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UN Country Team Progress Report for Georgia

Annual Review of 2020 Results



April 2021



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UN Partnership for
Sustainable
Development (UNPSD)
Cooperation Framework
2016-2020

Delivering as One



UNDP
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNHCR
UN Women
FAO
OHCHR
ILO
UNIDO
UNODC
UNOPS
WHO
IOM
UNECE
IAEA
UNEP
UNESCO



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UN Partnership for Sustainable Development (UNPSD) Cooperation Framework 2016-2020

Five Focus areas:

1. Democratic Governance
2. Jobs, Livelihood and Social Protection
3. Education
4. Health
5. Human Security and Community Resilience



Leave
No
One
Behind

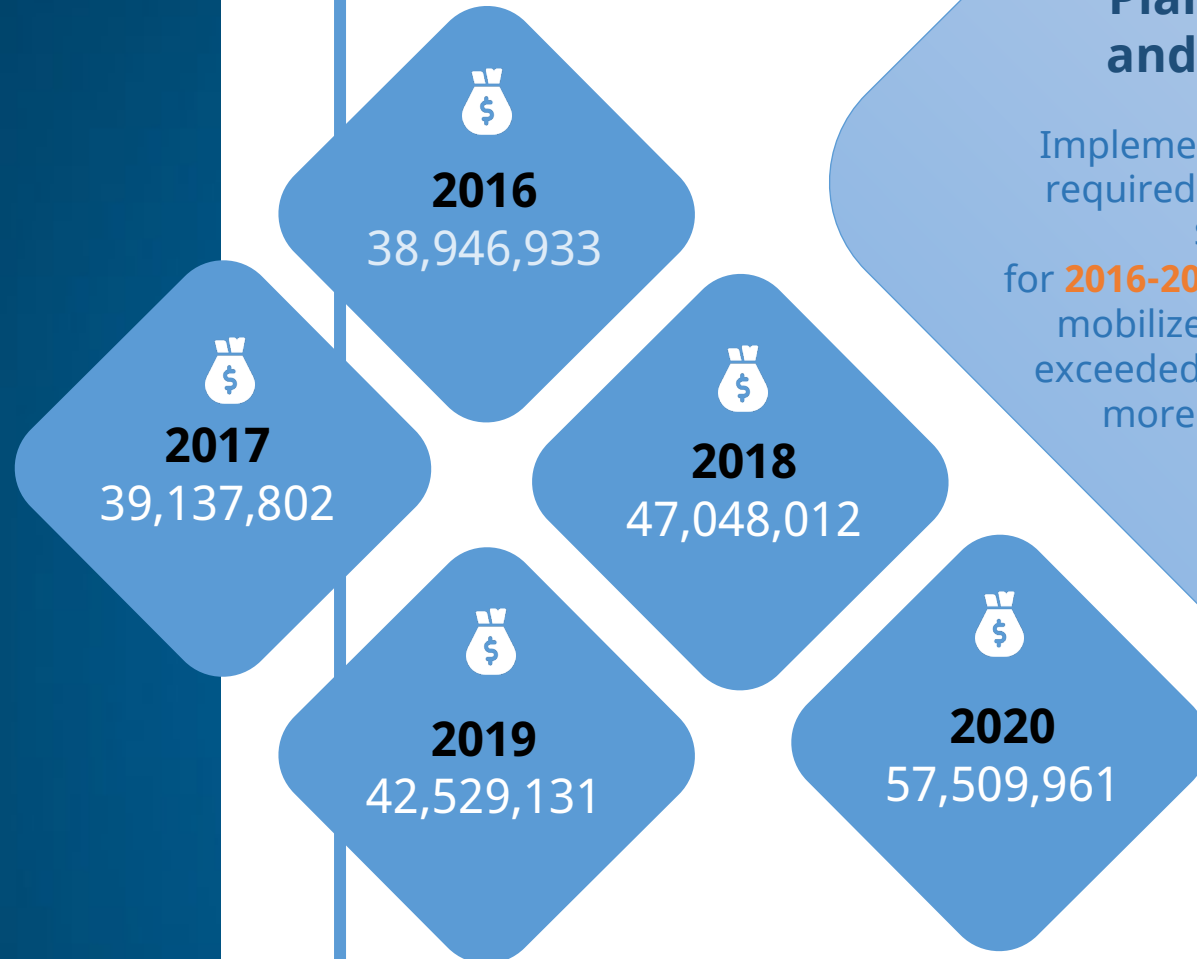


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UN Partnership for Sustainable Development (UNPSD) Cooperation Framework Finances:

