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### United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### **Draft country programme document\*\***

### **Georgia**

#### *Summary*

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Georgia is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$3,750,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$25,300,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2011 to 2015.

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\* E/ICEF/2010/8.

\*\* In accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/19, the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website, along with the results matrix, no later than six weeks after discussion of the CPD at the annual session of the Executive Board. The revised CPD will then be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the second regular session of 2010.



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<i>Basic data<sup>†</sup></i> <i>(2008, unless otherwise stated)</i>	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	1.0
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	30
Underweight (% , moderate and severe, 2005)	2 <sup>a</sup>
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, 2006)	23 <sup>b</sup>
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female, 2007)	95/92
Survival rate to last primary grade (% , 2004)	100
Use of improved drinking water sources (% , 2006)	99
Use of improved sanitation facilities (% , 2006)	93
Adult HIV prevalence rate (% , 2007)	0.1
Child labour (% , children 5-14 years old, 2005)	18
GNI per capita (US\$)	2 470
One-year-olds immunized with DPT3 (%)	92
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	96

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<sup>†</sup> More comprehensive country data on children and women can be found at [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org).

<sup>a</sup> WHO child growth standard.

<sup>b</sup> The 2005 MMR estimate developed by WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA and the World Bank is 66 per 100,000 live births, which is adjusted for underreporting and misclassification of maternal deaths. [http://www.childinfo.org/maternal\\_mortality.html](http://www.childinfo.org/maternal_mortality.html)

## Summary of the situation of children and women

1. Georgia has made substantial progress in promoting good governance, strengthened institutions and economic growth. The country has enjoyed growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) of up to 7.8 per cent per year, reaching a gross national income per capita of \$2,470 in 2008, compared with \$1,060 in 2004.

2. The global economic crisis and the 2008 armed conflict resulted in an economic contraction of 10 per cent during the first two quarters of 2009. Since then, the economy has slowly begun to recover but overall is projected to experience negative growth. Both foreign direct investment and remittances declined. Unemployment increased from 13.3 per cent in 2007 to 16.5 per cent in 2008 and disproportionately affected young people, who as a group experienced more than double the national average unemployment rate. The 2008 armed conflict made an impact far beyond the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia,<sup>1</sup> leading to significant displacements. Approximately 30,000 remain internally displaced to date. International donor pledges in the aftermath of the armed conflict have been important contributions to the Government in responding to these challenges.

3. Georgia has made significant improvement towards realizing the rights of its children over the last five years. Progress is evident in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. For example, according to United Nations

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/307 of 9 September 2009, entitled "Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia".

estimates, the under-five mortality rate fell from 47 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 30 per 1,000 live births in 2008. The neonatal mortality rate fell from 41 to 26 in the same time period. A similar positive trend has been noted with the maternal mortality ratio. According to national statistics, the country is on track to achieve universal primary education and ensure access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitary facilities.

4. Despite recent economic growth, a significant proportion of the population lives below the poverty line. The 2009 World Bank Poverty Assessment found that 23.7 per cent of the Georgian population was poor and 9.3 per cent was extremely poor. Among children, poverty levels are higher than the national average (28 per cent), corresponding to 280,000 children. Families with four or more children are especially vulnerable: they experience more widespread (44 per cent are poor) and severe poverty. The effects of the global economic crisis and the 2008 armed conflict are difficult to assess with regard to child poverty. However, the 2009 Poverty Assessment forecasts the total poverty rate to rise from 23.7 per cent to 27.1 per cent. The number of people benefiting from the Targeted Social Assistance Program increased from 400,000 to 460,000 between January and June 2009. Major reform of the social protection system is under way, with a particular emphasis on expanding the coverage of means-tested social assistance and linking it to other benefits such as health-care vouchers. While there are encouraging signs of more resources being channelled to poor households through the targeted social assistance scheme which began in 2006, a major effort is required to strengthen the social protection system's capacity to encompass all of the vulnerable population.

5. More can be done to further advance the agenda for children. In addition to the overarching issue of child poverty there are two additional interlinked challenges to the fulfilment of the rights of children and women: social inclusion and gaps in systems and capacities in service delivery.

