



UNITED NATIONS
GEORGIA



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



*Photo: Khetaguri/UNICEF
UN launched an online platform to offer parents and caregivers free counselling of therapists and recommendations for planning and prioritizing their activities with children like Teodora, an 11-year-old with the Down syndrome.*



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FOREWORD

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Georgia, it is my pleasure to present the results we delivered in 2022. Together with our many partners, we supported Georgia to achieve its national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The past few years have been especially difficult as the world and this region navigated extreme uncertainty and the complex impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. In 2022, the UN supported Georgia in tackling these ongoing and new challenges, strengthening resilience and prioritizing progress towards sustainable development with a total of 56 million USD worth of programming.

We helped the Government and local authorities to welcome Ukrainian refugees, contributed to improving food and energy resilience and proposed pathways for enhancing social protection to reduce poverty, inequalities and assist the most vulnerable. We worked with our partners to uphold human rights for every person in Georgia, to promote gender equality, to strengthen social cohesion and solidarity, to foster competitiveness of Georgian businesses and bolster human capital, and to galvanize crucial steps to tackle climate change. We also maintained our operational presence in Abkhazia where the UN continued to provide crucial support to vulnerable people.

We strengthened our partnerships with the local authorities and other stakeholders in support of the national decentralization reform. In 2022 the UN Country Team jointly visited the regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli and explored with local stakeholders the best ways for the UN to address development needs in each of these regions.

In the second year of implementation of the current five-year UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Georgia, the UN Country Team continued to come together and leverage expertise

and experience from across the UN system to address these interconnected challenges. We are currently implementing thirteen joint UN programmes, including seven new initiatives launched in 2022.

With this, I invite you to reflect on our joint achievements and the road ahead, which can only be made possible in collaboration with our many partners in Georgia, including the Government, local authorities, civil society, academia, private sector and the international development community.



Dr. Sabine Machl
*United Nations Resident
Coordinator in Georgia*





UN COUNTRY TEAM IN GEORGIA

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is composed of representatives of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and other United Nations entities working in Georgia and jointly supporting the country in the achievement of its national development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UNCT is chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, who reports to, and is the designated representative of, the United Nations Secretary-General for development operations in the country.





KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN GEORGIA





Photo: Leli Blagonravova/UNDP

DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT IN GEORGIA

Georgia's political, economic, social and security situation in 2022 was profoundly shaped by Russia's war in Ukraine. Across the region, large-scale population movement and displacement, rising costs of living, pressures on social cohesion, and geopolitical realignments exacerbating old conflicts create new and strain existing challenges for Governments and societies.

Georgian economy has shown resilience and its real GDP grew by 10.1% in 2022, boosted by remittances, capital inflows and trade. The strong growth has allowed the government to reduce the budget deficit and improve its external debt position. At the same time, high inflation, especially on goods of primary consumption, risks offsetting the benefits for the population with lower income, and thus potentially widening inequalities in the future. Moreover, Georgia experienced substantial mixed flows of refugees and migrants from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, which often brought skills and capital, but also placed additional pressures on institutions, markets and communities.

Progress has been notable in recent years in areas such as promoting rights of persons with disabilities, child rights and labour rights. However, socio-economic inequalities persist and so does political and social exclusion of parts of Georgian society due to poverty, violence and discrimination, in particular towards women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTIQ+ persons and other vulnerable groups.

The current resilience of the Georgian economy provides an opportunity for the Government to invest in social inclusion and alleviate poverty, inequality and marginalization. In conditions of high uncertainty in the region, longer-term sustainability would require not only managing external risks, but also pushing through key structural reforms to advance decentralization, human capital development, rural development, green transition, and strengthening human rights protections and good governance.





Photo: Vladimir Valishvili//UNDP

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

In its second year of implementing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Georgia 2021–2025, the Country Team continued efforts to protect and empower those who have so far been often left behind in Georgia’s development pathway: specific categories of children, youth, informal sector workers, older persons, migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, members of conflict-affected communities and family farmers, specific categories of women, national and religious minorities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, and persons with disabilities.

The UN supports Georgia in navigating complex development challenges and maintaining focus on protection of human rights, poverty reduction, gender equality, decent work, climate action, improving education and health, strengthening institutions and other key areas. The implementation of the current country Framework will continue until 2025 with one overarching objective: enhanced human wellbeing, capabilities and social equality in Georgia. This section describes joint UN results achieved in 2022 towards each of the five planned UNSDCF Outcomes.





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

The UN continued its support to Georgia in several areas of good governance, including public administration reform, local self-governance reform and regional development, labour law, and migration management. The UN also contributed to strategies and systems that strengthen human rights, including child rights and refugee rights, gender equality, protection of the rights of minorities, LGBTIQ+ and people with disabilities.

The UN supported the participatory process of the drafting of the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2023-2026 and its Action Plan. Implementation of the newly adopted Public Service Delivery Standards was fostered to ensure accessible and inclusive services to all. With the UN technical assistance, the Parliament passed amendments to the Rules of Procedure, enhancing its oversight functions to provide more robust control of the implementation of adopted laws and policies and to hold the executive accountable.

Furthermore, with UN support, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure continued its efforts to advance local self-government reform, to implement the 2020-2025 Decentralization Strategy and to pilot integrated territorial development approach. UN also supported institutionalization of participatory policymaking at the local level by developing the Guidebook on Development of Municipal Mid-term

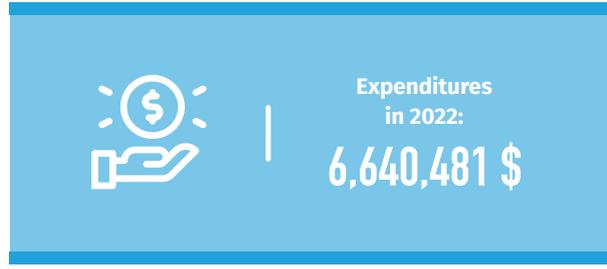


Photo: UNFPA

Development Documents that was adopted by the Government in February 2022. Considerable progress was also made in improving municipal service delivery and digitalization of municipal services by developing a municipal e-service portal: ms.gov.ge available for all municipalities countrywide. At the same time, improvements to local one-stop-shop services were also initiated.

The UN contributed to the development of the National Human Rights Strategy 2022-2030 and the elaboration of the State Concept on Gender Equality. The Government also developed and adopted the National Action Plan on Combating Violence against

Contributing UN Entities



OUTCOME 1

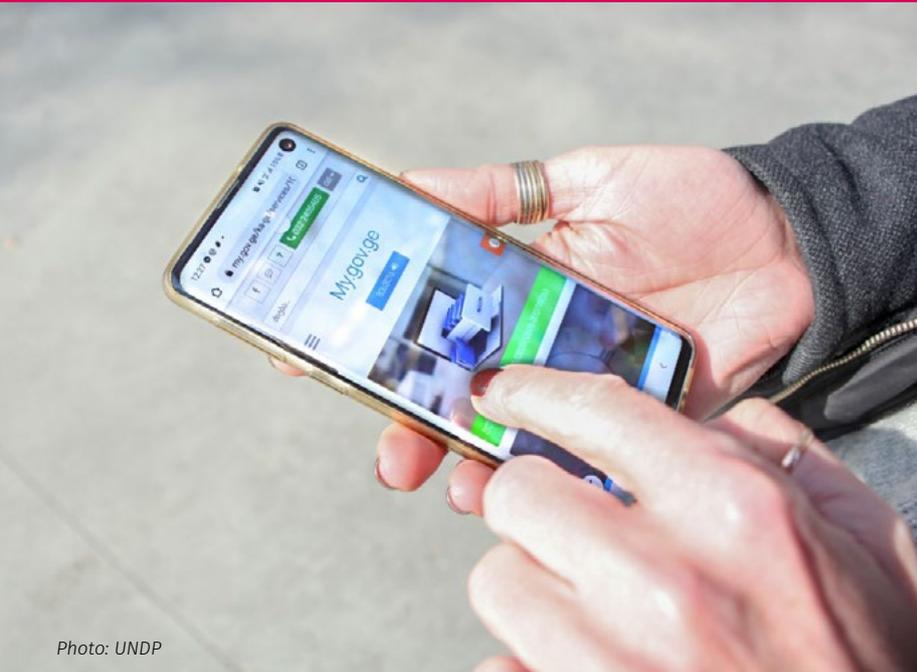


Photo: UNDP



Photo: UN Women

Women and Domestic Violence for 2022–2024 with the UN technical support. The Parliament adopted a package of legislative amendments prepared with the UN assistance that sets out to increase access to state-run shelters for survivors of domestic violence and violence against women.

To promote women’s meaningful participation in decision-making, the UN supported the strengthening of the national gender equality machinery, including the Permanent Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia. As a result, for the first time ever, the Gender Equality Council has specifically dedicated budget allocations, under the Parliament’s overall budget. Furthermore, the UN supported women Members of Parliament and local-level women councilors in their pursuit to enhance human rights, gender equality and inter-party democracy building.

