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Progress Report

Together achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015

GEORGIA MDG PROGRESS REPORT

2006

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**MDG PROGRESS REPORT
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Energy Efficiency Center	UVENCO
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Introduction

Within the framework of the joint program of United Nations Association of Georgia and United Nations Association of Sweden, the MDG Progress Report has been prepared to illustrate the progress achieved with the obligations that Georgia undertook to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The report has a descriptive character evaluating the Georgian Government's performance and civil society participation in MDG-related areas. The civil society sector in Georgia participates in a number of processes in the country, and the Millennium Development goals are not an exception to this. Civil society is often directly engaged in MDG implementation, though its activities are more often indirectly supporting the government in executing the responsibilities taken. Consequently, the evaluation of the civil society, as an integral part of MDG implementation, was considered to be a relevant aspect of this report.

Executive Summary

Several achievements have been made in Georgia with MDG implementation. However, there are still a number of gaps to be filled in order for the country responsibilities to be met by 2015.

The government of Georgia has elaborated a strategic work plan for each Millennium Development Goal. Nonetheless, the concrete activities and action plans necessary for implementation that would ensure the execution of the strategic plans are frequently absent.

While specific reforms have been launched for MDG implementation and relevant institutions have been created, actual performance is often low, sometimes due to the inconsistent actions of the government and sometimes because of insufficient funding.

The government is most intensively involved in the implementation of MDG IV (Reduce child mortality) and VI (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases), and least active in the implementation of MDG III (Gender Equity and Women Empowerment) and VII (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability).

Civil society rarely identifies its activities with Millennium Development Goals, but its activities often seek parallel results. The civil society sector cooperates with the government in various ways, although this interaction is frequently single-sided. Civil society is strongest in the implementation of MDG IV (Reducing Child Mortality), and least active in with MDG VII (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability).

Methodology, evaluation criteria, data collection and assessment process

Separate working groups, with the participation of civil society organizations, have been set up to create reports on each MDG field. The working groups were set up to research and collect information for the final report, and the working group coordinators have presented progress reports for each goal. The following people participated in creating the reports:

Goal #1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger – Rusudan Tabatadze, Georgia Young Lawyers Association.

Goal #2 Achieve universal primary education – Nino Gogiberidze, Media Council

Goal #3 Promote gender equality and empower women – Lia Sanikidze, Women for the Future

Goal #4 Reduce child mortality – Medea Beleshadze, Claritas

Goal #5 Improve maternal health – Nino Tsuleiskiri, Association Hera XXI

Goal #6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases – Ketevan Chelidze, Tanadgoma Association

Goal #7 Ensure environmental sustainability – Lia Todua, Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia.

Goal #8 Develop a global partnership for development – Ketevan Chitanava, Association of Young Economists of Georgia

This report gives an overview of material regarding all eight Millennium Development Goals and a brief quantitative evaluation of each goal's implementation. For more illustrative descriptions of the implementation of the MDGs, an MDG Progress Index has also been created. The index opens up opportunities for dynamic discussion and comparative analysis of the MDG implementation process.

An index of government and civil society activities is also included in this report. The calculation mechanism of the progress-index rates MDG implementation on a 5-point system (from 0 to 4, with 4 being the best possible score) based on pre-defined criteria. Special assessment content has been identified for each criterion. The implementation score for each Goal is the average score of the Goal tasks evaluation. The final score of the MDG implementation is formed by combining the civil society index and the government index.

The estimation process was led by experts based on their professional opinions and the information collected by working group members.

A different working group and set of experts has assessed the implementation progress of each MDG in Georgia. The assessments were performed according to the following criteria:

Criteria
1. Intensity of Government Involvement in MDG Implementation
1.1. Existence of a Strategy for MDG implementation prepared by the Government
1.2. Instructions created by the Government
1.3. Programs supported by the Government
1.4. Programs initiated by the Government and supported by donor agencies
2. Intensity of Civil Society Involvement in MDG implementation
2.1. Initiatives, Projects, Programs, Established Coalitions, Networks
2.2. Cooperation with other sectors in terms of supporting MDG implementation

Table 1

MDG				
Intensity of Government Involvement in MDG implementation				
0 Score	1 Score	2 Score	3 Score	4 Score
1. Government has no MDG implementation Strategy/Action Plan	1. Strategy/Action Plan and/or Tactics are being elaborated.	1. Strategy/Action Plan/ Tactics are elaborated	1. Strategy/Action Plan/Tactics has been elaborated and is being implemented	1. Achievements have already been made in Strategy / Action Plan implementation
2. No institutions have been created (funds, governmental agencies, departments, commissions etc.)	2. Institutions formally exist but are not functioning; functions are not clearly divided among the created institutions	2. Institutions have been created, functions are divided, and agencies are functioning, though activities are minimally implemented	2. Intensive work is being done, but for to some reason (lack of funding, lack of qualified staff, lack of experience etc.), performance is ineffective	2. Work is performed intensively and effectively
3. There are no MDG-related programs funded by the government, nor any initiatives indirectly related to the MDG	3. There are no MDG - related programs funded by the government, though some programs are implemented that indirectly address the MDGs	3. Some government supported MDG programs are being implemented, though due to various reasons are ineffective	3. The government has supported MDG-related programs and they are being effectively implemented	3. The government has supported MDG-related programs, they are being effectively implemented, and some achievements have been made
4. There are no government-initiated programs supported by donor agencies	4. Negotiations have been launched with donor organizations on government-initiated programs	4. Donors support government-initiated programs, and they have already been launched	4. Government- initiated programs are being implemented with the support of donor organizations, though due to different reasons (funding, qualified resources, lack of experience etc.) are ineffective	4. Government-initiated programs are being effectively implemented with the support of donor organizations

Table 2

MDG				
Intensity of Civil Society Involvement in MDG implementation				
0 Score	1 Score	2 Score	3 Score	4 Score
1. Civil Society is not interested in MDG	1. Civil Society is interested in MDG, which is reflected in separate initiatives.	1. Civil Society is implementing effective long-term projects	1. Civil Society has created alliances / coalitions / networks working on the MDGs	1. Civil Society alliances are stable, and work on MDGs within the framework of more than one initiative.
2. Sectors do not cooperate	2. Cooperation only includes information sharing	2. Inter-sectoral cooperation exceeds information sharing and is reflected in cooperation found in the framework of different initiatives.	2. Inter-sectoral cooperation is periodic, is oriented on future activities, joint institutions are starting to be created (monitoring councils, commissions, funds, etc.).	2. Inter-sectoral cooperation is constant, instructions are elaborated, projects are jointly planned, implemented and assessed





Goal N1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty

2.1. Intensity of Government Involvement in Eradicating the Extreme Poverty

Index (average sum) – 1.2

The government has elaborated a general strategy and tactics for the eradication of extreme poverty. However, the concrete activities and action plan necessary to ensure the successful execution of the strategic plan are frequently absent. As a result, the separate activities related to the Eradication of Extreme Poverty that have been initiated by the government are mostly spontaneous and impulsive. This is consequently reflected in the outcomes and the programs usually do not have a serious impact.

Several reforms have been launched for MDG implementation. Relevant institutions have been created, but their performance is not very efficient or effective because of the inconsistent actions of the government, and, less frequently, due to insufficient funding.

Programs initiated by the government are included in the state budget, but it is worth mentioning that, according to the State Budget Law, the allocation of financial resources reforms doesn't always mean that a reform is being implemented. In most cases the details, and even the general principles, of the relevant programs are elaborated only after the budget is shaped.

2.1.1. Task 1: Halve the Number of the People under the Poverty Line by 2015

Poverty reduction and economic development have been declared to be among the top priorities for Georgia for a number of years. Despite this, there has been no real dramatic change in the status quo. Following the signing of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, with the active participation of civil society, non-governmental organizations and international partnerships, a long-term strategy of economic development and poverty eradication was prepared in 2003. The key task of the program was to speed up the economic development of country and economically empower all layers of society. The Office of Economic Reforms and Relations with International Organizations of the State Chancellery of Georgia was tasked to coordinate the implementation of the program¹.

The permanent commission on MDG related issues² was established, led by the Prime Minister of Georgia. The commission was tasked to execute the government decision to create the 2004-2005 MDG implementation report. According to the report, prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia, the poverty level in Georgia remains virtually unchanged. The government's strategic goal to reduce the

¹ Presidential Decree on the Verification of Georgia Economic Development and Poverty Eradication Program, N800, 28 June 2003

² Governmental Decree, N7, 31 March 2004

poverty level in Georgia is to create effective, highly qualified, unbiased and transparent public services, improve the business climate, attract private capital inflows, improve the business and investment climate, develop infrastructure and improve the quality of social services. The report gives an overview of the MDG related activities of Government that were implemented in this time period³.

Together with the program activities related to eradicating poverty, the government frequently executes spontaneous activities (for example, the government distributed 20 liters of diesel per family in villages for supporting them farming, for which up to 13 million GEL was allocated from the presidential and governmental reserve funds). Such activities are sporadic and have not led to any real solutions. Moreover, they do not support the establishment of an institution for eradicating poverty.

2.1.2. Task 2: Halve the number of people suffering undernourishment by 2015

Government program to identify families in poverty, investigate their socio-economic conditions, and creation of a database⁴

Up to the present day, the majority of the population of Georgia lives in poverty, with about 17% below the extreme poverty line. The social service system covers five categories of the population (single pensioner, orphan children, disabled children, group I disabled, and multi-child families [more than 7 children under age 18]).

The traditional social service system doesn't allow for the effective use of budgetary resources or real economic assistance for families. 'With the purpose of improving the

efficiency and performance of social services, ... reducing the extreme poverty level in the country, and refining the social service system,⁵ the State Agency of Employment and Social Aid has started to work on a government program to identify families in poverty, assess their socio-economic conditions, and create a database. The goal of the program is to classify different families in poverty according to their economic conditions.

In August 2005 the call for families to register in the program was launched. By June 2006, 248 165 families were registered in the database of the State Agency of Social Aid and Employment, with a total of 734 206 family members.

According to the 2006 Budget Law, the Target Social Aid program was to be launched from June 2006. All families registered in the database by 1 March, and given the maximum score by the agency, were to receive aid starting in June. 52 million GEL was allocated from the State Budget for the program.

However, on 31 May 2006, i.e. the day before the launching of the new social aid program, after a government session it came out that the program was being delayed due to the database being incomplete. A new program launching date was not announced.

In 2005, half way through the 'Governmental Program of Identification of Families in Poverty, Assessment of their Socio-economic Conditions and Database Formation' the budget of the program was halved, and the originally allocated 1.2 million GEL in the budget for program was reduced to 676 000 GEL by September. Moreover, according to budget amendments, the beneficiaries will be provided with aid until 31 December 2006 within the frames of the Social Aid of Families in Poverty program. People identified as living under the poverty line by the

³ Millennium Development Goals in Georgia implementation report for 2004-2005. August, 2005.

⁴ For information about the governmental program of the identification of families under the poverty line, assessment of the socio-economic situation, and formation of the database, see the following information::

- The materials for the seminars dedicated to the elaboration of the 2005 report of the Economic Development and Poverty Eradication Program implementation; overview of the social sector.

- Communication strategy for the identification of families under the poverty line and the formation of the socio-economic situation database, elaborated by the state agency of Social Affairs and Employment.

- Monitoring and Report of the Governmental Program of Social Aid to the Families under the Poverty Line, 2005.

⁵ Georgia governmental decree on the activities for decreasing the poverty level in the country and improving social aid to the population # 51. March 17, 2005

government according to the predefined rules and terms, will continue collecting aid after this date.

