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Country programmes and related matters

Country programme document for Georgia (2021–2025)

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I. UNDP within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

1. Since restoring independence in 1991, Georgia has sought to achieve the prosperity, stability and security that membership of the European Union connotes to the Georgian public. Georgia has made tangible progress on this path, including most significantly its signing of an Association Agreement with the European Union in 2014.
2. In tandem with its strong commitment to European integration, Georgia is energetically pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has nationalized 93 priority targets and established a robust interministerial mechanism to coordinate national efforts and monitor progress, including through voluntary national reviews¹ presented at the United Nations High-Level Political Forums on Sustainable Development in 2016 and 2020.
3. The two agendas are increasingly recognized as complementary. The Association Agreement alone incorporates 63 per cent of the country's nationalized SDG targets. Taken together, they map out a clearly sign-posted development pathway for Georgia and provide a mutually reinforcing framework for United Nations work in 2021-2025.
4. As Georgia marks 30 years of independence, it can take pride in its achievements building democratic institutions. Governance standards reflect high aspirations; the country's accomplishments in this area have been widely recognized, including in the latest round of the World Bank worldwide governance indicators. Yet challenges remain. Georgia shifted to a fully parliamentary system of governance in 2019, responding to perceived imbalances in the division of power, but the political scene remains turbulent and polarised. Demands persist for further reforms of the judicial system, law enforcement and the civil service.
5. Georgia has also achieved sturdy economic growth. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 4.9 per cent per year on average in 2010-2019, and GDP per capita rose to \$4,764 in 2019 (from \$1,351 in 1991), boosting Georgia to upper-middle-income status. Poverty measured by national standards fell to 19.5 per cent in 2019 (from 38.8 per cent in 2007).
6. Finding an economic model capable of sustaining rapid growth and delivering widespread prosperity has been an ongoing focus since independence. Sweeping market-based reforms were adopted early on to encourage foreign investment and stimulate entrepreneurship. Creating a positive business environment has been a long-standing priority, rewarded with a seventh-place ranking among 190 countries in the World Bank *Doing Business* report. Recent policies have emphasised social welfare, by establishing a universal health-care system and expanding targeted social assistance, which benefits 12.3 per cent of the population.
7. Debate continues on how to accelerate economic progress. Although exports grew from 16 to 54 per cent of GDP between 2000 and 2019, they are not yet competitive enough to lift the country to prosperity. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area established under the Association Agreement has yet to reach its full potential. Georgia remains a net importer of food, and three-fourths of agricultural exports come from wine, water, spirits and nuts. Tourism has been a notable bright spot, soaring to 9.3 million visitors and \$3.3 billion in revenues in 2019. Already, the sector accounts for over 8 per cent of GDP and 78 per cent of service exports. But the border closures forced by the COVID-19 pandemic have reversed this trend, prompting policymakers to seek new opportunities to diversify the economy.
8. Pandemic-driven stresses have also evoked fresh concern about groups whose members risk missing out on the country's successes. These include the poor, residents of rural, remote and high-mountain areas, inactive young people, women, persons with disabilities, minorities, conflict-affected communities, and people living in areas prone to natural disasters. These groups were the focus of the common country analysis that shaped the new

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/georgia>.

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and the new UNDP programme has been designed to reflect the commitment ‘to leave no one behind’.

9. Despite a remarkable decline in poverty, one in five Georgians remains poor by national standards, and 4.5 per cent meet the \$1.9-per-day World Bank definition of extreme poverty.

10. Georgia has a pronounced urban-rural divide. A full one-third of the population lives in Tbilisi, and the capital acts as a magnet for migration from the villages. At the same time, over 40 per cent of Georgians live in rural areas and depend on farming for a living. Yet agriculture delivers just 7.2 per cent of GDP. While subsistence farming can help rural families weather crises (including the pandemic), this disparity is arguably the single biggest constraint to economic development in Georgia. Productivity is low: an average worker’s value-added in agriculture is just one tenth that in industry or services. Most rural dwellers are self-employed or unpaid workers on family farms, while more secure wage work is mainly urban. Rural poverty, at 25.5 per cent, is higher than the urban rate, 16.2 per cent.

11. At 31 per cent in 2019, Georgia has a very high share of youth aged 15-29 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The share is far higher for young women: 37 per cent versus 25 per cent for men. The cause: an education system that falls short on functional literacy and the skills (soft and hard) that would make young people employable.