To promote women’s participation and leadership in the public service, the UN assisted the Civil Service Bureau in adopting its first ever Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan. During the year,

175 public servants strengthened their capacity on gender responsive employment systems and the prevention and response to sexual harassment in the workplace.

With the support of the UN and other partners, the Ministry of Finance conducted a Gender Responsive Public Finance Management assessment, an important step towards the institutionalization of gender-responsive budgeting.

The UN continued its support to the implementation of Civil Service Reform and to strengthening of the institutional and human capacities of central and local government institutions, including the establishment of performance appraisal systems and enhancing capacities of public servants. To promote increased participation of women, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities in civil service, the UN assisted the Civil Service Bureau in improving partnerships with the civil society and academia and assessing hindering factors for the employment of underrepresented groups.



Assisted the Civil Service Bureau in adopting its first ever **Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan**



40 judges and **30 legal practitioners** were trained on the international labour standards

332,797 people were reached through different **positive parenting activities on Facebook**



First-ever Time Use Survey, generating internationally comparable **gender statistics**

Government and social partner capacity was strengthened to improve enforcement and respect for labour laws and international labour standards. This led to a decision to ratify ILO Labour Inspection Convention (No. 81) and facilitated the adoption of related national legal acts. Thirty legal practitioners and forty judges were trained on the international labour standards and the practical application of national labour law in partnership with the High School of Justice and the Georgian Bar Association.

Moreover, social workers, legal professionals and civil society representatives improved their capacity to protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, alleged victims of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment and other persons in need of assistance to uphold their human rights. The UN also built the capacity of state institutions at national and local levels to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities through improved knowledge, inclusive policymaking, budgeting and service delivery. The UN capacitated persons with disabilities and their organizations to advance their meaningful participation in public life and decision-making.

The Human Rights Secretariat of Georgia now also has a greater capacity to promote Business and Human Rights approaches, and monitor the progress of learning, following the eLearning course on Business and Human Rights that the UN helped to develop.

In partnership with the National Association of Local Authorities, municipalities were assisted in the development of local-level social programmes. Gender Equality Councils were established in all municipalities, creating a space in the Mayors' Offices to voice concerns and initiate policy discussions. The UN and the National Association of Local Authorities supported 44 municipalities in the development and adoption of gender equality action plans. Gender-responsive budgeting was institutionalized by the Supreme Council of Adjara, thus ensuring that its budgeting process is grounded in the principles of gender equality, diversity and inclusion. Five municipalities were assisted in establishment of municipal programmes aimed at women's economic empowerment.

Georgian Employers Association was capacitated to address, prevent, and respond to violence and



Photo: Leli Blagonravova/UNICEF



Photo: UN Women

harassment by developing and implementing enterprise-level policy. Stakeholder dialogue on gender-responsive family policies facilitated by the UN resulted in selected private companies granting paternity leave to their employees for the first time.

The UN also continued its support to the elimination of harmful practices and gender-based violence, including against women and girls with disabilities and LGBTQI+ people. Systems and public institutions were strengthened to monitor women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and well-being with a focus on minority women, address violence against women in the health sector, and deliver age-appropriate and culturally sensitive education on health and personal safety.

Discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes were challenged and a positive shift in public perceptions and attitudes was promoted on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The UN empowered youth to lead social change and sensitized religious leaders on the prevention of harmful practices and violence against women and girls. In partnership with the Government, child marriage prevention was strengthened through an awareness raising campaign and integrating information in the Public Safety Command Center 112 application.

The UN promoted involved fatherhood and challenged toxic gender stereotypes, through innovative communication and social mobilization. In partnership with the private sector, two Fathers'



Photo: UNDP

Schools are operational in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. The UN also implemented the behavioral and social change initiative Be a Parent, aiming at primary prevention of violence against children in families through building skills of positive parenting. Around 332,797 people were reached through different positive parenting activities on Facebook.

Joint efforts of the UN Country Team supported the elaboration of the comprehensive Youth Strategy 2025 and the National Action Plan.

Religious leaders, community leaders and opinion makers were increasingly involved in promoting and protecting children's rights. The UN continued to assist with the implementation of the Code on the Rights

OUTCOME 1



Photo: UNDP

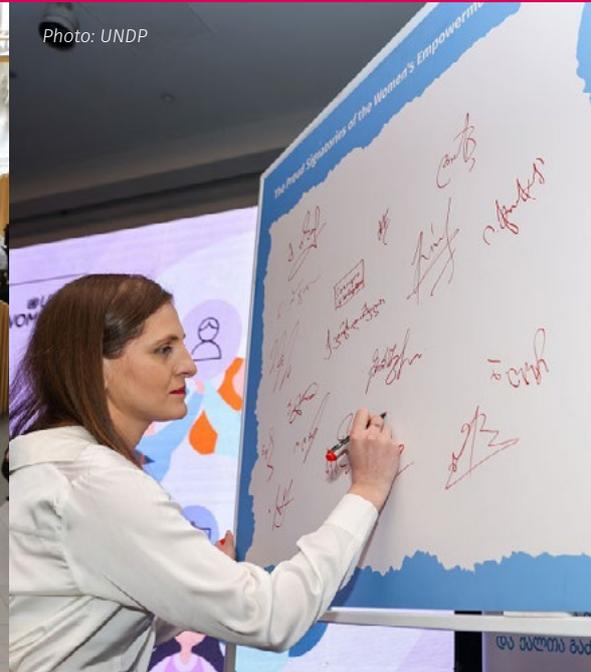


Photo: UNDP

of the Child, with particular attention in relation to separation of the child from the family as a measure of last resort, through improving methodologies, building capacity of judges, social workers, and lawyers and improving intersectoral cooperation.

An assessment was conducted of the regulatory framework, programmes, and practices of the Juvenile Referral Center under the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation Agency. The UN prepared recommendations on the Juvenile Referral mechanism and a specialized residential service for children with behavior disorders. The diversion and mediation programme – an alternative mechanism to criminal proceedings, which prevents children from re-offending – was enhanced through building capacity of prosecutors, social workers and mediators. Capacity of justice professionals to work with child victims and witnesses of crime was strengthened through developing a relevant methodology and in-depth specialization training. Overall, about 800 justice and child protection specialists took

part in trainings on child friendly justice and child protection issues and multidisciplinary discussions.

The UN also helped to address population ageing by generating knowledge for policymakers and supporting healthy and active ageing at the local level. In 2022, a new municipal 60+ Club for a Healthy and Active Life was launched in Tbilisi, implementing best standards of active aging centres.

Geostat was supported in the preparations to conduct the Population Census in 2024 and in conducting Georgia's first-ever Time Use Survey, generating internationally comparable gender statistics. The UN also assisted Geostat in developing the Municipal Statistics Portal that for the first time ever is providing reliable data on social and economic performance at the local level in support of evidence-based policy making.

Persons granted international protection in Georgia were able to benefit from integration support, including access to social protection, education



44 municipalities assisted in development and adoption of gender equality action plans



Over **80 senior police officers** and **1,531 patrol police officers** trained on upholding the rights of persons with disabilities

Selected private companies **granted paternity** leave to their employees for the first time



and legal services. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine began, the UN assisted the Government and municipalities in simplifying the regulations on enrolment procedures in public preschools for Ukrainian children and helped to strengthen the capacity of teachers and preschool educators. The UN also strengthened the institutional capacity of state agencies involved in the process of identification, referral and response of unaccompanied and separated children. Together with the Government, the UN initiated the provision of a one-time child cash assistance for refugees to deal with hardship caused by the winter season.

The UN also contributed to the efforts of the Government to enhance migration management, including assistance in developing policy documents

on reintegration of returned Georgian migrants and on integration of foreign migrants residing in Georgia, and support to implementation of labour migration schemes.

UN continued close cooperation with the non-governmental, community and grassroots organizations, including feminist networks. Civil society – as a vital element of democracy, was further assisted in the pursuit to work with the most vulnerable communities across the country. Over 100 civil society organizations benefited from the capacity development opportunities, offered by the UN. Special focus was placed to support organizations working on rural and remote areas of Georgia. UN supported to strengthen existing networks and establish new ones, such as the Task Force on LGBTIQ+ rights.

Photo: Salome Sagaradze/UN Women



Podcasts for strengthening women with disabilities

Mariam Darbaidze, 23, is a novice vlogger. A sociologist by profession, she has her own channel on YouTube and mostly records vlogs about hearing impairment. She is a person with disability herself, and this inspired her to create an online platform.

“Nobody knows this [experience] better than a person with hearing impairment,” says Mariam, “not even a parent or anybody else. It was important to me that those with this disability spoke about the issue themselves and were free in what they said. That is why I applied [to participate in the series]. I think my podcasts really promoted mainstreaming of women’s problems.”