UN Delivery in 2016 - 2020 \$



Planned amount and real delivery

Implementation of the UNPSD required an estimated total of **\$156,292,000** for **2016-2020** period. UN agencies mobilized **\$225,171,839**. This exceeded the original target by more than **\$68,879,839**.



Covid-19 Response

- Supported the Government to prepare and address immediate health needs as well as potential social and economic impacts with a focus on those furthest behind: pregnant and nursing women, children, older people, refugees, migrants etc.
- Repurposed over \$20 million programmes to support the country both in fighting the coronavirus outbreak and in addressing the disruption of social and economic activity caused by the pandemic.
- A joint UN proposal in support of the government's emergency response secured the full USD 1 million allocation available for Georgia from the UN COVID MPTF.
- Enhanced technical and operational capacities of laboratories, up to 1,500 medical personnel from 56 hospitals, clinical management, infection prevention and control, epidemiology and surveillance.
- Procured and delivered essential supplies: hospital equipment, PPE, test kits, laboratory consumables, computer, videoconferencing equipment and vital medical supplies for healthcare and social and public-sector workers, and their beneficiaries.
- Costed health part of the country COVID-19 strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) and contributed to the large-scale research on the impact of COVID-19 on social and economic rights of the population.
- Finalized the Socio-Economic Recovery Plan "Building Back Better in Georgia".
- Helped to develop a risk communication strategy and the assessments to determine the impact of COVID-19 social restriction measures on retired older persons living alone under the poverty line and on essential SRH.
- Provided vital support to municipalities and village representatives to deliver critical social services and issued grants to protect rural livelihoods.
- Safeguarded the inclusion of refugees and stateless persons in the COVID-19 State Anti-Crisis schemes and the timely issuance of identity documents to refugees and stateless.
- Supplied Abkhazia, Georgia and IDP communities with essential hygiene and medical supplies, technical and in-kind support, psycho-social counselling, hospital readiness, laboratories, and risk communication.
- In 2020 the Dialogue Coordination Mechanism Mechanism facilitated 23 shipments and assisted 17 organizations in transportation of various goods to the region of Abkhazia. Total value of commodities reached record high GEL 3, 987,683.89 for the Mechanism.
- Supported improvement of the quality and security of electronic public services by enhancing the cybersecurity systems and data management processes.
- Conducted two rapid gender assessment of the impact of COVID-19 in 2020.



Covid-19 Response



UN helps **1.1 million people** cope with **COVID-19** in Georgia.

The programme funded by the UN **COVID-19** Response and Recovery Fund helped meet the needs of



26000 pregnant women



26000 newborns



414000 school-aged children



1200 healthcare workers; it reached



10000 vulnerable and disadvantage people with services.



Over **3000 women** benefited from the free of charge access to quality SRH services throughout Abkhazia, Georgia.



Provided emergency cash assistance to over **1000** asylum seekers and persons granted international protection. Food and hygiene packages were distributed to around **60** vulnerable asylum-seekers in the Government's Reception Centre. One-off support was also provided to **1000 IDP** families.



Awarded **50** matching grants for a total amount of **2.2 million Georgian Lari** to support food production and security in Georgia amid the **Covid-19** crisis and provided fuel and fertilizers for ploughing and sowing to vulnerable households.



Over **200** of the most vulnerable members of the **LGBTQI+ community** received material support to protect their health and livelihoods.



Total **5461** vulnerable older people living alone in 10 poorer municipalities received **food** and more than **5000** elderly and **5716** vulnerable persons in Tbilisi and 29 municipalities received **home care services and counselling.**



Produced over **100,000 COVID-19** risk communication and prevention information leaflets and brochures for general public, pregnant and breastfeeding women, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.