However, it should be mentioned that governmental decree N 104 on social aid activities, made on 31 May 2006, continues to provide social aid to the beneficiaries of the last program without any exact dates, until the new social aid program is launched (point 3). The launching date of the new social aid program, which is connected with the families' registration to the database, is still unknown. The abovementioned governmental decree N104 automatically liquidates the 31 March 2006 decree of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs N101/N on 'verifying the terms of social aid delivery to families in poverty,' and the governmental decree of 13 April 2006, N 177 on 'defining the scores for receiving the financial social aid. In other words, the normative basis for launching the new social aid program is still absent.

Medical Insurance for Families under the Poverty Line

The component of medical insurance for families under the poverty line is part of the population stationary aid program. As the 2006 Budget Law says, 'the component envisages the purchase of a basic medical insurance package for the population in poverty, which includes coverage of medical expenditures⁶.

The Medical Insurance for the Population under the Poverty Line program will probably be launched from 1 July 2006. 18 million GEL was allocated from the state budget for the program⁷.

According to the new program, it will considerably improve the health condition of the poorest layer of society and will ensure that they have access to medical services.

This component, together with improving the health

of the population in poverty, 'represents the social aid mechanism that will financially support the population in poverty'⁸.

Social Aid to the Unemployed and Employment

As indicated in the 2004-2005 MDG report, unemployment is the leading cause of poverty in Georgia. Consequently, activities directed towards the unemployed and employment reduces the level of risk of this group of unemployed people.

According to the Law on Employment of 2001, the government took the responsibility to provide financial aid to the unemployed.

Unemployment aid was set at 20 GEL per month for a term of 6 months per person by the State Agency of Social Aid and Employment⁹. Registration terms for job seekers and the unemployed were set by the Presidential decree of 3 May 2001, N177¹⁰. Those who register under these terms can then become beneficiaries of governmental social aid and employment programs. These programs create opportunities for employment through social adaptation for the unemployed, employment-oriented skills training, and the rehabilitation of social infrastructure¹¹.

1.485 million GEL was allocated from the state budget in 2006 for social unemployment aid and state employment programs (including the liabilities of 2004).

2.1.3. Task 3: Socio-Economic Rehabilitation and Civil Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and the Victims of Conflicts and Natural Disasters

According to the data of the Ministry of Refugees and Settlement, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country resulting from separatist conflicts

⁶ 2006 Budget Law; Article 50; Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs; 2006-2009—Strategies of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs of Georgia; Paragraph 1

⁷ 2006 Budget Law; Article 50; The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs; Budget code 35220920

⁸ Sec. 9

⁹ Georgia governmental decree on the Quantity of Compensation for Unemployment and its Production Dates #48, March.17, 2005

¹⁰ Presidential decree on Registration of Employment Seekers and the Unemployed and on Ratification of the Act on Registration #177, May 3, 2001.

¹¹ Presidential decree #87 on Ratification of the Act "On the Organization of Public Works" 2002 year.

was 241 449 in 2005. Of these, 229 131 are from Abkhazia and 12 318 are from South Ossetia. This data is based on the results of a review of the IDP registration process, implemented with the assistance of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. However, because it was not obligatory, many IDPs may not have participated in it. 42% of IDPs still live in collective centers, while the remaining 58% live with friends and relatives or rent apartments. Governmental aid to internally displaced persons is 14 GEL per month. Due to low incomes, quality medical service is still inaccessible for IDPs¹².

The governmental decree of 23 February 2006, N80, created a government commission to elaborate the state policy on internally displaced persons. This was the first attempt in the last 14 years to create a solution for the IDP problem.

During the last year and half, eviction of IDPs with financial compensation from the compact settlement centers due to construction privatization has become more frequent. Unfortunately, in some cases IDP rehabilitation / integration has been subject to illegal abuses by government agencies during the eviction processes. From 1 January 2007 the law on 'Property restitution and compensation to the conflict victims from the former autonomous region of South Ossetia' will become effective, which envisages property restitution and the provision of adequate immovable property to the victims of the South Ossetia conflict in Georgia. According to the draft law, the Restitution and Compensation Commission – to be created with the purpose of executing the law – is to be established 5 months after the activation of the law. It should be noted that, along with all ethnic Georgian IDPs registered on the territory of Georgia, the law will also cover Ossetians and people of other nationalities who were harmed by the conflict and are unable to return home and receive their immovable property, or if their dwelling and other immovable property is ruined.

On the other hand ecological migrants, victims of

natural disasters, have no legal status. There is no law on ecological migration to regulate the rights of these people or define the government's responsibilities to them.

This factor was reflected in the governmental policy towards eco-migrants, and can be seen in the government's reactions to the natural disasters that occurred during the 9 months since spring 2005 in Adjara, Mengrelia, Svaneti, Racha-Lechkhumi, Imereti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Guria and other regions of Georgia¹³. It is worth mentioning that the Ecological Migration Office of the Ministry of Refugees and Settlement didn't have any information on damaged regions or on the number of disaster-affected people.

2.2. Intensity of Civil Society Involvement in Eradicating Extreme Poverty

Index (average sum) – 2

- The civil society sector is quite active in poverty eradication. Mobilization attempts have been exercised (the Future without Poverty civil alliance and the IDP-oriented NGO-network CRINGO have been established).
- Civil society organizations rarely identify their activities with Millennium Development Goals.
- Civil society organizations cooperate with information sharing, and in some cases long-term cooperative projects are planned and implemented.
- Projects are usually implemented by individual organizations or by coalitions of 2-3 organizations.

The severity of poverty in Georgia, and Millennium Development Goals-related issues in general, has generated serious interest among civil society groups in the MDGs. One example of this interest is the 'MDGs in Today's Agenda' campaign, which was launched in 2005

¹² The materials for the seminars dedicated to the elaboration of the 2005 year report of the Economic Development and Poverty Eradication Program implementation; overview of the social sector.

¹³ 'Government of Georgia under the Burning Sun. Financial monitoring of the President of Georgia and the Reserve Funds of the Government' quarterly report #3. Georgian Young Lawyers Association. December, 2005.

by a coalition of the civil society organizations with the participation of the Georgia Young Lawyers Association, the Association of Young Economists of Georgia, and the Welfare Foundation.

The campaign was created to advocate and promote the UN Millennium Development Goals, increase public awareness and cooperate with governmental bodies to push for the prioritization of MDGs. During the implementation of this campaign, the participation of its members in the international Global Call Against Poverty (GCAP) is now on today's agenda.

The Future without Poverty¹⁴ civil alliance has been established, which currently brings together up to 70 civil society organizations and individuals. The alliance attempts to support the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Georgia and eradicate poverty in Georgia through public awareness building and activities directed towards increasing the government's accountability.

It is worth mentioning that the civil society activities cover more than simple monitoring of the implementation of government poverty eradication initiatives and the gaps existing in the system. Representatives of the civil alliance 'Future without Poverty' are directly involved in the poverty eradication process. For example, the alliance elaborated recommendations in the Economic Development and Poverty Eradication 2005 Report, which was then presented to relevant governmental agencies responsible for elaborating the final report.

British endowment foundation Oxfam, Welfare Foundation, the Georgia Young Lawyers Association, Association of Young Economists of Georgia, and Sakhli civil organization have together elaborated recommendations on the 'State Program of Social Aid to Families in Poverty' based on a meeting with the State Agency of Social Aid and Employment.

Representatives from the Alliance member organizations are also members of the permanent civil board created at the State Agency of Social Aid and Employment.

The purpose of the board is to inform society about programs to be implemented by the Agency and elaborate relevant suggestions and recommendations regarding those programs.

The civil society sector has implemented specific poverty eradication and employment initiatives. With the initiative of the Civil Society Institute Economic Program and close cooperation with Oxfam Georgia, a business development-supporting project has been created. The goal of the project is to support the business development and poverty eradication in the region. To do this, the project calls for giving assistance to small entrepreneurs in business leadership and technical assistance to the Regional Office of the State Agency of Social Aid and Employment. One of the goals of the project is to create an unemployment database, and then get entrepreneurs to use the database for future recruitment. The successful implementation of this project is an important step forward in improving the employment issue and in poverty eradication in the region, which are the basic determinants of the socio-economic situation of the region.

Despite of all this activity, it is still hard to say how effectively such individual cases of cooperation between civil society and the government will affect specific decision making processes.

Data provided by the Association of Young Economists of Georgia and the Association of Young Lawyers of Georgia has been used in this report.

The following experts participated in program assessment:

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Lasha Loria, Welfare Foundation
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¹⁴ www.wightband.ge





Goal N2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

3.1. Intensity of Government Involvement in Achieving Universal Primary Education

Index (average sum) – 1.8

- The government has created an education quality and institutional setting policy and strategy, which is reflected in an array of legislative packages.
- Within the education system reform framework, all relevant agencies have been created; however, the reform is dictated exclusively by the Ministry of Education.
- The government has dramatically increased education funding. The number of government-funded programs has also been increased.
- Donor organizations and civil society organizations are intensively involved in government-initiated programs.

Within the framework of the Millennium Declaration, Georgia accepted the responsibility to achieve the integration of the Georgian educational system into the sphere of international education by 2015 by improving the quality of education and institutional setting. Positive progress has been made in this direction. The government is working intensively, and it could be said that Georgia is systematically fulfilling its duties. It also should be mentioned that the government is highly supported in this process by civil society and donor organizations, as is reflected in joint projects and programs.

3.1.1. Task 4: Maintain the primary education level, switch to the 12-year school cycle, include school education quality in a international assessment system, achievement of institutional adequacy with modern school educational systems.

The school education reform tendency in Georgia is fairly positive. In 2004, the ‘General Education National Goals’ document was accepted for ensuring the successful implementation of a cohesive state policy in the education sector. The ‘Law on General Education’ and an array of other normative acts were elaborated based on the abovementioned document, which also became the basis for school education reform. The school funding and management system has been wholly reformed. In particular, the school management system has been decentralized. In 2005, the implementation of a pupil-based funding system was launched, and the state schools were re-registered as the subjects of public law. The content of school education has also changed. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, national teaching plans have been elaborated that are oriented on individual students and tuned to the self-development of teacher and student. In 2005, students’ achievements were integrated into the international PISA assessment system. Regarding the 12-year schooling cycle, according to information provided by the Ministry of Education and Sciences, children currently studying in their 10th academic year, will be switched to a 12-year cycle.

Since 2004, the primary education state funding was markedly increased. Government has initiated new projects. School buildings and sport fields are being rehabilitated within the framework of ‘Iakob Gogebashvili’ project. Also the school computerization program ‘Deer Leap’. The program envisages the full computerization and internetization of all schools in 4 years. Mentioned programs are funded by the government as well as by different donor organizations. Also that the array of small programs are being implemented with the co-support of the donor organizations, ex. the national language teaching program in Samtskhe-Javakheti etc. Moreover, yet since 2001, the Education System Transformation and Sustainability project implementation is started with the support of the World Bank. Namely within the framework of the abovementioned project has been created the National Centre for Assessments and Examinations.

3.1.2. Task 5: Creation of the accreditation system for the higher education institutions; Achieve adequacy with modern higher education systems.

The Ministry of Education and Sciences of Georgia has already created an accreditation system for the higher education institutions, as a part of the reform of the funding system of higher education institutions. According to market principles, the institution-based funding system was changed to a student-based funding system and state accreditation became obligatory for all state and private educational institutions with the purpose of guaranteeing effective quality management mechanisms in higher education. After the 2005-2006 accreditations were given, the number of higher education institutions was reduced by half. It should be mentioned currently only ‘institutional accreditation’ exists, and the standards for content-based accreditation have not yet been elaborated (for example, law school accreditation, etc.).

The law on higher education, which is the major state

policy document for the education sector, regulates the issues regarding institutional adequacy for modern higher educational systems. In 2005, the National Centre for Assessments and Examinations, created by the Ministry of Educational and Sciences, conducted the first Georgian unified higher education admission national examinations – in Georgian language and literature, foreign language, general skills and mathematics (according to the relevant faculties). The higher education system was switched to a three stage model, with bachelors, masters and doctoral levels. State higher educational institutions were granted full autonomy within the framework of higher education reform.

