

TBILISI
MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS REPORT



GOAL 1: ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY
GOAL 2: UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITATIVE EDUCATION
GOAL 3: GENDER EQUALITY AND INCREASE OF WOMEN AUTHORITY
GOAL 4: REDUCTION OF CHILD MORTALITY
GOAL 5: IMPROVEMENT OF MATERNAL HEALTH
GOAL 6: COMBATING HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES
GOAL 7: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
GOAL 8: ESTABLISHING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

TBILISI MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT REPORT



TBILISI GEORGIA 2007
PREPARED BY TBILISI MUNICIPALITY WITH THE SUPPORT OF UNDP
EDITED BY JOHN HORAN
COVER AND DESIGN DANIELA CRISTOFORI MaMaDesign
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	INTRODUCTION	3
	OVERVIEW OF TBILISI	5
	GOAL 1: ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY	10
	GOAL 2: EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION	20
	GOAL 3: PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN	26
	GOAL 4: REDUCTION OF CHILD MORTALITY	32
	GOAL 5: IMPROVEMENT OF MATERNAL HEALTH	36
	GOAL 6: COMBATING HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES	38
	GOAL 7: ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	42
	GOAL 8: ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT	52
	STATEMENT OF THE TBILISI MUNICIPALITY	56

INTRODUCTION

On 8 September 2000 at the 8th Assembly of the United Nations, representatives of 189 states and governments adopted “The Millennium Declaration of the United Nations”. The declaration sets forth the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), a comprehensive programme to eradicate poverty by combating its causes and occurrences. Specific tasks were determined for each goal and applicable indicators were selected to monitor their progress.

As a signatory of the Millennium Declaration, Georgia has committed itself to integrating the goals in its national development strategy and produce periodic status reports on its progress towards the goals.

In line with its commitments, the country launched the first national MDG Report in June 2004, which customized the globally agreed goals and targets to the specific context of Georgia. Several additional targets were also identified. For example, target number four under goal one, “Eradication of extreme poverty”, calls for the socioeconomic rehabilitation of IDPs and victims of natural disasters and their integration into civil society. Furthermore, in order to avoid setting forth overly ambitious and unachievable targets and taking into consideration the real situation of the post-Soviet space, the baseline year for the MDGs was set as 2000 instead of 1990.

One year after adopting the baseline report, the government of Georgia decided to produce a 2004-2005 MDG progress report. For this purpose a governmental decree was issued to establish a permanent governmental commission on MDGs with the prime minister acting as chairman. The MDG progress report was prepared in close cooperation with UN agencies and in consultation with NGOs and was discussed at the government meeting of 31 August 2005. The report was prepared before the September 2005 World

Summit in New-York, “MDG +5”, where global leaders reviewed the progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals. At the summit it was recognized that local governments play a key role in achieving the Millennium Goals, and this was consequently reflected in the summit's final document. One of the reasons cited for this is that local administrations have the ability to effectively respond to people's needs.

With this in mind, the Tbilisi Municipality decided to undertake a further adaptation of the national MDGs by specifically targeting the urban environment of Tbilisi. As far as the writers of this report are aware, this is the first time that the MDGs have been adapted to a national capital. Hopefully, this innovation of the Tbilisi Municipality will provide a model for other cities around the world.

From the municipality's point of view, this first report on Tbilisi's Millennium Development Goals will be an important instrument for directing and strengthening institutional and public services by:

- Applying the Millennium Goals as a powerful factor for socio-economic development in Tbilisi;
- Aligning ongoing socio-economic policies on the local level with the MDGs;
- Harmonizing national, regional and Millennium development priorities; and, most importantly,
- Accomplishing the targets identified herein by 2015.

The Municipal Service for Economic Policy of the Tbilisi Municipality has lead and facilitated the preparation of this report. During its preparation, an important aim was to stimulate and invite the participation of various stakeholders through sharing and discussing early drafts. Apart from the Municipal Services of the Tbilisi Municipality and district governments, relevant ministries and state agencies, UN agencies, other international organizations, and NGOs have participated in the process.

It should also be noted that this document was prepared in December 2006, before the administrative-territorial changes of the city that took place in January 2007.

During the preparation of the report, the collection of accurate and timely information was given specific importance, but constituted a major challenge. As in many other countries, there are major gaps in disaggregated, reliable statistical data and information in Georgia. For Tbilisi alone this has been a challenge, and even more so for the various districts of the capital and different population groups. While serious efforts have been made to address the problem of information scarcity, the lack of appropriate and reliable data has led to an agreement to set the base year for Tbilisi to 2005.

It shall be noted that the preparation of the baseline report precedes the formulation of the annual socioeconomic development programme for Tbilisi and the elaboration of a local economic development strategy. Therefore, the present report will lay a foundation for these strategic documents, which will not only increase consensus and understanding of the goals on a local level, but will also ensure that the millennium goals become an integral part of the development policy of Tbilisi. This will also facilitate the empowerment of Tbilisi's development strategy in the framework of national policy, and will provide an additional link between the MDGs, the integration of Georgia with EU structures, and the requirements of global development.



OVERVIEW OF TBILISI

BRIEF HISTORY, TERRITORY AND POPULATION

Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, represents a significant industrial, social and cultural centre not only in Georgia, but in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region. Situated along the route of the historical Silk Road, Tbilisi still holds a strategic location at the crossroads of Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Europe and Asia, and the Islamic and Christian worlds. At the dawn of the new millennium Georgia is now emerging as one of the most important transit countries for the flow of global energy, information and trade.

Archaeological excavations suggest that people have been living in the Tbilisi area since 4,000 BC. The history of Tbilisi as a city dates back to the second half of the fourth century AD when, according to ancient records, the first known castle was built under the rule of King Varaz-Bakuri. This castle was later occupied by Persians at the end of the same century, and recaptured by King Vakhtang Gorgasali in the year 458, which is considered the year in which Tbilisi as we now know it was founded.

The city stretches 33 km along the Mtkvari River and covers an area of 372 square km. The river divides the city into two parts, with the left side of the city exceeding the right in both territory and population. The southeast part of the city is 350 meters above sea level, while the populated areas of the Mtatsminda slope are located at 550-600 meters above sea level.

In January 2006 there were an estimated 1,093,000 people living in Tbilisi, almost 24% of Georgia's total population. The total growth of population in the past four years has been 0.2%, with a notable decline in 2002 of -0.7%. Two plausible explanations can be given for the low growth rate: (i) there is no natural growth, as the low birth rate is almost equal to the mortality rate; and (ii) migration from other parts of the country does not offset the number of those

leaving the capital for other destinations, often abroad.

According to 2005 calculations, the population density in Tbilisi is 2,937 persons per square km. The most dense region is the Didube-Chugureti district with 7,855 persons per square km, and the lowest density is in the Isani-Samgori district with 2,323 persons per square km.

According to 2002 census data, 15.6% of Tbilisi's population is not ethnically Georgian. The most significant non-Georgian ethnic groups are Armenians, Russians, Azeris and Ossetians. The vast majority of Tbilisi's population belongs to the Orthodox Church. The same census indicates that only 45.1% of the population is male, while the remaining 54.8% is female. In other words, there are approximately 50,000 more women than men.

Since the beginning of the 1990's, the average age of Tbilisi's population has been sharply increasing. Low birth rates and extremely high levels of child mortality in the mid 1990's, along with the immigration of mainly young people during the last decade, are the primary causes of this. For the last couple of years, however, some positive demographic factors can be observed. Since 2003 the number of marriages has increased by 38.4% and births by 21%, while in the same period mortality has decreased by 3.5% and divorces by 10.9%.

As of 1 January 2007, the territorial-administrative division of Tbilisi consists of the following districts: Gldani-Nadzaladevi, Didube-Chugureti, Vake-Saburtalo, Old Tbilisi, Isani-Samgori and Didgori.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Following the political turmoil in Georgia and its capital at the end of the 1990s that nearly brought the economic and social system to a collapse, the main economic indicators have been improving since 2001. Thanks to a complex of socio-economic reforms undertaken by the new government, GDP growth in Georgia has been brisk since 2003. A significant portion of this economic growth can be explained by the ongoing economic activity of Tbilisi. Industrial output in the capital in 2005 increased by 501.5 million GEL and reached a total of 2,731.8 million GEL, which represented 53.8% of Georgia's total industrial output. The production of goods and provision of services in Tbilisi differs in legal forms from the overall tendency existing in Georgia. The share of the non-governmental sector in the capital is about 10% higher than in the rest of the country and accounts for 84% of Georgia's total output. This is reflected in the privatization demand in Tbilisi and, accordingly, higher rates and scales of

property privatization vis-à-vis the rest of Georgia.

Tbilisi's economy is based on the fields of industry, transport and communication, which in aggregate represent more than a half of the output of the capital city. A clearer picture of the economic development of Tbilisi in the social perspective is presented by a per capita calculation of produced goods and services in the city. In 2005, annual per-capita GDP in Tbilisi was 2,732 GEL, which is about 170 GEL, or 6.5%, more than Georgia as a whole. Until 2003, the per capita GDP for Tbilisi was lower than that of the rest of the country.

Price fluctuations in Tbilisi are distinct from those of Georgia's other regions. The consumer price index in December 2005 was 13.7% higher than it was in December 2003, and 2.0% higher than November of the same year. The nationwide increase over this period was 1.8%. In view of the economic growth, investments and overall socio-economic development, producer price index of industrial output - which in December 2005 accounted to 108.6% vis-à-vis December 2004 - was of no less importance.

Value added costs produced in Tbilisi in 1998-2005

(Current prices, mln. GEL)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING	15,4	8,1	9,1	6,8	2,6	4,8	27,7	8,2
PROCESSING HOME-MADE PRODUCTS	33,2	33,9	28,5	36,8	42,8	45,9	51,3	19,7
INDUSTRY	173,3	219,0	262,5	273,1	313,1	363,2	373,3	535,3
CONSTRUCTION	108,9	79,5	120,0	108,0	150,6	202,0	247,7	276,7
TRADE AND TECHNICAL SERVICE	166,4	201,8	275,2	291,7	351,2	380,5	401,1	422,1
TRANSPORT, STORAGE COMMUNICATION	211,7	258,7	226,9	248,5	266,5	326,6	350,4	417,4
STATE MANAGEMENT, DEFENSE, LAW ENFORCEMENT	82,9	77,3	84,9	96,8	117,2	126,3	196,3	263,3
EDUCATION	41,6	54,8	65,8	75,0	81,2	92,9	121,3	127,6
PUBLIC HEALTH	88,8	94,4	123,6	121,9	142,3	115,9	104,4	157,5
OTHER SERVICES	398,4	451,2	419,7	426,9	613,4	612,0	532,6	772,4
TOTAL VALUE ADDED COSTS	1320,5	1478,8	1616,2	1685,5	2080,9	2270,2	2406,1	3000,2

Socio-economic conditions in the different districts and areas of Tbilisi have different characteristics. In almost all territorial units there are both wealthy and socially vulnerable families. According to the calculations of the Department of Statistics, the minimum cost of living for a man of working age in January 2006 in Tbilisi was 98.5 GEL, for the average consumer 87.3 GEL, and for the average family 165.3 GEL. The minimum cost of living has decreased by 0.8% since January 2005.

According to official data, the unemployment rate has fluctuated slightly in recent years, reaching 31% in 2005. Investments and innovative activities significantly change the demands on the labour force. Due to a poor unemployment assistance system and the low rate of unemployment allowances, unregistered unemployment is traditionally high. Many of those who do work are engaged in unskilled labour and have low salaries. The ongoing changes in the educational system of Georgia, including professional education, may become a powerful factor for reducing the unemployment rate in the years to come.