Mariam was one of the five authors who recorded a series of podcasts called “Gender and Disabilities” for the popular media platform Feminstream. The project was carried out by the Women’s Fund in Georgia with the support of the Joint Programme “Transforming Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in Georgia” implemented by UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA and OHCHR with the generous support of the Joint SDG Fund.

The authors of the podcasts reviewed important topics, such as property rights and mental health problems of women with disabilities, women with disabilities and motherhood, sexual abuse, and the importance of the social model for women with disabilities. In total, the 16 podcasts prepared as part of the initiative generated up to 125,200 views.



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

The UN's technical assistance enabled Georgia to provide improved people-centred health services through strengthening the universal healthcare system, supporting primary healthcare reform and introducing digital health solutions, including telemedicine services. The UN also supported the strengthening of quality maternal health and childcare services. Technical assistance was provided to end tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis epidemics and to eliminate cervical cancer. Inputs were provided for strengthening the national immunization programme, including delivering cold chain equipment for one-third of primary healthcare facilities in the country.

The UN contributed to the further update of the National Strategy and the Action Plan on non-communicable diseases, draft National Strategy and the action plan for physical activity and fostered sustainable implementation of the tobacco policy and legislation.

To ensure strengthened national preparedness and response to COVID-19, the UN supported coordinated procurement of diagnostic tests, personal protective equipment items and 1,793 items of critical medical equipment, reaching approximately 1 million beneficiaries in 8 regional hospital centres. The UN also strengthened skills and knowledge of healthcare workers to treat severe cases of COVID-19.



Photo: UNHCR

Solid ground was established for introduction of the school nutrition programme, including development of standards, and building skills and knowledge of education professionals.

The UN supported the Government in strengthening policy environment and the system for provision of inclusive and quality education for all children, including children with special educational needs and disabilities, integrating education on health and personal safety issues and building capacities at the municipal and central levels for provision of quality early childhood education and care.

The UN supported the Ministry of Education and Science in the development of the National Education and Science Strategy (2022-2030) and its action plan as a central framework for strengthening the education system. Policy dialogue for advancing the education system was supported by the UN, through assisting the Government in preparations for the global Transforming Education Summit, including

Contributing UN Entities



Expenditures in 2022:

7,073,965 \$





OUTCOME 2



Photo: UNICEF



national consultations and developing a national statement of commitment for safe learning and a national report.

Early childhood education and care was improved through developing capacity of over 400 preschool educators, assisting the national and municipal governments in implementation of the Law on Early and Preschool Education and Care and preschool quality standards, and supporting implementation of quality standards in 12 pilot preschools.

The UN promoted decentralization of teacher in-service training by initiating training programmes through the Child Rights Centres of seven state universities including capacity building of 25 university lecturers who trained 315 teachers in 105 public schools. Recommendations for the improvement of teacher pre-service training were developed and integrated in bachelor and master level programmes.

Education system reforms were strengthened by assisting the Government in the development of

a model inclusive education support system and training more than 120 education professionals. Inclusive, non-formal, after school programmes were modelled in 35 public schools supporting 500 vulnerable children.

The UN continued to support the implementation of the EU-funded Eastern Partnership European School Programme. Another cohort of 40 scholarship students from the countries of Eastern Partnership successfully graduated with the International Baccalaureate diploma.

With the UN assistance, the integration of health (including reproductive health) and personal safety topics in the formal education system was advanced, including through piloting the School Doctor's Hour at the elementary education level.

The UN helped to strengthen child protection and social work, including introduction of a new model of foster care in Georgia, which prioritizes family-type care. An integrated service for child victims of sexual



1 million beneficiaries reached in support to COVID-19 response in **8 regional hospital centres**



315 teachers in **105 public schools** trained on child rights

Early childhood education and care was improved through developing capacity of over **400 preschool educators**



Bolstering the **Consultation Center** of the **Labour Inspection Office**



OUTCOME 2



Photo: WHO



abuse (Barnahus) was launched in March 2022 and already provided services to 92 children. With the UN's support, ten municipalities have introduced models of child-centered, needs-based social planning.

The UN supported the Government in fulfilling the obligations provided in the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The UN support, inter alia, was directed to facilitate the introduction of the biopsychosocial assessment of persons with disabilities, adopting the National Rehabilitation Strategy and the action plan, as well as improving the legislative framework and integrating rights and needs of persons with disabilities in health and social services. Antenatal care Standard Operating Procedures for Women with Disabilities were developed with the UN assistance.

Furthermore, in efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion in delivering state services, the State Care Agency was supported in building knowledge and developing national guidelines for social workers on

engaging with ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ communities, and persons with disabilities.

State-provided support mechanism to enhance labour rights of the most vulnerable groups has been strengthened by bolstering the Consultation Center of the Labour Inspection Office.

With the UN support, the government was able to further enhance national and local capacities to advance gender equality and combat domestic violence, violence against women and violence and harassment at the workplace. The software for the nationwide violence against women and domestic violence hotline 116006 has been updated to improve the quality of and access to the service. The State Care Agency continued renovating the building of a new shelter for victims of violence against women/ domestic violence in Tbilisi to be opened in early 2023. Moreover, 192 professionals, including police officers, lawyers and social workers were trained on efficient response to violence against women/ domestic violence cases and hate crimes against



10 municipalities have introduced models of child-centered, needs-based social planning



Returned Georgian migrants in **10 municipalities** and Tbilisi City benefitted from information, counselling and referral services

192 professionals, including police officers, lawyers and social workers were trained on efficient response to violence **against women/ domestic violence cases and hate crimes against the LGBTQI+ persons**



Integrating rights and needs of persons with disabilities in health and social services



Disability inclusion for refugees in Georgia

The challenges of fleeing to a foreign country can be overwhelming for anyone, especially persons with disabilities. Moreover, people with complex health needs must navigate unfamiliar health systems to access essential services and assistive products while dealing with language barriers, financial hardships and psychological trauma, among others. The above barriers and protection risks paint a grim picture on the experience of refugees with disabilities.

In light of this, the new joint programme funded by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), aims to address the challenges of Ukrainian refugees with disabilities in Georgia, focusing on the protection needs, barriers and opportunities to providing protection. The programme is being undertaken with the European Disability Forum, four UN agencies, Georgian civil society organizations of persons with disabilities, and key government ministries.

“I believe that projects like this can really help people with disabilities, including refugees from Ukraine. I'm happy to use my personal and professional experience to make this kind of difference,” said Mariya Yasenovska, who fled from Kharkiv after the war broke out and now supports the European Disability Forum as its Human Rights Officer.

More than 180,000 citizens of Ukraine have entered the territory of Georgia since 24 February 2022 (UNHCR data). As of November 2022, around 25,000 remained in Georgia. The Government of Georgia ensured that Ukrainians who fled the war were granted access to health care but there is still room for greater inclusion of refugees with disabilities within displacement-affected communities.

Photo: WHO

the LGBTIQ+ persons. The Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics was supported to train 201 media representatives on gender-sensitive and ethical reporting on women's rights and LGBTIQ+ related issues.

Returned Georgian migrants in ten municipalities and Tbilisi City benefitted from information, counselling and referral services provided by Service Hubs established through cooperation with local authorities.



Photo: Gela Bedianashvili/UNFPA



Inclusive, non-formal, after school programmes were modelled in

35 public schools supporting

500 vulnerable children



BY 2025, ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BENEFIT FROM A SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT ECONOMY IN GEORGIA

The UN continued to contribute towards an inclusive economy and development of human capital in Georgia, with specific focus on decent work and women empowerment.

To promote private sector competitiveness, the UN continued assistance to 150 companies in the packaging cluster in their transition to green and circular economy through building capacity in business digitalization, extended producer responsibility, business process automatization and access to finances. The UN facilitated provision of strategic investments to businesses and strengthened their access to state-of-the-art knowledge. Moreover, 25 packaging companies were supported in accessing German and Spanish markets with the engagement of Georgian diaspora.

The UN also provided e-commerce support and coaching to pharmaceutical, jewellery and toys industries and promotes the Good Manufacturing Practice introduction at the pharmaceutical cluster. Digitalise Your Business module enabled the Georgian Employers Association to promote digitalization and access to finance among micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Regional trade, transportation capabilities and road safety were enhanced through support to national road safety strategy development, reviewing the operational rail capacity of the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Istanbul corridors and fostering dialogue among railway, transport, and customs senior officials from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkey,



and Uzbekistan, leading to a priority action list on harmonizing existing tariffs and services.