3.1.3. Task 6: Transformation of the professional education system to a market-oriented system; Creation of an institutional support system for private sector development in the professional education system.

The government involvement in this direction is not very strong yet. However, a law on professional education is being elaborated to be presented to the Parliament of Georgia for validation. The details of this draft law have not yet been made public. The Ministry of Education and Sciences also plans to launch 10 new professional-technical schools by the next academic year.

3.1.4. Task 7: Maximally effective activation of inclusive and integrated teaching programs; Integration of inclusive education principles into the national teaching program

The government is successively involved in activating inclusive and integrated educational programs. The Georgian policy toward this issue is reflected primarily in the national teaching programs, which states that the student and his/her achievements are the centre of the educational process. The physical and mental abilities of students and their ages are also considered. While earlier the teaching programs were designed

for the ‘average student’, which meant that some students were not able to perform the set standards and were consequently marginalized out of the educational field, the new teaching program is oriented towards each individual student. Even at the higher education level, the law includes an increased government voucher for children with special needs.

3.2. Intensity of Civil Society involvement in Achieving Universal Primary Education

Index (average sum) – 2

- Civil society is mainly implementing joint or coalition projects supporting education reform. Several relevant networks have also been created
- Civil society organizations actively cooperate with government agencies and international organizations

Civil society has been intensively involved in school reform. Civil society organizations participated in the elaboration of the ‘Law on General Education.’ One group of civil society organizations has implemented a coalition project supporting the implementation of democratic values and management principles in the school education system, the decentralization of school management and their establishment as sustainable autonomous units. Civil society organizations are also very involved with implementing participatory budgeting mechanisms in the secondary schools, which is a prerequisite for increasing the transparency and popularization of education reform. Civil society organizations are also involved in raising the qualifications of teachers and school administration staff, along with other training projects.

With the support of international donor agencies, the group of civil society organizations worked on the implementation of effective self-governance mechanisms in higher educational institutions. Moreover, donor organizations have supported an array of small projects related to instituting the Bologna Process.

In 2000-2001, the Disabled Child, Family, Society union, together with four civil society organizations and with the

support of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, implemented the first coalition pilot project supporting inclusive education. Inclusive classes were implemented in the Number 10, 24, and 6 schools.

In 2003-2004 the Social Insurance Fund has continued to cooperate with the civil society sector (social ads, billboards, placards).

It is worth mentioning the particular interest of civil society towards inclusive and integrated education, and its active cooperation with government structures:

A council of organizations working in the inclusion field was created and a memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Ministry of Education, and a partner institution. Recently, the Ministry of Education has received a grant and in cooperation with the council, will implement an inclusive education program in 10 schools.

The Mayor’s office is supporting the implementation of inclusive education in school Number 10 (Anika association) and psychological assistance for further inclusion (Imedi social rehabilitation centre).

In the same vein, the Disabled Child, Family, Society union, with the financial support of the Open Society – Georgia Foundation, is implementing psychological assistance for preschool children for further inclusion. Other notable projects include a kindergarten project implemented by the civil society organization Child and Environment, with the support of UNICEF, and the Tanadgoma project Weekend School.

Data provided by Nino Gogoberidze (Media Council), ‘Disabled Child, Family, Society’ and the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Georgia was used in this report.

The following experts participated in program assessment:

Keti Chachkhiani, Liberty Institute

Maka Nadareishvili, School N23

Giorgi Kvantaliani, Teachers Central Institute

Giorgi Machabeli, International Institute of Policy, Planning and Management

Equity

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature



Goal N3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

4.1. Intensity of government involvement in promoting gender equality and empowering women.

Index (average sum) – 0.7

- The government has not elaborated a strategy for equal accessibility or the successive consideration and regulation of the gender parameter in the employment field.
- The liquidation of the State Employment Office solidifies gender imbalance in the labor market, in different employment fields, and incomes allocation.
- The government has not initiated programs to raise qualifications according to modern demands. Programs implemented in this direction are mainly created by civil society organizations with the support of donor organizations. The government's share in program funding is still low.
- The government has not implemented any initiatives supporting the creation of temporary or permanent job opportunities for people in socially tense demographic regions, for eliminating poverty, or for women.
- The government has not ensured the equity principle of labor remuneration in the employment field, as women's lower income is determined by the character of their employment and not by an abuse of the "equal payment for equal labor" principle.

- The government has not elaborated effective mechanisms for women's involvement in politics.
- The government intends to elaborate a strategy for increasing female participation in political parties.
- The government has not implemented educational programs for improving the social and political status of women. Precedents of cooperation between government agencies and civil society organizations working in the field of women empowerment have either not been implemented, or done so in a fragmented way.
- The government created two institutional mechanisms for gender equality in 2005, and elaborated a state gender equality concept.

4.1.1. Task 8: Ensure gender equality in employment

The labor relationships in the country are regulated by the Labor Code¹⁵, the Law on Employment and the Public Service Law. The abovementioned legislation complies with international legal documents ratified by Georgia, in which women's privileges and rights are clearly defined.

The abovementioned laws declare an anti-sex discrimination principle, but this is frequently abused in labor relationships. Respectively, the labor market is imbalanced according to gender and employment field, and according to income.

The labor force demand and supply is run basing on market principles, and the government doesn't regulate

¹⁵ Until 2006, the 1976 Labor Code was active in the country. The new code was adopted by the Parliament in 2006.

the gender parameter in this field. Women are mostly employed, as they were several years ago, in agriculture, education, healthcare and small manufacturing sectors, which have been most negatively affected by recent economic processes – fundamental reforms are being undertaken. The privatization process in particular has led to a significant decrease in job opportunities and salaries. According to 2004 data, 80% of employees of the education system are females. According to the same data, 77% of healthcare system employees are women¹⁶. Thus, it is clear that the majority of working women is collected in low-income economic sectors, and is respectively in low-paid positions.

67% of people employed in Georgia are self-employed. Their majority are not paid for their work. Among the self-employed, there are twice as many men as women (women – 13.8%, men – 26.2%). It is worth adding that the majority of self-employed people work in the agricultural sector, of which 85% are women¹⁷. This is a field where physical labor is dominant and income is very low, women are the majority, and their average monthly income is worth of 58% of male income. The same discrepancy exists in the trade sector, where 68% of workers are women¹⁸. According to the 2004 data, the nominal remuneration of women all fields and sectors of economy comes to just 60% of male nominal remuneration¹⁹.

Generally the labor market calls for unskilled workers, which is reflected in the low salaries paid. Consequently, people with only secondary education make up the majority of employed people (38% women, and 41% men).

Women are clearly discriminated in the process of recruitment. Administrations often avoid recruiting women, who have certain legal privileges connected with 'additional' costs. This comes out, for example, in the dis-

crimination of pregnant women and mothers of newborn children²⁰.

During the reorganization processes of the government to correct for the budget deficit, it is mainly women who are considered candidates for firing. According to 2004 data, 41.1% have been fired from their jobs with different reasons, from which 47.5% are women²¹.

The unemployment level in the country remains high – in the second quarter of 2005 the unemployment rate was 15.7% (although only a small part of unemployed people are registered by the government. In the employment agencies only 46.6% of unemployed people are registered, of which 24.1% are women). According to the 2004 data, the following percentages have been identified in unemployment: women 16.4%, men 18.1%, putting the unemployment level for women up 4.5% since 2002. The biggest group of unemployed women is the 30 – 39 year-old age group, which is nearly 2.7% higher than the men's²².

The majority of unemployed women are well-educated professionals with considerable qualifications who are suffering from a continuing disqualification from the labor market due to long pauses in their careers (3-5 years)²³.

According to 2004 data, 37% of unemployed women have university educations. Most often the people with only secondary education are employed: women – 38%, men – 41%. To be exact, the non-qualified cadres are most demanded on the labor market, respectively needing lower remuneration. And the labor forces are not being re-trained in compliance with modern qualification and specialization requirements²⁴.

Women's labor migration has largely increased (nearly 1.6 times more women than men have migrated). For-

¹⁶ See page .61

¹⁷ See pages.61-62

¹⁸ See page 59

¹⁹ 'Man and Woman in Georgia', Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. 2005. Page 67-68

²⁰ CEDAW Assessment Tool Report, American Bar Association, article 11 Georgia, 2003

²¹ 'Man and Woman in Georgia', Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. 2005.

²² 'Man and Woman in Georgia', Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. 2005.

²³ 'Gender Aspects of Employment Field', Association "Amagdari", 2005

²⁴ 'Man and Woman in Georgia', Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. 2005. Page 56.

eign markets demand a skilled labor force, and the under-qualified women usually find jobs unrelated to their profession and qualifications. Every third woman is working as a care-giver (mostly for the elderly), 9% are working as babysitters in families; only 7% work in their specialty area.

Trafficking cases also occur with illegal migrants. For example, in 2004-2005, the number of police cases on trafficking crime reached 30, with 78 victims, from which 69 are 14-35 year-old women²⁵.

Despite the absence of legal limitations, career growth for women is still limited. In many organizations, there is the invisible 'mirror ceiling' phenomenon, which restricts the advancement of women. For example, only 4% of high public officials in government institutions are women (among 4 state ministers, only one is female; among 13 ministers, none of them are female; and among 46 deputy ministers, only 9 are female).

4.1.2. Task 9: Equal access to politics and every level of self-government

Georgian legislation widely declares the equality of men and women in regards to civil and political rights. The legal frames of elections are regulated by the Constitution and organic law, and by the Georgia Unified Elections Code. Despite the fact that these documents declare the gender balance principle, women are still less represented in politics.

After analyzing the elections system of the supreme legislative body of Georgia, it could be said that the legislation doesn't create any special terms for minority parties or individual female candidates, which is due to the fact that election districts have single mandates during majoritarian elections²⁶. In terms of dominating mascu-

line political culture, the single mandate election district favors the male candidate. The single best chance for women to get into Parliament is via political party lists. Consequently, women's participation in politics depends on in-house political party decisions. A study of political parties in Georgia reveals that none of the Georgian political parties have incorporated gender issues into their political program²⁷. The gender analysis of the members of Georgian political parties has revealed that none of the political parties have established a gender policy or members' gender statistics. According to 2005 data, out of the total number of political party members, 30% are women. In the governing bodies of the political parties, 11% are women²⁸. Their majority of these are regular members who are mainly used in pre-election campaigns, or for doing menial work. They are not included in the top 10 of the party election lists.

Among the 235 members of Parliament of Georgia, only 22 are women, i.e. 9.7%; some of these women do, however, hold important positions. The speaker of the parliament is a woman; also, one of the seven parliamentary fractions, the majority faction, is led by a woman. Among 13 heads of parliamentary committees, two are women (human rights and civil integration committee, procedures issues and rules committee); among 26 deputy committee heads, five are women. In the executive government women are also poorly represented – among 4 state ministers, only 1 is female (civil integration issues); the remaining 13 ministers are males. Only 4.7% of the deputy ministers are women.

Higher female representation can be found in the judicial system. Among 270 total judges, 120 are women – i.e. 44%.

Women are also poorly represented in local self-government agencies. After the 2002 local council elections,

²⁵ Newsletter, Human Rights Protection Unit Legal Department Office of The Prosecutor General of Georgia, report for 2005-2006.

²⁶ Tamar Sabedashvili, *Historic Aspects of Women Rights*, Lecture course, Tbilisi: Research Center of Social Sciences, 2005.

²⁷ 'Democracy Building in Georgia' part 5: Gender Equity Issue in Georgia, Research author: Khomeriki, Page 73, 2003

²⁸ The Recent Situation with Women Participation in Georgia, report author: Maya Kupraav – Sharvashidze, In the process of 2006 pre-elections campaign: Increasing Women Political Participation in Georgia, conference. 2006 8 March (NDI – National-Democratic Institute of International Affairs)

the number of elected women decreased since the 1998 elections, and totaled only 11.9% in first level self-government institutions. A very interesting tendency has been revealed: the percentage of female representation decreases to the same extent that the administrative unit increases; i.e. it could be said that where more power and resources are gathered, there are less women²⁹. Women currently make up 8.8% of the members of city councils. In 2005, female representation in this structure was 13.2%. A more interesting situation is found in the regional and district government administrations. None of the cities or districts of Georgia have a woman in the position of mayor or district governor; five women were elected to the council speaker position. Women's participation in local governance also differs according to region.