Following transport and communications, industry is by volume one of the most important economic sectors of the capital city. From 2001 to 2005 industrial output in actual prices has almost doubled, reaching 757.2 million GEL. Last year was most successful for Tbilisi's industrial sector in this respect, with a 14.3% increase in output. During the last five years there have been different conditions of industrial development in the different districts of the capital. The Vake-Saburtalo district, where production output has almost tripled, was characterized by the most notable industrial

development. In contrast to other sectors of the economy in Tbilisi, a high concentration of industrial output can be observed in large enterprises. In 2005, large enterprises produced 82.0% of total industrial output, while medium and small scale enterprises produced 10.3% and 7.6% respectively. Growth tendencies were striking in 2006 – the value of production in the third quarter was 274,4 million GEL, up 13 million GEL from the second quarter.

A sharp increase in construction has taken place during the past two years. Investments of over 800 million GEL went into Tbilisi's construction sector in this period. The majority of completed constructions are located in the Vake-Saburtalo and Mtatsminda Krtsanisi districts. The total work volume in Tbilisi's construction sector in 2005 reached 12.7% of the total output of the capital. Most construction enterprises in the city are working on private property. Income from the transport and communication sectors in the same period totalled 846,764,300 GEL.

The service sector in Tbilisi has also seen rapid growth in the last five years, and in the last two years alone services provided have almost doubled. The government share in the total volume of services was 34.8%. As in other fields of economic activity, the state's share in the production of services is gradually decreasing.

Real estate operations, leases and commercial activities have had the highest share in the service sector. Small enterprises also have a dominant share in the service sector, although they provide only 16.3% of the employment opportunities in the sector overall. In the last few years every fifth employee in Tbilisi was engaged in the trade sector. Overall employment in this sector in 2005 was 51,786 persons, with 90% of those involved in retail and the remaining 10% in wholesale. The total turnover of trade enterprises accounted for 3.214 million GEL. In real terms, restaurants had a 34.5% increase in sales.

The number of non-state secondary schools has significantly increased in Tbilisi during the last few years. Since 2000-2001, the number of pupils in non-state secondary schools increased annually, at the expense of a reduction of the number of pupils in state-owned schools. A similar tendency was observed in state and non-state secondary professional schools. In the same period the number of students increased both in state and non-state high schools, although the increase in the non-state sector was much less significant. The total number of students in Tbilisi's state universities and high schools in 2005 reached 78,300 thousand. At the same time, use of public libraries declined.



*„Tbilisi
rich city“*



GOAL 1:

ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY

TARGET 1: HALVE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE NATIONAL POVERTY LINE IN TBILISI

TARGET 2: INCREASE THE EMPLOYMENT LEVEL BY SUPPORTING SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES

TARGET 3: PROVIDE FREE NUTRITION FOR EXTREMELY POOR POPULATION

TARGET 4: SUPPORT THE FULL SCALE SOCIOECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF IDPS

Under the abovementioned goal, for the period of 2000-2015 the number of people living below the poverty line and the number of malnourished in Georgia are to be halved, and IDPs and victims of natural disasters are to be fully integrated into the socio-economic life of the country. With these goals in mind, attention is concentrated on describing the relevant circumstances in the context of Tbilisi.

In Tbilisi, as of 30 May 2006, there are 95,749 people in 33,349 families who consider themselves to be living in extreme poverty according to their socio-economic status and who expressed a need for social assistance. The majority of these families reside in the Gldani-Nadzaladevi (32.0%) and Isani-Samgori districts (23.0%), while a minority are located in the Vake-Saburtalo district (12.4%).

Poverty indicators that characterize trends in

the urban-rural spectrum are also interesting. According to 2004 data, the official poverty level indicator was increasing in rural areas while simultaneously decreasing in urban areas. Since then, the situation has changed somewhat: in comparison with 2004, the poverty level indicator has increased in the city by 2.8% and in rural areas by 4.6%.

With this in mind, an additional observation of a general nature shall be noted here, which is applicable to this report as a whole: there is a need for a relevant database that can be used as a foundation for the planning and implementation of specific programmes and for the efficient monitoring and evaluation of their progress. In order to have adequate poverty level indicators, it is first necessary to expand the selection size of household surveys, which requires additional resources and motivation.

CONDITION OF SOCIOALLY VULNERABLE FAMILIES

The improvement of socio-economic conditions through the eradication of extreme poverty among the population of Georgia, including Tbilisi, represents the cornerstone of this goal. The main principle of the goal is the monetization of social assistance and improving the targeting of assistance in general.

In order to effectively implement this, the State Agency for Social Assistance and Employment (SASE) is working on a state programme to create a unified database of socially vulnerable families, which involves registering the poorest families across the country. Families in need of state assistance fill in application forms and submit them to special communication centres, whereupon a representative of SASE visits the family at their permanent living address. Together with an authorized representative of the family, the social agent fills in the “family declaration”. According to data in the declaration, SASE establishes a rating and registers the family in the database.

A specially elaborated methodology is used for calculating the rating score (indicator of family welfare) and accordingly, the so-called “poverty formula”. The rating score may be modified only after one year (except in those cases when a family suffers damage due to a natural disaster). A family that is registered in the database is required to inform SASE in a timely manner about any changes in the number of family members, place of living, or any other substantial change in their socio-economic conditions. The rating score represents a solid unit that determines whether a family will be granted assistance from a specific targeted social assistance program. In the frames of the cash-assistance program, which will start in the autumn of this year, assistance will be given to those families that, according to records in the database, are given a rating below the “marginal poverty score” as established by the Government of Georgia.

According to data of May 2006, 330 thousand families applied to SASE, of which 33,349 are in Tbilisi. Most of these families have already been evaluated and registered in the database, and the families are now being issued with registration certificates. Registering applicants in the database and awarding rating scores is a rather difficult, multi-staged process that takes three months.

Families that are issued certificates for registration in the unified database of socially vulnerable families and are awarded scores that put them below the poverty line must apply to their local State Employment Agency units (city or regional) according to their permanent living address in order to receive social assistance. Each adult and able-bodied family member or their legal representative must fill in a standard application form. Two weeks after submitting applications, the local unit of SASE will discuss the case and decide whether or not to assign state benefits.

Social assistance is awarded to each able-bodied adult member of a family who is personally identified in the standard social assistance application form. Bank accounts will be opened for each person, into which cash allowances will be transferred monthly. The SASE provides home delivery of the cash aide payments to those families where all able-bodied adults have limited mobility.

Number of the families registered in the unified data-base of socially vulnerable families according to Tbilisi districts (as of 30 May 2006)		
REGION	HOUSEHOLDS	POPULATION
GLDANI-NADZALADEVI	10188	30655
DIDUBE-CHUGURETI	5433	14440
VAKE-SABURTALO	4457	11897
ISANI-SAMGORI	7621	22062
MTATSMINDA-KRTSANISI	5650	16695
TOTAL	33349	95749

Source: State Agency for Social Assistance and Employment

Regarding gender distribution, 61.1% of registered individuals are women. Their numbers are especially high in the age groups of 61-70 and 71-80 - the number of women in these groups is 72.3% and 80.5% respectively. There is another notable tendency among those applying for assistance: the number of women applicants increases significantly with age, while the number of men decreases or remains almost unchanged with age. Overall and among both genders, the largest groups of applicants according to age are youth under 20 (15.3% of total applicants) and the elderly of 61-70 (14.8% of total applicants). These two age groups are accepted as being the most vulnerable. The number of applicants in the age group of 41-50 who are able to work is also high, which generally can be explained by the high level of unemployment.

After dividing applicants into categories, it was found that 59.0% of people who registered for assistance don't have any special status, while IDPs represent the largest category of those who do. According to the latest data there are 93,852 refugees registered in Tbilisi, although in the unified database of the socially vulnerable population only 12,149 refugees have been registered, or 12.9% of the total number of refugees. This indicator does not differ significantly from the percentage of Tbilisi's population as a whole that is registered in the database, which indicates the necessity to further perfect the existing information system. At the same time, 60.3% of registered IDPs are in the Mtatsminda-Krtsanisi district, largely because of the collective settlements located there. The next largest categories of special status applicants are unemployed single pensioners and families made up completely of unemployed pensioners, the total number of which is close to 20 thousand.

8.5% of registered individuals are people with significant disabilities (group II disabled) and with severe disabilities (group I disabled).

In the initial database of socially vulnerable people there are people registered, in almost equal proportions, with moderate disabilities (1.3%), members of families with lost breadwinner (3.6%), veterans of war (1.7%), single mothers (1.0%), and persons accorded to the status of veterans of war (1.0%). The share of handicapped children under 18, first category blind people, orphans and parents with seven or more children under 18 is comparatively insignificant. The majority of people in 11 of 16 special status categories are registered in Gldani-Nadzaladevi district.

80.7% of registered individuals are above the age of 16. Of these, 30.0% have higher education, 27.2% have secondary education, 23.2% have secondary professional education, and 10.9% have incomplete secondary education. It is remarkable that, despite a relatively high level of education, 77.6% of registered people that are of working age had no income-oriented occupation for three months before registration, 9.8% were employed on a reimbursement basis in private or state enterprises, 6.7% were individual entrepreneurs and 3.0% were engaged in non-agricultural activities. Despite the fact that many of these people are involved in some kind of occupation, they are still not able to meet their own basic needs. In this case, too, inequality can be observed between the different districts of Tbilisi. The number of unemployed in Gldani-Nadzaladevi exceeds the total number of unemployed in Didube-Chugureti and Vake-Saburtalo together.

Despite the high level of unemployment and clear limitation of elementary resources for survival, a vast majority (84.4%) of the population has not accepted state offers for employment in cleaning and planting trees in their own districts. Of those that did accept this offer, there were less in the Vake-Saburtalo district and more in the Mtatsminda-Krtsanisi and Gldani-Nadzaladevi districts. 52.2% of refusals were explained by health conditions, 15.8% because of other occupations, 10.7% by family conditions, 7.8% by the low remuneration offer, and 4.3% simply refused due to the offensive nature of the work.

According to the available data, the total income of registered socially vulnerable population for the last month was 3,082,604 GEL, or 32.1 GEL per person registered, which represents only 32.5 of the minimum cost of living.

The given statistics indicate that the general situation of those who registered is extremely difficult. Considering all types of bonuses, pensions account for the main source of monetary income for 37.2% of the registered population while salaries form the primary source of revenue for 27.1% and private business activities – 20.1%. Due to the fact that the number of IDPs has been underestimated, the amount they receive in state aid is a pittance. Here too, the Gldani-Nadzaladevi and Isani-Samgori districts have lower income levels. It is also notable that one of the most important sources of income for registered families during the last 12 months has been monetary assistance and loans from relatives and friends living in Georgia, mostly in the Gldani-Nadzaladevi district.

Some inconsistencies are observed between the incomes and expenses of the registered population. The recorded expenses of households during the last 12 months exceed income of the same period by 4.5 million GEL. 64.8% of the expenses were for medical services and drugs, while the second largest expenses are education-related, such as school fees, textbooks and other school supplies. Expenses on clothes and shoes accounted for 11.8% of total expenses. Expenses on household appliances, furniture, electrical appliances and vacations were comparatively insignificant. 26.5% of registered families have never heated their homes, while 32.1% use natural gas for this purpose.

In creating the database of socially vulnerable families, it is particularly interesting to get a general assessment of families' conditions through visual examination, independent of a State Social Agent. The quantitative distribution of families according to their living conditions is remarkable in this respect. 42.2% of families live in homes with average conditions, 27.6% in bad conditions and 6.9% in very bad conditions. At the same time, according to the social agents' evaluations, 18.8% of registered families reside in normal conditions and 4.2% in good living conditions.



The last and most important function of a social agent is the quantitative distribution of families based on subjective evaluation of their economic conditions. In this assessment, 43.0% of the registered families were evaluated as poor, 33.7% as impoverished and 8.8% - as extremely impoverished. 14.3% of families were given a status of average or high ability.