12. Although equal rights are fully guaranteed by law and gender attitudes are shifting², women still face discrimination and inequality in many areas.³ They hold only 14 per cent of parliamentary seats and just one of 64 mayoral positions. They face an 18.1 percentage-point gap in labour activity rates, owing to the burden of unpaid care work. They earn an average wage that is just 64 per cent that for men yet they have higher educational attainments. Occupations are gender-segregated: almost 90 per cent of teachers are women, yet only 12 per cent of engineering students are female. One in five women experiences sexual harassment; one in seven faces violence at the hands of an intimate partner.

13. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex (LGBTQI) community is arguably the most marginalized. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal, but LGBTQI persons routinely encounter bias, hate speech and violence.

14. Georgia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014, but persons with disabilities still struggle for their rightful place in society. Only 3 per cent are registered for disability benefits, whereas global norms suggest the actual share of the population with some form of disability must be around 15 per cent. Stigma leads families to keep disability hidden, so few children with disabilities attend school or enter the labour force (only 133 persons with disabilities are employed in the public sector). Disability is still assessed using a medical rather than social model. Physical barriers are widespread, as are disempowering stereotypes. A new UNDP survey⁴ suggests that attitudes are changing, but 43 per cent of the population still believe that assistance for people with disabilities is a form of Government charity rather than a state obligation.

15. Conflict-affected communities face daunting challenges on both sides of the dividing lines. Georgia has one of the world’s highest displacement rates: 286,216 persons, or 7.7 per cent of the population, are currently registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs). Georgian authorities have promoted integration into host communities, but many IDPs remain isolated and dependent on state benefits. Only 45 per cent have received purpose-built

² UNDP/UNFPA (2020) “Men, women, and gender relations in Georgia: Public perceptions and attitudes” (https://www.ge.undp.org/content/georgia/en/home/library/democratic_governance/gender-survey-report.html).

³ UN-Women (2020) “Country gender equality profile of Georgia” (<https://georgia.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/the-country-gender-equality-profile>).

⁴ UNDP (2020) “Public attitudes towards persons with disabilities in Georgia” (https://www.ge.undp.org/content/georgia/en/home/library/democratic_governance/disability-research.html/).

housing, leaving thousands living in ‘collective centres’. Job opportunities and social amenities remain scarce for both IDPs and people living along and across the dividing lines.

16. Although laudable progress has been made in adopting international standards, including the Paris Climate Agreement, Georgia faces significant environmental challenges. Seismic risk is high. With climate change disrupting weather patterns, floods, droughts, landslides and mudslides have become more frequent and destructive. Each year \$258 million is spent on flood recovery. Precipitation and temperature extremes risk disrupting the hydropower supply, and other renewables (wind, solar, geothermal) currently amount to just 0.6 per cent of the energy balance. Urban air pollution contains high levels of harmful particulates, with a measurable negative impact on health. As of 2020, 11 per cent of the national territory has been designated as protected areas, but illegal logging and other incursions underline the need for better management and more sustainable use of natural resources.

17. Improving the well-being of groups at risk of being left behind while working towards enduring peace and prosperity for all Georgians is the unifying UNDP vision for 2021-2025. The new country programme was developed in tandem with the UNSDCF and directly incorporates four of the five joint outcomes. The UNDP theory of change mirrors that of the UNSDCF: it locates the root causes of poverty and inequality in structural factors – the quality of governance institutions, the structure of the economy and the legacy of conflict – and proposes structural solutions to address these challenges in a sustainable fashion.

18. The new programme builds on sturdy foundations. The 2019 independent country programme evaluation (ICPE) said UNDP work in 2016-2020 was “highly relevant and strategically positioned” and called UNDP a “trustworthy and respected strategic partner for both the Government and the international community”.⁵ Achievements cited include: strengthening Parliament and civil society; improving transparency and accountability; defining decentralization policies; protecting human rights; furthering gender equality; advancing rural development; modernizing vocational education; improving social services; keeping communications open across dividing lines; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; enhancing flood resistance; building urban resilience; and enlarging protected areas.