The lowest percentage is represented in the ethnically non-Georgian districts, especially in compact settlements with Azerbaijani populations. For example, the highest percentage of women representation is in the Lentekhi district at 2%, and the lowest in Marneuli district, with only 0.9%³⁰.

One important and progressive activity of the government was the establishment of two institutional settings for gender equality in 2005: the Parliamentary Council on Gender Equality³¹, under the authority of the speaker of Parliament, and the Gender Equality Government Commission³². A council of advisors³³ made up of 17 local experts working in the gender equality field is cooperating with the Commission.

It is worth mentioning that the Government Commission was established at the initiative of local organizations, which is a quite unusual precedent. Also notable is the initiative for establishing gender offices at the local self-government level within the framework of Woman and Politics, a coalition of civil society organizations working in the fields of women and gender issues.

The Parliamentary Council for Gender equality and the Government Commission (with the support of the UN) have elaborated a state concept on gender equality, which has been passed on for discussion to the Parliament. Concrete executive mechanisms will probably be elaborated and established in parallel.

4.2. Intensity of Civil Society involvement in Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women

Index (average sum) – 1

- Civil society actively discussed and provided concrete recommendations to the government in the process of elaborating the labor code for better inclusion of the gender equality principles. The majority of the recommendations have not been included in the code. Respectively, a skeptical and negative attitude has been established towards the governmental policy in labor field.
- Civil society cannot implement any serious activities in the field of employment except for some rare exceptions due to insufficient resources.
- The civil society sector has established a coalition of civil society organizations working in the field of women and gender issues, and one of the priorities of the coalition is to promote women's participation in politics and election processes. It is not yet possible to discuss the effectiveness of the coalition's performance.
- In most cases, projects are implemented by individual organizations or jointly by 2-3 organizations on a partnership basis; in some cases, temporary coalitions are established within the frameworks of the

²⁹ International Centre for Civil Culture, 2003

³⁰ 'Gender, Culture, Modernity', 'Woman and Politics in Modern Georgia' article author: Lika Nadaraja, the collection was prepared by the union 'Women's Initiative for Cooperation', Tbilisi 2005, "Dobera", page 222

³¹ Decree of Speaker of Parliament #105/3, 27/10/04

³² Presidential Decree #109 28/6/05

³³ Presidential Decree #109 28/6/05

programs with the purpose of program implementation.

With the support of international organizations, civil society has implemented valuable initiatives in achieving the gender obligations undertaken by the government of Georgia.

In 2001-2002 OXFAM supported the creation of the Network of Civil Society Organizations' Independent Observers, which has monitored the implementation of the Georgia Poverty Eradication and Economic Growth Governmental Program, within the frames of which the Amagdar association has evaluated two sectors: 'Gender Aspects of Poverty' and 'Labor Market, Employment Policy'.

In 2003, with the support of the UN, the 'Millennium Development Goals in Georgia' has been elaborated by civil society organizations working in the field of women's issues, among which, the Amagdarm association has prepared recommendations in two target groups: 'Sex equality and Empowering Women' and 'Poverty and Development in Georgia'.

The civil society sector actively discussed and provided concrete recommendations to the government on the process of elaborating the labor code for better inclusion of gender equity principles, but the majority of the recommendations have not been included in the code. Respectively, a skeptical and negative attitude has been established towards the governmental policy in labor field.

The civil society sector cannot implement any serious successive initiatives in the field of employment except for some rare exceptions, due to insufficient resources. Civil society has established a coalition of civil society organizations working in the field of women and gender issues, and one of the priorities of the coalition is to promote women's participation in politics and elections processes. But it is not possible to discuss

the efficiency of coalitional performance yet. It is, however, worth mentioning the important output of this effort: two institutional settings for gender equality have been established in 2005: the parliamentary council on gender equality³⁴, under the authority of the speaker of Parliament, and the gender equality governmental commission³⁵. The council of advisors³⁶ working in the gender equality field cooperates with the commission, and involves 17 local experts.

The Government Commission was initiated by local civil society organizations, i.e. from the 'grass-roots', which is quite unusual in Georgia. A set of institutional mechanisms of the coalition of civil society organizations working in the field of women and gender issues, in parallel with the initiative to establish a government commission, has implemented a project with the support of the OSCE mission. This project led to the creation of the new Gender Equity National Action Plan. 56 member organizations of the coalition participated in the process of its elaboration, 41 representatives from the women's peace network Women's Union for Peace, along with 88 representatives of women's regional organizations and local self-governments from 10 regions of Georgia. Simultaneously, representatives of governmental agencies, including 14 ministries, were involved in the process.

Data provided by the International Centre for Civil Education, Amagdari Association for Supporting Women's Employment and the Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Economic Development was used in this report.

The following experts participated in program assessment:

Nino Shioshvili, Amagdari
Lela Gafrindashvili, Women's Initiative for Equity
Lia Sanikidze, Women for the Future

³⁴ Decree of the Speaker of Parliament #105/3, 27/10/04

³⁵ Presidential Decree #109 28/6/05

³⁶ Presidential Decree #109 28/6/05 article 3, paragraph 2 14/17/05





N4: Reducing Child Mortality

5.1. Intensity of Governmental Involvement in Reducing Child Mortality

Index (average sum) – 2.4

- The government has elaborated a strategy for reducing the child infection and mortality rate.
- Reforms have been initiated, relevant institutions have been created and departments are divided by functions; however, because these initiatives are still fairly new, they are not yet as efficient as they could be.
- Programs initiated by the government are mainly supported by donor organizations. Civil society organizations are intensively involved in their implementation, and significant results are being reached.
- The governmental role in program funding is still minimal.

A dramatic fall in the birth rate and an increase in child infection and mortality during recent years has forced the country to face a potential demographic disaster. Consequently, the protection of mothers and children has been set as a top priority by the government.

A governmental committee established in 2001 has elaborated a national action plan that includes 5 strategic directions, including the issue of child protection. The implementation period has been set for 2002 to 2007. The 2003 budget included the funding of every aspect of the program, including child healthcare, food and safe environment components. However, when it became evident that the government was incapable of funding all of these different components with its internal funds, it became necessary to apply for the support of international donor agencies.

The changes implemented after the 'Rose Revolution' in Georgia have given rise to optimism. Today, the government of Georgia is implementing reforms in the field of child protection and healthcare systems in cooperation with donor

agencies. Government and United Nations agencies, within the framework of the UN Development Frames program, have elaborated a 5-6 year program to be started in 2006.

Today, an array of changes has been implemented in the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs as a result of the reforms being implemented in the healthcare system. A healthcare department has been established, which includes maternal and children's division, programs division, and standards division. State program funding includes: first and second level free medical service for children up to three years old and 20% cost-sharing for children ages 3-5. Free medical and emergency services (03) have been created. The committee on maternal and child mortality, initially focused on reviewing maternal mortality cases, has now been tasked to review and analyze cases of infant mortality also.

The maternity program includes the improvement of prenatal care, which includes four free doctor visits and two ultrasounds, as well as free delivery. Special vouchers have been produced for pregnant women; however there is a threat that in the future the vouchers will be given only to the population living under the poverty line.

In 2005, under the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, the National Council of Guidelines on Clinical Practices, Disease management, State Standards Elaboration, Assessment, Ratification and Implementation was created. The mission of the council is:

- The development of proof-based clinical practices and the improvement of quality control for medical services.
- The coordination of the process of elaborating, ratifying, and implementing the guidelines and protocols.

The council cooperates closely with representatives of the related civil society organizations and medical institutions.

The Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs continues to support the implementation of the child infection and

mortality related programs that it initiated, including:

- Breast-Feeding and Child-Friendly Hospital Initiative Program.
- Immunization Program
- Iodine Deficit Program
- HIV/AIDS Program
- Child-Age Disease Management Program
- Newborn Resuscitation Program
- Infant Development Program
- Disabled Children's Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program.

These programs are mainly implemented with the financial support of international organizations and donor agencies, with the active involvement of civil society organizations. Government involvement is mainly expressed in official support, in helping to attract donor agencies, and in cost-sharing and in-kind contributions in the implementation of several of the programs (immunization, iodine deficit, and deinstitutionalization).

Immunization

Since 1994, a wide-scale national immunization program has been implemented by the government. UNICEF supports the program by providing the necessary equipment; relevant trainings are also conducted for the managers of the epidemiology and immunization programs.

Public Educational Campaigns: In 2004, members of the civil society organization Claritas, together with other specialists, participated in the Vishnevskaya-Rostopovich Fund-supported campaign in different regions of Georgia, which included children's medical examination in polyclinics and recommendations for relevant vaccination and the provision of necessary information that supports the effectiveness of the vaccination process.

The governmental share in funding the immunization program has increased in the past few years. Since 2004, the government has purchased 40% of the vaccines needed for immunizing all children up to two years old, and allocated relevant funds from the state budget. The government also covers the full cost of vaccines needed for children 4-15;

however, from 2007 the country may face some problems. International organizations are currently spending 8.6 million USD on this process, while the government's share is 1 750 000 GEL. While this funding is significant, without international assistance it would be impossible to continue the immunization program. With the support of partner institutions, the child immunization program's financial sustainability plan for 2006-2012 has already been elaborated.

Iodine Deficit

The Government of Georgia, together with the National Nutrition Center and with the support of UNICEF, has been working on the iodine-deficiency problem since 1996.

Much progress has been made in reducing the rate of thyroid infection. The rate has been reduced from 55% to 38%, and imports of iodized salt are 16 times higher than they were. In 2003 67% of families used iodized salt, up from 8.1% in 1999. The National Action Plan for Eliminating the Iodine Deficit and Country-Wide Salt Iodization has been elaborated. In 2005, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the law "On the Prevention of Diseases Caused by a Deficiency of Vitamins, Iodine and Other Micro Elements". The law was adopted as a result of the active cooperation between UNICEF and the Georgian Parliament's Healthcare and Social Affairs Committee.

5.2. Intensity of the Civil Society Organization Involvement in Reducing Child Mortality

Index (Average Sum) – 2.7.

- A regional network of childcare-oriented civil society organizations has been created.
- Information is effectively shared within the network and joint projects are being planned and implemented. However, this activity is not based on long-term cooperation.
- Projects are mainly implemented by individual organizations independently, or by 2-3 organizations on a partnership basis.
- In some cases, temporary coalitions are established

within the frames of the project initiatives during the implementation period.

In 2001, the Civil Society Organizations' Committee, based at UNICEF's Geneva office, was transformed into a Regional Organizations Network. Childcare-oriented organizations from Central and Eastern Europe, the NIS, and the Baltic region are involved in the network. The goal of the transformation was to increase the effectiveness of civil society organizations through strengthening the information sharing process, implementing the transparency principle, improving the sense of partnership, and avoiding the duplication of projects. Each member country of the network has been tasked to select a country coordinator organization and create local regional networks.

In 2003, elections were conducted in Georgia with the support of UNICEF, and the NGO Claritas was elected as the network coordinator organization. Under its leadership, a regional network of childcare-oriented organizations has been created with the involvement of 43 organizations from different regions of Georgia. During the last two years, very close cooperation has been established between these organizations through permanent information sharing, meetings, seminars, roundtables and the implementation of joint programs. The network's member organizations are involved in the childcare programs prioritized by the government and in other initiatives oriented towards child welfare.

Breast-Feeding and the "Child Friendly Hospital Initiative" (COHI)

Breast-Feeding and the Child Friendly Hospital Initiative in Georgia has been ongoing since 1995. The program is run with the support of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs and with financial support from UNICEF. The project is being implemented by the CSO Claritas.

