT 9.3) Custodian: UNDP Contributors: FAO, UNIDO, IOM	2020: 0%	Target 2022: At least 70%	UNDP/FAO/UNIDO / IOM internal survey	

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	<p>3.1.3. Advisory Board on Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility established and fully functional and number of private companies that are implementing corporate social responsibility measures</p> <p>Custodian: UN Women</p> <p>Contributors: UNICEF, UNDP, UNIDO, ILO</p>	<p>a) No Advisory Board in place</p> <p>Number of companies that are Women's Economic Empowerment Principles' signatories 76 (as of August 21, 2020)</p>	<p>a) Advisory Board established and three new CSR projects launched annually 90</p>	<p>UNICEF monitoring https://www.weps.org/companies</p>	
	<p>3.1.4. Proportion of women in managerial positions</p> <p>NSDG 5.5.2 (GT 5.5)</p> <p>Custodian: UN Women</p> <p>Contributor: UNDP</p>	<p>36% (LFS, 2018)</p>	<p>40%</p>	<p>Geostat, UN Women, CGEP (in Q4 2020, we will update with 2019 data)</p>	
<p>Output 3.2</p> <p>Sustainable and inclusive agricultural and rural development, strengthened food systems and improved livelihoods.</p>	<p>3.2.1. Agricultural productivity - Volume of production per labor unit by classes of farming/pastoral/ forestry enterprise size)</p> <p>NSDG 2.3.1 (GT 2.3)</p> <p>Custodian: FAO</p> <p>Contributors: UNDP, IFAD, UNECE</p>	<p>2019: 30.6 GEL (daily) in current prices</p>	<p>40-45 GEL (daily) in current prices</p>	<p>Geostat</p> <p>UN agency reports as a source to show UN contribution to the change</p>	<p>3.2.1. SDG target 2.3 (agricultural productivity) is a major challenge for Georgia, since agriculture accounts for a huge share of rural employment while generating only meager economic results. The UN will support Georgia to increase agricultural productivity.</p>
	<p>3.2.2. Number of new jobs created by enterprises through improved productivity in rural non-farm activities and through application of EE/RE, digital and other innovative technologies</p> <p>NSDG 8.5.2 (GT 8.5)</p> <p>Custodian: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: UNIDO, IFAD</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>300</p>	<p>UNDP, UNIDO projects</p>	
	<p>3.2.3. Number of new policy documents and tools on agriculture and food safety developed</p> <p>Custodian: FAO</p> <p>Contributors: UNIDO, IFAD</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>At least 12</p>	<p>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, FAO Projects</p>	<p>Effective systems of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection is one of the goals of the Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2021-2027</p> <p>The UN will support in the implementation of this Strategy.</p>

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	3.2.4. Increase of per capita income in rural areas Custodian: FAO Contributor: UNDP	2019: 301.6 GEL (average monthly per capita income of rural population)	384-416 GEL (average monthly per capita income of rural population).	Geostat UN agency reports as a source to show UN contribution to the change	One of the weaknesses identified within the frameworks of the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy is Relatively low incomes of households in rural areas. With the UN support, disparities between urban and rural areas will be decreased through maximization of agriculture potential and the diversified economy. This will lead to sustainable income generation
Output 3.3 Increased productive employment, decent work, skills development and effective national social protection for all	3.3.1. Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 and 15-29 years) not in education, employment or training (NEET), by sex NSDG: 8.6.1 (GT 8.6) Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: UN Women, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIDO Not possible by disability status.	2019: 27.9% (2014) TBI based on LFS new survey data in the mid of 2021	Proportion of youth aged (15-24 years) not in employment, education or training reduced by 8% (reduced by 8% by 2030)	GEOSTAT	
	3.3.2 Number of companies visited by labour inspectors per year for the purpose of inspection. NSDG 8.8.1.1 (GT 8.8) Custodian: ILO	1575 inspections	50% increase in the number of inspections	Annual report of the State Labour Inspection, MoID-PLHSA	The number contains primary and follow-up inspections until the elimination of the violation under the mandate of the Labour inspection. As the Mandate of Labour inspection in OSH related cases has developed at the end of 2018. And the Baseline should be the statistic information of 2019, because it's more comparable to each annual figure