19. Looking ahead, UNDP aims to provide more integrated solutions, bridging different sectors and applying multiple areas of expertise to address simultaneously the diverse root causes of poverty and inequality. As underlined in the ICPE, this integrated approach presents particular promise at the municipal level, where UNDP efforts in local governance, rural development and disaster risk reduction can combine to generate new synergies.

20. UNDP will continue to add value by combining top-down policy advice from global expert networks with bottom-up solutions pioneered through hands-on implementation. This mutually reinforcing process of blending policy and practice was praised by the ICPE as particularly effective when UNDP programming is sustained over multi-year periods (judged as the minimum necessary to build on initial pilots and deliver sustainable change).

21. This multisectoral approach also underpins the UNDP role as ‘integrator’ for Agenda 2030 within the United Nations system. UNDP will work to create a platform for other organizations to apply specialized policy advice, normative guidance and tested practices, with UNDP anchoring a system-wide effort supporting national partners in promoting and measuring progress towards the SDGs. UNDP already partners with other organizations in 20 per cent of its programming; such collaboration will grow stronger. Joint issues-based advocacy efforts will complement the quest for shared results under the UNSDCF.

22. At the same time, UNDP will fulfil its role as the United Nations technical lead agency for COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery by helping to interweave different strands of analysis and programming into a single cohesive response. It will also provide expertise to contribute to the ongoing debate about possible new pathways to prosperity for Georgia.

⁵ <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/12665>.

23. UNDP has already established a reputation for innovation in Georgia, working with partners such as the award-winning Public Service Hall to introduce e-services and the city of Rustavi to engage citizens directly in addressing post-industrial urban legacies. Building on numerous e-initiatives launched in response to COVID-19, UNDP will continue to apply ‘digital disruption’ to improve governance, bridge distances, increase competitiveness and advance social cohesion. The accelerator lab established in 2020 will help ensure that UNDP initiatives leverage technology and apply human-centred design and behavioural science.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

24. The new UNDP country programme will support national development priorities by focusing on the intertwined goals of European integration and sustainable development, relying on the complementarity of the Association Agreement with the SDGs to multiply their impact. In tandem, it will help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by protecting lives and livelihoods in the short term and seeking ways to ‘build forward better’ in the long term.

25. The country programme has roots in the findings of the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support (MAPS) exercise that UNDP led on behalf of the United Nations system, together with the Government Administration, in 2019.⁶ This broad participatory exercise yielded consensus around four high-impact solutions: decentralized development; human rights and equality; investing in youth and rural areas; and green energy and sustainable cities.

26. Following these analytical signposts and drawing on all six signature solutions in the UNDP Strategic Plan, the new country programme maps out four solution pathways.

- A. **Improving governance for equality and justice.** Building on years of work supporting national aspirations to establish model democratic institutions, UNDP will focus on utilizing legislative frameworks to deliver tangible results and translating standards and principles adopted in past years into everyday practice. UNDP will:
- i. Continue to assist the Parliament in undertaking its expanded role as the country’s core decision-making institution and monitor media during elections;
 - ii. Continue to support public administration reform, focused on building a more merit-based, non-partisan civil service, enhancing whole-of-government policy planning and coordination, fostering public participation, helping standardize and improve the quality of public service delivery, advance e-services and mainstream transparency and accountability;
 - iii. Work to realize the potential of decentralization to promote good governance, improve public services and enhance economic prospects at the local level, particularly in rural, remote and high-mountain areas, and strive to improve social cohesion and overcome alienation in areas with a large share of national minorities;
 - iv. Assist institutions and civil society in monitoring national compliance with human rights standards, while directly supporting persons with disabilities, the LGBTIQ community and other at-risk groups, and promote diversity and tolerance as positive social values;
 - v. Collaborate with other United Nations organizations to advance gender equality in three main areas:
 - a) Promoting women’s political participation, particularly at local level, where a gender quota applies for the 2021 municipal elections;

⁶ UNDP (2019) “Accelerating progress towards the SDGs: Identifying priority areas for action in Georgia” (<https://www.ge.undp.org/content/georgia/en/home/library/MAPS.html>).

