

Theory of Change – UNSDCF 2021 - 2026

An independent and thorough evaluation of the cooperation framework document 2016-2020 was carried out in 2019. The findings found its way into a Common Country Analysis, which was then followed by a series of internal discussions in the UN Country Team. Based on these findings the agencies, funds and programmes in Georgia outlined and agreed upon one forward-looking overarching priority for the new five-years program cycle, which is **Enhancing human wellbeing, capabilities and social equality**. This will be reached through work around five **Outcomes** that echo the national development priorities of the State.

Effective and accountable institutions and respective systems and processes will ensure providing quality public services for the people living in the country following the “leaving no one behind” principle, thus contributing to realization of the SDGs. Through attaining **Outcome (1)** of the new **UNSDCF all people in Georgia will enjoy good governance, open and accountable institutions, rule of law and equal access to justice and human rights and participation in decision making**.

In its programs, the UN System will emphasize:

- upholding of good governance principles, enhancement of all aspects of human rights and gender equality;
- improved understanding, mapping and addressing inequalities in the country through evidence-based policies, more impartial and depoliticized civil service;
- access to justice;
- legislature corresponding to its expanded institutional mandate with focus on oversight;
- highly effective public administration and further depoliticized civil service;
- empowering young people to be equipped to advocate for their participation in social and economic spheres and in making decisions affecting their lives;
- soliciting for approaches aiming at eradication of discriminatory social norms hindering transformation towards more equitable society and elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls;
- national legislation further aligned with international standards;
- more independent and impartial media and civil society; and
- evidence and results-based planning and improved population data systems for mapping inequalities and monitoring the progress towards achieving SDGs.

In order to achieve the above results, the UN System in Georgia will mobilize its efforts to further support the public administration reform and implementation of the Decentralization and Human Rights Strategies, improve the system of checks-and-balances and enhance access to independent and impartial media and civil society. Activities will aim at political and economic empowerment of women including enforcement of national strategies and action plans that concern gender equality, violence and harmful practices against women, girls and children, capacity building of professionals in the justice system and strengthening national agencies and municipalities for better implementation and monitoring of child-sensitive social protection programs. Jointly with the Government, the UN will work on improving national asylum systems and processes, promote open and affordable access to justice and integrated and reliable population data systems.

Three Outputs are formulated under the **Outcome 1** and read as follows:

1.1: Inclusive national and local governance systems have greater capacities to ensure participatory policy-making, measure inequalities and deliver quality services to all, including during times of crisis;

1.2: National legislation and practices enhance peoples' rights and equal access to justice in Georgia;

1.3: Legislative frameworks, policies and governance systems mainstream gender and combat GBV, violence against children and other harmful practices towards women and girls.

In order to ensure that **all people living in Georgia have equitable access to inclusive and quality services (Outcome 2)**, joint activities are being developed and implemented by the UN in the areas of health, education, and social services. These efforts contribute to an improved enabling environment for the delivery, promotion and monitoring of quality and inclusive health¹, education and social services and warrant that persons, especially those who have been left behind, have increased and equitable access to quality and affordable health, education and social services and are better protected from violence and exploitation.

Key structural barriers to the quality, availability, accessibility, coverage and appropriateness of services are tackled when:

- a. appropriate leadership and domestic funding allocations are in place;
- b. awareness about applicable legislation, rights and obligations to children, youth, women, elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTD persons, IDPs, refugees, stateless persons, migrants and key population groups at risk of HIV, TB and viral hepatitis is increased;
- c. authorities at national and local levels have the capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of services that respond to diverse needs of people in Georgia regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, health and migration status; and
- d. authorities at national and local levels are prepared to respond to emergencies and maintain critical services for the population.

For reaching this Outcome, it is essential that coordination and planning for delivery of quality multi-sectoral services is improved, evidence- and human rights based, child- and gender-sensitive policies, strategies and legal/regulatory frameworks are in place and systems are strengthened through improved guidance and standards, strategic partnerships with national and local authorities, civil society, private sector, professional associations, media, CBOs, academia and youth are strengthened and there is a skilled and capacitated health, education and social services workforce available. Positive dynamics of continuous cooperative efforts of the UN system is secured through the work towards strengthening systems for service delivery, improvement of preventive and curative service quality and empowerment of communities and individuals aware about their rights and capable to address harmful social norms and practices, stigma and all types of discrimination.

¹ targeted health policies and services include sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including adolescent SRH, maternal and child health and nutrition (MCH+N), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), prevention and management of high-burden non-communicable diseases (NCDs), integrated prevention and response to HIV/TB/Viral Hepatitis with focus on key populations, and response to gender-based violence (GBV)

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

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

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

2.3: Improved national legislation that protect people living in Georgia, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, and ensure equitable access to and coverage of quality social services

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth which creates equal opportunities can be sustained if factors impeding creation of jobs, poverty reduction and improvement of competitiveness and inclusiveness, promotion of decent work and livelihoods are addressed. Cooperation with(in) the UN system is underway so that **all people living in Georgia benefit from a sustainable and inclusive economy (Outcome 3)**. The UN system in Georgia partners with various stakeholders and combines endeavours for increased private sector competitiveness and strengthened livelihoods, agriculture and rural development and full and productive employment and decent work complemented by a strong social protection system.