The program's format includes educational initiatives (increasing the knowledge of medical staff and education of the general population) and legislative activity (the elaboration of draft laws). Today, up to 5000 medical servants have been trained and 23 Maternity Hospitals where the 10 levels of breast-feeding program have been successfully implemented

have been granted the COHI title.

Through the close cooperation between the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Claritas and the Association of Legal Regulation of the Bioethics and Healthcare, the draft law on "The Protection and Support of Breast-Feeding for Newborns and Regulation of the Utilization of Synthetic Foods" was adopted in 1999 by the Parliament of Georgia. Claritas is responsible for monitoring the execution of the law with the support of the International Baby-Food Action Network (IBFAN) and in cooperation with the Monitoring Council created at the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs according to the requirements of the law.

As a result of the implemented activities, the rate of breast-feeding has dramatically increased. According to 1993 data, the breast-feeding rate for 0-6 month-old infants was 3%; in 2001 this indicator was increased to 38.7%. In Maternity Hospitals this indicator reaches 80-90%, carrying significant importance for improving infants' health.

HIV/AIDS

Since 2001, within the framework of the AIDS program supported by UNICEF, activities have been initiated around such important issues as maternal and child healthcare, and issues of diseases causing pregnant and newborn diseases. These include infections that cause the stillbirths, birth defects and other pathologies.

The TORCH program has been the first to cover the problem of HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to infant. CSO Claritas, with the support of UNICEF, introduced the inclusion of mother-child HIV/AIDS transmission and its prevention in the Breast-Feeding and COHI programs.

Integrated Management of Child Age Disease (CADIM)

Since 2002 the CADIM program has been implemented in Georgia, at the initiative of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs and with support from the WHO and UNICEF. One of the implementing partner organizations is Claritas, which executes the program's activities in different regions of Georgia at the first-aid level of medical service. The program includes training in ambulatory and polyclinic networks in the management principles of the major child

age diseases, along with community training and further program-assessment activities.

Currently, up to 500 medical personnel have been trained, informational brochures and booklets have been created and distributed to the general population, and community support groups have been formed in every region to spearhead the community training process.

During the infancy period most illnesses and deaths are caused by respiratory infections and diarrhea. Consequently, the role of ambulance services and polyclinics play a significant role in providing the equipment and medications for avoiding these problems, together with other diseases, before they reach the critical point. Successful implementation of the program will significantly improve the state of children's health.

Newborns' Resuscitation

Representatives of the CSOs Claritas and Neonatus, together with other trained specialists, have been carrying out trainings for medical workers in maternity hospitals throughout Georgia since 2001. These trainings include modern methods of newborn resuscitation aid and principles of newborn care. The Program also envisages the equipment of the clinics' intensive care and resuscitation departments with the technical equipment needed for first-aid medical service, which is being executed with the support of the donor agencies. The training program is run with the support of UNICEF, other international organizations and the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs.

Disabled Children's Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Significant work has been carried out since 1999 in the field of deinstitutionalization. Positive groundwork is laid for the implementation of new innovations by civil society organizations that have implemented inclusive teaching programs for the integration of disabled children. The program is carried out with the support of international organizations (Mercy Corps, Open Society – Georgia Foundation, World Bank Small Grants Program, Save the Children, UNICEF) and with the support of the Ministry of Labor, Health and

Social Affairs,.

Since 2003, various civil society organizations (Disabled Children's Social Rehabilitation Union, Library - Cultural Centre for Disabled, Children's Rights Protection Association Claritas), with the support of Mercy Corps, have implemented the deinstitutionalization project, the goal of which is the rehabilitation of the disabled children, overcoming social isolation and integration in the educational system.

With the financial support of Mercy Corps, the NGO Claritas, in cooperation with the First Step NGO, has implemented a project called "Survival of High Risk Children." As part of this program, 20 high-risk children have been transferred from the Senaki and Kaspi Houses for Disabled Children to the Guramishvili Pediatric Clinic, where they are provided with special medical monitoring and adequate care terms. As a result, the children's health conditions have improved, and 14 of them have now been sent to host families. An additional 5 kids have been reintegrated into society.

Civil society organizations continue to work in the fields of child healthcare and welfare, such as:

Telephone "Hotline" – Since 1998, with the support of UNICEF, Hotline has worked at the Claritas in Tbilisi, and at its 4 regional branches. Hotline has professional consultants who provide assistance to the population on the issues of breast-feeding. In recent years, the Hotline service has been expanded with the support of international donor agencies (UNICEF, UMCHOR, John Hopkins University, GSI) to cover a much wider spectrum of problems, including immunization, iodine deficiencies, AIDS, women's reproductive health, patients' rights, and more.

Parents' School – implementation of the internationally recognized initiative – Parents' School was started in 2003. The project's goal is the prevention of maternal and child disease and death. Along with providing technical equipment for Maternal Hospitals, the project also creates special manuals for medical personnel on pregnancy, delivery, breast-feeding, childcare principles and other issues (through the cooperation of Orthos and Claritas specialists). With these manuals, medical personnel have been provided with training to enable them in

- provide the highest professional level of information and consultations for pregnant women (by CSO Orthos, with the support of the UN and the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs);
- Improvement of disease control managed by international immunization information system and vaccination (Curatio International Foundation, in cooperation with Public Healthcare Department and National Centre of Disease Control and Medical Statistics);
- Rabies vaccination promotion (Georgia Public Healthcare Association, in cooperation with 9 other NGOs registered in Telavi, Georgia);
- Reducing child mortality through aiding poor families with multiple children, and disabled children (free operations), feeding stationary disabled children from poor families (Guria childcare association The Child is the Future).
- Healthcare of IDPs, including the maternal and child healthcare, through arranging the humanitarian actions in the regions of IDPs compact settlements;
- scientific-practical conference on “IDPs healthcare, social issues” (union “Coalition for IDPs Support”).

Parts of these projects have been implemented with the financial support of international donor agencies (UNICEF, Save the Children, UMCOR, Counterpart International, AFG, Mercy Corps, European Commission, CARE, Eurasia Foundation, Doctors beyond Borders, etc.). Implementation of some of the projects (8) involved the central and local structures allocating the relevant funds.

So far these activities have had a positive effect on children's overall health. According to the official data, total mortality rates among children up to 15 years old decreased from 1.9% to 1.6% from 2003 to 2004, and from 4.3% to 4.2% in infants up to 1 year old. The mortality rate for prenatal to 1-year-old children has also decreased (indicator: from 18.5 to 18.0 and from 28.1 to 27.2).

However, despite the reforms that have been implemented and the achievements made by the government and the civil society sector in the field of childcare, the condition for children in Georgia is still unsatisfactory. According to of-

ficial data, 50% of children live in families that are under the poverty line. Also unsatisfactory is the level of awareness of the problem in society, and the low quality of medical services in the field of maternal and child healthcare. The institutionalization of children remains the primary solution for combatting poverty and disabilities. The primary cause of this is the absence of social aid mechanisms.

The following organizations provided data used in this report:

Claritas
 Orthos
 Curatio International Agency
 Georgia Public Healthcare Association
 Community organizations: Albani, Road to Society, Avangard, Alternego
 Student international youth association
 Biliki Society
 Guria childcare association The Child is the Future
 Guria Youth Resource Center
 Mrevli Teachers and Adults Social Interest Defense Union
 World For Children international foundation
 UVENCO
 Federation for Children
 Coalition for Supporting IDPs
 Neonatus
 Union of Social Rehabilitation of the Disabled Children
 Tanadgoma Library – Cultural Centre for the Disabled
 Bioethics and Healthcare Legal Regulation Association

The following experts participated in program assessment:

Darejan Rogava, Coalition for Supporting the IDPs
 Giorgi Kvabzirdze, UVENCO
 Thea Beritashvili, Orthosi
 Medea Beleshadze, Claritas
 Ketevan Chkhatarashvili, Curatio
 Tamaz Bakhtadze, Guramishvili Pediatric Clinic
 Shota Maghlakelidze, Georgia Federation for Children





Goal N5: Improving Maternal Health

6.1. Intensity of Governmental Involvement in Improving Maternal Health

Index (average sum) – 1.8

- A Strategic Healthcare Plan for 2000-2009 has been elaborated.
- Reforms have been launched and a National Healthcare Policy Document has been produced. A new law has been adopted on licenses and warrants along with a law on reproductive health-supporting technology. Relevant departments and working groups have also been established.
- Despite the fact that the healthcare and social affairs budget has been increased by 20% for 2006, the governmental role in reproductive health related programs remains low.
- The majority of programs implemented by the government are funded by donor agencies, and the civil society organizations are actively involved in their implementation.
- Programs initiated by the government mostly support only a few specific areas. However, they are mostly ineffective; a regional component is not included and mainly covers only one or a few institutions.

The ongoing healthcare system reform in Georgia includes the unconditional provision of the healthcare system, along with the relevant legal foundation.

In 1999 the Georgia National Healthcare Policy Document and Healthcare Strategic Development Plan for 2000-2009 were published. Both documents were discussed and

ratified by the government of Georgia, and by the European Regional Bureau of the World Health Organization. The documents reflect the basic principles of governmental policy in the healthcare field and the list of arrangements and activities necessary for their implementation until 2010. The prioritized directions for healthcare and the ways to resolve existing problems, considering the country's recent economic condition and the existing resources of the healthcare system, are also defined.

Reproductive health is given a high priority in the policy document and in the strategic plan. Particularly in the policy document, the top priority for public healthcare is given to the improvement of maternal and child health. The tasks proposed for achieving the set goals include:

- Family planning and reproductive service system development;
- Prevention of diseases transmitted via the sexual contact;
- Raising the education level of pregnant women and mothers with young children;
- Pre- and post- natal diagnostics, provision of genetic consultations;
- Ensuring safe birth delivery.

Since 2005, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs is running a government program, the fifth chapter, 11th point of which covers birth delivery service.

The government of Georgia:

- has adopted a law on licenses and warrants;
- has increased the Healthcare and Social Affairs budget by 20%;

- has elaborated a draft law on reproductive health-supporting technologies.

On 24 June 2005 a new law was adopted on licenses and warrants. The law marks significant progress, as it makes the licensing system and service much more liberal and accessible.

Among the international healthcare programs, the prevention of the sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS is worth mentioning. The Support the Improvement of the National Counter Efforts for Ensuring Effective Prevention and Control Works against HIV/AIDS in 2003-2007 Program was funded by the Global Foundation.

In the meantime, indicators reflecting the recent condition of reproductive health are still unsatisfactory. The low birth rate and the frequency of abortion as the most common tool of birth control, along with the low level of contraceptive use and other modern methods shows that the need for family planning information and services remains. Also the accessibility to other important services for reproductive health is limited. This mainly concerns village populations that are limited by financial, geographic and informational barriers.

Some limitations are caused due to the inadequate distribution of resources needed for reproductive health services, and also because of the legal-regulatory framework.

The following steps have been implemented within the CoReform (USAID) project with the purpose of improving the existing situation in the healthcare system of Georgia:

1. A national reproductive health policy working group has been established, which involves representatives of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, professional associations, civil society organizations and international donor agencies. The group made a comparative analysis of current policy and international documents and conventions (Millennium Development Goals; Action Plan of Cairo Conference; WHO Reproductive Health Strategy). The strengths and weaknesses revealed during this analysis were the basis for the elaboration of recommendations for the future reproductive health policy.

2. While elaborating the outlines of the policy document, the attitudes of regional participants has been considered (this component mainly consisted of a series of regional meetings and seminars. The meetings involved medical workers, their customers, politicians and local civil society sector representatives).

3. Cooperation between politicians and local authorities to promote discussions of local experience at the political level.

4. Supporting the reproductive health supporting arrangements/events and the creation and dissemination of national guidelines with the purpose of improving the effectiveness of communication.