- b) Seeking to expand women's opportunities for skills development and employment and reduce the gender wage gap; and
 - c) Building the foundations of a care economy, demonstrating that public spending on care services is an investment with a triple payoff: new jobs for women, improved care for vulnerable persons, and relief from the unpaid care work that so often hinders women's employment; and
 - vi. Contribute to judicial reform and rule of law and expand access to justice by making mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution more readily available.
 - B. **Safeguarding a green, clean and climate-resilient environment.** UNDP will continue to assist in providing policy advice, legislative support and practical work to help Georgia fulfil its commitments on climate change and reduce carbon emissions across all sectors. It will work with central and local partners to improve the management and financial sustainability of protected areas and promote renewable technologies and energy-efficient solutions. UNDP will support sustainable consumption, building on European Union-backed concepts such as the circular economy and extended producer responsibility. The core focus of environmental work will be a seven-year, \$74 million programme to prevent floods and other forms of climate-driven disasters across all the regions of the country. Measures to climate-proof Georgia will include completing risk-and-hazard mapping of all 11 major river basins, establishing a nationwide multi-hazard early warning system, constructing nature-based protective solutions for at least 100 high-risk locations, and building climate resilience at the community level.
 - C. **Unlocking the potential of rural areas.** UNDP will take a two-pronged approach to bridging the urban-rural divide: helping rural communities use the legal framework for decentralization to improve socioeconomic prospects while professionalizing farming and improving agricultural productivity. Reform of the vocational training system will aim to provide rural youth with the technical, digital and soft skills needed to thrive in the private sector. Diversification of the rural economic landscape will continue, both by promoting non-farm livelihoods and building municipal capacity to plan and manage local economic development from the bottom up. Private-sector competitiveness will be improved by applying approaches such as value-chain strengthening and clustering. Digitalization will be promoted as a way of saving rural jobs and overcoming the isolation of village life. Taken together, these efforts will reduce poverty by creating rural jobs and slow emigration by enhancing the attractiveness of life outside Tbilisi.
 - D. **Improving living conditions for conflict-affected people.** To create an enabling environment for sustainable peace and reconciliation between divided communities, UNDP will work to enhance confidence building, strengthen civil society in conflict-affected areas, and improve people-to-people contacts across dividing lines. Provided that access remains feasible, UNDP will continue to work in Abkhazia, Georgia to enhance the quality of social services and help local communities improve living conditions, including in mitigating the pandemic's socioeconomic impact on vulnerable groups. UNDP will also work to reduce flood risks and seek to improve environmental protection (for example, in waste management and nature protection). UNDP will also support IDP communities and vulnerable people living along dividing lines, with a particular emphasis on promoting economic self-sufficiency for women. Activities will expand to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia if conditions allow.
27. To achieve these aims, UNDP will seek to work with both traditional development partners and less conventional actors, in an effort to secure resources for the programme and also help Georgia generate sufficient funding to speed its progress towards the SDGs. Active participation in coordination mechanisms will help ensure that UNDP remains focused on those areas where it can best deliver results, promote coherence and ensure sustainability, while respecting the expertise and competence of actors specialized for work in other fields.

III. Programme and risk management

28. Making this vision a reality requires mastering pandemic risks. Thanks to the flexibility of partners and donors, UNDP has managed to reorient programming swiftly to face COVID-19 challenges. Given the pandemic's unknown trajectory and the increasingly volatile impact of climate change, UNDP will strive to make agility and adaptability its hallmarks.

29. The national economy has held up well in the face of pandemic stresses, with GDP forecast to rebound in 2021 after a decline of 6 per cent in 2020. This resilience owes much to support from multilateral financial institutions, which have already dedicated \$3 billion to help protect businesses and households. But if COVID-19 consequences disrupt economic recovery or reconfigure national priorities, UNDP is prepared to reorient its programme.

30. UNDP is likely to face continued constraints in operating in conflict-affected areas. Transparency and strict adherence to humanitarian principles will help mitigate this risk.

31. The country programme document outlines UNDP contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarter levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures and internal control framework.

32. The programme will be nationally executed. If necessary, national execution may be replaced by direct execution for part or all of the programme to enable response to force majeure. The harmonized approach to cash transfers will be used in a coordinated fashion with other United Nations entities to manage financial risks. Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness will be charged to the concerned projects.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

33. Development progress will be monitored against the indicators in the results and resources framework, which incorporates nationalized SDG indicators and is aligned with the UNSDCF. To measure its contribution to national results, UNDP will employ the national SDG tracker and other national monitoring systems, official statistical data and reports from line ministries, development partners and research institutions. Perception surveys and other innovative tools will be used to assess results and behavioural change. The National Statistical Office and other partners will receive support to improve data quality.