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1.

Democratic Governance



Meeting expectations of citizens of Georgia for voice, rule of law, public sector reforms and accountability by stronger systems of democratic governance at all levels. Increasing access of all people living in Georgia to the justice service delivery in accordance with national strategies and UN Human Rights standards.



Main results in 2020

- Promoted human rights and access to legal and social services and supported the development of a new Human Rights Strategy for 2021-2030.
- Assisted the Parliament in exercising its expanded oversight powers.
- Fostered decentralisation and good governance at the local level through implementation of the Decentralization Strategy for 2020-2025 and Action Plan.
- Supported the implementation of the Law on Mediation.
- Provided support to persons with disabilities, including through the implementation of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, transforming to a new social model of disability, and strengthening the civil society network with a focus on quality SRHR and GBV services.
- Supported elaboration and adoption of National Accessibility Standards based on ICC A117.1 on accessible and usable buildings and facilities, setting technical standards and commissioned the nationwide public opinion survey providing specific data on attitudes towards persons with disabilities especially towards people with mental and intellectual disabilities.
- Supported the adoption of the Code on the Rights of the Child and the submission of periodic reports on the CRC and its optional protocols.
- Facilitated the adoption of over 170 legal amendments to legislature on local self-government.
- Advocated for the adoption of a seminal legislative amendment to the Electoral Code instituting a Gender quota for the parliamentary and local elections that ensured historically the highest representation of women in parliament (21%).
- Assisted in maintaining the visa-free regime with the European Union by supporting the return and reintegration of asylum seekers.
- Advocated for and supported juvenile justice reform and supported child rights and SRHR monitoring.
- Safeguarded the welfare and protection of all children with a focus on ending violence against children in schools, creating the ministerial child rights coordination mechanism and the Parliamentary Council on child rights, and establishing a Child Hotline “111”.
- Promoted Healthy and Active Ageing through innovative municipal services “60+ Clubs”.
- Provided support to the Office of the State Inspector to ensure independent investigation of allegations of serious human rights abuses by law enforcement officials.

1.

Democratic Governance



Main results in 2020 (continued)

- Kicked off institutional reforms at the Supreme Council of Ajara and assisted the Council in the adoption of its first Open Governance Action Plan.
- Supported ongoing Public Administration Reform (PAR) with a focus on building a more merit-based civil service, enhancing whole-of-government policy making and improving public service delivery, including advancing e-services, coupled with assistance in initiating elaboration of new PAR Strategy for 2021-2024.
- Boosted efficiency of public service delivery through the upgrading of the legislative framework, and advanced service delivery skills over 700 Public Service Hall staff across Georgia.
- Enhanced leadership capacity of 350 managerial level civil servants to better implement the national development Agenda.
- Supported the creation of the first-ever code on good governance in sport with the objective to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of public investments in sports.
- Supported the elaboration of the 2021-2030 Migration Strategy and the 2021 Plan of Action.
- Assisted national counterparts in developing the National Youth Policy for 2020-2030.
- Promoted gender equality with a focus on strategies and action plans for a number of public entities and mainstreamed gender in the Public Administration Reform process.

1.

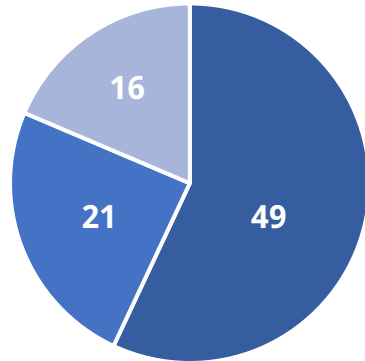
Democratic Governance



Main results in 2020



Facilitated the return and reintegration of **144** foreign migrants from Georgia to their home countries



■ Iran ■ Uzbekistan ■ Bangladesh



Facilitated the return of **1464 persons** to Georgia from **13 European countries**.



The number of e-services available through unified Government portal - **my.gov.ge** - increased to **700**, with up to **140** services digitized.