5. Within the frames of the national reports, elaboration of the report and its analysis with the purpose of improving the resource distribution.

6.2. Intensity of Civil Society Sector Involvement in the field of Improving Maternal Health

Index (average sum) – 2

- Civil society networks that work in developing the family planning and reproductive health service system have been established. This work mostly does not include a regional component.
- Cooperation between the governmental and civil society sectors is comparatively low and is mostly initiated by the civil society organizations.
- A working group has been established in the civil society sector involving representatives of governmental and civil society institutions. The group works on fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals in Georgia and executing the Cairo Conference Action Plan.
- Reproductive health advocacy is very low at every level (public, governmental, media etc).
- Projects are mainly implemented by individual organizations independently, or by 2-3 organizations on a partnership basis. A lack of transparency and coordinated cooperation is evident in the civil society sector,

and as a result information is frequently lost and doesn't reach many organizations.

Civil society's interest in the improving maternal health is considerably high, which is evident in its intensive involvement in the field.

On 19 October 2005, the Georgian Hera XXI association, with the support of the Healthcare and Social Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Georgia and European Union, held a conference in Tbilisi called the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and Cairo Conference Action Plan, in connection with the population of Georgia and its development. At the end of the conference an interactive session was held to create a network involving civil society and government representatives to work on MDG and Cairo Conference Action Plan implementation in Georgia.

Among the reproductive health, family planning and contraceptives, abortion, information, education and communication-related projects, it is worth mentioning the three-year project 'Healthy Generation' run by the Hera XXI association. The goal of the project is to raise youth awareness of sexual and reproductive health, and ensure the provision of qualified consultancy services.

The Hera XXI Association and Georgian Association of Obstetrician Gynecologists have prepared and published a publication for women on safe abortion, which has been disseminated in women's consultancy centers in Tbilisi.

In 2006 at Kutaisi's Second Maternity Hospital, Hera XXI Association conducted a 'quick study' of the recent situation in abortion services according to the standards and methodologies of international organizations (IPPF Quality of Care concept, WHO 'Safe Abortion Guidelines', IPAS 'Framework of Quality of Abortion Care').

Significant work in the field of maternal health and safety is also carried out by Curatio. In 2000-2003 the "Georgia Safe Maternity Initiative" project was implemented, which was supported by USAID's Caucasus regional office. The goal of the project was to improve maternal health on a regional level through strengthening the integration of maternal and child health services. The project was implemented in the

Telavi and Sagarejo districts of Kakheti region. Methodological recommendations for first maternal and child health supervision have been elaborated within the framework of the project, which was undertaken by a 32-member group of experts. These recommendations were made obligatory in 2002 by the order of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs for every maternity hospital and all medical personnel consulting women.

The maternal health improvement related activities held by the Kutaisi Women Health Centre and JSC Kutaisi Second Maternity Hospital are particularly worth mentioning. The Maternity Hospital runs the population stationary aid governmental program (maternity aid and children's medical aid component).

The following programs have been implemented by the Women's Health Centre:

- 2002-2004 – Susan Commen Breast Cancer Fund – 'Mammary Gland Cancer Prevention Program in the Imereti Region.'
- 2003-2004 – 'Utevus Cervix Cancer Prevention Initiative in Kutaisi'
- 2005-2006 – John Snow Teaching and Studying Institute – 'Mammary Gland Protection Program in Kutaisi Region' etc.

The data used in the report has been provided by the Hera XXI association, CoreReform-Georgia, the Curation Fund, Kutaisi Women's Centre, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs.

The following experts participated in program evaluation:

Lali Beritashvili, CoreReform-Georgia
 Tengiz Asatiani, Georgian Association of Obstetrician Gynecologists
 Dodo Shelia, Kutaisi Women's Centre
 Nino Tsuleiskiri, Hera XXI Association
 ZurabDanelia, Abkhazia Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Deputy Minister in Social Affairs





Goal N6: Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

7.1. Intensity of Governmental Involvement in Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases.

Index (average sum) – 2.4

- The government has elaborated a strategy for combating HIV/AIDS and Malaria
- The HIV/AIDS Governmental Commission has been liquidated. Only the Country Coordination Commission exists – the mechanism of cooperation between the government, civil society and international organizations, and created with the purpose of coordinating Global Fund-supported projects and monitoring their implementation.
- Malaria issues are coordinated by the Department of the Social Healthcare of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs.
- The government has funded programs designed for combating HIV/AIDS and Malaria.
- International donor organizations have funded the programs initiated by the government. Most of the HIV/AIDS and Malaria related work is performed within the framework of these programs.

7.1.1. Target 12: Halt and reversal of the spread of HIV/AIDS and Malaria

For achieving this task the governmental and non-governmental sectors have jointly created the National Strategic Action Plan against the HIV/AIDS (2003-2007). Part of the activities laid out in the strategic plan is being implemented within the HIV/AIDS Governmental Prevention Program, funded by the government. The program is implemented by JSC 'Scientific-Practical Centre of Infection Pathologies, HIV/AIDS and Clinical Immunology'.

Global Fund has funded a program presented by Georgia called 'Supporting the Improvement of National Counter-efforts for Ensuring Effective Prevention and Control Work against HIV/AIDS in 2003-2007'. The program is designed to fill the gaps of the governmental program.

The Global Fund project is being implemented under a close partnership of government bodies and civil society organizations. Together with the civil society organizations, the Global Fund project involves different governmental medical institutions: infection pathologies, HIV/AIDS and Clinical Immunology S/P Centre, Narcology Scientific Institute, Tbilisi Skin and Venereal Disease Medical Scientific Institute, and others.

Country Coordination Centre - a mechanism for cooperation between governmental, civil society and international organizations has been created with the purpose of coordinating the Global Fund-supported projects and monitoring their implementation.

Within the framework of the project, treatment of HIV/AIDS-positive patients is 100% covered with anti-retroviral medication. To prevent vertical transmission, all pregnant women are given the possibility to receive a free consultation and testing on HIV/AIDS, and AIDS-positive pregnant women are provided with antiretroviral medication. Children born to HIV/AIDS-positive mothers are given free status examination, provided by the governmental program. High-risk behavior groups

(commercial sex workers, homosexuals, and injective drugs users) are provided with educational materials within the framework of the Global Fund project. They are also given anonymous and free consultations and testing for HIV/AIDS, also included in the federal program. The governmental program and the program funded by Global Fund include educational activities for different groups (students, people in uniform, medical personnel etc) designed to increase their awareness in order to decrease high-risk behavior. Within the framework of the Global Fund project, the Ministry of Education has elaborated a healthy lifestyle school program curriculum, which addresses HIV/AIDS issues, among other subjects. The curriculum is currently being piloted in Tbilisi schools.

Global Fund-supported activities are set to become part of the governmental programs in 2009.

There is currently no governmental commission to coordinate countrywide HIV/AIDS-related activities. The government is planning to establish such a commission at the end of 2006.

The law on HIV/AIDS has been active since 1995. The law was adopted swiftly, and society was not involved in its creation. Prior public discussions were not held, and the civil society sector was not involved in the process of its elaboration.

The government is currently not fulfilling its obligation to assist infected people as required by the law (chapter 5, point 8, \$5, \$6, \$8). Sub-regulations designed for supporting the realization of the law have not been adopted, and the law on implementing social aid activities (pensions, aid provision to particular groups of infected) has not been adopted. Relevant funds have not been allocated in the budget. Not all aspects of the law are workable. Despite the fact that the law obligates healthcare institutions and medical personnel (chapter 5, point 12, \$1) to provide medical service to HIV/AIDS infected people, cases exist where infected people have been refused medical service after disclosing their status.

7.1.2. Task 13: Halt and start to reverse the spread of Malaria and other major diseases

A reduction of the spread of malaria can be seen in Georgia: in 2003, 316 cases were registered, in 2004 – 257 cases, and in 2005 – 155 cases.

For combating the Malaria, the 2002-2006 State Malaria Control and Prevention Program has been created and is being implemented.

The major goals of the program are:

- Strengthening the Epidemics Control Capabilities in Healthcare Services;
- Strengthening the malaria epidemic monitoring and control activities;
- Providing the country with preventative medication and laboratory equipment;
- Raising the qualifications of disease-management personnel.

The Department of Public Healthcare of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs is responsible for the successful implementation of the program.

The Global Fund has supported the three-year anti-malaria program ‘Strengthening the Existing National Capabilities of Georgia for Effective Implementation of the Malaria Prevention and Control in 2004-2006’. The program is being implemented by the National Centre of Disease Control.

The program is being implemented in the following directions:

- Extension of the Malaria Control State Program
- Timely diagnostics and treatment of malaria-infected patients.
- Full control on malaria disease carriers
- Refinement of malaria monitoring mechanisms in the country
- Strengthening the coordination between regions and the creation of an informational network

- Increasing public awareness and participation in solving the problem
- Civil society seems to be uninterested in the malaria problem, as none of the CSOs work in this field. The media very rarely broadcasts malaria-related news, probably due to the localized and relative infrequent nature of the disease.

7.2. Intensity of Civil Society Involvement in Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

Index (average sum) – 1

- Civil society organizations express growing interest in working on HIV/AIDS and are implementing long-term projects in this field, which are partially initiated from outside and prompted by international donor agencies prioritizing the HIV/AIDS problem.
- Several coalitions and networks of organizations working on the HIV/AIDS problem have been created, mainly by international donor organizations.
- Within the framework of these networks information is shared and joint activities and projects are planned and implemented.
- Civil society expresses minimal interest towards the malaria problem, most likely due to the localized and relatively infrequent nature of the disease.

Civil society is actively involved in fighting HIV/AIDS, partially prompted externally by the vast interest of international donor agencies in the HIV/AIDS problem.

With the purpose of fulfilling activities set out by the strategic plan, long-term and worthwhile projects are being implemented by individual organizations and different coalitions, with the support of international donor organizations. These donors include: Global Fund Against Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), UN Agencies (WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, SCAD), CORDAID, USAID, World Vision International, Open

Society – Georgia, and others.

Civil society activities cover preventive measures and aid to infected people, including assistance and advocacy.

With the purpose of creating an adequate legal basis, a CSO working group has been created within the frames of the Global Fund-supported program. The working group has conducted three seminars, during which HIV/AIDS draft law amendments and additions have been prepared.

The civil society sector also offers preventive activities for high risk groups. For example, the Tanadgoma Association works with commercial sex workers and homosexuals. Educational activities are held with target groups in Tbilisi, Batumi, Zugdidi and Kutaisi. Informational and educational materials are prepared for them, which are distributed freely together with condoms.

With the purpose of preventing the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus among injective drug users, the Tanadgoma association, Imedi union, Bemoni, Support of the Victims of Geo-Abkhazian Conflict, New Road, Urant, Youth Alliance, Ordu, and Xenon, implement impact-reduction programs in different regions.

The Federation for Children, UVENCO, Tanadgoma, Bemoni, New Road, and others work in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention among youth. In the cities of Georgia – Tbilisi, Batumi, Poti, Kutaisi, Mtskheta, Borjomi – among other projects, free consultancy and testing centers have been founded; a countrywide ‘youth to youth education program’ is being implemented; educational materials have been produced and disseminated; and an HIV/AIDS-themed film festival has been arranged. Within the framework of the Global Fund program, UVENCO has launched the “New Wave” radio-station for youth and adults, on which the healthy lifestyle programs’ cycle is being aired. Organizations working in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention are granted the free opportunity to use “New Wave” airtime for their activities.

The Georgian Association of Obstetrician Gynecologists is working in the field of mother-to-child virus transmission prevention. With this purpose, free HIV/AIDS consultancy and testing is provided to every preg-

nant woman.

HIV infected people are also supported by the HIV Infected Relief Fund, the Georgia + Group, and other civil society organizations. Self-aid consultancy centers have been established in Tbilisi, Batumi and Zugdidi to serve people who are HIV positive. Work is also currently being done to modify legislation regarding this issue.