34. UNDP will strengthen its internal capacity while helping external partners develop monitoring and evaluation skills. It will collaborate with other United Nations entities to monitor progress towards UNSDCF results. Independent evaluations will be commissioned to assess UNDP contributions to transformative change. Spending devoted to gender equality will be tracked and exceed 15 per cent of total expenditure. Evaluation findings will be shared with Government and civil society counterparts, development partners and the public.

Annex. Results and resources framework for Georgia (2021-2025)

NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Government programme “Georgia 2020” recognizes the principles of democratic development, rule of law, efficient administration, respect for human rights and basic freedoms as a basis for its policy and strives its attainment.				
UNSDCF, 2021-2025, OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 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.				
RELATED UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2018-2021, OUTCOME: Outcome 2. Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development.				
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME INDICATOR(S), BASELINES, TARGET(S)	DATA SOURCE AND FREQUENCY OF DATA COLLECTION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES	INDICATIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMME OUTPUTS (including indicators, baselines targets)	MAJOR PARTNERS / PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORKS	ESTIMATED COST BY OUTCOME (United States dollars)
<p>1.1. (UNSDCF indicator 1.1) [National SDG 16.6.2.5] Rule of law index Baseline (2019): percentile rank 62.02 Target: >63</p> <p>1.2. (UNSDCF indicator 1.2) [National SDG 16.6.2.2] Voice and accountability index Baseline (2019): percentile rank 53.20 Target: >54</p> <p>1.3. (UNSDCF indicator 1.6.1) [National SDG 5.5.1] Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments Baseline (2019). a) Women in Parliament 14.8% (22 women). b) Women in local governments 13.5% (277 women). Target: a) < 20%; b) < 20%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3. Central Election Commission, 2024 (Parliamentary) 2021, 2025 (Local) 1.1-1.2. Worldwide governance indicators: http://datacatalog.worldbank.org, annually 	<p>Output 1.1. Inclusive national and local governance systems have greater resilience and capacities to mainstream gender, ensure evidence-based and participatory policymaking, map and address inequalities and deliver quality services to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 1.1.1. Implementation rate of gender sensitive public administration reform (PAR) strategy 2021-2024 Baseline (2020): 0%, strategy being prepared Target (2025): 70% of strategy annual action plans pertaining to policy, civil service and public service delivery implemented. Source: PAR monitoring reports (AOG), European Union sector assessment reports, annually Indicator 1.1.2. Share of national-level policies complying with new whole-of-government policy standards emphasizing inclusiveness/participation approved by Government Baseline (2020): 10% Target (2025): 85% Source: PAR monitoring reports (AOG), European Union sector assessment reports, annually 	<p>Administration of the Government of Georgia (AOG); line ministries; Parliament, Adjara Supreme Council, GEOSTAT; Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), High Council of Justice, Human Rights Secretariat (HRS), Personal Data Protection Inspector, Digital Governance Agency (DGA), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), Public Service Development Agency, Public Service Hall, Mediators Association of Georgia (MAG), National Association of Local Authorities; Local self-governments; CSOs</p>	<p>Regular: \$437,500</p> <p>Other: \$21,566,482</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Indicator 1.1.3. Level of professionalism of public servants at local and national levels to better serve constituencies Baseline (2020): (a) Baseline on implementation of public servants’ professional development plans to be established in 2021; (b) 15% of public servants improved capacities by attending professional development courses Target (2025): (a) 50% of public agencies fulfil organizational professional development plans; (b) 50% of public servants (gender disaggregated) Source: CSB human resource management system and annual reports, annually</p> <p>• Indicator 1.1.4. Percentage of population satisfied with local self-governments Baseline (2019): General: 67.3%; Urban: 64%; Rural 72%; high mountainous 80% Target (2025): General: 69%, Urban: 65%; Rural 75%; High mountainous 82% Source: UNDP citizens’ satisfaction with public services survey, biannually (2021, 2023, 2025)</p> <p>• Indicator 1.1.5. Municipal budget total receipts as a percentage of GDP Baseline (2019): 4.7% Target (2025): 7% Source: MRDI 2020-2025 decentralization strategy implementation report, annually</p> <p>• Indicator 1.1.6. Quality of evidence based and participatory</p> 		
