

Strategic Summary of Coordination Results

Georgia

Year: 2016

Brief description of major development or political and economic events that have had an effect on the work of the UNCT.

Parliamentary elections in 2016 resulted in a large majority for the ruling Georgian Dream–Democratic Georgia Party, which has provided a stable and predictable working environment for the UNCT, clearing the way for key reforms to be enacted in almost every priority area being addressed by the UNCT through the United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development (UNPSD) 2016-2020. On the other hand, there are also concerns that the lack of a strong opposition will stifle balanced and productive dialogue on policy and legislation.

The Association Agreement (AA) with the European Union (EU) which entered into full force in July 2016 correlates closely with almost all areas of interest to the UNCT including rule of law, justice, rural development and human rights. The AA has enabled the UNCT to deepen its partnership with the EU around many key issues and has resulted in two new EU funded joint programmes in Human Rights and Access to Justice.

Georgia is experiencing increasing inequality of opportunity and has the second highest income inequality in the region, in addition to a growing gap between rural and urban areas. This negative trend further reinforces the role of the UNCT in supporting sustainable and inclusive growth - accentuating better employment and livelihood opportunities as an increasingly central focus of the UNPSD.

Relations between the Government of Georgia and the de facto authorities established in the disputed territories of Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia are increasingly strained, whereas, agreements signed in 2016 have significantly strengthened the role of the Russian Federation in these territories. Consequently, UNCT members active in Abkhazia continue to face a volatile working environment in which service delivery is sometimes hampered by bureaucratic impediments and restrictions. UNCT members continue to lack access to South Ossetia.

Highlights on progress on joined up work. Summarize the three most significant achievements in delivering together for development.

The UNCT supported the Government of Georgia (GoG) with the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), preparing the first national report for Voluntary National Reviews, the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and conducted gap analysis of the Law on Legal Aid which ensured that improvements to this legislation are reflected in the Action Plan and agenda of the Parliament. Risk analysis was conducted, risk monitoring initiated and Contingency Plan drafted as part of the Disaster Management Country Team (DMCT) operational inter-agency emergency response preparedness framework.

Support to national government in the advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and activities related on the 2030 agenda

The UNCT worked with the Government of Georgia (GoG) to finalize the SDG nationalization process, including establishing baselines and targets for the respective national SDG indicators as well as to ensure that SDG targets were reflected in national planning processes, principally the Annual Governmental Work Plan (AGWP). This establishes a strong base for monitoring progress towards SDG attainment.

The UNCT assisted the Government of Georgia in the preparation of the first national report for Voluntary National Reviews at the high-level political forum (HLPF) that took place in July 2016 in New York.

Moreover, the UNCT is supporting the GoG in monitoring implementation of SDGs, based on a pilot project that currently measures Goal 16. Furthermore, support is provided to establish baselines for the SDGs in Georgia also through the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

Support to government and other stakeholders in building national capacity to implement human rights and other universal UN norms and standards, and progress in advocacy of human rights and other UN system values, standards, and principles

The UNCT strengthened national capacity to implement Human Rights (HR) and other universal UN norms and standards through around one hundred capacity building events for the executive, legislative and judiciary branches, with women constituting more than 50% of participants. The UNCT assisted the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civic Integration to prepare a high level public presentation on its final report and recommendations, as well as to strengthen parliamentary oversight on implementation of recommendations of the Public Defender.

In addition, the UNCT supported the National Human Rights Secretariat with drafting the 2016-2017 National Human Rights Action Plan, its internal regulations and terms of reference as well as the Recommendations on implementation of Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UNCT supported strengthening protection of personal data through support to Office of Personal Data Protection Inspector (OPDPI), Public Service Development Agency and the judiciary. A 4-year development strategy of OPDPI with 2 action plans were developed.

The UNCT helped the GoG to introduce amendments, which increased the parliament oversight over the implementation of the UN and Council of Europe HR Conventions and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. According to the new amendments, the Parliament will periodically consider the state of implementation by Georgia of its international and HR obligations as well as of the NHRAP.

Progress on preparedness, crisis and Post-crisis transition results achieved in cooperation with UN peacekeeping, peace building, political, and humanitarian actors

The Disaster Management Country Team (DMCT) – which consists of the UNCT plus humanitarian partners - developed an inter-agency emergency response preparedness framework. The emphasis was on implementing preparedness actions, the monitoring of disaster risk and contingency planning. Two hazards were identified based on analysis, namely water caused hazards (floods) and earthquakes. A risk monitoring system for water caused hazards was put in place and contingency planning developed by DMCT.

An earthquake response simulation exercise enabled valuable insights into what had been accomplished by the DMCT and the gaps in preparedness that the DMCT is addressing. The simulation exercise demonstrated that the participants were well informed on roles and mandates in the event of an emergency; moreover it also provided the government, for the first time, with an opportunity to learn about the international response system, especially vis-a-vis the implementation of its Civil Safety Plan. The exercise supported expanding of partnerships and underlined the need for coordination and information sharing. The main areas of improvement suggested by the simulation exercise were gaps in communication and coordination mechanisms particularly in the area of cluster coordination and in understanding the government response structure. On the basis of the simulation exercise, a prioritized set of recommendations has been prepared for action.

Despite continuing distrust between Georgia and the breakaway region of Abkhazia, UNCT members continued to provide humanitarian response and access for the most vulnerable conflict affected population to basic healthcare, education, increased socio-economic opportunities and strengthened resilience through the development of social capital. For example, farmer households got out of the poverty trap through income-generation projects, children were vaccinated and received basic social services, and vulnerable individuals received free legal aid. The rehabilitation of Inguri Bridge, which is the main crossing point between Abkhazia and the rest of Georgia also contributed to improved living conditions for local residents. Intensive UN support to confidence building measures and people-to-people contact further serve to build trust across dividing lines. Advocacy seeking to gain access to South Ossetia and establish humanitarian and development initiatives is ongoing.