6. Social inclusion remains a significant challenge. In its 2008 concluding observations, the Committee on the Rights of the Child noted that despite Constitutional and other guarantees, the principle of non-discrimination is not fully respected in practice for certain groups of children. These groups include children belonging to minorities, children with disabilities, refugee- and asylum-seeking children, children who are internally displaced, children of disadvantaged families, children who live or work on the street, children in the juvenile justice system, and children living in rural or remote areas. As an example of the rural-urban disparity: the proportion of people in poverty in rural areas was 30 per cent compared to 18 per cent in urban areas. The urban-rural gap in early childhood education has increased. Nearly two thirds of urban children 3-4 years old attend pre-school, compared to only a quarter of rural children. Children with Azeri ethnicity have about twice the mortality level of children with Georgian ethnicity.

7. The significant stigma and discrimination surrounding children with disabilities contribute to their systematic exclusion and isolation. Only 7 per cent of pre-schools have any children with special needs. There are no data available on causes of disability in Georgia, and there is a legacy of incorrect diagnosis at birth, dating from an earlier period when Georgia was part of the Soviet Union. This is now being addressed through capacity development under the leadership of the Child Development Centre, which was opened in 2008. Children with disabilities

who do have access to learning are often separated from other children in mainstream schools.

8. The number of children living in institutions has fallen significantly, from 5,200 in 2004 to 2,300 in 2008. An additional 1,200 children are estimated to live in private institutions run by non-governmental organizations and the Georgian Orthodox church. Ninety per cent of children in residential institutions have a surviving parent. The main causes for admission are poverty and disability. There is no national child protection referral mechanism. Social workers are growing in number, but there are still too few of them and they lack adequate training. It is estimated that in the four largest cities, 1,050 children live and/or work on the streets, almost all of them boys. Approximately 60 per cent of such children in Tbilisi are of Roma origin. Related protection issues are domestic and gender-based violence and violence against children in schools.

9. Georgia has a low incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS, with the estimated HIV prevalence rate at 0.1 per cent among adults aged 15-49. Official statistics reported 2,005 HIV infections at the end of 2009. In 2008, UNAIDS estimated that the actual number of cases was 4,000. Injecting drug users account for 59.7 per cent of infections. Almost two thirds of Georgia's estimated 40,000 injecting drug users began using drugs between 15 to 19 years of age. The Georgian Government has developed a multisectoral national response to HIV/AIDS, supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

10. The second major challenge consists of gaps in systems and capacities in service delivery. Overall, social-sector budget allocations remain insufficient: only 1.6 per cent of GDP is allocated to health and 2.8 per cent to education. To improve health outcomes, increased emphasis is needed on public health and nutrition, health promotion and communication, and disease prevention. Although access to basic health facilities by geographic area is good and a significant proportion of the poor population is covered through national health benefits and/or medical vouchers (673,000 in 2007, increasing to 900,000 in 2009), three quarters of the total population is not covered by any form of health insurance. Increasing out-of-pocket payments for health care represent a barrier to basic health services. In order to further reduce infant mortality, additional efforts are required to ensure quality neonatal services. Micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent.

11. Georgia has a strong education tradition with high primary and secondary enrolment ratios and high literacy rates. However, the pre-school attendance rate is only 49 per cent. Children who do not attend pre-school have a higher risk of not reaching their full potential and are at greater risk of experiencing learning difficulties, violence and social problems. The quality of education remains a challenge. Several recent studies show that primary school children in Georgia have comparatively low learning achievement in reading, mathematics and science, including in relation to other children in the region. A major challenge for the Government is to ensure the education system adequately prepares young people for the labour market and to contribute to increased youth employment.

## **Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2006-2010**

### **Key results achieved**

12. The main goal of the 2006-2010 programme of cooperation was to strengthen national reform processes as well as contribute to the realization of children's rights to grow up healthy and well nourished in a caring, nurturing and inclusive family environment.

13. The Government has implemented extensive health system reforms. For example, in 2007, amendments to the 1997 Law on Health Care were introduced to ensure compliance of services to evidence-based clinical guidelines and protocols which corresponded to international norms. These amendments were introduced with support from the European Commission, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO), with UNICEF focusing on perinatal health. In 2010, the Government, UNICEF and Reproductive Health Council established a strategic partnership with the Israeli medical institution, Chaim Sheba Medical Centre (CSMC), to ensure systematic and ongoing capacity development of neonatal services. Immunization rates remained high throughout the country. Pregnant women attending at least four antenatal care visits increased from 60 to 70 per cent. All HIV-infected pregnant women received a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis, which reduced the risk of mother-to-child transmission.

14. A new Alliance on Early Childhood Development (ECD), consisting of Parliamentarians, academic experts and civil society actors, created with UNICEF support, ensured endorsement of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Early Childhood Development 2007-2009 and enabled the establishment of the first child development centre in Georgia dedicated to promoting positive child-rearing and -caring practices at family and community levels through an integrated early childhood development approach.