It is obvious that the above-mentioned data can not be generalized for all of Tbilisi due to the low level of representation. However, the database provides interesting information that makes it possible to determine the chief aims of specific endeavours at the local level. The database is also valuable in that it can be updated and reviewed.

CONDITIONS OF FOOD SAFETY

The evaluation of diet, in terms of the number of kilocalories consumed and the composition of diets, represents an important indicator for determining socio-economic conditions and poverty levels.

According to the quarterly bulletin of food safety observation of the Department of Statistics “Georgia: Status of food provision; tendencies in figures”, the population of Tbilisi has the second-lowest level of food energy consumption, after the Kartli region, in all of Georgia. Traditionally, the average consumption of calories in 2005 was 2270 kcal per person per day, which is more ¹ than the 2100 kcal established by the UN Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) as the necessary amount for an average physically engaged person. However, it should be noted that the corrected indicator for 2005 is lower than the minimal 2300 kcal level, while the figure for ² 2004 is slightly higher.

Overall conditions in Tbilisi are consistent with the general tendency that characterizes cities of Georgia, in particular large cities. The

average “consumption of calories” by people below the official poverty line in rural areas is significantly lower than the same indicator in Tbilisi (1550 kcal in 2004, 1560 kcal in 2005).

There also exists a qualitative imbalance in food energy consumption. A low level of albumen consumption can be observed in Tbilisi, as in Georgia as a whole; the quantity of carbohydrate intake is excessive (data on the country level shows that this indicator is getting worse in the poorest 40% of the population). This increases the composition of less-rich calories and, accordingly, reduces the total share of such products as meat, fish and milk products in people’s diets.

In addition, food energy consumption takes into account such important microelements as vitamin A, iron and iodine. In general it can be said that serious problems in respect to food safety are revealed in terms of the energy quality of food consumed and the availability of food, rather than food deficits in households of the most vulnerable groups across the country.

Despite the positive tendency observed last

year, an inadequate availability of food is also reflected in the expenditure structure of a household, where almost half of expenses are used for food products. In 2005, 44% of household expenses for people living in Tbilisi went to food, a 6% decrease from the previous year. For the population below the

official poverty line, this figure was 60% and 58% in 2004 and 2005, respectively. This naturally limits the expenses available for other requirements like healthcare, heating, transport, education and shelter. All of the above impedes investment into human capital development, hampers productivity growth and reduces the chances of overcoming poverty.

Consumption of calories per person on average (kcal/day)					
		2002	2003	2004	2005
Total population	Tbilisi	2110	2280	2340	2270
	Georgia	2130	2390	2450	2390
Below the official poverty margin	Tbilisi			1660	1660
	Georgia			1590	1590

Source: “Status of food provision in Georgia” (# 23, June 2006), Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

¹ This indicator, which is calculated by the conversion of food consumed by household into calories, instead of actual consumption of calories, implies food inflow to households (purchases, products of own production, transfers, food taken from reserves). This is why “consumption of calories” is presented in quotes.

² By a decree of 8 May 2003 of the Minister of Labour and Healthcare of Georgia, a new recommended composition of minimal food basket for able people was established based on the consumption of 2300 kcal per day that reflects the overall food consumption of the population in an adequate manner.

**Composition of nutrition ration for Tbilisi and Georgia,
in percentage of calorie consumption**

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
BREAD AND CEREALS	TBILISI	43	41	42	41	41	41
	GEORGIA	45	47	44	43	44	44
POTATO	TBILISI	4	4	3	3	4	4
	GEORGIA	3	3	3	3	3	3
MEAT	TBILISI	4	4	3	4	4	4
	GEORGIA	4	4	3	3	3	3
VEGETABLES	TBILISI	3	3	2	2	2	2
	GEORGIA	2	2	2	2	2	2
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS	TBILISI	13	10	10	8	9	9
	GEORGIA	14	14	12	12	11	11
PLANT OIL AND MARGARINE	TBILISI	11	18	11	10	10	10
	GEORGIA	9	9	8	7	8	8
SUGAR	TBILISI	11	10	8	10	10	10
	GEORGIA	10	9	8	9	9	9
OTHER PRODUCTS	TBILISI	12	10	20	21	20	20
	GEORGIA	12	11	20	22	21	20
TOTAL	TBILISI	100	100	100	100	100	100
	GEORGIA	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

Average percentage share of food in total consumer expenses

		2002	2003	2004	2005
Total population	TBILISI	47	48	49	44
	GEORGIA	59	62	63	59
Below the official poverty margine	TBILISI			60	58
	GEORGIA			69	66

Source: "Status of food provision in Georgia" (# 23, June 2006),
Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

As noted above, there is a significant difference between the nutritional intake of people living below and above the poverty line. Those living in extreme poverty do not have enough money, either from their meagre incomes or from the aforementioned unofficial social assistance mechanisms, to receive adequate nutrition. Representatives of such groups cannot obtain stable and adequate food with either their own narrow incomes or through informal social assistance.

In this context it is especially important that currently four free soup kitchens are being financed in each district of Tbilisi through transfers from the local budget. These soup kitchens daily serve to children, single elderly, disabled and other socially vulnerable citizens living below the poverty line.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

According to latest data, there are 93,852 refugees registered in Tbilisi, out of which 44,564 refugees are located in collective centres, while 49,288 are privately located. The number of people requesting temporary shelter is very high and includes many elderly people, veterans of war and large and single-parent families. Tbilisi is home to 38.4% of the IDPs in Georgia, which means that every 11th resident of Tbilisi has refugee status. In recent years there has been a massive influx of refugees to the capital. While in 1997 there were about 78 thousand IDPs registered in Tbilisi, according to latest data their number has increased to over 93 thousand.

In December of 2004, the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, in cooperation with UNHCR, launched a project to double-check the registration information on refugees in Georgia. Through the project, demographic data of IDPs was corrected for those living in both

state-organized and private locations. An archive of personal information was also created.

47% of refugees registered in Tbilisi are located in hotels, kindergardens, schools, hospitals and other buildings, most of which have unacceptable living standards. The sanitary conditions of these buildings, in most cases, are intolerable. Most of these buildings required renovation even before they were populated by IDPs, and permanent use over the years has caused the buildings to become unserviceable. Although repairs were made in some cases with limited resources and with the assistance of international organizations, these repairs were not sufficient. It should be noted that the budgetary funds of the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation for rehabilitation work on buildings used for organized lodging of refugees were completely cut from 1999-2003 due to the general economic situation in the country. Significant action to remedy this situation has started only in recent years. The 2006 budget of the Ministry sets aside funds for the rehabilitation of 33 such buildings out of 420 located in Tbilisi; however, it is noteworthy that this year alone there have been 78 applications to the Ministry with requests for the rehabilitation of collective refugee lodgings in Tbilisi.

The process of relocating refugees from collective lodgings will be mentioned separately. Refugees have been relocated from both the Iveria Hotel and the Adjara Hotel. Refugees were offered monetary compensation (7,000 USD) in exchange for each occupied hotel room and relevant notarized agreements were concluded between the refugees and investors. For special rooms (luxury apartments) additional compensation was given – a total of 14,000 USD. The relocation of refugees from the Republican Hospital is also on the agenda, where refugees are being offered compensation of 10,000 USD

for each occupied room. However, some refugees are not content with this compensation, as real estate prices in Tbilisi have increased considerably in recent years. The Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation has been officially involved in the process in order to oversee the lawful implementation of the relocation process and to ensure the maximum protection of the rights of IDPs.

According to 2006 conditions, the monthly electricity stipend for refugees located in centralized state-organized lodgings was 14.8 GEL per person in first and third quarters, and 10 GEL per person in second and fourth quarters. An addition stipend of 1.2 GEL for water and 0.3 GEL for waste removal was also donated monthly. In spite of these donations, electricity quotas are overdrawn and the electricity distributor company Telasi cuts off the electricity supply to refugee lodging centres. This issue is especially sensitive during the winter.

The administrators of centralized lodgings in private buildings are reimbursed for services in the amount of 2 GEL per refugee and 1.5 GEL for other communal services (1.2 GEL for water and 0.3 GEL for waste removal). The owners of these buildings may use these funds at their own discretion to put the buildings in order.

In 2006, assistance to IDPs was 14 GEL per month for non-organized (privately located) people and 11 GEL per month for those in state-organized lodging centres. Refugee certificates are presented to the ticket cashier desk to claim this discount. Free medical service for refugees is rendered through the establishments of the Healthcare Ministry of the Abkhazia Autonomous Republic. A recreation project for 440 refugee children was successfully implemented in summer 2005 at resorts on the Black Sea.

Despite these social schemes, the refugee issue remains one of the most problematic subjects in Georgian society. The conditions of those with limited abilities, the single elderly, orphans and other vulnerable refugees are exceptionally hard because they are uncompetitive in the labour market due and are unable to overcome poverty independently. Because of this, they need guaranteed, targeted assistance from the state and society. At the same time, the impression of “being discarded” makes their lives rather intolerable.

Quality medical service still remains unaffordable for the majority of refugees (although about 3500 IDPs of 17 different social categories were included in the municipal medical insurance programme this year).

The majority of refugees are engaged in small-scale trade and unskilled employment that offer limited opportunities for permanent employment. At the same time, the unemployment level among IDPs is 2-3 times higher than among the local population.

A programme for the professional identification and employment of IDPs was initiated by the Tbilisi Municipality in 2004 in places with high densities of refugees. Under the program, a special questionnaire was distributed among IDPs and four target groups were identified. Specially elaborated and methodical three-week training programs were then delivered to these groups. Initiative groups were set up during the trainings, and four associations were established as a result. The members of these associations include IDPs with specific professional skills. The questionnaires led to interesting findings, including further confirmation that the problem of unemployment among IDPs is most severe. 72% of respondents were unemployed and 21% expressed a wish to acquire a new profession. 22% of respondents wanted their own businesses, 8% wished to work in state organizations, and more than half of the respondents

Demographic data of refugees and IDPs registered in Tbilisi according to temporary residence location					
1	Total number of IDPs	94219	5	National composition of IDPs	
	Men	42056		Georgian	93017
	Women	52163		Abkhazian	128
2	Number of households	31271		Ossetian	182
	organized	15984		Russian	489
	unorganized	15287		Armenian	192
3	Of working age	61243	6	Other nationality	211
	Men (16-64year.)	27840		Number of pensioners	13040
	Women (16-59year.)	33403		7	Total disabled people
4	Number of children		group I		286
	0-1 years	908	Group II – group III		3113
	1-2 years	1230	8	Total number of IDPs	
	2-3 years	1227		9	Large families
	3-4 years	1282	10		Singe families
	4-5 years	1213		11	Families without breadwinner
	5-6 years	1205	12		Orphans
	0-15	19936			

wanted to be privately employed. 1,536 of the 2,200 questionnaires distributed were filled out by women.

More than a third of respondents were expecting employment assistance from the state; 12% from international organizations; 18% from NGOs, while 28% hoped for support from relatives and friends (personal relations). The majority of respondents generally wished to work in the sectors of trade, nutrition, entertainment, culture, construction and medical services. The majority of respondents said that high remuneration and a desire to work in the field in which they received training were the main factors stimulating the desire for employment. As for the professional distribution of respondents, the majority was represented by economists (22.9%), engineers and mechanical engineers (18.0%), builders (13.5%) and medical and biology specialists (13.0%).

One of the most important factors for the economic development and eradication of extreme poverty in Tbilisi is the development of small and medium businesses, which stimulates growth of the employment level. People need assistance to carry out their business ideas and for doing business in general. In the city area, the programme “Start a Business with Tbilisi City Hall” is in force, which is oriented on such activities as helping people get financial resources, offering business consultations, professional preparation, training people and raising qualifications, providing information about Tbilisi and business organizations operating in the city, and more. City Hall will continue to implement various effective business-support programs in future.