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		<p>law-making processes and executive oversight Baseline (2020): Score 59/100 Target (2025): Score 65/100 Source: Georgia national integrity system assessments, 2023, 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 1.1.7. Number of digitized public services added to Unified Citizens' Portal (national e-governance platform my.gov.ge) in response to COVID-19 pandemic Baseline (2020): 217 Target (2025): 50 Source: DGA reports, my.gov.ge, annually <p>Output 1.2. National legislation and policies to eliminate all types of discrimination, deliver gender-equal results, enhance human rights and equal access to justice, and equitable access to/universal coverage of quality social services, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 1.2.1. Percentage of courts operating court mediation centres with at least one completed referred mediation case Baseline (2020): 17% in Tbilisi, Gori, Rustavi, Mtskheta operate mediation centres. Target (2023): 75% Source: MAG annual report, High Council of Justice decisions, annually • Indicator 1.2.2. National human rights strategy (NHRS) 2021-2030 implementation rate Baseline (2020): Strategy being prepared Target (2025): 50% of objectives implemented 		
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		<p>not in line with international standards</p> <p>Target (2022): National accessibility plan approved; Guidelines on accessible ICT national standards approved.</p> <p>Source: Official Gazette of Legal Acts (www.matsne.gov.ge) 2022</p>		
<p>NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: National Environmental Action Programme-3 (2018-2021) Strategic Objective 1: Improving the status of the environment and ensuring the protection/sustainable use of natural resources and preventing/minimizing risks that threaten human health and the welfare of the population.</p>				
<p>UNSDCF, 2021-2025, OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 5: By 2025, all people, without discrimination, enjoy enhanced resilience through improved environmental governance, climate action and sustainable management and use of natural resource(s) in Georgia.</p>				
<p>RELATED UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2018-2021, OUTCOME: Outcome 3. Strengthen resilience to shocks and crises.</p>				
<p>2.1. (UNSDCF indicator 5.1) [National SDG 13.2.1] Country communicated establishment of integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases country’s ability to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development.</p> <p>Baseline (2015): In 2015 Georgia adopted intended nationally determined contributions (INDC). The following are prepared: (a) Climate action plan (CAP), 2021-2030; (b) Nationally determined contributions (NDC), 2021-2030;</p> <p>Target (2025): (a) Updated NDC approved by Government and submitted to UNFCCC; (b) National action plan for energy sector produced (2023); (c) Long-term low emissions development strategies (LTLEDS) elaborated/adopted (2021); (d) Third biennial update report (BUR) (2022); (e) Fourth national communication to UNFCCC (2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA)/UNFCCC websites, annually 	<p>Output 2.1. Environmental governance and institutional capacity enhanced to enable rational, equitable and sustainable use of natural/land resources, to ensure conservation of ecosystems, use of innovative and climate-friendly technologies for inclusive green economy, energy efficiency and clean energy production, and make communities more resilient to environmental shocks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 2.1.1. Targeted protected areas under improved management and annual long-term funding Baseline (2017): 0 ha, \$650,000 Target (2023): 431,872 has, \$950,000 Source: MEPA protected areas database, 2023 Indicator 2.1.2. [National SDG 1.5.4]: Number of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies in line with national DRR strategy Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2025): 10 local governments have local DRR strategies, including gender- 	<p>MEPA, MRDI, MIA, National Security Council Apparatus, National Environmental Agency, National Food Agency, Agriculture-Scientific Research Centre, Environmental Information and Education Centre, Emergency Management Service, Caucasus Nature Fund, NGOs</p>	<p>Regular: \$437,500</p> <p>Other: \$34,160,197</p>