15. The Government prioritizes child protection, and has adopted a Child Welfare Action Plan 2008-2011, which outlines the key intervention areas for reforming the childcare system. The Action Plan informs a new phase in the childcare reform process — moving towards reaching vulnerable and at-risk children before family breakdown occurs. A focused and sustained effort around deinstitutionalization has produced a 52 per cent decline in the number of children living in institutional care. Family reunification has been a priority, and formal foster care and guardianship now function as alternatives to institutional care. The role of the European Union, the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as key partners such as Save the Children, EveryChild, First Step Georgia and World Vision, have been critical to the reform process.

16. Social work as a profession has developed significantly. Alongside government partners, key partners in efforts to promote social work include the Georgian Association of Social Workers and Tbilisi State University. In 2000, there were only 18 social workers; today, there are nearly 200 working in 53 social-work teams throughout the country. Two universities now offer degree programmes in social work, and paraprofessional training has also become available. A 2007 study found that the 86 per cent of children referred to a social worker were able to continue living with their families, 13 per cent were placed in family substitute care, and only 1 per cent were placed in residential care.

17. A comprehensive national strategy on juvenile justice was adopted in 2009 within the broader Criminal Justice Reform Strategy. Official policies that conflicted with child protection in this area have been abandoned. Treatment of juvenile offenders has improved, particularly in detention and correctional facilities. The appointment and training of specialized judges and prosecutors have been institutionalized. The reforms and increase in system capacity are due to the combined efforts of the Government, Penal Reform International, the Georgian Bar Association and other key actors, with support from the European Union and the Government of the Netherlands. UNICEF has had a key role in convening partners working in the sector, providing technical assistance and facilitating policy dialogue.

18. A real-time evaluation in 2009 found that 73,000 children affected by the 2008 armed conflict were able to start the new school year in October 2008 through a back-to-school programme coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science with UNICEF support. Government efforts to prevent epidemics and malnutrition among 130,000 internally displaced persons were supported by UNICEF through its cluster coordination role in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and child nutrition. Eighty-four affected communities established inter-agency child-friendly spaces. In addition to United Nations organizations, key partners in the humanitarian response and recovery phases included Save the Children, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, Action Contre la Faim, World Vision and the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

### **Lessons learned**

19. The ongoing national reform process and the European Union-Georgia European Neighbourhood Policy have provided opportunities to advance the child rights agenda through leveraging key partnerships with the European Union and World Bank, as well as ensured that resources are pooled and branches of international assistance are mutually reinforcing. Efforts will go towards strengthening institutions through capacity development for human rights-based budget monitoring and policy advocacy. This strengthening will better enable rights holders to claim their rights. It is welcomed by the Public Defender's Office, Parliament and civil society groups.

20. Following a 2009 assessment, accelerated establishment of support services for young people on probation has helped to reintegrate children with families and communities. The Government is committed to establishing a system of juvenile probation officers throughout the country, providing opportunities to build a broader continuum of services for vulnerable youth.

21. The successful birth registration campaign led by the Civil Registration Agency, supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF, has demonstrated the importance of supporting service provision with carefully targeted social mobilization, which can overcome cultural and traditional obstacles. Underutilization of health and other services, rather than their availability, is the greatest constraint to further improving the situation of Georgian children, especially in marginalized groups. The midterm review of 2009 identified the need for increased investments in social mobilization and communication for development capacity in the country.

## The country programme, 2011-2015

### Summary budget table

<i>Programme</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	
Integrated and inclusive systems for children	1 200	20 200	21 400
Social policy, child rights monitoring and communication	1 875	5 000	6 875
Cross-sectoral costs	675	100	775
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 750</b>	<b>25 300</b>	<b>29 050</b>

### Preparation process

22. Programme preparation was undertaken in the first quarter of 2010 in collaboration with key Government counterparts and under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister. The process was informed by the 2009 Situation Analysis of Children, a real-time evaluation of the response of UNICEF to the humanitarian crisis in Georgia, the 2009 midterm review and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2011-2015. The joint strategy meeting for the UNDAF was held in February 2010. The observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were considered, particularly those on child protection, family environment, and alternative care and special protection measures. Consultations were held with counterparts, civil society organizations, donors and experts. Priorities identified by children in participatory action research groups, schools, and communities also shaped the proposed programme.