The UN helped to advance sustainable and inclusive agricultural and rural development, including economic diversification, job creation, women and youth skills improvement in the use of digital tools, inclusive and sustainable growth of green economy and institutionalisation of bottom-up policy planning in rural development. Smart villages were promoted through increased awareness and introduction of digital tools benefitting over 2,500 people. The UN continued to prioritize the provision of agricultural



Contributing UN Entities





OUTCOME 3



Photo: UN Women



Photo: UN Women

extension services by enhancing the capacity of Information Consultation Centres both centrally and locally and providing extension services and capacity building to local farmers.

The UN developed a Mating Disruption Programme for grape producers, leading to a significant reduction in chemical treatments, increased yields of up to 40%, and improved wine quality. The capacity of various fruit producers was developed to promote locally produced niche products.

Development of the national seedling certification system was enabled, thus reducing use of pesticides, increasing yields, and improving overall product quality. The UN also provided the Government with the recommendations to improve analysis for crop production, enhancing Georgia's food resilience.

The UN helped launch NAITS II, an electronic system that ensures food safety and animal health and enables consumers to access information on animal product safety.

A comprehensive pasture situation analysis in the 3 regions of Samtskhe Javakheti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Imereti was conducted to pave the way for the adoption of sustainable pasture management practices at national level. Inventory of 43,275 ha forest in Algeti National Park and Lagodekhi and Javakheti Protected areas was implemented to support sustainable management plans.

The UN contributed to implementation of new standards for vocational education and training providers and improving teaching practices together with the private sector with 48 public-private partnerships formed to create dedicated training programmes. The UN also supported introducing instruments for identification of youth neither in education, employment or training, assessing their needs and designing catch-up courses for rural youth as a model for replication.

Tangible progress was made towards women's economic empowerment. The first state programme for small landowner rural women was launched by



150 companies in the packaging cluster helped to transition to green and circular economy



First state programme for small landowner rural women was launched by the Rural Development Agency with the UN technical support

Mating Disruption Programme for grape producers, leading to a significant reduction in chemical treatments, increased yields of up to **40% improved wine quality**



Development of the national seedling certification system was enabled

the Rural Development Agency with the UN technical support. Women's economic empowerment actions were mainstreamed into the local development plans and actions.

More than 170 private companies are signatories to the Women's Empowerment Principles, of which 66 joined in 2022. The first Georgian manual on diversity, equity and inclusion was developed for human resources professionals in these companies, to guide their workplace policies and procedures.

With the UN initiative, the National Bank of Georgia amended the Corporate Governance Code for Commercial Banks to increase women representation in the supervisory board from 20 per cent to no less than 33 per cent quota rule.

In partnership with the private sector, a Business Advisory Council for Children platform was launched to support the realization of children's rights in the context of the workplace, the market and the community.

To enhance social protection, the UN continued support to the development of various aspects of the Social Code, including the social insurance component. Cost assessment was conducted for the implementation of an unemployment insurance scheme in Georgia. Together with Geostat, the UN conducted the Child Welfare Survey and completed Real Time Monitoring. This data contributed to the government introducing a 50% increase of child cash benefit and improving the coverage of the benefit. The UN also initiated surveys to inform the development of a model for optimizing social protection measures for children with disabilities.

Labour Inspection Office strengthened its institutional capacity and Georgian Trade Union Confederation was capacitated to generate data on wages, gender pay gaps, and occupational health and safety.

The UN strengthened government capacities to support reintegration of returning Georgian migrants and helped enhance regular migration pathways

for Georgian nationals through implementation of Bilateral Labour Agreements. Over 1,231 work permits were issued to Georgian workers for seasonal works in Germany. A network of one-stop Service Hubs was created in 12 municipalities to promote economic reintegration of Georgian returnees.



Photo: Vladimir Valishvili / UN

Boosting family income

"Little did I think then that the project would help create an additional source of income and would change the lives of my fellow women villagers!" says Ketevan Kruashvili, who lives in the Khertvisi village, Aspindza region. She is one of the members of One Village One Product (OVOP) group "Tuta" that have taken charge of mulberry production and, in turn, of their own destiny.

Originated in Japan, the OVOP is a model based on which people in a village decide on a single product that is unique to their area. Six women in Khertvisi produce different products from mulberry, locally known as tuta. They purchase raw products from up to 50 beneficiaries, receive orders online and sell delicious products across Georgia.

Together with the national partners and donors, the UN supports women-led economic initiatives in rural communities to boost local development and enhance livelihoods.



First Georgian manual on diversity, equity and inclusion was developed for human resources professionals



Business Advisory Council for Children launched

National Bank of Georgia amended the Corporate Governance Code for commercial banks to increase **women representation** in the supervisory boards from **20% to 33%** per cent



A network of one-stop Service Hubs created in **12 municipalities** to support reintegration of Georgian returnees



BY 2025, CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS, ENHANCED HUMAN SECURITY AND RESILIENCE



The UN Country Team in Georgia continued its support to conflict affected communities to enable them to enjoy human rights, enhanced human security and resilience. These efforts include programming activities in Abkhazia based on the internationally recognized human rights standards and humanitarian principles.

Support to facilitate access to health services in Abkhazia was continued, including in the areas of maternal and child healthcare and immunization. Access to vaccination was improved for up to 10,500 children and adolescents. Throughout the year, 3,375 women benefited from the UN-supported sexual and reproductive health services.

With the UN support, Sukhumi Referral Consultancy Hub was equipped with telehealth conferencing equipment to support health referrals for more than 600 patients to access quality healthcare in Tbilisi-administered territory.



Photo: Ana Jikia/FAO



Photo: Leli Blagonravova/UN Women

Psychological and legal services were also provided to vulnerable beneficiaries to enhance their access to services and basic rights, including through documentation. The UN provided legal counselling and assistance to 1,002 conflict-affected persons of

Contributing UN Entities



Expenditures in 2022: 11,188,230 \$



Photo: UNHCR



Photo: UNDP

whom 68% were women. Victims of domestic- and gender-based violence in Abkhazia also received help with the UN support. The UN also maintained its efforts to uphold freedom of movement for vulnerable groups across the Enguri bridge.

In education, the UN continued its support to quality education through teacher training and youth development activities. Water and sanitation facilities were upgraded in nine schools in Abkhazia, benefitting 2,983 children. Access to vocational education and training was enhanced for over 200 conflict-affected youth through Business Education Centres in Sukhumi and Ochamchire.

The UN continued to strengthen basic social services for children and their families, including supporting child protection mechanisms in all districts, supporting 30 social workers who are working with vulnerable children, training child protection professionals, and development of a conceptual framework for strengthening alternative care. In addition, the UN continued efforts to stimulate

positive social change through communication on child's rights and public awareness raising events on such topics as good parenting practices.

Support to livelihoods included raising the capacity of farming community through the diffusion of sustainable practices. Technical consultations were provided to 132 farmers, of whom 54 were women. Moreover, 689 women farmers were supported through training sessions on dairy production and sharing best practices in animal husbandry via forty farmer fields schools.

The UN also focused on ensuring that communities vulnerable to natural disasters improve their preparedness and resilience. Three small-scale community-based early warning systems were established and small initiatives on environment protection and flood prevention measures reached more than 8,200 people.

Support to civil society in Abkhazia enabled the expanding of the local network to over 170 civil society organizations and initiative groups. The UN-supported



3,375 women benefited from the UN-supported **sexual and reproductive health services**



Access to vaccination was improved for up to **10,500 children and adolescents**

Water and sanitation facilities were upgraded in **9 schools** in Abkhazia, benefitting **2,983 children**



Legal counseling and assistance to **1,002 conflict-affected persons**



Civic Resource Center in Sukhumi continued to serve as networking hub for local civil society organizations organizing over 50 events benefitting more than 500 participants.

The UN supported a network of volunteers among the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia to promote communication with the Georgian government and thus support access to services, including livelihood and housing programmes. Support was provided to the Government in the participatory process of drafting the IDP Action Plan for 2023-2024.



Photo: UNHCR

With the support of the UN and other partners, the Government of Georgia adopted the fourth stand-alone National Action Plan of Georgia for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security for 2022-2024. The UN also promoted other aspects of the women, peace and security agenda, including increased involvement of women and civil society activists in platforms dealing with consequences of conflict, such as Geneva International Discussions and Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism.

The UN contributed to gender mainstreaming and capacity building in key security sector institutions. In addition, a participatory gender audit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was completed, and its recommendations will be integrated into institutional action plans and policy documents.



Photo: Nino Zedginidze/UNDP

Creating opportunities and possibilities for women affected by conflict

Mako Chkadua and Malo Kotua, originally from Abkhazia and now based in Samegrelo region, turned their passion for handicrafts into an opportunity for disadvantaged women.

Under the EU4Dialogue programme, Mako and Malo trained 42 women in one of four handicraft areas: knitting, embroidery, tailoring, and macramé. They say the initiative helps women professionally grow, earn a living, improve their livelihoods, and increase their self-reliance. In addition, considering their lived experience as internally displaced people, the two women aspire to contribute to social cohesion and community resilience.