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	<p>3.3.3. Number of work-related accidents causing injuries or deaths, in total by sex per 100 000 employees Custodian: ILO</p>	9,6 work-related injuries and 2,2 work related deaths per 100 000 employees in 2019	A minimum 5% decrease of the net rate annually per 100 000 employees	Annual report of the Labour MoIDPLHSA	The number of the work-related accidents is connected to the number of workers. The measurement and comparison of these indicators must be carried out by internationally recognized methodology, in particular for per 100, 000 employees
	<p>3.3.4 Number of interventions to enhance day care facilities and re-skilling of women to enhance their Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) NSDG: 8.5.2 (GT 8.5) Custodian: UN Women, Contributor: ILO</p>	0	2	Relevant UN agency reports	
	<p>3.3.5. Number of awareness and advocacy campaigns launched to bridge the gender pay gap NSDG: 8.5.1 and 5.5.1.2 (GT 8.5 and 5.5) Custodian: UN Women Contributor: ILO</p>	1	5	Reporting of the Government of Georgia to Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC); Relevant UN Women and ILO reports.	
	<p>3.3.6 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable (SDG indicator 1.3.1) (GT 1.3) Specifically: (a) population below the national absolute poverty line covered by the Targeted Social Assistance program - TSA (UNICEF) (b) children under the national absolute poverty line covered by the Targeted Social Assistance and Child benefits Program (UNICEF) (c) Proportion of women of reproductive age entitled to receive the state maternity benefit Custodian: ILO Contributor: UN Women, UNICEF</p>	<p>a) 57.8% of population below the national absolute poverty line covered by the TSA program (Explanation: 19,5% of population under the national absolute poverty line, 11% covered by Targeted Social Assistance) (2019 data) b) 65.5% of children under the national absolute poverty line covered by the TSA and Child benefits Program (explanation: 24.4% of children under national absolute poverty line, 16% covered by the Targeted Social Assistance and Child Benefits) (2019 data) 16% coverage by child benefits (TSA) while 25.5% children live in absolute poverty c) 28% (ILO, UN Women report 2020, 2018 data)</p>	<p>a) 80% coverage of population below the national absolute poverty line by the Social assistance programs b) 80% coverage of children below the national absolute poverty line by the social assistance programs c) 50%</p>	Relevant UN Women and ILO reports.	

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	(3.3.7 Number of job seekers including returned migrants and VET graduates supported with skills development, job placement and internships in EU through the skills partnership schemes, gainfully employed at the local markets and/or abroad including through circular labor migration schemes NSDG 4.4.1.1 (GT 4.4) Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributor: IOM	2020: 0	2022: 100	UNDP projects reports	Implementation of the established circular labor migration and/or internship schemes is much dependant on the Covid-related situation
	3.3.8 Number of farmers benefiting from skill development trainings and/or extension services supported by projects, disaggregated by sex and age NSDG 4.3.1 (GT 4.3) Custodian: UNDP, Contributor: FAO, UN Women	0	at least 1000 farmers	Project reports	

Partners for Outcome 4:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; Legal Aid Service; Consortium Legal Aid Georgia; Action Against Hunger; Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Issues the Public Defender's Office; NGOs representing the LNOB groups.
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Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
Outcome 4 By 2025, conflict affected communities enjoy human rights, enhanced human security and resilience	4.1 World Governance Indicator on Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism Custodian/Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO, UNODC	Percentile ranking 2018; Georgia's percentile rank - 30;	Improvement of Georgia's percentile ranking	World Governance Indicators (WGI); https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports	
	4.2 Global Peace Index (GPI) Custodian/Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributor: UN Women; UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO	Global Peace Index 2020; Georgia's global rank - 95; Overall score: 2.116;	Improvement of Georgia's global ranking and/or overall score;	Global Peace Index, Institute for Economics and Peace; http://visionofhumanity.org/indexes/global-peace-index/	
	4.3 Positive Peace Index (PPI) Custodian/Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributor: UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO	Positive Peace Index 2019; Georgia's global rank – 54; overall score: 2.7;	Improvement of Georgia's global ranking and/or overall score;	Positive Peace Index, Institute for Economics and Peace; http://vision-ofhumanity.org/reports/	
	4.4 Women, Peace and Security Index Custodian/Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributor: UN Women;	95/163 WPSI - index - .777 rank 46/166 (2019/2020)	Improvement of Georgia's global ranking and/or overall score;	Georgetown University for Women, Peace and Security; https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/chapters/	



Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
Output 4.1 Conflict affected communities have improved access to essential services, including education, healthcare, GBV response and legal assistance	4.1.1. Number of cases of legal and psychological assistance / services received by conflict-affected persons (including GBV survivors) by sex Custodian/Lead Reporter: UN Women Contributors: UNDP, UNHCR	UNDP - 1,397 (85% female); UN Women - 417 GBV survivors (99% female) in 2019 UNHCR - Legal assistance: 1,300 persons (60% female) in 2020	UNDP - 2,197 GBV (at least 80% female); UN Women - 2,500 (95% female) UNHCR - Legal assistance: 5,550 (at least 50% female)	progress reports of COBERM and CSSP as well as reports of future projects on GBV; UN Women and partners' progress reports; UNHCR and partners' reports;	
	4.1.2 Number of conflict-affected youth and teachers (schools, VET colleges and university) with improved access to quality education services; Custodian/Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributor: UNICEF	a/UNDP - 20,174 (about 40% female youth); UNICEF – 5,326 b/ UNDP - Teachers trained 350	a/UNDP - 31,578 (at least 50% female youth); UNICEF: 8,422 b/ UNDP - Teachers trained 750	UNDP Projects (VET Abkhazia, Horizons, COBERM, CSSP) progress reports; UNICEF Projects reports	
	4.1.3 Number of conflict-affected population with improved access to essential healthcare services, including Sexual & Reproductive Health services. Custodian/ Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO	UNDP - 10,886 (about 60% female); UNFPA - 18,000 (100% Female) Joint rapid review of key elements of PHC conducted in Abkhazia in November-December, 2018	UNDP - 16,054 (at least 50% female); UNFPA- 30,000 (100% Female) Health Systems assessment mission conducted by WHO and Report with recommendations in the priority areas delivered	Horizons, COBERM and CSSP progress reports; UNFPA and partners' progress reports; WHO mission report with recommendations;	Local stakeholders committed to initiate changes in health sector and improve access to essential services
Output 4.2 Socio-economic conditions, community resilience and self-reliance improved with programmes benefiting conflict affected communities particularly those left behind	4.2.1 Number of initiatives successfully implemented to improve socio-economic conditions and human security in conflict-affected areas; Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: UN Women, FAO	UNDP - 80 UN Women & FAO - 0	UNDP - 280 UN Women & FAO -38	Horizons and ENPARD Abkhazia progress reports; UN Women and partners' progress reports;	
	4.2.2 Number of people benefiting directly from improved socio-economic conditions and improved human security; Lead Reporter UNDP Contributors: UN Women, FAO	UNDP - 5,362 UN Women & FAO - 0	UNDP - 14,742 UN Women & FAO - 1000	Horizons and ENPARD Abkhazia progress reports; UN Women & FAO progress reports;	
	4.2.3 Number of people with improved community resilience against climate-induced multi-hazard natural disasters; Lead Reporter: UNDP	Baseline not available	UNDP - 1,080 (at least 50% female)	Improved Resilience of Communities to Climate Risks (IRCCR) progress reports;	
Output 4.3 Space widened for dialogue and participation that strengthens civil society, community resilience, social cohesion and implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda	4.3.1 Existence of costed National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and its implementation rate Lead Reporter: UN Women	Yes (Current EVAW & DV NAP covers 2018-2020) - implementation rate to be determined in 2021.	Yes & 90% implementation rate	Governmental decree approving the NAP 1325; Independent monitoring report of the NAP implementation by the PDO	