Several coalitions have been created to address HIV/AIDS issues. In 2002, at the initiative of Save the Children, a working group of the organizations working on STI/HIV/AIDS problems was created, bringing together more than 30 governmental, civil society and international organizations.

In 2006, the Impact Reduction Centre was created in Georgia. The network involves organizations working with drug addiction, whose field of activities includes the reduction of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and infections transmitted by blood transfusions.

The Country Coordination Centre, the mechanism of cooperation between governmental, civil society and international organizations, has been created with the purpose of coordinating the Global Fund-supported projects and monitoring their implementation. Within the frames of the above-mentioned coalitions the information is permanently shared and joint projects and activities are planned.

The data used in this report was provided by the following organizations:

- Urant
- Bemoni
- Alternative – Georgia
- Support the Victims of Geo-Abkhazian Conflict
- HIV Infected Relief Fund
- Georgia + Group
- UVENCO
- New Road
- Federation for Children
- Anti-Drugs Media Club
- Disease Control Centre

The following experts participated in program evaluation:

Dali Usharidze, New Road
Zura Sikharulidze, Urant Center
Ketevan Chelidze, Tanadgoma Association
Tinatin Zardiashvili, World Vision
Tea Osefhashvili, Georgia Federation for Children
Merab Iosava, Disease Control Centre, Malaria
Program Coordinator





Goal 8. Target N7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

8.1. Intensity of Governmental Involvement in Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

Index (average sum) – 0.9

- The Biodiversity Protection Strategy was adopted in 2005.
- The Forest Sector Development Policy and Strategy elaboration is run ineffectively. The government has elaborated a Forest Sector governmental regulation reform project, which does not coincide with the policy document being elaborated.
- Development of energy efficiency has been completely removed from the government's priority list. The government does, however, make some efforts

to fundraise within the frames of the Kyoto Clean Development Mechanism.

- There is no state funding for natural resource preservation. Projects initiated by the government and supported by donor organizations are being implemented in this field; however, their impact is still very low.
- There are departments in the Ministry of Environmental Protection that are formally tasked to reduce the degradation of natural resources. However, due to the lack of funding, professional personnel and political support, their activities are ineffective.
- There is no formal population drinking water supply strategy; however, the government is aware of the problem and searching for a solution. A budget is

being allocated to address the issue and finances are being raised among donor agencies. Drinking water networks are being rehabilitated in various cities. The effectiveness is average.

- Two projects for Legal Waste Regulation Documents have been prepared, but no regulation has been adopted. There is no strategy for improving sanitary services. There is awareness of the pollution problem in the capital city and seashore areas, but the necessary resources have not been allocated. The government (central and local) is searching for donor organizations to improve the situation.
- The government has no plans to elaborate the Socio-Economic Development Component Strategy, nor is there any commission or institution tasked to work on this component.

In 2000, within the frames of the Millennium Declaration, Georgia took the obligation to solve an array of problems by 2015, through which the achievement of Goal 7 would become possible – making real steps towards ensuring the environmental sustainability. However, a negative tendency is seen in all three tasks of the Goal. According to separate indicators, only minimal progress is seen, and it could be said that since 2000 Georgia has been moving further away from the set goal.

8.1.1. Task 14: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources

Proportion of the forest area to the total land area of the country

According to the given indicators, the tendency is clearly negative, as can be seen in the permanent reduction of forested areas. This is caused by the high-intensity of logging in the country. Despite the absence of accurate information, it is safe to say that the 40% of the country

counted as forested area in 1990 data has decreased significantly (some experts set the current forested area at 32%, showing an 8% decrease).

Some general causes for this negative tendency are:

- Absence of the State Forest Policy
- Inefficiency of Forestry Legislation
- Absence of modern forest monitoring system, which prevents the planning for the rational use of this resource
- Infrequent execution of law and corruption

The prospects for improving the situation are further reduced by the fact that the government still does not have any kind of forest policy and strategy document.

Total area given to Biodiversity Conservation

With these indicators it is very hard to estimate if Georgia has met the set goal, as the government has no declared position regarding the size of the conservation territories to be announced by 2015.

According to the quantitative indicators the tendency can be considered positive. In 2000 the total area of Georgia's conservation territories (2692 km²) was 3.8% of the total country territory (about 70 000 km²); in 2005 the total area of conservation territories was increased to 3939 km², making up 5.6% of the total country territory (growth of 1.8%).

However, according to the qualitative state the situation does not look good. The management of existing conservation territories is of very low quality (including intensive poaching and destruction of the nature environment). Because of this, it cannot ensure biodiversity protection. If the tendency continues, by 2015 the total area of the biodiversity conservation territories will be increased, but there will be nothing left to conserve.

The government's N27 decree of 19 February 2005 ratified the 'Georgia Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plan'. The efficiency of this document depends on the consideration and inclusion of its statements into reform concepts,

development projects, legislative amendments and other strategic documents, and also on its integration into other documents (like the European Neighboring Policy, Millennium Development Goals, etc.). However, the implementation of this action plan is primarily dependent on the political will of the government and donor organizations.

Despite the lack of activity, some progress has been made in the implementation of the plan. Achievements include: the creation of a ‘red list’ of threatened species, and the President’s corresponding order is being prepared; the implementation of Environmental Protection Inspection; and ecological programs are being aired on television. However, this is not enough. Several organizations have already started to assist the government in the implementation of a more comprehensive strategy, and the government is expected to become more active in the strategy implementation process.

In regard of the conservation areas, the new initiative should ultimately be given a negative assessment, as it calls for the delegation of I-IV level conservation areas to the private sector. Experts and civil society organizations generally stand against this move.

Energy consumption per unit of GDP and CO₂ emission per capita

The dynamics of reduction of energy consumption per unit of GDP (energy intensity) is positive. Unfortunately, we do not think that this is caused by more efficient energy consumption, but by the low quality of the statistical data accuracy on one hand, and on another by the decreased accessibility to the energy carriers, caused by the increased prices, also the loss of the basic energy consummator function by the industrial sector.

	1995	2003
Energy Consumption per unit of GDP	1.37	0.73
CO ₂ Emission Per Capita	–	0.56

Currently, Georgia faces not only the problem of the absence of a government energy intensity reduction action plan, but also the problem that the government still does not realize the importance of such a plan or its macroeconomic parameter.

8.1.2. Task 15: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Proportion of people with the constant access to safe drinking water

Since 2000, the country has been moving further away from this goal, as none of the more or less wide-scale, practical initiatives have been implemented. Correspondingly, the water supply and canal systems, already in poor condition, continued to degrade. The current situation frequently leads to the pollution of drinking water, causing outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Georgia has not elaborated any policy documents for this field. While the “Water Supply Sector National Financial Strategy” project has been created, it has not been ratified.

Even small-scale projects being carried out to rehabilitate the water supply system, are short term and localized; correspondingly their efficiency is reduced.

Proportion of people with access to improved sanitary services

The situation with sanitary services has remained virtually unchanged since 2000, and is in critical condition. In general, the negative tendency is caused by a range of problems that have emerged from the mismanagement of waste and by an increased amount of toxic-waste production (the basic producer of such waste is BTC Co). This is caused by poor and non-transparent reform of sanitary control services. As a result there is no agency responsible for processes recently undertaken within the waste management system, including the execution of the corresponding rules on waste disposal sites.

Georgia has no strategy document or action plan in the field of waste management, and no efforts have been made for their elaboration.

Social Welfare Development

Since 2000, there has been no progress in this direction, and the government has not elaborated a Social Welfare Development Action Plan.

In 2006, with the initiative of some individual specialists, the elaboration of a country urban fund management concept was begun. The initiative was supported by UNECE, and by the government through the Ministry of Economic Development.

8.2. Intensity of Civil Society Sector Involvement in Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

Index (average sum) – 0.6

- Civil society interest in forest conservation is considerably high, but efforts to establish CSO networks are still in the preliminary stage. At the same time, cooperation between the governmental and civil society sectors is episodic and weak.
- Several active civil society organizations are involved in the implementation of international donor-funded biodiversity projects. Specific examples of cooperation with the governmental bodies and establishment of CSO networks exist.
- Civil society organizations are actively involved in the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy resource usage issues. Successful pilot projects have been implemented, although with low efficiency. Civil society cooperation inside the sector and with the government is weak.
- Many civil society organizations are working on the improvement of drinking water and sanitary services. There are several cases of cooperation with the government, but this cooperation is unstable and ineffective.

- Few civil society organizations work on social welfare issues. Government and other civil society organizations seem to be uninterested in this problem.

Proportion of forest area to the total land area of the country

Civil society interest in environmental sustainability is considerable high, and many organizations are involved in the review of the project document “Georgia Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Ministry Position towards Forest Management and Resource Consumption Reform”. This ministerial document has generally been assessed in a negative way by experts and civil society organizations.

No agencies, coalitions or networks have been created to implement environmental sustainability. There are several civil society initiatives, but most of them cannot be implemented due to governmental disinterest and lack of donors.

The forest sector development project is underway (supported by the World Bank), but there are no adequate terms for civil society participation in the implementation of the project. The quality of inter-sectoral cooperation in the field of forestry is unsatisfactory.

Total number of Biodiversity Conservation Areas

Some civil society organizations are involved in the implementation of projects laid out in the strategy supporting the extension of conservation areas. A small number of civil society organizations also participate in the implementation of the conservation area development project (supported by the World Bank), the major goal of which is directly connected to the forest indicator.

Energy consumption per unit of GDP and CO₂ emission per capita

Civil society interest in this field is fragmented (with a couple of exceptions). There are several organizations that work in the field in the framework of international donor-funded projects and programs. Cooperation

within civil society and other sectors is rigid and fragmented, on one hand due to the weakness of the civil society sector, and on the other due to the disinterest of target groups.

Proportion of people with constant access to safe drinking water

Separate organizations have expressed their interest in working in this direction, and the Mtkvar-Arakxi coalition has been established.

Civil society organizations have generated an array of initiatives, but the majority cannot be implemented due to a lack of interest among donor organizations. Inter-sectoral cooperation is at a preliminary stage after the Mtkvar-Arakxi Coalition initiated a wide-scale inter-sectoral dialogue. The coalition has already conducted a first round of meetings.

Harmonization of the urban sector with international requirements, including the development of a social welfare component

Civil society interest in this field is still insignificant, though there are several civil society organizations that work in waste management-related fields.

Despite the fact that donor interest towards civil society activities in this field is currently very low, civil society actors have still managed to implement an array of activities. Governmental bodies are regularly monitored in the field of waste management, and society is constantly informed of the outcomes of monitoring. Cooperation between the government and civil society is mainly unsuccessful and ineffective.

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Antarctica



Goal N8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

9.1. Intensity of government involvement in developing a global partnership for development

Index (average sum) – 2

- The government of Georgia has not elaborated a strategy for developing a global development partnership. However, intensive work is underway in this direction, as is certified by Georgia's active international policy, by the number of international organizations that Georgia is a member of, and the extent of Georgian cooperation with other countries. Different types of cooperation support the further development of Georgia.
- Euro-Atlantic integration is one of the priorities of Georgia's international policy, with a focus on economic cooperation with the EC. Participation in the new EU-initiated European Neighborhood Policy is of crucial importance for Georgia. Participation in this process presents Georgia with new opportunities to deepen bilateral economic trade relations.
- The Georgian government has not created specific institutions to work solely in this direction. However, different government agencies are more or less

involved in the field, with the main role played by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- The premeditated Debt Reconstruction Program is underway for achieving the MDG 8th Goal, and the results are already noticeable. Moreover, the government program for 2004-2009 has identified telecommunications as one of the most prioritized sectors of the economy. The government is intensively working in this direction. Among the supporting factors in developing a global partnership for development are the liberal reforms that have recently been implemented by the government, including: tax reduction and a three-fold decrease in different types of taxes, a decrease in the number of business licenses and warrants by 84%, a deregulation policy, including a decrease in government regulated fields and simplified procedures, active process of privatization, custom reforms, a decrease in import taxes in 2006 and import tax liquidation in 2008.
- Programs initiated by the government are mainly implemented with budgetary resources, though other countries and donor organizations frequently provide assistance to different programs.