”*Tbilisi*
educational
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GOAL 2:

EQUAL ACCESS

TO QUALITY

EDUCATION

TARGET 5: DEVELOPING A LABOUR MARKET-ORIENTED VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

TARGET 6: PROPERLY EQUIPPING INSTITUTIONS OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

TARGET 7: DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The second goal of the Millennium Development in Georgia concerns the entire educational system of the country and implies bringing the primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational and inclusive educational systems closer to European standards by 2015. Within this framework, the goals are largely qualitative in nature and mostly concern the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. While formulating the abovementioned three

targets of the Millennium Development in regard to education, the Tbilisi municipality took into consideration the fact that current legislation stipulates that preschools are overseen by the local government. In addition, the local government aspires to foster the development of a highly competitive, labour market-oriented vocational educational system, as well as a system of inclusive education.

Tertiary Education Institutions in Tbilisi				
	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Number of tertiary education institutions	105	102	119	106
Public sector	15	15	15	13
Non-public sector	90	87	104	93

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

CURRENT TENDENCIES

For the past few years, the legal framework of the educational sphere in Georgia has significantly improved as priorities have been defined and the level of community involvement in the educational process has increased. Nonetheless, certain difficulties still persist.

The Tbilisi city government's Municipal Service of Education and Culture closely cooperates with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and non-governmental organizations working in the field of education that seek to improve conditions for the physical and intellectual development of children and adolescents.

The substantial changes that have taken place in Tbilisi over the past decade have also had an effect on social policy. From this standpoint developing state programmes for psychosocial rehabilitation, providing education for abandoned children and children deprived of parental care (and fully integrating them into the community) and forming a new vision for social protection systems are very important.

Extensive renovation/refurbishment works on school infrastructure were conducted in 2006, including the repair of both façades and interiors, which will enable the children to pursue their education in a more modern setting.

PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE LABOR MARKET ORIENTED VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

As concerns the labour market, the incorrect professional orientation of the labour force is a major problem in Tbilisi. The idea so widespread in Georgia that one must obtain a tertiary education of any kind creates imbalances between the demand and supply of the labour force in the city. One of the notable aspect of the labour force supply (especially young people) is their aspiration towards high-paid and prestigious positions whose number is rather limited due to the nation's underdeveloped economy. In recent

years a large number of graduates of tertiary education institutions have entered the workforce at a time when demand for professionally-trained and technical personnel is especially high. Such a situation makes the problem of unemployment even more serious because it is very difficult to put these people to work in the area in which they received their education and provide them with proper remuneration.

The changes in the vocational education system currently being implemented in Georgia look to become an important factor for reducing unemployment in the coming years. The new vocational education policy is based on the principle of lifelong learning and European Union principles of the mobility of the labour force. It focuses on training professional and qualified local cadres in Georgia who will use their potential to contribute greatly to the economic growth of the country.

Vocational education in Georgia is undergoing fundamental changes at the moment. An entirely new concept of vocational education has been developed with deference to the existing difficulties in the primary and secondary professional education system, the spheres of labour and employment and the prospects for the integration of vocational education in Georgia into the European environment.

The changes under way in the spheres of economics, education and employment necessitate the modernization of vocational education through increased interaction with labour market structures and the establishment of a social dialogue and collaborative efforts with employers. For this purpose, the Governmental Commission on Social Partnership in Vocational Education was established in 2005 on the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science. It reviewed the concept of vocational education and developed an action plan for its implementation.

As of today, there are 15 primary vocational educational institutions in Georgia, of which two are financially self-sufficient, and 8 secondary vocational educational institutions that are funded by the government. In order to efficiently utilize the aforementioned potential, it is very important that the local government be involved in the process of increasing the number of workers in the city's labour market who have practically applicable professional skills. Furthermore, this process should be coordinated by the relevant structures of the local government.



PROPERLY EQUIPPING INSTITUTIONS OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

In January 2006, pre-school institutions (kindergartens) in Tbilisi were transferred to the local administration (gamgeoba), which now manages their activities.

Most of the buildings housing nursery schools and kindergartens in Tbilisi are in need of extensive repairs, and some of them (those damaged in the earthquake of 2002) require major restoration works. If we are to bring up a

spiritually and physically healthy new generation, we must equip pre-school institutions with advanced facilities and improve their overall condition. As of today, most of nursery schools and kindergartens use wood-burning stoves for heating during the autumn-winter period while a significant portion use kerosene and diesel fuel, which is inefficient and damages the environment. Installing natural gas-powered heating systems in these buildings will improve the quality of heating, be safer for the environment and decrease costs. Furthermore, preschool education institutions shall be supplied with food products that comply with the sanitary and nutritional norms established by the Ministry of Healthcare, Labour and Social Services. According to current sanitation rules and norms (Decree #280/m of November 12 2003 of the Ministry of Labour, Healthcare and Social Services of Georgia), GEL 2.5 must be factored in to the city's budget to cover the cost of food ingredients to be supplied to each child per day.

DEVELOPING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Experience from other parts of the world shows that support for handicapped persons and their integration into the community should start from a very early age. In recent years, both specialists and the public have taken interest in the issue of special and inclusive education. Special and inclusive education implies actively involving handicapped children in institutions of general education and allowing them to study together with non-handicapped children.

In today's world, the word 'disabled' has taken on a new meaning: efforts are made to highlight not a person's not mental or physical flaws, but rather the level of his/her social activity in the community.



The existing problems in the education and upbringing of handicapped children can be formulated as follows:

1. → The great majority of such children are isolated from the community (either at home or in an institution);
2. → They do not have access to education largely because they are not prepared for that from preschool age. Also, there is a shortage of qualified specialists, a lack of information about new and advanced approaches, methods and alternatives and the technical resources and school infrastructure needed to accommodate them is not in place. All this and many other problems serve to limit possibilities for the inclusion handicapped children in educational systems (schools, kindergartens);
3. → Adequate assistance is not rendered to the families of children with disabilities. Parents are not aware of early intervention opportunities, i.e. they do not have the relevant skills to help their children from the very beginning. In most cases medical and pedagogical personnel and other persons involved do not take parents' opinions into consideration. The self-esteem of such parents is also low, which is why they tend to hide their children from the community. This further isolates them and leaves families to face the problem alone;
4. → Although there is relevant legislation on protecting the rights of children with disabilities and ensuring that they receive a proper education, it has not been fully implemented;
5. → Society is unfamiliar with the issue and is not ready to be actively involved in the process of integrating handicapped persons into the community.

The Convention of the Rights of the Child, which Georgia signed on to in 1994, guarantees handicapped children's right to an education. Article 23 of the Convention says that "a child with a mental or physical disability shall enjoy a full and decent life in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate his/her active participation in the community."

The Law of Georgia "on social protection of handicapped persons" stipulates that persons with limited abilities are to be provided with the necessary conditions for education and professional training. Educational bodies, together with healthcare and social welfare institutions are obliged to

ensure preschool and extracurricular education for this category of children in order to create opportunities to render them appropriate rehabilitation assistance and secondary-special and tertiary education in line with individual programmes of rehabilitation.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia seeing to the development and implementation of new methodologies and approaches that will make it possible to bring the system into line with the requirements of a democratic society.

A survey was taken in Tbilisi schools to determine the number of handicapped children and later a pilot inclusive education programmes were successfully implemented in ten schools.

*„Tbilisi
equitable
city“*



GOAL 3:

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN

TARGET 8: ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY IN THE STRUCTURES OF THE TBILISI MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND CITY COUNCIL

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is the third goal of the Millennium Development. The targets imply ensuring gender equality in the employment sphere throughout the country and equal accessibility for females and males to activities in the political sphere and at all management levels. In the context of Tbilisi this targets imply ensuring gender equality in the structures of the municipal government and city council.

A vital precondition for resolving gender-related problems in Tbilisi is the consistent implementation of a nation-wide gender policy.

The changes that have taken place in Georgia over the past several years have made it possible to address gender issues at the state level. Specifically, several state institutions working on issues of gender equality were created, including the Consulting Council on Gender Equality at the Parliament of Georgia (Decree #105/3 of October 27 2004 of the chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia) and the Governmental Commission on Gender Equality Issues (Resolution #109 of June 28 2005 of the Government of Georgia).

Members of both the Consulting Council on Gender Equality at the Parliament of Georgia and

Gender indicators in Tbilisi						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Girls/boys ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions						
Secondary vocational	2.0	1.5	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.3
Tertiary	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1
Literate male/female ratio in 15-24 age group			1.1			
Ratio of the amount of women's salaries to those of men			0.55	0.66	0.66	0.62
Number of preschool organizations	194	187	194	195		186

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

Average monthly salaries for the employed (GEL) in 2005			
	TOTAL	Female	Male
TOTAL	302,9	217,6	348,8
AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY	169,7	167,0	170,3
INDUSTRY TOTAL	326,9	244,6	363,5
MINING INDUSTRY AND QUARRY	432,5	405,1	437,5
PROCESSING INDUSTRY	253,9	180,3	292,6
POWER, NATURAL GAS AND WATER SUPPLY	527,5	525,6	528,1
CONSTRUCTION	339,0	271,7	343,7
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL SALE, REPAIR OF VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES, HOUSEHOLD COMMODITIES AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS	222,1	186,4	247,8
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS	143,6	115,4	181,6
TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSES AND COMMUNICATIONS	267,9	238,7	277,4
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION	1146,8	1131,3	1164,1
PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS, LEASING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES	228,9	161,2	278,7
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENSE, MANDATORY SOCIAL INSURANCE	433,1	378,9	448,1
EDUCATION	168,8	151,0	199,2
HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE	136,6	119,8	193,8
OTHER COMMUNAL, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES	165,5	148,9	184,6

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

Governmental Commission on Gender Equality Issues comprise representatives of the authorities and nongovernmental organizations. The Governmental Commission receives support from the Advisers' Council working in the field of gender equality.

A joint group (consisting of members of the Commission and the Council from governmental and nongovernmental sectors participated in the work of the group) comprising representatives from both the

Consulting Council on Gender Equality at the Parliament of Georgia and Governmental Commission on Gender Equality Issues developed the State Strategy for Gender Equality. The Strategy comprises three documents: a state concept for gender equality, a governmental action plan for gender equality and a draft recommendation for an institutional model for gender equality. The UNDP, UNIFEM and the UNFPA for Women supported the group in the elaboration of the strategy.

Gender balance of those elected in local self-government bodies of Tbilisi and other regions of Georgia (as of June 1 2005)

Region	Number		Percent	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
GEORGIA, TOTAL	688	5015	12,1	87,9
O/W				
TBILISI	5	44	10,2	89,8
AJARA AUT. REP.	105	749	12,3	87,7
ABKHAZETI AUT. REP.	3	12	20,0	80,0
KAKHETI	91	572	13,7	86,3
MTSKHETA-MTIANETI	42	266	13,6	86,4
KVEMO KARTLI	46	608	7,0	93,0
SHIDA KARTLI	55	342	13,9	86,1
SAMTSKHE-JAVAKHETI	37	403	8,4	91,6
RACHA-LECHKHUMI AND KVEMO SVANETI	42	263	13,8	86,2
SAMEGRELO-ZEMO SVANETI	100	664	13,1	86,9
GURIA	42	301	13,0	87,0
IMERETI	117	791	12,9	87,1

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. Women and Men in Georgia

The State Gender Equality Concept was recently approved by the parliament of Georgia. The Governmental Action Plan for Gender Equality and the draft recommendation on an Institutional Model for Gender Equality are still under discussion in the relevant ministries. After the discussions, it is planned to submit the two documents to the government of Georgia for approval.

The strategy's aim is to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men and

introduce the principles of gender equality in all fields of government policy. Achieving gender equality at the local level is fundamental to the strategy.