"As internally displaced persons (IDPs), we always had the problem of integrating into host communities. Our children's generation is different, but in our childhood, people would make clear distinctions between IDPs and locals. Mako explains that by training women in handicrafts, 'Hands for Peace' contributes to social cohesion and helps the displaced and host communities to find a common ground.

Both Mako and Malo are optimistic about the future. They see that their work on empowering women yields results. Six of their students already found employment at the enterprises run by their trainers.





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



The UN provided comprehensive support to Georgia ranging from addressing climate change, disaster risk reduction to sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, and biodiversity conservation.

The UN collaborated with the Government in finalizing key strategic documents to meet Georgia's obligations under Paris Agreement, Energy Community acquis and the Association Agreement with the EU. Support was provided in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution to develop a financial strategy and investment planning with recommendations for resource mobilization. A study assessing Georgia's alignment with EU Green Deal was conducted to enable the Government to identify gaps in national legislation and policy to promote alignment with the EU. The UN also facilitated the introduction of licensing system for Ozone Depleting Substances and improving regulation to align with the EU standards.

The UN conducted a legal review to develop recommendations for improvement of national institutional and legal frameworks for disaster risk management. The UN provided technical support to Georgia's voluntary national report as part of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including progress review and future implementation recommendations. The UN also increased public understanding of climate-driven disasters through initiatives such as Green Scholarships, Green Camps, and Forums.



Contributing UN Entities





Photo: UNDP

The UN developed the INFORM Subnational Risk Model Index for 11 regions in Georgia, allowing for better decision-making on prevention, preparedness, and disaster response. Capacity development was provided to six municipalities through emergency management plans and staff training.

Climate-induced natural hazard observation networks were expanded and equipped with monitoring equipment. National hazard maps and risk assessments were produced for four hazards (wind, hail, avalanche, drought), and multi-hazard risk maps were developed for three major river basins in western Georgia. A flood early warning platform was developed with four river basins and is currently in testing mode. Flood-protective structural measures were finalized in five high-risk locations, protecting the households and agricultural lands of over 20,400 people from flooding.

Integrated climate-smart health surveillance system and decarbonization roadmap for healthcare facilities prepared with the UN support will assess risks to human health linked to climate change and inform adaptation policies.

A national clean air dialogue was conducted with the UN assistance to improve awareness of the issue of air quality and related policy actions.

The UN-proposed Environmental Health Surveillance System was approved by the government, allowing



Photo: UNDP

for monitoring lead levels in children and tracking the sources of lead exposure. The system can be expanded to monitor other environmental pollutants in the future. A Climate Landscape Assessment for Children Survey was carried out to analyze existing information on climate change and environmental threats that children in Georgia face.

In addition, with the UN support Georgian specialists participated in internationally capacity building activities on enhancing health impact assessment practice, sound management of chemicals and waste, and health-related priorities in chemical safety.





Photo: UNDP



Photo: FAO



Photo: UNICEF

The UN also extended support to Georgia for the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022.

In Guria, the UN purchased and installed water filtration systems in 31 schools, 1 preschool, 2-day care centers, and 3 hospitals to prevent waterborne diseases and the spread of infections. Adolescents from those municipalities that suffer the most from poor water quality were trained on water safety, water testing, and related advocacy methods. As a result, they led advocacy campaigns and water quality promotion events, engaging 9,380 peers and community members.

The UN provided technical support to the Government to develop a climate-smart agriculture Country Profile. In addition, the UN analyzed the adverse impacts of state agricultural subsidies on biodiversity and developed the roadmap for reforming and reducing subsidies. The UN also provided support in drafting a law on food loss and waste reduction, food recovery and redistribution. The National Food Agency in Georgia was supported

in selection and acquisition of effective insecticides and strengthening capabilities for locust surveillance and control. The UN trained 1,200 farmers on Climate-Smart Agriculture, Good Agricultural Practices, and Integrated Pest Management.

The Agency of Protected Areas was assisted in developing 9-year management plans for 2 additional protected areas. Biodiversity indicators monitoring programme was implemented in 12 protected areas. National guidelines were developed for designation and management of protected landscapes in Georgia.

The UN also developed a draft National Pasturelands Management Policy with a focus on implementing Land Degradation Neutrality targets.

For sustainable forest management practices, UN also supported with transition to cleaner energy and profitable timber management. Government was assisted in developing a profitable and sustainable timber management and sales model to increase revenues for the National Forestry Agency to finance



Capacity development was provided to **6 municipalities** through emergency management plans and staff training



Environmental Health Surveillance System was approved by the government, allowing for monitoring lead levels in children and tracking the sources of lead exposure

Flood-protective structural measures were finalized in five high-risk locations, protecting the households and agricultural lands of over **20,400 people** from flooding





forest conservation activities. In the field of water resource management, the UN assisted in the development of guidelines on environmental impact assessment in the hydropower sector.

UN has provided capacity building to the Government and fostered dialogue with counterparts from Armenia and Azerbaijan on climate change



Photo: UNDP

adaptation, especially in the mountainous regions of the South Caucasus. Practitioners, researchers and decision-makers have learnt about concrete adaptation solutions through Mountains ADAPT: Solutions from the South Caucasus booklet inspiring uptake of climate action. The South Caucasus region has also gained visibility through the www.mountains-connect.org online space on mountain range governance.

Georgia benefitted from several UN-developed regional tools on energy efficiency standards in construction and on renewable energy solutions for micro, small and medium enterprises. The UN also assisted eight Georgian small and medium-sized companies in agriculture and hospitality sectors to implement eco-innovation measures in their operations and management systems.



Photo: Anka Gujabidze/UNDP

Georgian women fuel community-based climate action

“Reinforcing riverbanks and establishing hydrometeorological monitoring is extremely important, as is letting people know what to expect and how to act during floods. This will help reduce losses and protect communities better,” said Shorena Chapurishvili, a local climate activist from the small Georgian town of Akhmeta. She shows by her example that every person can contribute to climate-proofing our world.

With a support grant she established a community-based rapid response squad that will serve three villages alongside Zemo Khodashnis Khevi, informing people what to do to stay safe before, during and after a flood.

“We are working with local councils and schools and engaging teachers and community organizations. Women and youth can play a game-changing role. They form public opinions, influence their families and are very effective in spreading the message,” said Chapurishvili.

Chapurishvili’s work has sparked interest of surrounding villages. Self-governance representatives, schools and citizens are ready to join or support the emergency response squad when it becomes fully operational this spring. Her work — and the efforts of many other climate activists across Georgia — holds the promise that local solutions and initiatives will help prepare people for climate change impacts and inspire them to work together to build a stronger and more resilient society.



Photo: UNFPA

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2022, the UN in Georgia continued to strengthen its partnerships and coordination with key stakeholders, including the Government at national and local levels, development partners, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector. Collaboration with these key actors was instrumental in ensuring the success of the UN's support for Georgia's national development priorities.

The UN provided extensive support to the Government of Georgia to facilitate the work of the national SDG Council and its four Working Groups, which promote policy coherence for development and oversee the monitoring and reporting of Georgia's advancement towards the 2030 Agenda. The SDG Council is composed of relevant Government ministries, UN agencies, private sector, civil society representatives and international organizations.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia continued to chair the working group dedicated to coordination efforts of the development partners active in

Georgia. The working group brings together bilateral and multilateral donors and resident international financial institutions working in Georgia. In addition, development partners jointly contribute to the work of six Government-led thematic coordination groups that serve to build a shared understanding of the priorities, achievements and needs, and support alignment of government expenditures and related donor support towards priority areas within Agenda 2030 in Georgia.

Moreover, the UN Resident Coordinator chaired the work of Abkhazia Strategic Partnership, which comprises UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations working in Abkhazia. The Partnership serves as a platform for information-sharing and collaboration towards joint reporting and improved resource mobilization. In 2022, the UN fostered coherence between development, humanitarian and peacebuilding actions through a joint training on conflict sensitivity for members of Abkhazia Strategic Partnership facilitated by the UN System Staff College.





The UN also pursued improved bilateral cooperation with major development partners. The UN Country Team held strategic exchanges with key ambassadors and mission members to discuss future strategies, political environment and identify joint priorities and future cooperation modalities in support of Georgia's reform and development agenda.

Throughout the year the UN in Georgia has issued several joint statements together with the diplomatic missions and international organizations to amplify the messages on human rights and gender equality.

The private sector is an important partner for the UN that plays a crucial role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. In 2022, the UN in Georgia was partnering with more than 150 local companies in 16 sectors on issues such as economic development, women's empowerment, eradicating gender-based violence, promoting labour market inclusion of refugees, and involving Georgian diaspora in the country's development. Future priorities identified by a joint assessment include expanding partnerships in the areas of affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities and climate action.