### Programme components results and strategies

23. The proposed programme of cooperation is supporting the commitment of Georgia to achieve the Millennium Development Goals set for 2015. It is designed to address social exclusion and system and capacity gaps as well as the underlying issue of child poverty. The overarching goal of the country programme is to support those elements of the Government's ongoing reform process which strengthen social inclusion and cohesion, with a view to reducing inequities among children and increasing the potential for development of their human and social capital.

24. The country programme will comprise two mutually reinforcing components, namely: Integrated and Inclusive Systems for Children and Social Policy, and Child Rights Monitoring and Communication. Respectively, the programmes will contribute to the achievement of the following results by the end of 2015: (a) more children and mothers benefit from quality basic and alternative social services (including integrated and decentralized services) that address targeted disparities; and (b) key outstanding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (ref. CRC/G/GEO/CO/3) continue to be fulfilled and advanced.

25. The first programme component result will contribute significantly to a positive change in the situation of children and mothers, whereby (a) 80 per cent of the poorest quintile are included in government social benefit programmes; (b) all

children receive a birth certificate; (c) 50 per cent of children from the poorest quintile are enrolled in pre-school education, with an equal ratio of boys and girls; (d) 80 per cent of newborns receive essential newborn care according to the WHO-recommended guidelines; (e) 70 per cent of children-at-risk of institutionalization instead receive alternative services; and (f) half of juvenile offenders are diverted to non-punitive care and prevention services.

26. The second programme component will contribute to a more responsive state infrastructure for monitoring the rights of children by (a) improving the reliability of data collection systems to facilitate effective evaluation of and follow-up on the situation of children; (b) enabling the consideration of the best interests of the child in legislative and decision-making processes, including programmes, policies, judicial and administrative proceedings; (c) increasing resources allocated for combating child poverty, inequality and disparities; (d) increasing the meaningful participation of civil society and the media in monitoring the Convention on the Rights of the Child and increasing the participation of children; and (e) strengthening the capacity of the National Child Rights Centre to fulfil its mandate.

27. The proposed programme builds on the results achieved during the prior cycle and is centred on areas of early childhood development, education and child protection. It uses strategies for which UNICEF has recognized expertise and can enhance the ongoing Government-led reform process. The programme will support development of policies and innovative approaches to strengthen systems, improve the provision of services and bring them in line with international standards and norms. There will be a renewed focus on communication for development to trigger positive changes in behaviour and attitudes and to overcome traditional and cultural obstacles to fulfilling children's rights. Existing partnerships will be strengthened and new alliances developed in order to create programme synergies, leverage additional resources for children and ensure that human rights and gender concerns are effectively addressed. Support will be provided to connect implementing bodies with international networks, good practices and sources of technical expertise, and to convene partners, decision makers and other stakeholders across sectors. Support in ensuring effective coordination mechanisms and contingency plans for emergency preparedness and response will also be provided.

#### **Relationship to national priorities and UNDAF**

28. The programme supports the priorities of the Government plans and reforms as set out in Basic Data and Directions for 2008-2011, the Child Welfare Action Plan 2008-2011, and the European Union-Georgia European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan (ENP). The ENP covers eight priority areas, including poverty reduction efforts and sustainable development. Significant steps identified to reduce levels of poverty include the introduction of effective poverty measures to reduce the number of people with income below poverty line and improved social cohesion, including sustainable systems for education, health and other social services with access for all.

29. The country programme will be a key component of the broad United Nations partnership described in the UNDAF, which has three priority areas: (a) reduced poverty through support to sustainable economic growth and human development; (b) democratic development through balanced, independent, fair and participatory



governance systems and processes promoted at all levels, based on rule of law, human rights and equality principles; and (c) reduced disaster losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and the country through a preventive and proactive approach to risk management.

### **Relationship to international priorities**

30. The programme supports the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals targeted for 2015, which coincide with the end of this country programme. The principles and goals of *A World Fit for Children* have also guided the development of this document. It responds to other international commitments of Georgia, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration of Commitment for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS and the Child Care System Reform initiative, led by UNICEF and Government partners across the region. The programme also reflects the priorities of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan 2006-2013.

### **Programme components**

31. **Integrated and inclusive systems for children.** The programme component contributes to ensuring that by the end of 2015 more children and mothers benefit from quality (including integrated and decentralized) basic and alternative social services, addressing targeted disparities. The programme component will also address wider social issues, such as child poverty, and their impact on access to and quality of services through the participation of communities, endorsement of policy frameworks and strengthening of systems in line with international standards. It focuses on equitable access to education, ECD, maternal and child health, and social and child protection services, particularly for vulnerable and excluded children and families. Recognizing that poverty is a main cause of exclusion, the programme will generate strategic information and advice on policies to increase the reach and effectiveness of government social benefit programmes, which currently exclude 70 per cent of the poorest quintile.