		<p>sensitive disaster preparedness and response plans for multiple climate-induced hazards Source: UNDP, annually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 2.1.3: Number of initiatives aimed at capacity-building for government and other stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in formulating, monitoring and implementing national climate change policies and plans Baseline (2020): 0 2.1.3a. Gender-sensitive socioeconomic vulnerability assessment methodology developed/applied 2.1.3b. Standardized methodologies and standard operating procedures for multi-hazard risk-informed, preparedness and response plans developed considering gender and vulnerable groups 2.1.3c. Gender-sensitive institutional and legal frameworks in place to roll-out standardized multi-hazard mapping and risk assessment methodology 2.1.3d. Gender-sensitive capacity development plans put in place to enhance knowledge on nation-wide multi-hazard mapping and risk assessment Source: UNDP, annually <p>Output 2.2. Climate-sensitive, resilient and risk-informed development promoted across all sectors in rural and urban areas to increase adaptive capacities and mitigate climate change impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 2.2.1. Adaptation and mitigation capacities are increased through enhanced use of climate information, products and services and well-established 		
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		<p>multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS), including at community level. Baseline: 2.2.1a. Hydrometric monitoring network outdated/inadequate; 2.2.1b. 0 multi-hazard and risk maps; 2.2.1c. MHEWS and forecasting for climate-induced hazards does not exist; 2.2.1d. 0 risk reduction measures, based on multi-hazard risk maps, in high-risk areas; 2.2.1e. 0 community-based climate risk management/EWS Target: 2.2.1a. Improved hydro and agrometeorological network; 2.2.1b. maps for 11 river basins; 2.2.1c. established and functional; 2.2.1d. 12 measures implemented; 2.2.1e. applied in 100 communities Source: UNDP, annually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 2.2.2. Number of gender-responsive technological solutions, initiatives/projects, per LTLEDS in place/applied Baseline: LTLEDS under elaboration, 0 projects/initiatives Target (2025): 3 Source: LTLEDS implementation report, 2023, 2025 		
<p>NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: “Georgia 2020” priorities under strategic direction 1, improved competitiveness of private sector: 1.1. Improved investment and business environment; 1.2. Support development of innovations and technologies; 1.3 Support export growth. Strategic direction 2 prioritizes development of labour force according to labour market requirements and particularly: 2.1. Developing vocational education and training.</p>				
<p>UNSDCF, 2021-2025, OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 3: By 2025, all people without discrimination benefit from a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy in Georgia.</p>				
<p>RELATED UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2018-2021, OUTCOME: Outcome 1. Advance poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions.</p>				
<p>3.1. (UNSDCF indicator 3.1) [National SDG 1.2.1] Proportion of population, including children, living below national poverty line, by location and sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1-3.3: GEOSTAT 	<p>Output 3.1. Improved competitiveness of private sector and labour force, especially youth and vulnerable groups through labour policy, private sector</p>	<p>MEPA, MESD; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS); business organizations; trade</p>	<p>Regular: \$437,500 Other: \$21,565,389</p>