Gender issues are of particular importance on the local level, since the local government has the most direct contact with the population. One of the indicators of Target 8 (ensuring equal access to the political domain and all levels of management) of the Millennium Development in Georgia is the percentage of women among employees of local self-government bodies.

Gender balance in the structural units of the municipality and sakrebulo administration
(as of May 25 2006)

Structural units	Number		Percent	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Tbilisi city council and municipality structures, total	474	513	48,0	52,0
o/w				
Tbilisi city council administration	39	15	72,2	27,8
Municipality administration	66	40	62,2	37,8
Municipal financial service	44	25	63,8	36,2
Municipal service of economic policy	9	11	45,0	55,0
General inspectorate for upholding the law	6	23	20,7	79,3
Municipal service of local property management	19	18	51,4	48,6
Municipal service of education and culture	26	13	66,7	33,3
Municipal service of healthcare and social issues	50	21	70,4	29,6
Municipal sports service	8	14	36,4	63,6
Municipal supervision service	39	78	33,3	66,7
Municipal service of urban planning	29	38	43,3	56,7
Tbilisi Corps	9	13	40,9	59,1
Municipal procurement service	6	12	33,3	66,7
Municipal service of city improvement	23	63	26,7	73,3
Municipal service of transport	12	25	32,4	67,6
Gldani-Nadzaladevi district administration	13	23	36,1	63,9
Didube-Chugureti district administration	17	19	47,2	52,8
Vake-Saburtalo district administration	29	7	80,5	19,5
Mtatsminda-Krtsanisi district administration	14	21	40,0	60,0
Isani-Samgori district administration	9	27	25,0	75,0
Tskneti village administration	7	7	50,0	50,0

Source: Personnel Department of Tbilisi Municipality, Tbilisi district gamgeoba (executive body)s

From the table to the left we can see the level of women's participation in local self-government bodies by region. In this respect, Tbilisi ranks third from the bottom (10.2 per cent), finishing ahead only of Kvemo Kartli (7 per cent) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (8.4 per cent).

In regard to gender balance in the structural services and administration of the Tbilisi municipality and city council, men have only a 4 per cent advantage. However, women hold only 28.3% of the division head positions in various municipal services, 19.2% of the deputy head positions and 7.6% of the service head positions. In regard to Tbilisi's district administrations, there are two women chiefs of staff, three deputy administration heads and no district heads.



*„Tbilisi
healthy
city“*



GOAL 4:

REDUCING

CHILD

MORTALITY

TARGET 9: REDUCE THE UNDER-FIVE-CHILD MORTALITY RATE BY TWO THIRDS DURING THE COURSE OF 2005-2015

Reducing child mortality is one of the most important health-related challenges of the millennium. Within the framework of this goal Georgia has set its target to reduce the rate of under-five-child mortality of the year 2000 by two thirds by 2015. The goal is the same for Tbilisi, though the base year is 2005. According to the Ministry of Labour, Healthcare and Social Affairs 19,464 infants were born live in 2005 in Tbilisi (17.99 per 1,000 population, which well exceeds the relevant indicator for Georgia as a whole – 10.76). The live birth rate in Tbilisi has been increasing, while there have been some problems in this area in other parts of the country.

It is noteworthy that the majority of under-five deaths come in the first year of life. The high infant mortality rate is conditioned mainly by neonatal mortality, including early neonatal mortality, which once again indicates the need to improve the qualifications of personnel as well as the material and the technical basis of maternity and children's hospitals and improve prenatal care as a whole. The high rate of neonatal mortality indicates that infants who were born ill or became ill at the age of 0-6 days do not always get the often expensive special care they need.

Child Mortality in Tbilisi (per 1000 live-births)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under-five-child mortality rate			35,7	32,1	28,0	28,7
Infant mortality rate	38,6	33,6	32,6	28,8	24,7	26,5
Early neonatal mortality (0-6 days from birth) rate	19,1	16,0	22,7	18,6	15,9	17,6
Late neonatal mortality (7-28 days after birth) rate	3,34	8,78	6,8	9,51	6,5	5,2

Source: Ministry of Labor, Healthcare and Social Affairs, Statistics Department, Ministry of Economic Development

It should also be mentioned that mortality indicator for children under one year of age has been decreasing in past years. The newly operational referral system for pregnant women, women in labour and infants has played a key role in this achievement, as have expert investigations into each infant death. The work conducted has resulted in better infant healthcare and increased hospitalization of sick infants and registration of infant deaths.

In order to improve the existing situation in the country, state programmes have been implemented to ensure outpatient and inpatient care for mothers and their children aged 0-3 as well as medical care for infants at risk. The opening of the Tbilisi Perinatal Centre, which meets all modern standards, was a significant achievement to this end. The centre is equipped with state-of-art equipment and employs highly qualified medical personnel. This makes it possible to provide patients with qualified assistance in a timely manner. In addition, said personnel undergo

ongoing educational programmes on the functioning of the referral system.

The indicator of stillborn children is still very high due to persisting socioeconomic problems. This problem, on one hand, is conditioned by the poor conditions among the women themselves and the lack of flexibility of the personnel working in the primary health-care system and, on the other hand by women's low awareness of the importance of receiving medical care during pregnancy.

Based on the information provided by medical institutions the indicator of stillborn children fell, 24%, from 2000 to 2005 (from 23.73 to 17.86 per 1000 newborns).

In general it should be mentioned that the rate of child mortality in Georgia is higher than in most other republics of the former USSR and significantly higher than the rate for the European Union.



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GOAL 5:

IMPROVING

MATERNAL

HEALTH

TARGET 10: REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY BY THREE QUARTERS DURING FROM 2005 TO 2015

This goal, also a significant component of reproductive healthcare, represents a logical continuation of the previous goal. Given Georgia's demographic problems, improving maternal healthcare and reducing maternal mortality are especially important.

The rate of maternal mortality due to complications stemming from pregnancy, labour and abortion reflects not only the health of pregnant women, but also overall level of prenatal care and the qualification of obstetricians and gynaecologists.

The above table shows that there were seven fewer cases of women dying in labour in 2005 as compared to the previous year. An analogous trend can be observed throughout the country, where there has been a relatively significant decrease in maternal mortality.

Based on the analysis of the data for Tbilisi as well as for the whole country, diseases causing complications during pregnancy, delivery and the postnatal period are ranked as follows: anaemia, thyroid dysfunction, genital and urinary tract

diseases, diabetes and antepartum haemorrhage.

3,718 Caesarean sections were performed in Tbilisi in 2005, a rate of 191.02 per 1,000 live-births (19.2% of women in labour). This marks a 17% increase over the previous year, when the rate of Caesarean sections was 162.98 per 1000 births. This rate increased 105% from 2001 to 2005. An analogous trend was observed in the country as a whole: the number of Caesarean sections performed throughout Georgia increased by 90.4% in the same period.

Oncological diseases affecting the reproductive system are at the cause of high death rates. Breast, cervical and ovarian cancer were the most common causes of death in women. That is why prevention and early diagnosis are among the priorities of the health department of the Tbilisi Municipality. A programme for the early diagnosis and treatment of oncological diseases among Tbilisi residents cosponsored by Tbilisi Municipality and UNFPA Georgia Office kicked off in 2006.

Maternal mortality in Tbilisi (per 100,000 live births)						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Death rate for women in labour	-	63,13	48,93	70,85	64,83	25,69
The rate of women in labour treated by qualified medical personnel	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: The Ministry of Labour, Healthcare and Social Affairs; Department of Statistics of Georgia

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GOAL 6:

COMBATING HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

TARGET 11: STOP THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AND REVERSE IT BY 2015

TARGET 12: STOP THE SPREAD OF KEY TRANSMITTABLE DISEASES AND START THE REVERSING PROCESS BY 2015

Despite the increase of HIV/AIDS indicators all over the country, Georgia is among the countries with the lowest rates of HIV/AIDS infection in the world. AIDS is not among the country's leading causes of death, though given the high rates of intravenous drug use and unprotected sex, there is a threat of a rapid-spreading HIV/AIDS epidemic in Georgia, particularly in Tbilisi.

671 cases were registered in the country by

the end of 2005, which exceeded the previous year's indicator by 32.1% and the indicator for 2000 – by 338.5%.

The share of intravenous drug users is very high among HIV/AIDS-positive patients. Therefore, combating the virus among this group is of urgent importance. The number of drug users doubled in comparison with the previous year. The Drug Research and Development Institute reports that 603 people received treatment at medical institutions in 2005.

Situation of HIV and key transmittable diseases in Tbilisi

TBILISI	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
HIV INFECTIONS (NEW CASES, OFFICIAL)	79	93	98	38	58	
THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES OF MALARIA SPREADING	6	13	7	7	4	2
MALARIA MORBIDITY/100,000	0.52	1.16	0.49	0.49	0.37	0.20
TB MORTALITY (IN ABSOLUTE INDICATORS)	24	12	14	34	33	
NEW TB CASES	1154	892	1634	1324	1058	1102
THE NUMBER OF NEW HEPATITIS B CASES	160	173	155	114	117	263
HEPATITIS B MORBIDITY/100,000	13.9	15.5	14.3	10.6	10.8	24.3

Source: Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Based on the expert assessments, at present there are about 200,000 drug users in Georgia, including them 80,000 intravenous drug users. It is noteworthy that last year the Ministry of Justice was charged with assessing and tackling the problem of drug use in the country. The aggregated results for 2006 are not yet known.

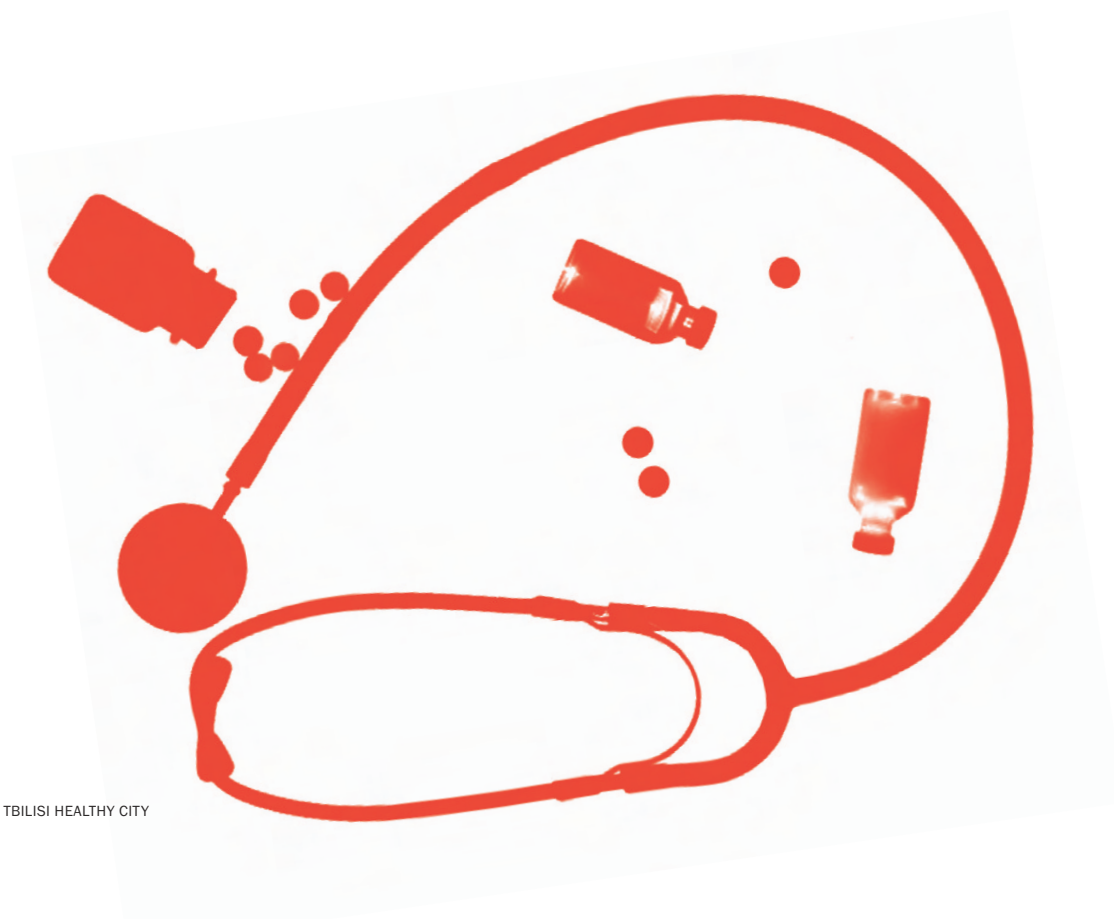
24,000 drug users and drug addicts were officially registered in Georgia in 2004. The average age of users fluctuates from 25 to 35. According to experts' assessments, 30% of school-age children have tried light drugs.