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2.

Jobs, Livelihood and Social Protection



Ensuring that vulnerable groups have better employment and livelihood opportunities and access to proactive and inclusive gender and child sensitive social protection system that address major vulnerabilities.



Main results in 2020

- Supported Georgia to develop and adopt the Strategy for Development of Mountain Settlements 2019-2023.
- Supported sustainable agriculture and rural development, rural tourism sector, access to alternative energy and energy efficient technologies and digital transformation focusing on vulnerable rural population.
- Supported to adopt the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) principles into the 2021 state budget.
- Promoted cluster development to enhance private sector competitiveness.
- Provided further support to the VET system reform.
- Supported migration related efforts and bilateral labour agreements (BLA) with various EU countries on circular labour migration.
- Supported development and activation of Diaspora Portal (operated by MFA).
- Supported the adoption of the Labour Code Reform, anti-discrimination, equal pay and family supportive provisions and quality services for the victims/survivors of domestic violence.
- Strengthened social workforce in Abkhazia, Georgia.
- Supported the inclusion of refugees in livelihood support schemes and provided job placement opportunities to asylum seekers.
- Supported Adjara in developing the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy for 2021-2027
- Supported elaboration of the Aquaculture Law.
- Strengthened capacity of testing and calibration laboratories.
- Supported rural businesses through matching grants scheme and diversified business development services.
- Provided further support to Rural Development governance structure reform.
- Enhanced quality and relevance of VET in agriculture.
- Promoted local economic development including job creation and improved welfare of the vulnerable groups through continuous expert and technical support provided to the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, local self-governments, business associations and local civil society organizations.

2.

Jobs, Livelihood and Social Protection



Main results in 2020



Over **295,000** rural people benefited in **2020** from the National Rural Development Strategy implementation.



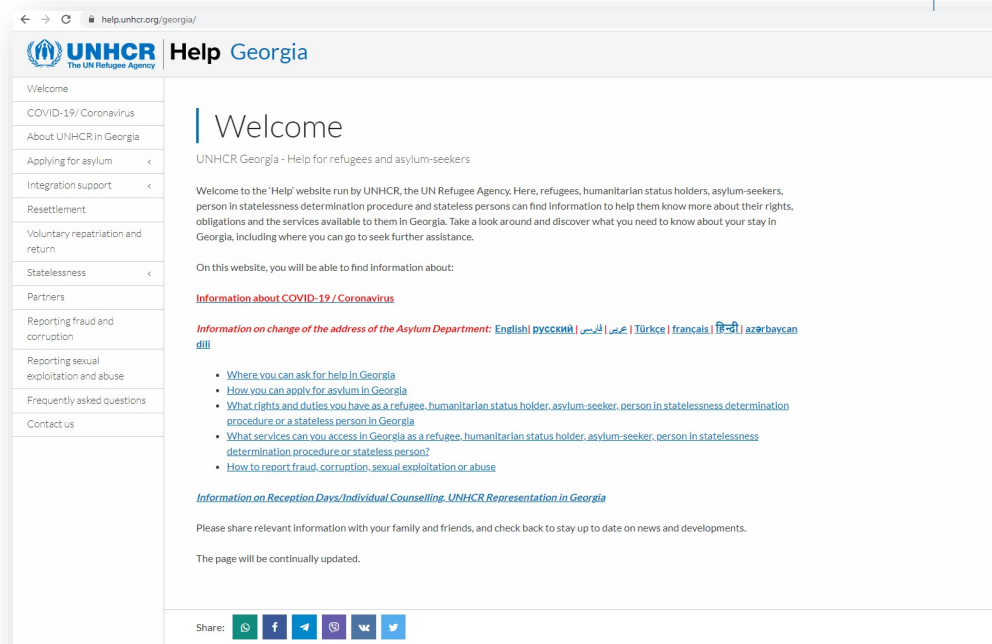
60,000 farmers reached through online trainings.



Capacity of **6,000** adolescents increased on coping mechanisms and transferrable skills



“Help” website available at <https://help.unhcr.org/georgia/> provides relevant and up to date information on rights, obligations and services available to asylum-seekers and refugees in English, Arabic, Farsi and Russian.