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	4.3.2 Number of initiatives to support direct people-to-people contacts, liaison activities (deliveries of medication and/or other essential goods) and to enhance enabling environment for dialogue and trust within and across the divided communities; Custodian/Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: UN Women, UNFPA	UNDP - 121 (COBERM III, Dialogue II) UN Women - 5 UNFPA - 4	UNDP - 221 UN Women - 10 UNFPA - 6	COBERM progress reports; UN Women and partners' progress reports; UNFPA and partners' progress reports;	
	4.3.3 Number of people who benefit from peacebuilding initiatives that ensure enhanced confidence within and between the conflict divided communities; Custodian/Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: UN Women, UNFPA	UNDP - 26,430 (49% female) UN Women - 200 UNFPA - 220	UNDP - 42,000 (at least 50% female) UN Women - 500 (at least 50% female) UNFPA - 270 (at least 50% female)	COBERM progress reports; UN Women and partners' progress reports; UNFPA and partners' progress reports;	

Partners for Outcome 5:	Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia; LEPL IDPs, Ecomigrants and Livelihoods Agency,; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (including the National Environmental Agency, National Forestry Agency, Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia, Agriculture and Rural Development Agency and Environmental Information and Education Center), Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; Emergency Management Service (Ministry of Internal Affairs); National Center for Disease Control & Public Health; National Security Council/National Crisis Management Center; Parliament of Georgia (and Parliamentary committees), NGOs representing the LNOB groups, local communities, municipalities and local authorities, research institutions, international organizations, trade unions, employers organisations, business community, women and youth groups, mass-media.
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Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
Outcome 5 By 2025, all people, without discrimination, enjoy enhanced resilience through improved environmental governance, climate action and sustainable management and use of natural resource(s) in Georgia	5.1 : Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/ plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other). NSDG Indicator 13.2.1 (Global Target (GT) 13.2) Lead Reporter: UNDP Contributors: FAO, UNIDO, UNECE, UNEP	NSDG 13.2.1. Baseline: In 2015 Georgia prepared and adopted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). The following documents are currently being elaborated: 1. Climate Action Plan (CAP) for 2021-2030; 2. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for 2021-2030; Scheduled: 1. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for 2021-2030; 2. Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) for 2050 (work on the document will start in 2020). Baseline: 3rd Biennial Update report (BUR) to UNFCCC not available Baseline: 4th National Communication to UNFCCC not available	Updated NDC approved by the Government and submitted to UNFCCC NAP for Energy Sector produced by 2023 LT LEDS is elaborated and adopted by 2021 3rd BUR produced by 2022 4th National Communication to UNFCCC produced by end of 2021	GHG inventory Georgia's NDC; 3rd Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC; 4th National Communication to UNFCCC MoEPA /UNFCCC websites Updated NDC by 2025 Updated NAP 3rd BUR to UNFCCC 4th National Communication to UNFCCC	Georgian Government committed to produce 3rd BUR, 4th Nat Communication; Georgian Government committed to implementing updated NDC and Climate Action Plan 2021-2022 Climate policies are improved; LT LEDS, BUR and NCs are produced and approved, where applicable by the Government, as planned Georgian Government committed to developing updated NAP 2021-2030, 3rd BUR and 4th NC