Broader visioning of economic growth as a means for sustainable advancement of human capabilities and well-being, policies and programs that promote human centered economic and business models, an enabling environment and business opportunities for investment while respecting human rights and environmental impact, creation of decent work for all population segments including migrants and asylum seekers and implementation of activities against child labor, human trafficking, as well as promotion of Family Friendly Policy and social support programs and improvement of population's economic prospects will result in sustained productivity improvement, introduction of responsible business practices and increased living standards. At the same time, disparities between urban and rural areas will be decreased through maximization of agriculture potential and the diversified economy will lead to sustainable income generation. Overall poverty and inequality will reduce versus enhanced productive employment, decent work, strengthened livelihoods and inclusive social protection.

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

3.1: Increased private sector competitiveness and strengthened livelihoods

3.2: Agriculture and rural development

3.3: Full and productive employment and decent work complemented by the strong social protection system

One of the most important priorities of Georgia is addressed under the **Outcome 4** which strives for **conflict affected communities to enjoy enhanced human security and resilience**. Equal opportunities should be guaranteed for all by overcoming the key barriers to freedom of movement, access to rights, livelihoods, quality healthcare, education and other services. Enhancement of community resilience on the ground will contribute to promotion of the lasting peace. The way forward to reaching this goal

foresees implementation of the State Strategy on IDPs in partnership with conflict-affected communities, authorities, development actors, civil society etc., provided that state resources are optimally used, so that IDPs enjoy better socio-economic integration with improved livelihoods and long-term sustainable development. Improvement of health, including reproductive, maternal and child health, empowerment of women and girls to live lives free from GBV and harmful practices and are fully engaged into development processes, improvement of capacities within conflict affected communities to demand the protection their rights and enjoy equitable access to basic and enhanced social services are the highlighted points of the day-to-day work agenda for the UN. Prospects for long term coexistence will be enhanced if advocacy and consultation process brings up IDP legislation and state policy with the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement and state policy is reformed to foresee shift from “status based” to “needs based” assistance, local service providers are supported to implement evidence-based guidelines and standards, IDP returnee population in Abkhazia is informed and obtain relevant documentation to access their rights including freedom of movement and when employment opportunities are increased and there is better access to income generation sources. The space for dialogue leading to reconciliation and sustainable peace within and across the divided communities will be widened through grassroots and civil society driven initiatives. Facilitation of confidence building measures, empowerment of “agents for peace”, improving enabling environment for people-to-people contacts will result into change of attitudes and behaviour of societies across the conflict divide.

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

- 4.1:** Conflict affected populations have improved access to essential services, including education, healthcare and pandemic response, legal assistance and legal remedies
- 4.2:** Socio-economic conditions, community resilience and self-reliance improved with programmes benefitting host and displaced populations
- 4.3:** Space widened for dialogue and participation that strengthens civil society and social cohesion

Climate-sensitive and low-carbon development, sustainable land and natural resource use practices, supply of affordable and clean energy along with equal focus over the reduced production and use of toxic chemicals represent the necessary conditions for resilience, wellbeing, health and improved livelihoods of Georgian population and is crucial for the sustainable development of the country.

Outcome 5 encompasses efforts that are tailored to ensure that **all people in Georgia enjoy enhanced resilience through improved environmental governance, climate action and sustainable management and use of natural resources.**

Improved environmental governance, supported by strong legal, institutional and policy frameworks, facilitates rational and sustainable use of natural and land resources and conservation of natural habitats and eco-systems. The UN System will continue its support for increasing adaptive capacities for climate risk management, disaster preparedness and functional multi-hazard early warning systems; it will promote innovative and smart energy solutions and sustainable industrial technologies and help in adaptation and mitigation of climate change, reduce land degradation and ensure shared prosperity and well-being at local, regional and national scales.

Throughout the new programming cycle UN agencies will model their programs to advocate for climate smart and risk informed development planning and implementation in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) management, food production, eco-tourism, industry, healthcare, energy and construction sectors. Efforts and resources will be mobilized to implement legal, organizational and environmental management measures so that the production and use of substances that cause serious damage to human health and environment are reduced. Planned interventions will also focus on strengthening of evidence-based policies, regulatory frameworks, guidance and standards as well as improving country's capacity to implement Health Impact Assessment (HIA). UN avails itself in support of the Government of Georgia to design better targeted interventions to prevent and respond to disasters risks, promotion of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and effective fulfillment of environmental health outcomes.

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

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

5.2: Climate-sensitive, resilient and risk-informed development ensured in AFOLU, health, water safety, construction, energy and food production sectors to increase adaptive capacities and mitigate impact of climate change pursuing LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality)

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