Malaria is not a significant problem, though several cases of the disease in different regions of Georgia (among them Lagodekhi, Signaghi, Dedoplistsqaro, Gardabani, Lanchkhuti.) show that it threatens to spread to Tbilisi. Special attention must be paid to movements of persons arriving from countries where malaria is well established, as the disease may be spread from these people through mosquitoes. For this reason people infected with malaria or carrying

the parasite must receive treatment in a timely manner and measures to curb the spread of the disease through mosquitoes must be implemented. The above issues are dealt with in the Plan of Complex Preventive Measures against Parasitic Diseases.

The same programme envisages combating visceral leishmaniasis. The number of cases of this tropical disease has been increasing in Tbilisi in recent years and the capital accounts for 2/3 of registered cases in the country. The disease spread from the right embankment of the Mtkvari River to the left one. Both adults and children have been infected. The disease is spread through stray dogs, animals, rodents and insects. The number of cases of hydrophobia in stray animals has also increased.

The Programme of Epidemiological Research, Disinfection, Lab Analysis and Preventive Measures seeks to address goals 6, 5 and 4 in areas susceptible to the spread of



infectious diseases. It envisages improving the epidemiological situation in the capital, eliminating and eradicating infectious diseases, increasing vaccination coverage and quickly revealing cases of contagious and non-contagious diseases.

In order to combat and eliminate infectious, non-infectious and parasitic diseases, preventive and diagnostic surveys are held annually among so-called risk-groups (pre-school institutions, schools, refugee settlements). Parasitological and bacteriological checks are performed on persons who have been in places where epidemics have been recorded in order to identify the source of infection, and relevant preventive measures are implemented when necessary.

When it comes to combating respiratory infectious diseases, special attention is paid to undertaking measures against diphtheria and meningitis (twice a year – in the first and fourth quarters). Analyses of gastrointestinal infections are carried out seasonally (mainly in the second and third quarters) among the risk-groups.

An increase in intestinal parasite infestation has been noted in the capital, particularly among children. Of note in this respect are enterobiasis and lambliosis. A preventative survey on these parasites should be conducted in children's centres.

Immunoferment tests for tuberculosis are also important. It should be mentioned that the number of cases of TB increased by 4.1% in 2005.

TB is slightly more prevalent in the capital than in the regions. The diagnostic capacity of hospitals and clinics has improved in recent years, making it possible to detect and treat the disease early. This is thanks in part to the

implementation of the Directly Observed Treatment Strategy (DOTS) programme. Under this programme 14 special dispensaries were opened throughout Tbilisi.

The problem of hepatitis – acute and chronic - has come to the fore recently. Therefore, the programme envisages checking pregnant women for hepatitis B and C and adolescents for hepatitis A.

It should also be mentioned that the number of cases of iodine deficiency and resulting diseases has also increased. Iodine deficiency can cause great problems among infants, which is why blood tests on thyroid hormones and determining iodine levels in adolescents and pregnant women are important for prevention purposes.

The Tbilisi Municipality's programme to promote healthy lifestyles has had a significant impact. The main goal of the programme is to carry out measures aimed at preventing drug use among young people. Surveys have demonstrated that an unhealthy lifestyle represents a vicious circle in which a young person using drugs/tobacco regularly, grows passive and lethargic and does not receive proper nutrition. In addition, pervasive unemployment and a perceived lack of future prospects lead them to seek escape in addictive substances.

The support of international organizations should once again be underlined, as the partnership coordination mechanism of governmental structures, NGOs and international organizations engaged in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria is well developed. The implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan against HIV/AIDS is underway; the DOTS programme is continuing, etc.

*”Tbilisi
green
city”*



GOAL 7:

ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

TARGET 13: INTEGRATING THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO CITY POLICY AND PROGRAMMES (PREVENTING AIR POLLUTION, EFFECTIVELY MANAGING SOLID WASTES, IMPROVING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT)

TARGET 14: ENSURING THE STABLE SUPPLY OF SAFE POTABLE WATER TO ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE CITY

TARGET 15: DEVELOPING RESIDENTIAL HOUSING IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This goal for Georgia envisages integrating the principles of sustainable development into the country's policy and programmes, significantly improving the supply of safe potable water and bringing the housing sector into line with international standards. Considering the fact that all aforementioned problems are of great importance for the capital, Tbilisi's targets in the framework of this goal are not very different from those of

the country as a whole, though they are somewhat more ambitious. This is first of all because, as the capital, Tbilisi's infrastructure is far better developed than other regions of the country. The process of identifying the aforementioned targets was preceded by an analysis of the factors that have caused the problems which demand special attention in both the short- and long-term.

Ecology indicators in Tbilisi

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emission of Carbon Dioxide from Stationary Sources (Enterprises) (in tones)	7,128	9,323	10,556	11,887	9,296	19,873
Emission of pollutant from Stationary Sources (Enterprises) (in tones)	594	1,085	390	375	401	2,944
Per cent of the population with permanent access to clean potable water	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development

In October 2005 surveys were conducted at selected sites in Tbilisi on the concentration of dust, sulphate, anhydride, nitrogen dioxide, carbohydrate and soot in the air. The results are as follows:

At the intersection of A. Kazbegi and Tamara-rashvili streets the concentration of dust and nitrogen dioxide twice exceeds the marginally permitted concentration (MPC), sulphate dioxide and soot are within the norms of the MPC, while carbon monoxide is 20% over the MPC;

At Marjanishvili Square the concentration of dust is 1.2 times higher than the MPC, sulphate dioxide and soot is within the MPC, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide are 1.5 and 1.15 times higher than MPC, respectively;

At the intersection of Chavchavadze Avenue and Kekelidze street dust is 1.8 times higher than MPC, sulphate dioxide is within the MPC, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and soot are respectively 1.6, 1.5 and 2.8 times higher than the MPC;

On Tsereteli Avenue, near the Mining Chemistry building, dust is 1.2 times higher than the MPC, sulphate dioxide is within the MPC, nitrogen dioxide, soot and carbon monoxide are respectively 2.2, 1.6 and 1.4 times higher than the MPC.

The above once again confirms that air pollution is caused primarily by motor-transport emissions because there are no industrial enterprises in these areas (with the exception of the area around the Mining Chemistry building, where four petrol stations are located).

At the same time, it should be mentioned that motor transport represents a significant source of a greenhouse gas, namely carbon dioxide. Due to the poor conditions at waste treatment areas, biomass burning emits another powerful greenhouse gas – methane - which has a strong negative impact on global warming and climate change.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, emissions of greenhouse gases in the country have been reduced almost 80%, mainly due to the sharp reduction of industrial activities and the severe energy deficit. In recent years, despite significant economic growth, Georgia's contribution to world global warming processes and climate change has not been substantial, though such a tendency is beginning to develop at both the country and city levels. One of the main indicators of climate change is the increased frequency of extreme weather conditions. In Tbilisi, as in the rest of eastern Georgia, the average temperature has been observed to have increased during recent decades. The increase of maximum temperature values and the duration of hot days represents serious and typical problem for European countries as well. Unprivileged elderly people and children are vulnerable to health problems related to high climatic temperatures, including arterial diseases.

As mentioned above, poor conditions at waste treatment facilities jeopardize the environment and the health of the population. In this respect it should be mentioned that the system of solid waste-management in Tbilisi is wholly inefficient and does not meet any contemporary requirements or standards. All sanitary and ecologic norms and standards of waste collection, transportation and removal are violated. There is no experience of waste separation, recycling or secondary treatment; the surrounding environment is polluted; the population's knowledge about sanitation is very low and areas of unsanitary conditions are common. Two open legal waste-treatment areas service the capital: a) the Gldani waste-treatment area, which was established in 1972, receives some 1,700 cubic metres of waste daily; b) the Lilo waste-treatment area, which was established in 1989, occupies a territory of 5 hectares and receives some 1,800 cubic metres per day. Neither of the above waste-treatment areas meet contemporary requirements. In particular, they are not surrounded by fences and layers of waste are not

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covered with soil, which pollutes the atmosphere. Also, channels are not set up to collect atmospheric precipitation and water drained through garbage, which contributes to the pollution of the soil and ground waters.

It should be noted that the sewage facilities of enterprises such as storage facilities for oil-products, carwashes, petrol stations must be properly treated before they can be connected to the central sewer network. An additional problem faced by the city is the unavailability of a specially equipped sediment treatment facility that would make it possible to systematically remove the sediments that accumulate in the sewage treatment system.

According to the Millennium Development Goals, expanding the network of protected territories is

S one of the key preconditions for environmental sustainability. Therefore the initiative to restore and develop Tbilisi National Park is especially important. The aim of this initiative is to protect and preserve biological and landscape diversity, to develop recreational and ecological tourism and educational activities in ecologically safe and natural environment.

Tbilisi National Park was established in 1977. Its initial area was 20 thousand hectares. The park was closed down in 1997. In 2004-2005 works were undertaken to refurbish and reopen it. The Tbilisi National Park was expanded and its total area is now 25,024 hectares. The park now includes lands overseen by the forestry services of Tianeti, Mtskheta and Sagarejo Districts and the Saguramo forest reserve. A draft-law on Tbilisi National Park has already been elaborated and submitted to parliament.

The past and present activities of the City Oversight Service of the Tbilisi Municipality in terms of efforts to improve air quality are particu



larly notable. Such technological developments have been applied and rehabilitation efforts undertaken on the territory of the city that will reduce the harmful influence of pollutants on the environment and human health. To this end, the managements of petrol stations in Tbilisi were required to install petroleum steam-treatment filters for underground reservoirs and automatic petrol pumps. Several petrol stations have already implemented the new requirements. In addition, the municipality has decided not to issue permits for new petrol stations that do not comply with this regulation.

Certain steps have been taken towards equipping the city's industrial facilities with appropriate waste treatment technologies. In particular, equipment that minimizes the emission of pollutants was installed at the asphalt-concrete plant in Ponichala. The asphalt-concrete plant in Avchala plans to install dust-treatment filters. Also, it is planned to survey pollutant emissions in the abovementioned factories and in nearby residential areas, which will make it possible to gauge the efficiency of these measures. Campaigns to plant trees in the city should also be noted as they serve as natural air filters.

The Tbilisi Municipality's programme entitled "summer jobs for students" has been very important in this respect. Students were put to work in a number of areas, including planting trees in gardens and squares, cleaning up yards and streets as well as the premises of medical establishments. As already mentioned, in addition to receiving certain remuneration, the students are now better aware of their role in keeping the city green and clean.

WATER RESOURCES AND WATER SUPPLY

Among the targets of Millennium Development, ensuring the stable supply of safe potable water to the population is of a largely local character. The permanent supply of quality water to the population represents a priority for any country. This is especially so for Tbilisi, which is home to about one fourth of the total population of the country. Despite of Georgia's abundant water resources, the water supply still remains unreliable, especially in the regions. Tbilisi is the only city in the country where the water supply is functioning relatively successfully.