<p>Baseline (2015): Georgia: 21.6% Urban: 18%, Rural: 26.4%; Age Groups: 0-17: 24.2%, 18-64: 22%, 65 and above: 16.4%; Female: 21.3% Male: 22% Target (2030): Reduce by 20%</p> <p>3.2. (UNSDCF indicator 3.2) [National SDG 8.5.2] Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities Baseline (2015): All: 14.1%; Female: 12.4%; Male: 15.6%; Age Groups: 15-24: 33.8%, 25-34: 20.3%, 35-44: 15.2%, 45-54: 12.0%, 55-64: 8.2%, > 65: 1.1% Target (2030): All: 9.5%</p> <p>3.3. (UNSDCF indicator 3.3.1) [National SDG 8.6.1] Proportion of youth (15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (NEET), by sex Baseline (2019): 30.6% Target: Reduce by 8%</p>		<p>development, social responsibility and skills development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 3.1.1. Number of new services (advisory, finance instruments) introduced by public and private business development providers within business development and innovations ecosystem, including in regions Baseline (2020): Limited number of services Target (2025): 4 new services Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 3.1.2. Percentage of supported companies in selected sectors demonstrating at least 20% increased turnover or exports Baseline (2020): 0%; Target (2025) 50%; Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 3.1.3. Number of public-private partnerships providing life-long learning established, targeting vocational soft, digital/future and other skills Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2025): 5 Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 3.1.4. Number of targeted farmers receiving extension services that increase income by 15% Baseline (2020): 5,040 (30% women) Target (2022) (incl. baseline): 9,200 (30% women). Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 3.1.5. Percentage of public vocational education and 	<p>unions; professional organizations; VET colleges; universities; private training providers</p>	
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		<p>training (VET) college graduates employed/self-employed Baseline (2018): 62% Target (2025): 67% Source: MESCS tracer study, annually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 3.1.6. Number of companies supported to mitigate impact and recover from COVID-19 crisis Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2023): 60 companies Source: UNDP, annually <p>Output 3.2. Sustainable and inclusive rural and agriculture development and improved livelihoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 3.2.1. Annual action plans of agriculture and rural development strategy (ARDS), 2021-2027, per cent implemented Baseline: 0% Target (2025): 70% annually Source: Annual implementation reports, annually Indicator 3.2.2. Number of newly created official jobs in supported rural non-farm enterprises in selected regions Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2025): 300 Source: UNDP, Agriculture and Rural Development Agency records, annually Indicator 3.2.3. Number of forest and protected area hectares under sustainable and climate-resilient management benefitting targeted rural population Baseline (2017): 0 Target (2022): 420,000 ha (2022) Source: MEPA, annually 		
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NATIONAL PRIORITY OR GOAL: Government programme for 2019-2020 prioritizes conflict resolution and community resilience through peace building, public diplomacy, socioeconomic empowerment and support to conflict-affected communities with active engagement of local and international partners.				
UNSDCF, 2021-2025, OUTCOME INVOLVING UNDP 4: By 2025, conflict affected communities enjoy human rights, enhanced human security and resilience.				
RELATED UNDP STRATEGIC PLAN, 2018-2021, OUTCOME: Outcome 3. Strengthen resilience to shocks and crises.				
<p>4.1. (UNSDCF indicator 4.1) Political stability and absence of violence index Baseline (2019): percentile rank - 29.05; Target (2025): >30</p> <p>4.2. (UNSDCF indicator 4.2) Global peace index Baseline (2020): rank 95 (score: 2.116); Target (2025): <94</p> <p>4.3. (UNSDCF indicator 4.3) Positive peace index Baseline (2019): rank 54 (score: 2.7); Target (2025): <53;</p> <p>4.4. (UNSDCF indicator 4.4) Women, peace and security index Baseline (2019): rank 46 (value 0.777) Target (2025): <45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World governance indicators (https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports) • 4.2-4.3. Institute for Economics and Peace (http://visionofhumanity.org/) • 4.4. Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/chapters/) 	<p>Output 4.1. Conflict-affected populations have improved access to essential services, including education, healthcare, gender-based violence (GBV) response/legal assistance and improved socioeconomic conditions, community resilience and self-reliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.1.1. Number of cases of legal services received by conflict-affected persons (including GBV survivors) by sex Baseline (2019): 640 (82% women) Target (2025): 920 (80% women) Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 4.1.2. Number of cases of psychological assistance services received by conflict-affected persons (including GBV survivors) by sex Baseline (2019): 757, 94% women Target (2025): 1,177, 95% women Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 4.1.3. Number of conflict-affected youngsters with 	State Minister for Reconciliation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CSOs, international organizations, United Nations organizations	<p>Regular: \$437,500</p> <p>Other: \$21,564,911</p>

		<p>improved access to schools, VET colleges and university Baseline (2019): 20,174 (40% female youth) Target (2025): 31,578 (50% female youth) Source: UNDP, annually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.1.4. Number of conflict-affected population with improved access to essential healthcare services Baseline (2019): 10,886 (about 60% female youth) Target (2025): 16,054 (50% female youth) Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 4.1.5. Number of people benefiting directly from improved socioeconomic conditions and improved human security Baseline (2019): 5,362 (51% women) Target (2025): 14,742 (50% women) Source: UNDP, annually • Indicator 4.1.6. Number of people with improved community resilience against climate-induced multi-hazard natural disasters Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2025): 780 direct beneficiaries (50% female) Source: UNDP, annually <p>Output 4.2. Space widened for dialogue and participation that strengthens civil society, community resilience, social cohesion and implementation of the women, peace and security agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.2.1. Number of initiatives to support direct people-to-people contacts, liaison activities (deliveries of 		
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		<p>medication and/or other essential goods) and to enhance enabling environment for dialogue and trust within and across divided communities</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 121 Target (2025): 221 Source: UNDP, annually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.2.2. Number of people who benefit from peacebuilding initiatives that ensure enhanced confidence within and between divided communities <p>Baseline (2020): 26,430, 49% women Target (2025): 42,000 (50% women) Source: UNDP, annually</p>		
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