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
<p>Output 5.1</p> <p>Environmental governance and institutional capacity enhanced to enable rational, equitable and sustainable use of natural/land resources, to ensure conservation of ecosystems and make communities more resilient to environmental shocks</p>	<p>5.1.1: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial, freshwater and black sea biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: FAO, IFAD, UNECE, UNEP</p> <p>NSDG 15.1.2 (GT 15.1)</p>	<p>0 ha of Protected Areas (2017)</p>	<p>431,872 ha of protected areas (2023)</p>	<p>Area of existing protected area under improved management (hectares,) based on Review of Database on Protected Areas (PA)s of the MoEPA</p>	<p>Government continues to increase funding for target PAs</p> <p>- Increased revenue allows hiring and maintaining staff</p>
	<p>5.1.2: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategy</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: IOM, UNDRR, UNICRI</p> <p>NSDG 1.5.4 (GT 1.5)</p>	<p>0 (2020)</p>	<p>At least 10 local governments have local DRR strategies, including gender-sensitive disaster preparedness and response plans for multiple climate-induced hazards (UNDP)</p>	<p>Preparedness and Response plans (UNDP)</p> <p>Updated NDC implementation reports</p>	<p>Political will and engagement from the municipalities in development of the plans is in place (UNDP)</p>
	<p>5.1.3: Number of initiatives aimed at capacity-building efforts for government and other stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in formulating, monitoring and implementing national climate change policies and plans</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributor: UN Women</p> <p>NSDG 5.1.1 (GT 5.1)</p>	<p>0 (2020)</p>	<p>5 (2025)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender sensitive municipal multi-hazard preparedness and response plans are developed for at least 10 municipalities (UNDP) 2. Gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessment methodology developed and applied 3. standardized methodologies and SoPs for multi-hazard risk-informed, preparedness and response plans developed considering gender and vulnerable groups 4. Gender sensitive capacity development plans put in place to enhance the knowledge on nation-wide multi-hazard mapping and risk assessment 5. Gender Sensitive institutional and legal frameworks are in place to roll-out the standardized multi-hazard mapping and risk assessment methodology 	<p>Socio-economic vulnerability assessment methodology; Methodologies and SoPs for multi-hazard risk-informed, preparedness and response plans; capacity development plans; Institutional and legal framework for standardized multi-hazard mapping and risk assessment methodology</p>	<p>Stakeholders are committed to mainstream gender in implementation of new initiatives, legal and institutional framework, national policies and plans.</p>

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
<p>Output 5.2</p> <p>Climate-sensitive, resilient and risk-informed development ensured, without discrimination, in AFOLU, health, water safety, construction, energy and food production sectors to increase adaptive capacities and mitigate impact of climate change pursuing LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality)</p>	<p>5.2.1: Adaptation and mitigation capacities are increased through enhanced use of climate information, products and services and well-established multi-hazard early warning systems, including on community level.</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: IOM, FAO, UNOPS, UNEP</p> <p>NSDG 1.5.4 (GT 1.5)</p>	<p>a/ Hydrometric monitoring network outdated and inadequate</p> <p>b/ 0 multi-hazard and risk maps</p> <p>c/ MHEWS and Forecasting for climate -induced hazards does not exist:</p> <p>d/ 0 risk reduction measures, based on multi-hazard risk maps, in high-risk areas</p> <p>e/ 0 Community-based climate risk management/EWS</p>	<p>c/ Forecasting and early warning system for climate -induced hazards established and functional</p> <p>d/ Risk reduction measures, based on multi-hazard risk maps implemented in high risk areas</p> <p>e/ Community-based climate risk management /EWS applied</p>	<p>Regulatory framework for MHEWS and Forecasting, SOPs, communication protocols, institutional EWS implementation plans.</p> <p>Site visits/ inspections; NEA's report; Donor Reports</p> <p>Community climate resilience plans; Donor Reports</p>	<p>apply unified methodologies, and capacities to cover all 11 river basins for hazard maps in place.</p> <p>Government has political will to implement relevant legal-regulatory reform for effective and efficient MHRM/ MHEWS</p> <p>Respective government agencies fully meet their commitment towards implementation of disaster risk reduction measures</p> <p>Communities actively participate in setting and operations/ maintenance of CBEWS and corresponding implementation of multi-hazard risk reduction measures</p>
	<p>5.2.3: Number of hectares of forest and protected areas under sustainable and climate-resilient management benefitting targeted rural population</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: FAO, IFAD, UNEP</p> <p>NSDG 15.1.2: and 15.2.1 (GT 15.1 and 15.2)</p>	<p>Baseline (2017): 0</p>	<p>Target: At least 420,000 ha of forests and protected areas using improved management practices in targeted rural areas (2022)</p>	<p>Annual reports of MEPA, Agency of Protected Areas, National Forestry Agency;</p> <p>National Statistics on forestry and protected areas;</p> <p>UNDP project reports;</p>	
	<p>5.2.4: Adoption of updated regulations for WASH in schools and health facilities, including monitoring frameworks, which is reported annually</p> <p>NSDG: 4.a.1 (GT 4.a)</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNICEF</p> <p>Contributor: WHO</p>	<p>Baseline: No</p>	<p>Target : Yes</p>	<p>Assessment report</p>	<p>WASH implementation is under country commitment for NEHAP-2, Strategic Objective 1</p>