UN created unique and innovative partnership opportunities through the organization of agro-markets, which established partnerships and connections among retailers, producers, and consumers of various agricultural products.



In terms of innovative partnerships, in 2022 UN utilized advanced methods to create a diaspora register, which involved broad diaspora mapping at the global level, using the modern technology of applied onomastics for big data mining. The result was an extensive database of Georgian diaspora professionals whose knowledge and expertise may be of value to Georgia's social and economic development.

The emphasis of the agro-markets was on empowering rural women, which comprised 58% of private sector participants. Consequently, the UN contributed to the increase in productivity and

income of farmers and supported overall gender equality and partnerships in the sector.

Furthermore, the second phase of the innovative UN joint initiative promoted the use of remote healthcare services by applying behavioural insights to address low uptake of HIV testing among youth. The initiative resulted in setting up a website for remote self-test ordering services for youth and a temporary hotline connecting the young people in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi with medical professionals. The initiative brought together over ten local and international partners, including the National Centre for Disease Control, Caucasus Research Resource Centre, Czech Caritas, AHF Georgia, and Tanadgoma Centre for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health. In support of South-South partnerships, the UN fa-



Photo: UN Georgia

cilitated the provision of technical assistance by the Government of Georgia to justice professionals from North Macedonia and helped to conduct study visits of high-level officials from the Maldives and Tajikistan focusing on child welfare, deinstitutionalization, and juvenile justice. Consultations also took place with Turkey on emergency foster care.

Financing for Sustainable Development Goals was supported by a publication of a set of guidelines and strategies to identify and resolve gaps and barriers for climate financing in Georgia. The UN-produced document proposes the investment programmes and implementation roadmap to fulfil actions provided for by Georgia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution.



4



Photo: Gela Bedjanashvili/UN Georgia

WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

In 2022, The UN Country Team in Georgia continued to strengthen its capacities to deliver as one and enhance synergies by pursuing joint programming, advocacy, communication and fostering business efficiencies.

The joint planning and reporting modalities enabled the UN Country Team to develop a better mutual understanding of each entity's work and identify possibilities for further synergies. Five Results Groups comprised support the implementation of each of the five UNSDCF Outcomes under the overall oversight of the Steering Committee comprised of senior UN and Government officials. These efforts were further supported by the joint analysis and actions carried out by the UN Country Team's thematic working groups on various cross-cutting issues, such as human rights, youth, gender, communications and others.

In terms of joint delivery, thirteen UN joint programmes with the overall budget of close to 50 million USD were ongoing in 2022 focusing on different priorities, including better protection of

human rights, transforming social protection system for people with disabilities, gender equality, support to conflict-affected communities, rural development and private sector competitiveness. Of these, seven joint programmes were launched in 2022, including two initiatives responding to the regional impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine by strengthening Georgia's food and energy resilience and enhancing inclusion and protection of Ukrainian refugees with disabilities.

The UN continued to pursue joint communication and advocacy to highlight key development achievement and concerns and give voice to marginalized and vulnerable people. Seven joint statements issued by the UN in 2022, some together with other development partners, aimed to highlight key messages on human rights. In addition to regular campaigns around the International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, and the Human Rights Week, several new initiatives were launched, including to combat hate speech. The UN also provided support for the Tbilisi Women's





was opened at the Caucasus International University, and four SDG Zones, platforms for promotion of sustainable development, were unveiled in regions, including at the Telavi History Museum.

International Conference and the photo exhibition hosted by the President of Georgia, H.E. Salome Zourabichvili. To promote gender equality and women's empowerment agenda as an integral and critical part of Georgia's democratic and sustainable development, a High-Level National Conference on Gender Equality was organized by the United Nations Country Team's Gender Theme Group in partnership with the Government of Georgia and civil society organizations in December 2022.

Joint communications, outreach and advocacy included a campaign to further enhance support for the SDGs. The UN supported the SDG Science Picnic organized by Ilia State University and science-popularization groups from Georgia to promote science and its links with various aspects of development. Over 2,400 students from universities and schools attended SDG-related dialogues, briefings, and outreach events. A UN SDG Laboratory



Photos: UN Georgia

In addition, #committoACT campaign was organized to raise awareness and galvanize action on the themes of sustainable cities and road safety. The campaign included a high-level conference, education outreach events, photo exhibition, distribution of promo materials, comprehensive social media campaign that gave a voice to influencers and activists, the civil society, youth, and government representatives.

In an effort to promote climate action and awareness, a UN campaign in Tbilisi, Batumi and other municipalities promoted plastic waste separation





Tbilisi Women's International Conference

Leaders on Conflicts, Peace, and Security

JUNE 17, 2022 | Tbilisi, Georgia



Photo: TWIC

practices and sustainable lifestyles. The campaign also assisted local communities in introducing climate-savvy solutions to improve protection from floods and other extreme weather events. The UN also supported Niko Ketskhoveli School Award to promote environmental education at schools.



Photo: UN Georgia

Joint advocacy and public outreach activities to enhance UN visibility and bring its work closer to people of Georgia were strengthened through series of events organized to mark the 30th anniversary of Georgia's UN membership. The celebratory concert by world-renowned and young musicians was attended by senior government officials, representatives of the diplomatic corps, civil society, academia, media and the private sector partners. The 30th anniversary events also included briefings for young people about the UN's work, photo exhibitions, and screening a short film on the partnership between Georgia and the United Nations.

The UN continued efforts to enhance engagement with the local authorities and other stakeholders through joint Country Team visits to Samtskhe-



Javakheti, Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions to review current programming and assess evolving needs and opportunities for engagement in the light of the ongoing decentralization reform.

Moreover, the UN Network on Migration carried out activities aimed at building awareness, capacity and coordination of the Government, the civil society and the UN Country Team on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and related reporting.

Based on the recommendations of the 2021 UNCT-SWAP Scorecard standardized assessment of the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming of UN joint processes and institutional arrangements, the UN Country Team took steps to drive further improvements towards gender equality and empowerment of women.

Finally, the Operations Management Team in Georgia worked to implement the joint Business Operations Strategy in order to increase efficiency gains and introduce quality improvements to the UN common services in Georgia. The annual review conducted for the year 2022 identified annual cost savings of around 500,000 USD in cost-avoidance.





Photo:David Khelashvili/FAO



Smartphones are boosting gender equality in Georgia and beyond

Malika Machalikashvili’s farm in Pankisi Gorge was once pretty traditional. She and her family shared the day-to-day work of caring for the livestock and poultry, gardening the vegetables and taking care of the hazelnut orchard, along with a few fruit trees and berry bushes. She used to bring the produce to the local market or sometimes even to Tbilisi. Today, on top of the farm’s new additions, such as a greenhouse

and modern irrigation, perhaps the most novel change is that she now sells her produce using a smartphone.

For the last three years, Malika has been attending FAO trainings, which are financially supported by the European Union. These practical trainings, provided through Farmer Field Schools, teach smallholder farmers about better agricultural practices. Farmers learn by doing with practical work in demonstration plots and farms. These platforms have also proved very useful for teaching rural men and women about gender equality, gender-based violence and women’s economic empowerment.

Using the good agricultural practices she learned, Malika managed to improve soil fertility while also increasing the yields of her fruits and vegetables. With the increased yield, she recognised an opportunity to explore new channels for commerce.

Inspired by her colleague, Malika followed the advice during the first outbreak of COVID-19. With the help of her 14-year-old grandchild, she got accustomed to taking pictures, recording voice messages, as well as posting on social media and group messaging applications. She gradually attracted the interest of buyers. As a result, digital channels on her smartphone became new platforms for earning income.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