Main results in 2020



more than **1500 farmers** were trained educational/awareness raising community level meetings were conducted in **10 target municipalities**, directly covering **740 persons (70% women)** and indirectly benefitting whole population of target municipalities - **435,254 persons (222,269 women)**.



2,300 pensioners from **Gali** and adjacent districts received their pensions and bought essential medicines



70 small-scale entrepreneurs and **140 smallholder farmers** in Abkhazia, Georgia received training, tools, seeds and other inputs.

Over **500 students** graduated Agriculture VET courses, and over **50% employed**



Over **2,700** of the most vulnerable IDPs received cash assistance and food and hygiene packages.



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3.

Education



Ensuring that state and non-state parties at central and municipal levels are providing inclusive and high-quality Preschool and General Education for children.



Main results in 2020

- Piloted a New School Model reform and the first ever digital programme “We Learn by Playing”.
- Supported state universities with the integration of a CRC curricula into Bachelor and Master level programmes to improve knowledge and respect of child rights.
- Implemented the Early and Preschool Education and Care Standards including pre- and in-service training.
- Supported the development of teaching resources to meet requirements of special needs children.
- Supported distance learning, early childhood development and improved WASH in schools & preschools.
- Developed Georgian language catch-up online classes for around 60 refugee and asylum-seeker children as well as adults.
- Access to equal education opportunities for children/youth in Abkhazia, Georgia enhanced through introduction of modern methods of foreign language teaching, provision of ICT equipment/literacy, development of e-library, TOEFL language courses, LLC foreign language courses reaching out 6187 beneficiaries.



340 refugee and asylum-seeker **children** received **education kits**.

105 students from Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries have been awarded with the EU-funded full 2-year scholarship to study on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. 60% of students are girls and 50% are from rural areas, including conflict affected territories.



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4.

Health



Enhancing health of the population especially the most vulnerable groups through targeted health policies and provision of quality, equitable and integrated services including management of major health risks and promotion of targeted health seeking behavior.



Main results in 2020

- Supported the development of a second wave of Maternal and Newborn Healthcare and related Reproductive Health costed Action Plan (2020-2023).
- Improved quality of care for elimination of preventable maternal deaths through introduction and piloting the Near Miss Case Review in 9 selected maternities.
- Supported the elimination of HIV/AIDS and syphilis.
- Supported cancer prevention through development and operationalization of the Cancer Screening Registry.
- Advocated for elevated Blood Lead Level (BLL) in children.
- Supported establishment of NCD risk factors surveillance system.
- Supported integration of SRH and healthy lifestyle issues in the formal education system and development of the national strategy of Physical Activity.
- Supported Georgia in progressing towards Universal Health Coverage, with particular focus on revising and costing the PHC package.
- Supported the sustainable implementation of tobacco control policy and legislation.
- Supported in improving the national legal framework on medicinal products (review of legislation) and the institutional development plan.
- Addressed special needs of women and youth with disabilities in terms of their access to quality SRH and GBV services.
- Provided support to the immunization programme: pre- and in-service training; and immunization eMIS and IYC and adolescent nutrition programmes.
- Supported the national roll-out of the health system response to VAW/DV.



5.

Human Security and Community Resilience



Ensuring that conflict affected communities enjoy better security and stronger resilience to conflict-induced consequences and communities. Ensuring communities enjoy greater resilience through enhanced institutional and legislative systems for environment protection, sustainable management of natural resources and disaster risk reduction.