The pollution of Tbilisi's water resources is mainly attributable to the improper functioning of sanitary and channelling systems. The Mtkvari River is noteworthy in this respect: water from the river is used mainly for industrial and agricultural purposes and the thermal and hydro energy sectors.

According to a chemical analysis of the river, its water does not undergo any sharp changes, though bacteriologic analysis clearly indicates an increasing amount of pollution from the sewage system. According to the data of the Georgian centre for monitoring and prognoses, the oxygen level of the Mtkvari River is rather high, though there is also a significant concentration of pollutants, especially sulphate ammonium. Other indicators of water quality, including the concentration of nitrates and pH, were within the permitted norms.

The main source of pollution for the Mtkvari is the city sewage system. Consumed water at most of the city's industrial facilities feeds into the central sewage system. 57,584 thousand cubic metres of water per year flows into the Mtkvari and Vere Rivers via sanitary and drainage collectors.

As for the existing situation in the water supply of Tbilisi, 70% of the city is supplied with no interruption, while 30% is supplied with water according to a set schedule. The city's water supply meets the national standards laid out in the law of Georgia "on potable water". In terms of ensuring the quality of the water supply, it should be noted that in the city's water supply company, Tbiltsqalkanali Ltd, which has a monopoly in the sector, 3 chemical-bacteriological laboratories and 1 chemical laboratory are in operation. These labs are 100% responsible for the quality of the city's water supply.

A laboratory has been opened on the Aragvi Gorge water main which is equipped with contemporary equipment and provides automatic tests of the city's water supply and transfers this information to central laboratories. This laboratory will monitor 50% of the city's water supply.

Before the end of 2006, the laboratory at the Ghrmaghele filtration station will be renovated and reequipped to be able to perform automatic chloride injections. This laboratory will monitor 25% of the city's water supply. Refurbishment works on the laboratory at the Samgori filtration station are planned for 2007.

Throughout 2005- 2006 extremely important reconstruction and rehabilitation works have been carried out on the Tbilisi water supply network. The majority of central water pipelines have been replaced, which has significantly decreased the number of emergency shut-downs of the system and, accordingly, losses of water. A total of 59 km of the network in various districts of Tbilisi was replaced. It should be pointed out that such works had not been carried out for the past 15 years, while in years before that, the maximum plan of annual rehabilitation works rarely surpassed 18 km. Another 150 km of pipes are set to be replaced in the near future.

A hotline was set-up at Tbiltsqalkanali to allow residents of the city to report water supply problems. This information is transferred to the company's dispatch service, which is equipped with contemporary digital systems. The new dispatch service can immediately react to malfunctions, which has significantly improved the water supply.



HOUSING SECTOR

In Tbilisi, as well throughout Georgia, the condition of the housing sector remains a significant problem. First of all it should be mentioned that despite specific efforts undertaken recently in this respect, there currently exists no unified and formalized approach to the housing and communal sector. Neither has there been progress towards developing a system of statistical indicators that would make it possible to plan efficient preventive policies on the basis of case-by-case analysis.

At the same time, it should be noted that the housing situation in the capital has significantly worsened due to the poor conditions of the relevant infrastructure. This is a direct result of the failure to carry out preventative or other renovation works in the city. This was further

aggravated by the earthquake of April 25, 2002, which significantly damaged about 21,500 residential buildings in Tbilisi. According to the records of the commission for determining the degree of damage to residential buildings, which was established under the Tbilisi Housing Rehabilitation and Development Support Centre, the total number of damaged residential buildings in Tbilisi as of 1 September 2005 was 3,543. 41.0% of damaged buildings are located in Mtatsminda-Krtsanisi district, while Gldani-Nadzaladevi district is in the best shape in this respect (7.0%). The distribution of severely damaged buildings according to the number of stories and degree of damage is also remarkable – 1, 2 and 3-story buildings represent the majority of such buildings (76.0%), while 4- and 5-story buildings account for 13.0% and taller buildings - 11.0%.

It should be noted that the number of buildings in an emergency state registered by the abovementioned commission cannot reflect the actual number of such buildings in Tbilisi. Based on information supplied by district governments, in Gldani-Nadzaladevi district there are over 3,000 severely damaged buildings;

in Didube-Chugureti district – 2,201 (including 481 of category I, 1,307 of category II and 557 of category III); in Vake-Saburtalo district – 1,240 (including 705 of category I, 360 of category II and 175 of category III), in Mtatsminda-Krtsanisi district – 2,762 (including 321 of category I, 2,407 of category II and 241 of category III). The registration process shall be improved when the commission resumes its activities in September 2006.

Despite the existing problems, certain measures were implemented for the formation of a legal and regulative framework in the field which seek to liberalize and deregulate the field. It should be noted that significant improvements are expected in the area of statistical information by 2010, when of the next census of Georgia's population and their residences is planned. The census itself, as well as the preparatory organizational works laid out in the presidential decree No 1026 of 6 December 2005 and the corresponding plan of action will be a significant step towards developing a real picture of the field.

As for specific measures taken by the Tbilisi Municipality in this respect, the restoration-reinforcement works performed on severely damaged buildings in 2000-2005 are notable. In 2006 it is planned to perform restoration-

Distribution of damaged buildings according to degree of damage (As of September 1, 2005)

	Damaged total	Percentage in total number	1st category	2st category	3st category
GLDANI-NADZALADEVI	249	70	37	99	90
DIDUBE-CHUGURETI	923	26,0	118	449	322
KRTSANISI	1439	40,6	340	560	471
VAKE-SABURTALO	316	8,9	60	143	105
ISANI-SAMGORI	616	17,3	140	219	245
TOTAL	3543	100,0	695	1470	1233

Source: The Commission for Establishing the Degree of Damage Sustained by Buildings (following the 2002 earthquake); Tbilisi Housing Rehabilitation and Development Support Centre.

reinforcement works on 35 buildings, of which A15 are to be completed by 1 September 2006. The limited financial resources of the city represent the main obstacle facing the restoration-reinforcement works. In order to better implement this process, it is essential to conduct detailed monitoring to identify the buildings most urgently in need of repairs, plan measures for preventing their collapse, and start reinforcement works on buildings damaged by force-majeure events straight away in parallel with the conduction of a feasibility study.

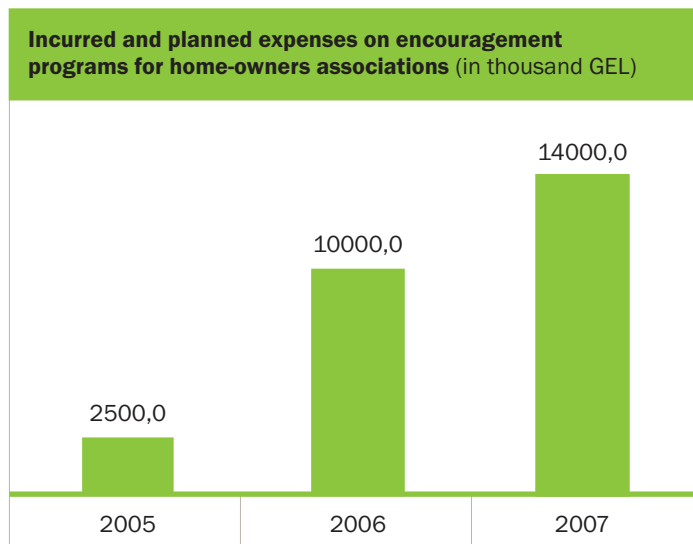
Some positive tendencies have been observed recently in the terms of construction in the capital, though the full-scale activation of the construction process has been hindered for years due to the poor socioeconomic conditions. Construction in Tbilisi ground to a complete halt in the beginning of the 1990s. Many construction projects were abandoned and subsequently either looted or damaged by the elements. Also, in recent years squatters have been known to take up residence at uncompleted construction sites.

As of 2006 a total of 470 incomplete construction projects were registered at the Tbilisi Municipality, including 50 state-owned residential dwellings, 45 residential dwellings of cooperative construction, 18 residential houses of organizational construction, 22 schools, 8 kindergartens, 47 public/cultural buildings and

280 projects of various engineering-infrastructure function.

Despite severe socioeconomic and financial conditions, many key buildings have been constructed and renovated recently, including 40 residential buildings. Over 100 million GEL was allocated from the municipal budget to this end in 1995-2005. It was chiefly directed towards the rehabilitation of uncompleted construction projects as well as new projects. This also allowed local construction companies and organizations to gain the necessary material, labour and intellectual resources and potential which allow them to undertake any project. In order to increase homeowners' awareness of their rights as well as to establish a culture of fulfilling specific property-oriented obligations, the Tbilisi Municipality, through the Tbilisi Corps initiative has been actively promoting the formation of homeowners' associations since 2004. Such associations seek to facilitate the upkeep of shared private property spaces, including entrances, staircases, roofs, lifts, yards and gardens.

At present a total of 1,818 home-owners' associations have been registered in Tbilisi Corps (51% of the chairs of these associations are women and 49% - men). Some 80 companies are involved in the programme to encourage such associations. The services they provide to the associations are co-financed by the Tbilisi Municipality and the associations themselves. These services have formed the basis for the creation of new jobs.



Source: Financial Service of Tbilisi



”*Tbilisi*
cooperation
city”



GOAL 8:

ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 16: TRANSITIONING TOWARDS NEW PARTNERSHIP RELATIONS WITH SISTER CITIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

TARGET 17: DEVELOPING UNIFIED INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMICS AND EFFECTIVE CITY MANAGEMENT, ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

The final goal of the Millennium Development is to establish a global partnership for development. At the country level, this goal implies the further development of free trade-economic and financial systems, the repayment of external debts and the improvement of communication systems. During the process of establishing long-term targets for Tbilisi within the framework of the global partnership, due consideration was given to Tbilisi's long-standing relations with its sister cities across the world and with international organizations. It was noted that these relations should be transformed based on a new format. During the process of analyzing the existing circumstances, the role of informational communications and informational sector of the economy were identified as highly important factors in the improvement of city management as well as socioeconomic development in general.

SISTER CITIES AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

A good example of global partnership at the city level is the preparation of the first report on MDG for Tbilisi, which was made possible thanks to the close cooperation between the Tbilisi municipality and UN agencies in Georgia. The continuation of such cooperation in order to achieve the maximum possible benefit from this shared experience and meet the targets set out for the city is vital. In particular, it would be desirable for cooperation to be aimed at preparing medium-term action plans for fields that have a significant impact on the fulfilment of the goals and targets set forth for the Tbilisi Millennium Development.

The eighth goal is of significant importance for the achievement of the other goals for Tbilisi. The capital city is gradually establishing itself as an economically and culturally diverse city, one that is attractive for investors, its residents and visitors. Sharing and considering the experience

of other cities and international organizations as well as closely cooperating with them represents an essential prerequisite for the successful implementation of the development model in Tbilisi.

As of 2006, Tbilisi has 10 sister cities with which it cooperates in various fields. In addition to historical and cultural cooperation, which in some cases dates back several decades, Tbilisi has received various forms of support, including humanitarian aid, from the cities listed below.

In addition to its sister cities, Tbilisi entered into memorandum on cooperation with Paris in 1997. Tbilisi is member of the Francophone International Association of city leaders and mayors. This association discusses issues of essential importance to the sustainable development of cities. Its central purpose is to encourage democratic development and strengthen relations between the cities in this respect.

In spite of the many successful projects aimed at strengthening relations in particular areas, in some case, relations with sister cities are either of an exclusively formal character (i.e. no contacts have been made for years) or said relations had been established only in an effort to obtain assistance and are of a one-off or fragmented character.