Results of joined up approaches: To illustrate the impact of joined up work, describe the results of joined up approaches of the UNCT

New partnerships with the Department of International Development (DfID) of the UK Government and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) were established.

DaO mechanisms such as Joint Work Plans with a common budgetary framework and Resource Mobilization Action Plans were put together.

Two new Joint Programmes commenced in 2016 and a third one was established, which will begin in 2017. Through the UN Joint Programme for Gender Equality, a joined up approach by members of the UNCT -UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA - advocated for the establishment of an institutional mechanism on Gender Equality within the Executive Branch of the Government (Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, VAW and DV) to fulfill a key role not currently met by the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament. The new Gender Commission under the Prime Minister is expected to be formally approved by mid-year 2017.

Highlight new partnerships formed in 2015

Establishing new partnerships with donors remained a priority for the UNCT. One key result was the essentially new strategic partnership with DfID. The project intends to enhance the capability of GoG to implement its national development agenda through a more effective, professional, unified and independent public administration delivering public services with greater accountability and responsiveness to citizens' needs.

Another important development was the strengthened relationship with relatively new donor, the Turkish Government and its development arm –TIKA. This cooperation enabled

the long-awaited rehabilitation of the Inguri bridge.

Highlight results of joint resource mobilization where possible

As a result of joint efforts towards resource mobilization, the UNCT framed the biannual Joint Work Plans 2017-2018 that include a Common Budgetary Framework providing information on funding requirements, hard pipeline and donors for each output.

The UNCT also formulated and approved Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy and prepared Resource Mobilization Action Plans (RMAP). These RMAPs prioritize certain outputs with funding gaps for a joint fund raising exercise by the relevant UNCT members and the Results Groups chart out a course of action on how to raise the required funds. The exercise of RMAP formulation, apart from providing a tentative action plan on fund raising, also opened up the UNCT Agencies to the idea of joint fund raising with the agencies showing enhanced willingness to collaborate both in terms of exploring more joint programmes and also in donor approach. Already UN Women and UNHCR have formulated a new joint programme called "Addressing violence against Women and Girls in Abkhazia" which commenced 1 January, 2017. Besides, the RMAPs also provide the UNCT with a definite figure on the funding requirements for UNPSD implementation for the next 4 years of its period.

Two new joint programmes were initiated in the course of the year. FAO and UN Women came together in a joint program initiated called the "Gender Sensitive socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable IDPs through co-funding of their livelihood opportunities and promotion of their social mobilization". UNICEF and UNDP initiated another joint programme called "Enhancing Access to Justice and Development of a child friendly justice system in Georgia".

Highlight innovations in programme and operations to address key development challenges

Co-designing public policy and services together with diverse groups of people such as youth, academia and persons with disabilities was the key direction for UNCT partnership with the Innovation Service Lab of the Public Service Development Agency under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The lab expanded its partnerships to other government agencies, like the Administration of the Government of Georgia for the implementation of the NHRAP together with persons with disabilities to address the issue of accessibility.

A Business Operations Strategy (BOS) Roadmap was prepared by the Operations Management Team (OMT) and approved by the UNCT with the BOS implementation planned for 2017. Overall, the OMT work on common services and harmonized business practices, which primarily focused on the establishment and renewal of Long Term Agreements, resulted in savings of about 10% for participating UNCT agencies.

Upcoming opportunities for 2016: Indicate potential opportunities for the UN Country Team to support national partners in integrated development policy and programme development.

A. SDGs

The SDGs will constitute an extremely important area for UNCT to support national partners in integrated development policy and programme development. It is expected that among other things, the UNCT will support the Government in the Acceleration and Policy Support and a MAPS mission has been requested to provide support in those areas. A key area will be replicating the best practice from the mentioned above pilot project currently measuring only Goal 16 to all other SDGs, thus strengthening the Government's ability to assess progress against the SDG targets and indicators.

B. Human Rights

Given the growing recognition that human rights are central to development, there is an increasing demand for UNCT support in strengthening national human rights capacities and institutions. The UNCT will continue to monitor the progress of the National Human Rights Action Plan and support the government in its implementation. The UNCT, within the scope of its mandate and expertise, will also help the Government to implement the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the UPR focusing on the three main recommendations, which were identified by the UNCT as being of common interest. These are the recommendations on violence against women and domestic violence, on elimination of all forms of discrimination and on establishment of an independent and impartial institution to investigate and prosecute human rights abuses and violations committed by the law enforcement and security forces. The UNCT will work closely with the States which proposed these recommendations in supporting the progress of the Government of Georgia in their implementation.

C. Gender Equality

The UNCT will continue to promote effective and coordinated measures on women's political and economic empowerment, violence against women and domestic violence, including continued advocacy for ratification of the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating

Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This work will follow three main workstreams:

(i) technical support in the development of the new Gender Equality National Action Plan and implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan on Combatting Violence against Women (WAV), Domestic Violence and Protecting VAW Survivors (2016-2017) and National Action Plan on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security (2016-2017)

(ii) support to the establishment and capacities of institutional mechanism on Gender Equality such as the Inter-sectorial commission in the Executive Branch of the Government

(iii) further development of the knowledge base on Gender Equality and Women's Rights for evidence-based policy making and awareness raising through nationwide studies on violence against women and early marriages.