

Formulation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025

Webinar for Outcome 2 “All people living in Georgia have equitable and inclusive access to quality services delivered in accordance with international human rights standards”

Minutes of Discussion

Webinar organizer: UN RCO

Date: 3.06.2020; 15.00-15.50

Venue: Online via “Zoom” platform

Participants: overall 58 persons attended; (list of participants is attached)

UN RCO/host:

Ms. Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator

Ms. Marine Chitashvili, RCO Team Leader

Mr. David Mushkudiani, Partnerships and Development Finance Officer

Ms. Teona Kiknadze, RCO Executive Associate

Ms. Nestan Khuntsaria, Data Management Monitoring and Reporting Officer

UN Country Team:

UNDP, UNFAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNILO, UNIOM, UNOHCHR, UNWOMEN

UN External partners and stakeholders represented by the of Government of Georgia, International Organizations, Civil Society, Academia, Private Sector nominated by the UN Agencies for Outcome 2 discussion;

Agenda:

- ✚ **Introduction of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 Formulation Process;** Sabine Machl – UN Resident Coordinator (RC)
- ✚ **Presentation by Co-chair of the Outcome 2 Working Group;** Lela Bakradze – Head of UNFPA Office in Georgia on behalf of the Group 2
- ✚ **Discussion, Q/A session** – facilitated by Sabine Machl, UNRC

Objective of the Webinar: To ensure coordination and alignment with the Georgia’s development priorities, the UN System is launching a series of online consultations with all key partners. The five webinars will focus on one of the five priority outcomes that UNCT is proposing will guide the UN’s support to Georgia in the coming five years. Through a wide discussion and feedback to UNCT thinking, it will become possible to consolidate views and develop a highly relevant and nationally owned UNSDCF 2021-2026.



The second Webinar focused on Outcome 2, “All people living in Georgia have equitable and inclusive access to quality services delivered in accordance with international human rights standards”, which along with other four Outcomes falls under the Overarching Priority “Enhancing Human Wellbeing, Capabilities and Social Equality”.

Questions / Comments by participants:

- Are public services, e.g. civil registration included into the presumed list of services or not? Is it envisaged that the work focusing on provision of services in rural areas will remain as part of the new program?
- Suggestion to envisage a special category of population as a distinct group which will particularly become vulnerable and in a disadvantageous position as a result of COVID19 pandemic in Georgia. This group include returnee citizens of Georgia that have specific needs, different from all other segments of population. *(Ketevan Khutsishvili, EU Delegation);*
- ✓ *The UN will continue working with the Government to support provision of public services. As far as there will be a lot of overlaps within efforts under different Outcomes strong coordination will be ensured, so that coherence among different aspects is maintained. This specific outcome will target social services, including health, education and social protection.*
- ✓ *Needs and other aspects of the returned migrants including those due to COVID19 is taken into consideration within the plans under Outcome. UN works and will continue working with the newly established structure of the Government. Planned efforts include provision of access to services, mapping of available services, as well as the reintegration component.*
- Vulnerability of people living with HIV and TB is specific and stronger taking into consideration the overall impact of COVID19 epidemic. It would be desired to have certain ‘life support’ programs for this population groups, since Georgia is still behind in terms of activities in this area. At least it would be advisable, if the UN envisages provision of technical assistance in elaboration of models, that afterwards could be taken over by the Global Fund or the Government for implementation. *(Ketevan Stvilia, NCDC);*
- ✓ *Cooperation between the UN and the Government as well as planning for the new CF has been ongoing even before the COVID19 started. Definitely UN will be looking further to better ways to support Government in identification of specific needs and delivery of quality services to particularly vulnerable groups not only through the emergency response but also at the recovery phase which is expected to last for quite some time.*

- How the programmatic overlaps between different Outcomes will be articulated in operational terms? This concerns specifically the services related aspects, as some of them fall under Outcome 1 and others under the Outcome 2.
 - How will be regional aspects managed especially in decentralization, furthermore in COVID19 related work where many things have to be managed locally?
 - Also the aspects of e-governance, e-services, etc.,. Will these digital forms of services be considered as a separate aspect to focus within the CF and where is this placed, more in SME – economic part or more in Governance part? (*Colombe de Mercey, EU Delegation*);
- ✓ *One should not consider existence of any brick walls between or among the Outcomes. All contribute to the transformative result, have the potential to accelerate achieving sustainable development goals - it is aimed at improving or enhancing human well being and capability and social equality. Outcomes and Outputs have been designed in the presented way solely for the sake of planning, based on the theory of change. Services of the Ministry of Justice have been placed under Outcome 1, which is more focused on governance and decentralization. It is noteworthy that none of the Outcomes focuses on single SDG. SDGs are clustered under each Outcomes that contribute to achieving UNSDCF transformative overall result..*
 - ✓ *In terms of operationalizing there are no major challenges here either. Any of the projects may be designed in the way of addressing more than one Outcome. This is the matter of planning and good cooperation between agencies. UN Agencies will coordinate and partner as much as possible including through the Joint Programs.*
 - ✓ *Operationalization of the CF itself encompasses going down to existing baseline and to the intended targets. Accordingly, identification of indicators will be the next step. Indeed, focuses should be further discussed especially when it comes to decentralization and rural development. Agencies are planning their programs in the way that they match the CF and elaborate the ways of implementation of their projects in a very detailed manner. Current presentation is made at the higher level, however each agency while elaborating their plans look specifically at decentralization aspects including performance at local level.*

Summary of points discussed:

- ✚ All stakeholders in principle agree with current formulation of the Outcome and Outputs, hence the projected priorities of the UN programs for the next 5-years cycle echo expectations and priorities of the State.
- ✚ Work will be continued to further support the decentralization strategy implementation and this area will remain as priority and within the focus of attention;

Comments received in writing:

- ✚ Chair of Gender Theme Group suggested to review the UNSDCF Outcomes with inputs from the partners, following the consultations to organize a review of the draft from the gender perspective and informed by 2018 Gender Score Card findings. Tamar Sabedashvili (UNWOMEN), who has supported the SWAP-Gender Score Card process, has volunteered to facilitate the meeting of the relevant UNCT members. Support from the regional IBC on gender can also be ensured as found necessary.