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
	<p>5.2.5. Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNICEF</p> <p>Contributor: WHO</p> <p>NSDG 3.9.1 (GT 3.9)</p>	<p>2016: 184 ;</p> <p>- Among Male - 197;</p> <p>- Among Female - 172;</p>			<p>Country commitment under NEHAP-2, Strategic Objective 3</p> <p>Environmental Health surveillance system and</p> <p>Laboratory capable of testing lead and other various chemicals in the blood is established in order to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses caused from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.</p> <p>Georgian Government develops, adopts and implements National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) which is aligned with updated NDC and Climate Action Plan</p> <p>Georgian Government is committed to regular updated and implementation of National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP)</p>
	<p>5.2.6. Existence of blood lead surveillance system at the national-level</p> <p>NSDG: 3.9.3 (GT 3.9)</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNICEF</p> <p>Contributor: WHO</p>	Does not exist	Fully functional surveillance system is in place	NCDC&PH reports	<p>Country commitment for WHO joint Initiative to Eliminate Lead Paint</p> <p>Environmental Health surveillance system and</p> <p>Laboratory capable of testing lead and other chemicals in the blood is established in order to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses caused from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p>

Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregation)	Baseline (year)	Target (Cooperation Framework end)	Data source/MoV	Assumptions
<p>Output 5.3</p> <p>Innovative and climate-friendly technologies used for inclusive green economy, energy efficiency and clean energy production to enhance NDCs (Nationally Determined Contribution) and support long-term decarbonization strategies</p>	<p>5.3.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption and number of rural households improving living conditions through increased energy efficiency and/or use of renewable energy</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: UNIDO, UNECE, UNEP</p> <p>NSDG 7.2.1 (GT7.2)</p>	<p>Baseline from NSDG: Renewable energy share in the energy mix is approximately 29.5%</p>	<p>Renewable energy share (hydro, geothermal and solar, biofuels and waste) in the energy mix will equal approximately 35% by 2030</p>	<p>Annual statistical publication by GEOSTAT - Energy Balance of Georgia</p> <p>Updated National Renewable Energy Action Plan</p> <p>UNDP Country Programme Review</p>	
	<p>5.3.2: Gender-responsive technological solutions/initiatives/projects, as per Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) are in place, improved and/or applied</p> <p>NSDG Indicator 13.2.1 (GT 13.2)</p> <p>Lead Reporter: UNDP</p> <p>Contributors: FAO, IFAD</p> <p>UNECE UNIDO,</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes, at least 5 solutions/initiatives/projects from LT LEDS are in place, improved and/or applied</p>	<p>LT LEDS implementation report</p>	<p>Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy is elaborated and adopted by GoG by 2021;</p> <p>Funding is available for new initiatives from the LT LEDS</p>

Annex 2: The Cooperation Framework

Legal Annex

Whereas the Government of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following relationships:

a) With **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement) (SBAA) which was signed by both parties on 1 July 1994. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNSDCF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNSDCF and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA [or other appropriate governing agreement].

b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 3 December 1999.

c) With the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government and UNHCR on 11 September 1996.

d) With regard to the **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA), the SBAA signed between the Government and UNDP will apply mutatis mutandis upon completion of relevant procedures.