A good example of cooperation with sister cities is a project on registering and managing land carried out in conjunction with the German Association for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The project began in 1996 and employs representatives of Tbilisi's sister city in Germany, Saarbrücken. With the support of same organization, a project entitled "Network of Caucasian Cities" has been implemented since 2002. It encompasses three themes: governance reform

(an informational brochure has been prepared for distribution to Tbilisi citizens, representatives of the business sector and guests of the city, which will include information on all services of the municipality); sanitation services (includes the city's calculated sanitation costs) and social issues concerning children (it is planned to open a centre for mothers; by the end of 2006 a social atlas and a brochure for Gldani-Nadzaladevi district will be published. It includes information on measures taken in the past two years and planned for the future).

Another good example of international cooperation is that between Tbilisi school No 198 for mentally disabled children and a similar school in Nantes, France. The project was initiated by the International Relations Service of the Tbilisi Municipality in 2006. In May 2006, seminars were held in this school by teachers from Nantes, who helped compile a project to facilitate the integration of these children into the community.

Sharing experience with Tbilisi's partners abroad in this sphere holds great prospects. This is especially true in regard to the sister cities. Piloting and implementing approaches in Tbilisi schools has thus far been successful.

A seminar/discussion on issues of local economic development was held in the Tbilisi Municipality in June 2006. The event included a presentation of the main principles and approaches which are to serve as a basis for local authorities as they elaborate and implement economic policy. Attendees were also informed about the ongoing and planned activities of the newly established business information centre operating under the municipality. Also, representatives of the Saarbrücken Municipality shared their experience in successfully running their city's economy.

Sister Cities of Tbilisi			
CITY	COUNTRY	Start year for cooperation	Field of cooperation
KIEV	UKRAINE	1999	Sport, culture, economics, education, transport, science, environmental protection
ASTANA	KAZAKHSTAN	1998	Economics, culture, sport, transport, environmental protection, etc.
BILBAO	SPAIN	1989	Culture, art, sport, economics, public life, science
BRISTOL	UK	1988	Public life, culture, economics
PALERMO	ITALY	1987	Culture, sport, science, economics
ATLANTA	USA	1987	Culture, education, economics, sport
INNSBRUCK	AUSTRIA	1982	Sport, economics, science
LJUBLJANA	SLOVAKIA	1979	Sport
NANTES	FRANCE	1979	Sport, culture, education, tourism, economics
SAARS-BRUCKEN	GERMANY	1975	Culture, economics, public works, tourism

Source: International Relations Service of administration of Tbilisi Municipality

A planned joint project supported by the World Bank which envisages the elaboration of a local economic strategy for the city is especially noteworthy. The project will engage experienced international experts who will actively cooperate with the Economic Policy Service and other departments of the Municipality of Tbilisi (this service will coordinate the project's implementation), which will significantly support the viability of the aforementioned strategy and the relevant action plan.



STATEMENT OF THE TBILISI MUNICIPALITY

By submitting this report, the Tbilisi Municipality expresses its readiness to contribute to the achievement of the National Millennium Development Goals at the local level by fulfilling the tasks outlined as well as make its own contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals globally.

Simultaneously, the Tbilisi Municipality clearly appreciates the fact that the report presented is of a largely declarative nature and it is essential that further well-thought out and detailed implementation plans should be drawn up for individual fields and directions in order to effectively implement the goals and tasks set out. Furthermore, considering the long-term nature of the Millennium Development targets, the transition to medium-term planning is of fundamental importance and must be supported by a corresponding budgetary process. The establishment of close links between local budgets and planned reforms can be achieved only through well-coordinated activities aimed at facilitating the actual implementation of concrete measures. When discussing the development of strategic planning, it shall be highlighted that work has already started on preparing a local economic development strategy and a general plan for land use. The aforementioned projects seek to promote long term development and consider the

development of the capital city to be an integral part of the coordinated development of the unified system.

In order to create an effective monitoring and assessment mechanism, a relevant body must be established within the municipality which shall ensure the involvement of all interested parties in the process of monitoring the implementation of the main tasks and the progress of each individual measure undertaken through the principles of cooperative activities.

Progress reports on the implementation of the Tbilisi Millennium Development Goals will be issued periodically. Previous and future reports, together with relevant materials illustrating the progress achieved will be available to all interested individuals.

At the same time, the abovementioned body would coordinate the process and ensure close links with relevant governmental agencies at both local and national levels, as well as cooperation with NGOs, international organizations and the private sector.

As for the goals and tasks determined specifically for Tbilisi, they ultimately serve to ensure sustainable development and the establishment of a safe and healthy environment in Tbilisi that is based on democratic values.

GOAL 1: Eradication of extreme poverty



Elimination of poverty and improvement of socio-economic stability must be achieved by supporting economic development.

Municipality of Tbilisi considers encouragement small and medium businesses as the base for eradication of poverty and shortening unemployment level. Supporting business projects, organizing exhibitions and fairs, business informational support, improvement of normative base of the city municipality competence, simplifying administrative barriers and other arrangements will be continued. Also it is planned to encourage employment by rising qualification of labor force and implementing specific economic projects.

To achieve the effectiveness of poverty reduction arrangements, optimization social assistance programs and effective arrangements of socially unprotected population assistance have been set as a priority for the city in 2007. The programs of supervision and assistance of limited ability individuals, protection of homeless children, assistance of socially unprotected families, financing of socially unprotected population services will be implemented.

Aside abovementioned, under MDG project the following arrangements are planned: quality improvement and expansion of the network of free canteens and asylums for complete coverage of groups of population which are left without means of living. Also functioning of effective insurance and private pension systems will be supported.

Significant importance will be awarded to elaboration/implementation of various schemes for creation of minimum living conditions and for overall social-economic rehabilitation of the IDPs which are located in compact residence centers.

GOAL 2: Creation of equal conditions for qualitative and labor market-oriented education



Municipality of Tbilisi ensures the development of educational system via studies of local labor market and support to formation of

demand-oriented institutes for professional studies, creation of centers for professional orientation and career planning/employment, coordination of relations between the private sector and the centers of professional education as well as through establishing the principles of social partnership.

The kinder-gardens will be supplied with such food for children which meet sanitary standards and norms for relevant ingredients. All active kinder-gardens in the city will be rehabilitated, equipped with environmentally friendly and economy type autonomous heating systems. Full-scale refurbishment of existing schools is in progress and will continue.

The development of inclusive education network for children with limited ability in many schools of Tbilisi will be supported and for necessary transportation means through procurement of respectively equipped vehicles will be provided. General infrastructure for limited ability individuals will be created in the Capital including respectively equipped civil transport, streets and underground passes.

Municipality of Tbilisi in its competence will support rising qualification of teachers and improvement management in educational institutions.

GOAL 3: Gender equality and promotion of women rights



Municipality of Tbilisi will actively cooperate with governmental and non-governmental agencies which work on gender equality issues and will participate in implementation of national gender equality concept and the action plan. Much attention will be awarded to creation of relevant social environment and increasing social awareness.

On the basis of existing state regulation and documents on gender issues, a local concept of gender equality will be prepared.

GOAL4: Reduction of child mortality



For decreasing the child mortality level implementation of targeted national-wide programs and the programs supported by international organizations and donor agencies will be coordinated at a local level. Significant importance will have coordination of health-care system planned structural reforms which are oriented at creation of the primary healthcare system based on a family doctor concept; promotion of healthy living standards and planning of concrete informational campaigns.

Problem of oncology pathology diseases and mortality in children, early diagnoses and treatment of various pathology diseases in children, full immunization of children, ensuring the implementation of targeted prevention/treatment programs for particular diseases and support to implementation of social integration programs were set as a priority.

GOAL 5: Improvement of maternal health



To reach this goal the programs on improvement of reproductive health will be supported, in which important component is to provide for establishing correct reproductive behavior through correct and targeted informing and education of the youth.

The Municipality will ensure accessibility of appropriate infrastructure at a local level for population of the Capital, in particular for poor population which can not afford various services on their own. It is planned to carry out arrangements of qualification rising of medical staff.

GOAL 6: Combat against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



Prevention of main infection diseases and start of reduction process is considered to be of most importance for overall

welfare of the population. Municipality of Tbilisi will support special programs against spreading of HIV/AIDS.

Considering the fact that intra-arterial drug-users represent majority of individuals infected HIV/AIDS create concern of fast spreading of disease in the Capital; local authorities will encourage implementation of anti-drug programs at a local level. Important direction in this regard will be promotion and establishment of healthy living standards which aim at prevention of drug consumption specifically in the youth.

Municipality of Tbilisi, together with the Ministry of Labor and Healthcare and by the support of international partners will ensure implementation of active measures for liquidation of infective diseases and minimization of their consequences. Infective diseases spreading sources will be abolished, watering and sewerage network rehabilitation projects will be implemented and wide scale immunization will be provided.

GOAL 7: Provision of environmental sustainability



To provide sustainable environment the decreasing trend of air pollution is much of importance.

The plan of out-of-city relocation those factories which, through the technological processes, represent the source of formation of pollutant plant factors will be worked out and implemented by Tbilisi municipality. For the proper ecological environment city traffic will be effectively regulated.

In respect of creation of proper schemes of solid-waste management, the effective scheme of waste removal, its further fine-tuning, the improvement of waste-treatment areas, introduction of new technologies for recycling and increasing the level of social outlook will be gradually implemented.

With the view of preventing further pollution of rivers Mtkvari and Vera, Municipality of Tbilisi will prepare a strategy of management of sanitary and drainage collector systems (injection of the sanitary drainage network into Tbilisi-Gardabani central collector and redirection of drainage waters to Tbilisi-Rustavi regional treatment plant in Gardabani). Creation of Tbilisi national park which aims at maintaining and conservation of biological and landscape diversity, shall support the implementation of environmental sustainability program. Appropriate attention must be awarded to protection and expansion of recreational zones.

Full-scale rehabilitation project of Tbilisi water supply system will be implemented gradually. Arterial network will be replaced; the reservoir and pumping buildings will be farther rehabilitated; problematic spots will be identified through districts and the complex measures will be implemented (increase of infrastructural capabilities of water supply/drainage

systems during the process of new constructions and in cooperation with private companies); improvement of water supply for high building residences by replacing old pumps; improvement of water meters and tax-accounting and administration; further improvement of water supply and quality control systems.

In view of developing the dwelling fund of the city, Municipality of Tbilisi will coordinate preparation of the long-term strategy which shall be supplemented by creation of respective data-base and introduction indicators. Improvement of living safety conditions for poor population which live in intolerable housing conditions will be gradually implemented through enhanced cooperation with the private sector.

GOAL 8: Establishing global partnership for development



In view of establishing the Global Partnership for Development active cooperation with the UN agencies and other international organizations based in Georgia will be continued. It is also significant to apply existing potential and resources of sister cities, to share their experience in various fields of socio-economic development and in correct management of the city. The government of the city is planning to set up a forum on various issues of urban development with active participation of representatives of different cities, city associations and international organizations. All of the above will encourage promotion of the image of the City.

Creation of information society and integration into global information system is one of the important strategies of Georgian government. According to this, the City Hall will support development of information and communication technologies and provide accessibility of universal technologies gradually. From this point of view, collaboration with global partners and their support in creation of informational base is the most actual. It is essential to create information-statistical data base at a city level and to introduce E-governance that should be preceded by creation of internal network and full internet accessibility for the municipality structure.

Aside from encouragement of planning and implementation of social projects through establishing the partnership relations with the private sector will support general accessibility of achievements of high technologies for broad groups of population.



GOAL 1: ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY
QUALITATIVE EDUCATION **GOAL 2: EQUAL ACCE**
N AUTHORITY **GOAL 3: PROMOTION OF GENDER**
F CHILD MORTALITY **GOAL 4: REDUCTION OF CH**
LTH **GOAL 5: IMPROVEMENT OF MATERNAL HEA**
HER DISEASES **GOAL 6: COMBATING HIV/AIDS,**
BILITY **GOAL 7: PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL S**
G GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT GO