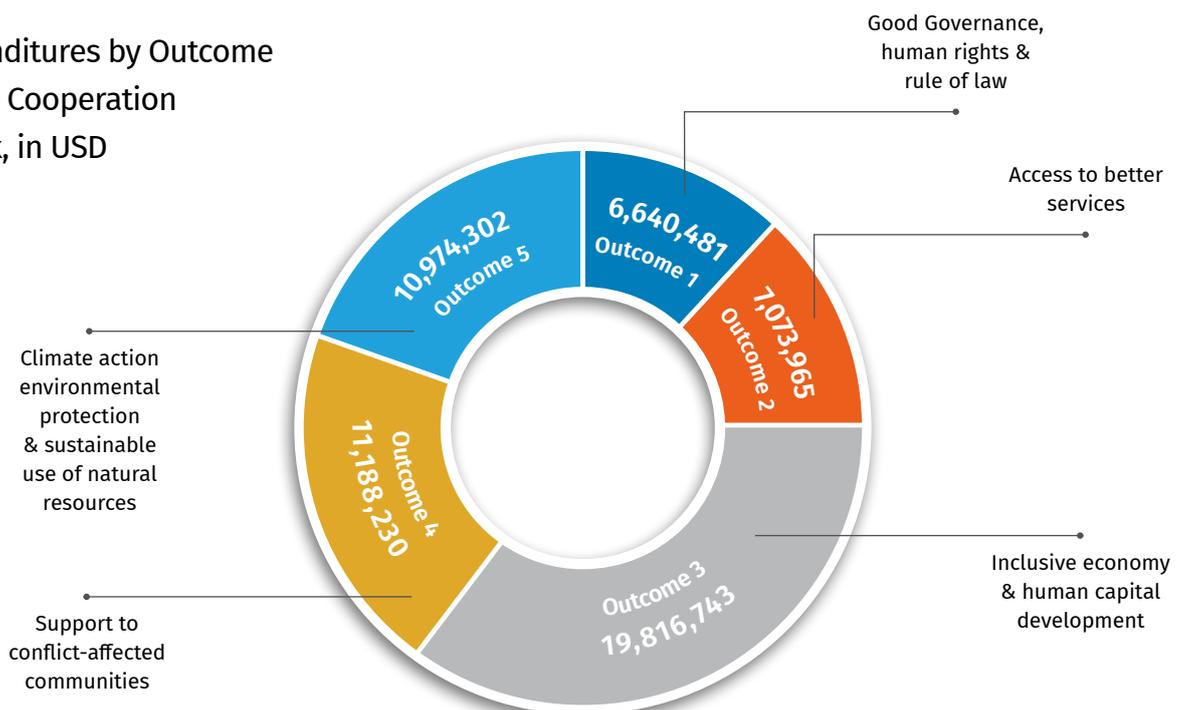
The UN channeled over 56 million USD for development support to Georgia in 2022, and over 115 million USD in total since the start of implementation of the five-year UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in 2021. By the end of 2022, the UN in Georgia mobilized half of over 265 million USD (76%) necessary for the implementation of the Cooperation Framework until the end of 2025. Most of the mobilized financial resources are non-earmarked, allowing for increased flexibility and multi-year planning together with strategic partners.

The most substantial funding gaps remain under UNSDCF Outcome 2: Access to Good Services (30%) and UNSDCF Outcome 3: Inclusive economy and human capital development (31%). The overall funding gap for the Cooperation Framework amounts to 24% and the UN would need to mobilize over 84 million USD of additional funding to be able to deliver on the intended results.

56 million USD
worth of development support
delivered by the UN in 2022

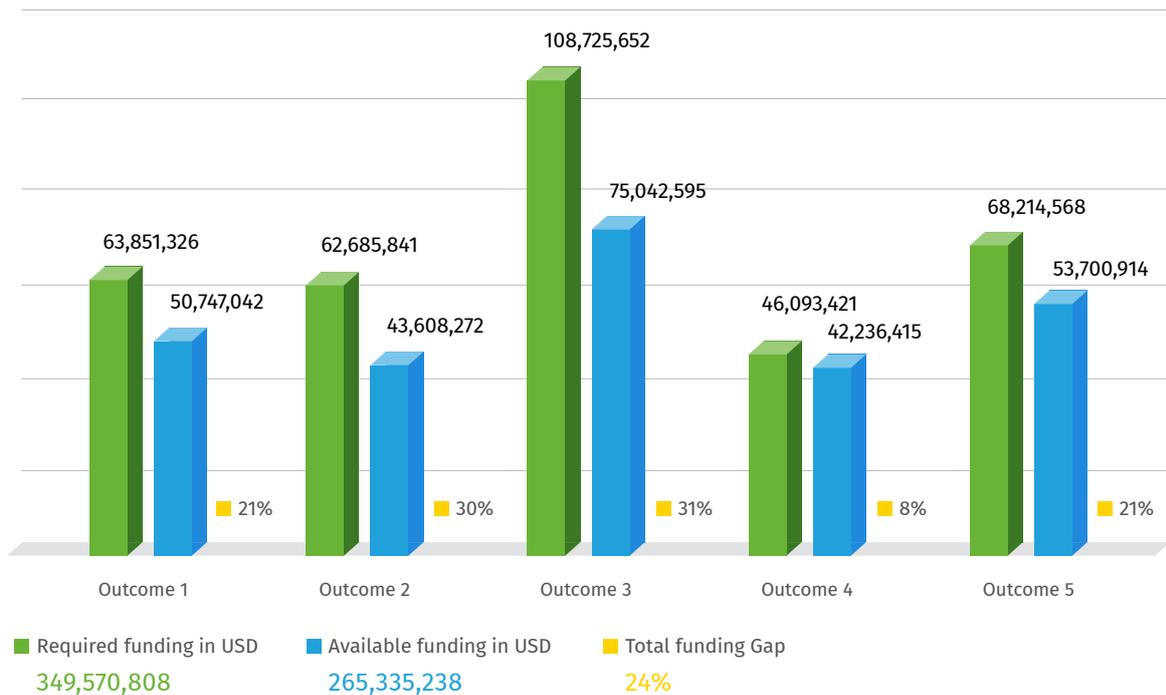


2022 expenditures by Outcome area of the Cooperation Framework, in USD

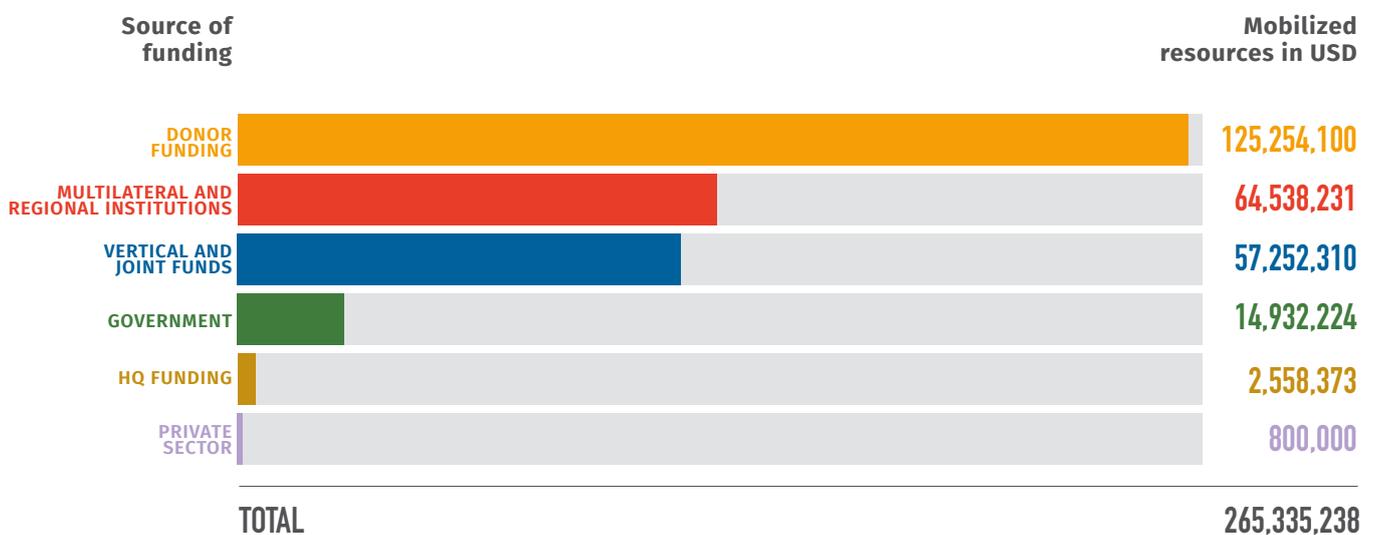




Total required and available resources by Outcome area of the Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025, in USD