Main results in 2020

- Seven UN Agencies and three INGOs present in Abkhazia, Georgia coordinated their efforts and jointly contributed to the COVID-19 response.
- Strengthened professional capacities and expertise of local healthcare and educational workers in rural areas and provided capacity building trainings to 86 medical personnel on HIV patient management and facilitating testing on HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B/C and TB/STIs for 2030 beneficiaries.
- Strengthened women's meaningful participation in sustainable peace and conflict resolution processes.
- Continued providing social and legal counselling and support to IDP and conflict affected women to access rights, services and livelihood opportunities.
- Provided high technological equipment to support the designated security sector actors in Georgia enhance their technical and operational capacities for ensuring human security.
- Continued programmes supporting agriculture and rural development, vocational education, improved access to livelihoods and essential social services across the ABL to strength mechanisms for confidence-building, social cohesion and people-to-people contacts.
- Enhanced access to equal education opportunities for children/youth in Abkhazia, Georgia.
- 10 media grants were funded to support Geo/Abkhaz media organizations.
- Continued to provide capacity building opportunities to CSOs in Abkhazia, Georgia and the Multifunctional Civic Resource Center in Sokhumi.
- 26 CSOs funded under Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism (COBERM) IV successfully continued implementation of grants, bringing social impact for 3,413 direct and 97,000 indirect beneficiaries.

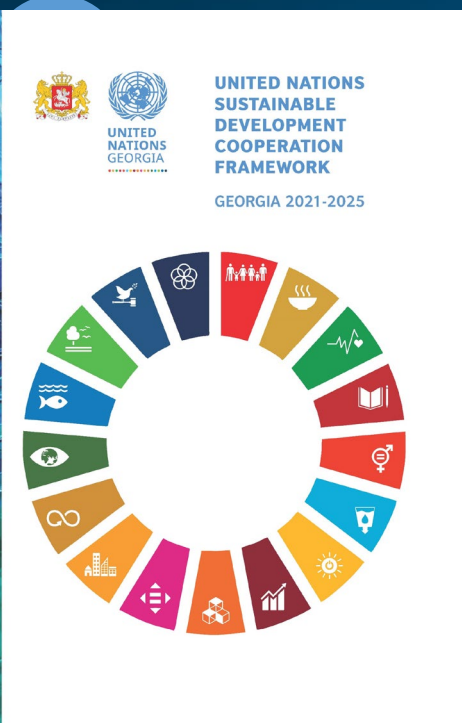


Main results in 2020 (continued)

- Continued supporting the Government in formulating climate change policies and fulfilling the requirements of the Paris Agreement, Montreal protocol, Stockholm Convention and other environmental treaties.
- Finalized the 4th National Communication to UNFCCC, including GHG inventory for 2016-2017.
- Started the Preparedness and Emergency Response to Locust Infestations in Georgia to secure livelihoods, feed and food security.
- Supported the establishment of the Georgian seeds and seedlings association.
- Strengthened the capacities of farmers and stakeholders on innovative sustainable agriculture production practices through the organization of 25 Farmer Field Schools (FFSs); 60 demonstration plots; 6 Training of Master Trainers (TMT) and other trainings for more than 1500 farmers.
- Launched the country-wide hydro & agro-meteorological network upgrading with modern high-tech equipment and the multi-hazard mapping of major river basins based on a new multi-hazard methodology for hazard mapping & socio-economic vulnerability assessment.
- Promoted concept of circular economy and further supported resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) methodology.
- Introduced energy management systems to improve energy efficiency in large enterprises in industry.
- Supported the elimination of toxic chemical/polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) under Stockholm Convention.
- Supported the reduction of the risk of floods and other climate-driven disasters benefitting up to 1.7 mln people (40% of population).
- Conducted DRR and climate change adaptation trainings for stakeholders and public awareness on climate-induced hazards in high-risk areas of 10 municipalities, directly covering 740 persons (70% women) and indirectly benefitting whole population of target municipalities - 435,254 persons (222,269 women).
- Introduced biodiversity monitoring & development of SMART patrolling system in selected Protected Areas in Georgia.
- Supported the introduction of sustainable transport practices in Batumi city achieving 4,239 tons of direct & 1,316 tons of indirect GHG emission reduction during 10 years.



Priorities areas for 2021-2025



- ✓ Inclusive economy and human capital development.
- ✓ Effective, transparent and accountable institutions.
- ✓ Equal and inclusive access to quality services.
- ✓ Human security and resilience.
- ✓ Environment and climate change.

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 lays out the mission of enhancing human wellbeing, capabilities and social equality in Georgia by 2025.