Accessibility of Communications Systems: In order to

achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Georgia it is necessary to establish a universal service to give individuals the opportunity to use different communication services without difficulty. In terms of achieving this goal, the Universal Service Office was established in September, 2004. The primary function of the office is to implement the universal projects. Communications systems' interest in Georgia is mainly oriented to big cities and towns, and communication facilities are not equally accessible in cities and villages. The Government Program of Georgia (for 2004-2009) identified telecommunications as a high-priority field. Based on this, the elaboration of an information and communication technology development national strategy for developing the telecommunications network and improve the 8th Goal achievement indicators are essential.

At the Assembly of Administrations of Telecommunications and Postal Services of European Countries, held on 13 July 2006 in Axen, Germany, Georgia was accepted to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), which brings together 45 countries. In the process of building an information society in Georgia, crucial importance is set on updating info-communications equipment and bringing the postal service system in line with European standards, and to successful cooperation with other European networks. If Georgia becomes a member of CEPT, it will become possible to lobby Georgia's interests in European Council and European Union, also in such important UN agencies such as International Telecommunications Union and International Postal Union, without which, very serious problems emerge in the functioning and development of info-communications and postal networks.

The communications, financial and construction fields have been rapidly developing in 2006 compared to 2005. Added value, produced by communications has been increased by 29.5% compared to 2004, by construction by 22.3% and by financial mediation 52.2%. The data for 2005-2006 is still unavailable, but the following table gives the basic communications data for the end of 2004.

Communications Basic Data (End of Year)

Table 3

Year	Amount of Phone Stations, Unit	User Quantity		Quantity of Cellular Connection Users, thousands
		Total, Thousands	Local/home	
1995	737	626,3	512,5	...
1996	738	567,4	468,0	...
1997	734	581,6	464,9	34,4
1998	518	576,9	433,7	51,5
1999	518	599,0	421,4	72,5
2000	427	572,4	404,6	185,5
2001	409	582,3	394,0	284,0
2002	405	584,0	389,4	412,8
2003	396	588,3	363,8	560,8
2004	...	596,01)	...	800,4

As of October 1, 2004

According to the table, the number of mobile phone network users is growing annually. The number of internet users has significantly increased during the last period, as is reflected by the appearance of new servers on the market. As of today, seven basic servers are available for internet users. More than 5000 domains are registered on Georgian portals, but only half of them are active. The major task of the Georgia National Communications Commission is to develop electronic communications networks to deepen the competition on particular segments of the communications market and to enact flexible mechanisms of regulation.

Financial System: The major priority of Georgia National Bank remains the monetary-credit and currency policy, which is oriented on price stability in order to regulate inflation.

	2003	2004	2005	2006
January	5,5	5,2	9,3	5,2
February	3,7	6,2	9,2	5,1
March	3,4	6,3	9,7	4,6
April	2,1	5,6	10,3	6,0
May	2,3	5,4	8,9	10,0
June	4,8	3,6	9,0	11,4
July	5,0	5,5	6,0	
August	5,1	5,0	7,2	
September	5,2	6,0	7,7	
October	4,7	7,7	7,8	
November	8,6	4,1	7,9	
December	7,0	7,5	6,2	

Currently, the banking system in Georgia mainly corresponds to today's market requirements and is ready to satisfy the growing demands of individuals and companies interested in banking services. In spite of these achievements, the banking system of Georgia still remains in a transformation stage; consequently, it is necessary to continue reforms.

Information on Commercial Banks (2000-2006)

Trade system: complete integration into the world economic system is the most crucial task for Georgia's international economic policy, for which the development of market based relations and their synchronization with international standards is necessary. Georgia currently runs a liberal trade regime, leading to an increase in the country's trade partners to 125 during the last few years. The majority of these are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and Georgia enjoys trade privileges from 160 member countries of the WTO. Moreover, Georgia has received permission to use the Generalized System of Preferences – GSP+, which doesn't cover any other NIS member country.

Within the frames of GSP+, Georgian exporters are given the opportunity to export 7200 product titles to European market without customs fees, which creates the outstanding prospect for new foreign investments in the country. According to 9 months' data from 2005, the Ministry of Economic Development has granted A Certificate GSP+ usage permission to 445 manufacturers. The country legislation doesn't include any quantitative restrictions in trade, restricting license requirements or any other excessive fee barriers. The majority of the trade partner countries are members of the World Trade Organization, and trade relations with these countries are based on the 'Most Favored Nation' (MFN) basis.

Institutional changes that are carried out by the government could be considered one of the initiatives targeting the achievement of the 8th Millennium Development Goal. Among these changes, the customs code amendments package is significant, which has been transmitted to the legislative government by the executive government. The new Customs Code has a number of positive aspects. The major basis for this is the optimization of customs regimes, the detailed procedures regulations incorporated in the code, the simplification of procedures and systematization of responsibilities. The new customs code has reduced the number of customs regimes from 15 to seven; some of them have been eliminated, and others are incorporated into different procedures. The incorporation of a generalized, simplified electronics customs declaration institution is new for the customs legislation.

A project on institutional changes of tax and customs department structures has been elaborated, which envisages the integration of the two departments.

Systemized institutional changes, the creation of a liberal legislative basis, and the structural reforms recently undertaken have led to economic growth in Georgia. In 2005, the national GDP growth rate reached the 9.3%. The GDP growth was mainly based on the development of the financial mediation field (52.2%), communications (29.5%), and construction (22.3%). Country GDP in 2005 was worth 11.5919 billion GEL. GDP per capita was 2563.7 GEL.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
GDP Growth Rate (%)	4.8	5.5	11.1	6.2	9.3
Export (growth, %)	-1.5	8.8	34.5	39.4	34.0
Import (growth, %)	6.0	5.6	43.8	61.9	34.8
Inflation (%)	3.4	5.4	7.0	7.5	6.2
Foreign Direct Investments (Million, USD)	110.0	167.0	340.0	499.0	447.0
GDP per capita (USD)	697.0	741.4	876.9	1139.1	1415.6

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Export	322 563	317 849	345 978	465 265	648 370
Import	709 127	751 969	793 808	1 141 202	1 847 702
Turnover	1 031 690	1 069 818	1 139 786	1 606 467	2 496 072
Balance	-386 565	-434 119	-447 831	-675 937	-1 199 332

Source: Customs Department of Ministry of Finances of Georgia; Georgian Gas Transporting Company LLC

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Export	322563	317849	345978	465265	648370
Including:					
NIS Countries	128294	144269	168713	228645	329060
Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization member countries	193472	181716	180213	250590	342690
EU member countries	76389	61852	63226	81636	111408
Economic Cooperation and Development Organization member countries	165386	154091	155649	212448	272015
Total Import	709127	751969	793808	1141202	1847702
Including:					
NIS Countries	229461	253980	292478	370288	657819
Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization member countries	347449	367088	388485	489748	854682
EU member countries	187552	239566	230072	430681	616369
Economic Cooperation and Development Organization member countries	391317	419011	409551	647335	960259

Georgia's foreign trade turnover reached 2.0455 billion USD in the first half of 2006. Import – 1.2795 billion USD, and export 470.0 million USD. Respectively, the foreign trade deficit during the first 6 month of the recent year exceeded one billion USD, and reached the value of 1109.5 million USD. These and other similar data can be found in the table below.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2008-I
Turnover, millions GEL	739,7	879,9	1080,3	1617,0	1789,7	519,2
Production, millions GEL	715,5	833,0	959,6	1231,6	1359,4	358,5
Add value, millions GEL	403,5	490,3	602,8	783,6
Interim consumption, millions GEL	314,1	357,3	372,6	494,7
Basic Capital, millions GEL	1181,7	1243,6	1341,7	1632,6
Number of Employed People	51424	52691	50669	60072	54724	53814
Employee Salary, GEL	151,1	168,6	198,6	220,3	...	341,9

	(Millions USD)		
	January-July 2005	January-July 2006	Growth Rate %
Export	372,7	470,0	26,1
Import	981,8	1 579,5	60,9
Turnover	1 354,5	2 049,5	51,3
Balance	-609,1	-1 109,5	82,2

Foreign trade growth is particularly evident. The trade deficit has increased significantly due to the bigger growth rate of imports compared to exports. The Russian embargo of Georgian wine and mineral waters has affected export growth in Georgia. Respectively, exports to Georgia's major export partner, Russia, have been significantly reduced. While the export indicator in February reached 13.5 million USD, and in March 18.7 million USD, in April it has dropped to 3.6 million, and to 3.2 million USD in June.

As a result of the arrangements made by the Georgian government, Georgia will be restored the status of International Standardization Organization – ISO's member-correspondent, and will enjoy all the privileges that are granted by ISO member-correspondent status. The country will receive international standards, technical reports, and manuals.

Within the International Standardization Organization Georgia will be represented by the Georgia Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology National Agency.

Since 1 July, the country is authorized to:

- Hold observer status in ISO Committees
- Full access to all documentations connected with ISO activities

The basic recommendations of the WTO and other international organizations are related to the technical barriers in trade and the establishment of international

rules-based quality infrastructure regulatory system in the technical regulation field, which is the basis for supporting free production turnover on the international market.

Foreign Debt

Georgia's total foreign debt has reached 1.858 billion USD, 34.6% of the total GDP. The biggest creditors among international finance organizations are the International Monetary Fund and World Bank (265.3 million USD and 677.6 million USD, respectively). Georgia's first debt restructurization was accomplished in 1996-1998. In 2001, Georgia addressed the Paris Club with the request of again restructuring its foreign debts. Through the agreements reached there, the basic funds were consolidated and restructured in 2001-2002. In 2003-2006 the bigger parts of the total debt and interest were restructured. In 30 June 2006, Georgia's debt was 1,755,858,000 USD. The same value was identified for 31 December, 2005. The Paris Club Agreement (in case of need) envisages the restructurization of the remaining debt (2001-2006) after the end of the consolidation period (end of 2006) within the frames of the Evian Approach. In one year, the total amount of the foreign debt has been reduced by 5.3 percent. In the same period, the change in the USD-GEL exchange rate by 1.8 percent caused the total foreign debt amount to be reduced by 7.0 percent.

9.2 Intensity of Civil Society Involvement in Developing a Global Partnership for Development

Index (average sum) – 1

The civil society sector is involved in MDG-related activities and is frequently represented as the initiator of these activities. Moreover, various donor organizations play the major role in developing cooperation between the government and the population in this regard. In the work done to achieve MDGs, civil society activity and coalition building should be underlined. For example, up to 60 civil society organizations are involved in the Future without Poverty movement. However, it cannot be said that the civil society is running any of the crucial efforts.

Georgian civil society is involved in MDG implementation within the frameworks of their own programs. Particularly with the 8th Goal, it could be said that any project supported by local or international donor organizations being implemented by local CSOs are doing well in supporting the establishment of a global partnership for development. Furthermore, the local civil society sector is interested and ready to be involved in the implementation of different world programs. Development of a global partnership is a broad field, and includes cooperation in various fields. A project implemented by the Georgia Young Economists' Association (GYEA), Implementation of the Tax Code, could be used as an example. Within the framework of this project, the tax code has been elaborated, adapted, and published as a guide. This project has supported the implementation of the tax code by raising awareness among businessmen and public servants, and furthermore has supported the harmonization of the Georgian business sector with the international tax system. There are a number of projects being implemented by civil society organizations in Georgia that could be selected as similar examples. These projects are oriented towards Georgia's integration into the global space.

The civil society sector is active enough and involved in international world movements. The goals to be achieved

by 2015, as well as global partnership supporting factors, frequently surpass the capacity of civil society. Because of this, the civil society sector can often only declare its positions towards different problems in support of finding effective solutions.

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