e) With the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization** (UNIDO), the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed and entered into force on 1 July 1994 shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNIDO projects and programmes in Georgia

f) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO) the Exchange of Letters constituting the Agreement between FAO and the Government of Georgia for the establishment of an FAO Representation in Georgia and extending the provisions of the 1947 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies to the FAO Representative to Georgia, the Organization’s staff and its assets, consisting of: the letter of the FAO Director-General to the Minister for Foreign Affairs OCD-DG/03/73 of 27 January 2003; the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the FAO Director-General 10-15/165 of 22 May 2003; the letter of the FAO Director-General to the Minister of Foreign Affairs OCD-DG/03/1143 of 22 July 2003; the letter from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to the FAO Director-General 10-01/321 of 10 October 2003; and the letter of the FAO Director-General to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia OCD-DG/03/1903 dated 7 November 2003; the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the FAO Director-General 10-15/2 of 5 January 2004

g) With **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** (OHCHR), the SBAA between the Government of Georgia and UNDP applies.

h) With **United Nations Office for Project Services** (UNOPS), the SBAA between the Government of Georgia and UNDP applies. There is also an Exchange of Letters (December 2018) and Service Level Agreements between the Government of Georgia and UNOPS.

i) With the **UN Women**, the SBAA between the Government and UNDP applies. There was also an Exchange of Letters between the Government and UN Women in 2013.

j) With the **World Health Organization**, (WHO) a Basic Agreement was concluded between the Government of Georgia and WHO in November 1994.

k) With the **International Organization for Migration** (IOM) the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Georgia and IOM was concluded on 6 September 1994.

I) With the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, the ratification of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 and its Annex I.

M) With the **United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Georgia and UNDP applies, *mutatis mutandis*.

For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures

The COOPERATION FRAMEWORK will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner, that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission.

The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which

may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".

Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

Programme Implementation

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of the Administration of the Government (Government Co-ordinating Authority). Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. The COOPERATION FRAMEWORK will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs)²⁶ and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent

²⁶ As per the UNSDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the “Delivering as One” approach.

possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed COOPERATION FRAMEWORK and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the COOPERATION FRAMEWORK and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents²⁷.

²⁷ In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government’s participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to “Implementing Partner(s)” shall mean “Executing Agency(s)” as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

Travel Costs

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

Financial assurance and audit

Regardless of the source of funds, each UN agency head is accountable to his/her Executive Head (or governing body) for resources received by the UN agency from its own resources, and in line with the pertinent financial regulations and rules of the concerned UN agency. Each UN agency is subject solely to the external and internal auditing

procedures laid down in that organization’s financial regulations and rules and procedures.

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

The Supreme Audit Institution may undertake the audits of Government Implementing Partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific Implementing Partners to the frequency and scope required by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from a relevant UN organization will provide the UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by the relevant UN system agency, together with relevant documentation; and
- All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner’s internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and the relevant UN organization.

Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

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- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors;
 - Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the relevant UN organization that provided cash so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the relevant UN organization;
 - Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations; and
 - Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the relevant UN system agencies on an annual basis.
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Dispute resolution

In the event of any significant change requiring a revision in the objectives or the duration and the scope of the programme components, the Government will make a formal request to the UN agencies and an appropriate amendment to the Partnership will be negotiated.

In the event of a failure by one party to fulfil any of its obligations under this Partnership, where the defaulting party is one of the UN agencies, the government may either:

(i) Suspend the discharge of its own obligations vis-à-vis the defaulting party by giving written notice to that effect to the defaulting party; or

(ii) Terminate the Partnership vis-à-vis the defaulting party by giving written notice of sixty (60) days to the defaulting party.

Where the defaulting party is the Government, the UN agency to which the government has defaulted, either alone or together with all other UN agencies, may either:

(i) Suspend the discharge of its own obligations by giving written notice to that effect to the defaulting party; or

(ii) Terminate the Partnership by giving written notice of sixty (60) days to the defaulting party.

Any dispute between the Government and a UN agency shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of that Organization's basic agreement with the government. Any dispute among the UN agencies shall be resolved exclusively among the UN agencies through approaches identified in the UNDG-endorsed dispute resolution mechanism.