Total financial contributions for 2021-2025 by funding source, in USD

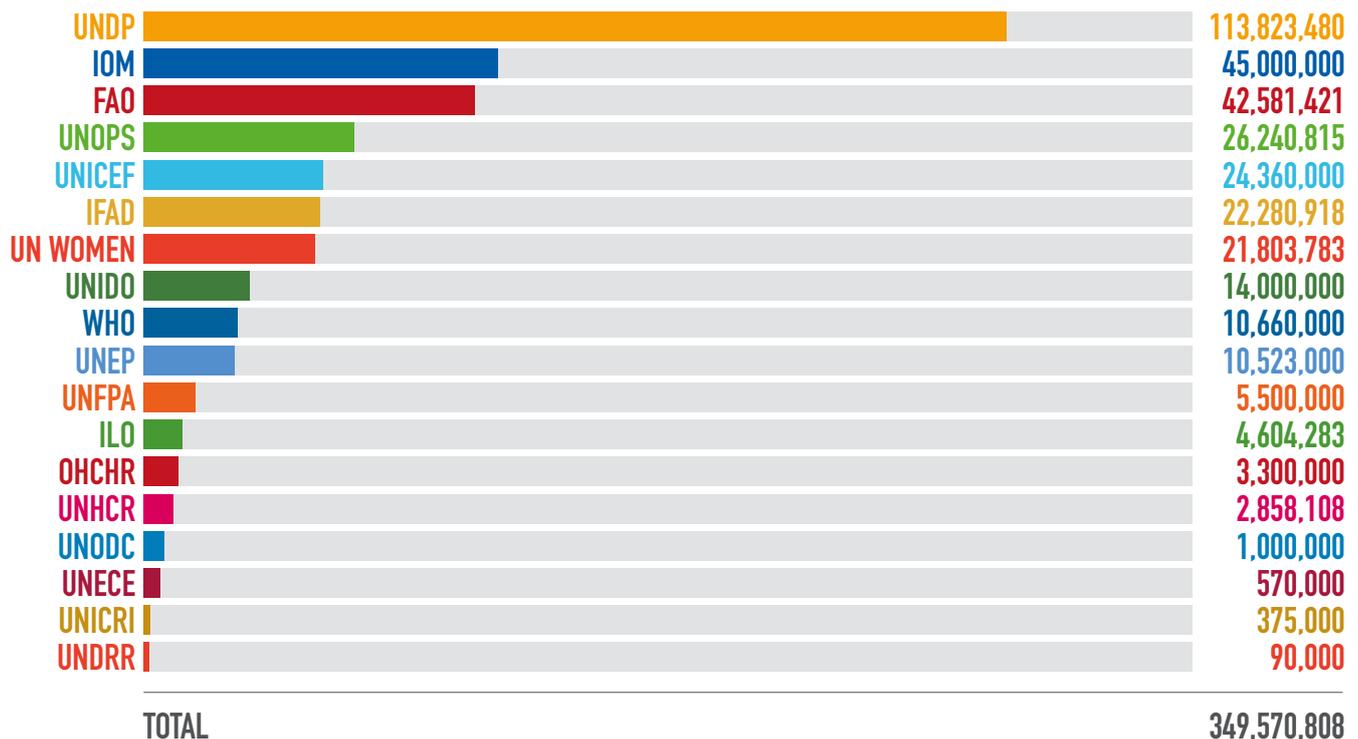




Total financial contributions for 2021-2025 by funding source and Outcome, in USD

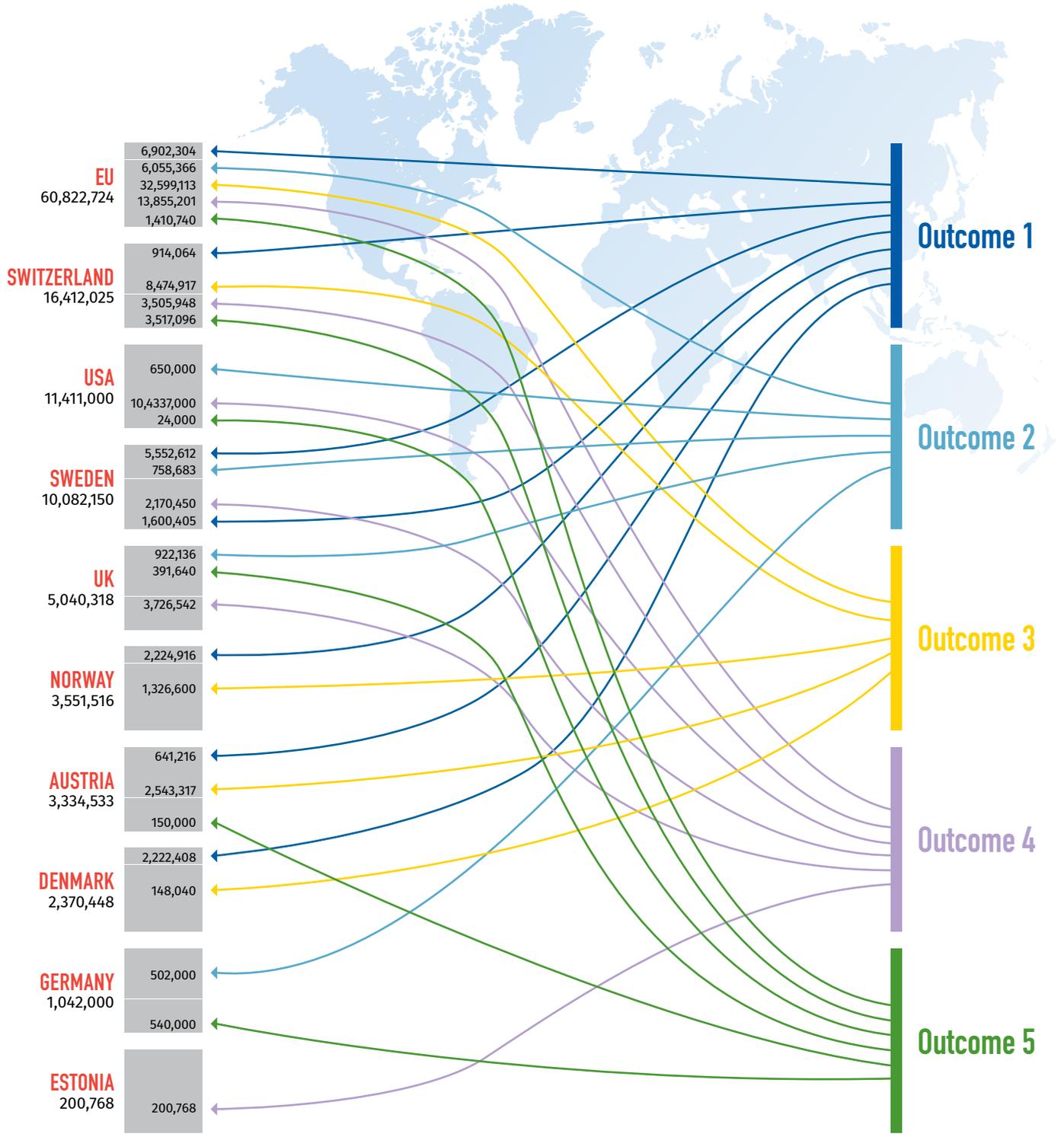
OUTCOME	Donor funding	Multilateral and regional institutions	Vertical and joint funds	Government	HQ funding	Private sector	TOTAL
1	20,703,637	21,082,998	6,391,261	1,009,576	1,559,571	11,846,648	50,747,042
2	12,208,199	15,937,265	3,616,160	11,846,648	11,846,648		43,608,272
3	53,862,922	18,439,050	2,570,622		11,846,648	170,000	75,042,595
4	28,583,624		11,074,334	2,066,000	11,846,648	512,456	42,236,415
5	9,895,717	9,078,918	33,599,933	10,000	11,846,648	316,346	53,700,914
TOTAL	125,254,100	64,538,231	57,252,310	14,932,224	114,654,510	2,558,373	265,335,238

Total planned budget for implementation of the Cooperation Framework in 2021-2025 by UN Country Team entity, in USD





Main donors to the implementation of the Cooperation Framework in Georgia in 2021-2025, in USD



6



Photo: Leli Blagonravova/UN Women

UN KEY FOCUS IN GEORGIA FOR 2023

The current UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Georgia for 2021-2025 was co-signed by the Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator as a shared commitment to building a more prosperous, peaceful, inclusive and resilient country.

In 2023, the UN will continue to uphold this commitment and provide support to implementation of strategic reforms to strengthen democratic reforms, gender equality and protection of human rights without leaving anyone in Georgia behind. The UN will prioritize assistance to people who experience multiple vulnerabilities, including children living in poverty, persons with disabilities, specific categories of women and girls, older persons, ethnic and religious minorities, people in conflict-affected communities, persons of non-dominant sexual orientation or gender identity, people on the move and informal economy workers.

We will also work to enhance human capital development, promote resilience and competitiveness of Georgian businesses, advance decent work agenda and foster social and economic transformation towards green economy, energy transition and environmental sustainability.

The UN will reinforce its support to the decentralization reform and empowering local governments to advance development agenda, especially in the fields of good governance, social protection and access to better services, economic diversification, rural development and civic integration. We will ensure coherence between peacebuilding, development and humanitarian assistance, in particular in conflict-affected communities across Georgia.

During 2023, UN Country Team will continue to implement its Business Operations Strategy, with dedicated efforts to identify and promote innovations in common business operations to support disability inclusion, gender equality and environmental protection. The UN will also strengthen its efforts to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse and tackle sexual harassment in the workplace with a focus on safe and accessible reporting, survivor-centered response, and enhanced accountability for all UN entities working in Georgia and their implementing partners.

Our work will remain embedded in genuine stakeholder participation, including partnerships with the Georgian authorities, civil society, social partners, media organizations, academia, Georgian diaspora and other actors who play a crucial role in a democracy and in sustainable development.





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UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM

UN House, 9, R. Eristavi St. Tbilisi 0179, Georgia

<https://georgia.un.org>