32. In the area of education, the programme will focus on the development of policies and innovative approaches to enhance quality of, and access to, preschool and primary school as well as the adoption of child-friendly schools at the primary level. The programme will enhance national capacity to improve the relevance of secondary education and informal learning to bring young people's skills and capacities in line with national development strategies, and strengthen labour market opportunities. Technical assistance will be provided to ensure that national primary-school curriculum and teaching methodologies reflect international child-friendly school standards. A situation analysis will inform the Government's development of a comprehensive policy on youth. Within this framework, support will be given to the development of services for adolescents in areas affected by armed conflict, those preparing to leave institutional care and those in conflict with the law. Partnership with the United Nations Development Programme will help develop civic education (including on climate change), promotion of healthy lifestyles, and support to the development of vocational training.

33. The programme will further enhance technical expertise to further decrease newborn and infant mortality and morbidity by strengthening the quality and

organization of perinatal services, including newborn screening programmes, and development and implementation of policies to increase access to services; reduce out-of-pocket payments; and address cultural and traditional obstacles through health promotion and education, and supporting mechanisms for monitoring disparities. The programme will expand its collaboration with partners in nutrition to effectively implement the recommendations of the 2009 National Nutrition Survey. Government capacity on communication for development focusing on childcare practices will be strengthened, with a focus on reaching those communities that have high levels of child mortality and morbidity.

34. UNICEF will work with the Water Supply Regional Development Agency to ensure a systematic approach towards improving the WASH infrastructure and ensuring access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene for the most vulnerable. The programme will support the government in ensuring basic standards in all new internally displaced person settlements and coordination among partners.

35. Based upon the specific situation of vulnerable children in Georgia, the child protection area will focus on strengthening social protection and child welfare systems through policy development and improvement of decentralized services protecting children and women from violence and exploitation, helping children remain with their families, and promoting alternatives to institutionalization. Children and their families will have access to services through the strengthening national child protection systems, with functioning referral and response mechanisms in place. The programme will continue to support the Government's ongoing efforts to build a system of juvenile justice established in line with international standards, inclusive of prevention, diversion and restorative justice elements. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the Criminal Justice Reform Inter-Agency Coordination Council; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Corrections and Legal Affairs; and Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs to adopt laws and implement the national juvenile justice strategy. This strategy identifies the roles of duty-bearers and ensures that incarceration and deprivation of liberty is only used as a last resort.

36. The **social policy, child-rights monitoring and communication programme** component contributes to ensuring that by 2015 Georgia advances the fulfilment of the following key outstanding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: improving data systems, aligning legislation with the best interests of the child, increasing resource allocation for combating child poverty, and actively involving civil society in Committee recommendations and reporting monitoring and implementation. This second programme expands the scope of the cooperation by supporting Government and its partners to monitor and evaluate development activities, identify policy options related to social safety nets for children, and improve capacities for budgetary analysis and increases in the social-sector budget for children. Communication for development and advocacy will be geared towards increased awareness of children's issues. The programme is designed to have strengthened national information and knowledge on the situation of children and women and evidence-based policies, social-sector plans and budgets for children by the end of 2015.

37. The programme will enhance national capacity in monitoring and evaluation to inform evidence-based policymaking. Child rights monitoring through support to the

State Party reporting process and capacity development for national institutions, including the Department of Statistics and the Public Defender's Office, will be key to ensuring quality and timely reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Gender will be mainstreamed in large part through the provision and use of gender-disaggregated data.

38. In the area of social policy, this programme component will provide technical assistance to social-sector reform and the formulation of policies, strategies and budgets targeting vulnerable and socially excluded children, based on quantitative and qualitative analysis of disaggregated data and policy reviews across all social sectors. UNICEF will work with the Social Service Agency and other partners to ensure that the social protection and welfare system is responsive to the needs of families with children.

39. Strategic evidence-based advocacy and communication will be implemented for social and behavioural change and leveraging resources. Partnerships with Parliamentarians, civil society, religious leaders, the private sector and other organizations will be expanded so that child rights remain a prime focus of public attention. The capacities of mass media will be further strengthened to increase professional reporting on children's issues and to allow for children's voices to be heard.

40. The programme support component will cover recurrent costs, including salaries, utility costs and security, to ensure compliance with the United Nations Minimum Operating Security Standards.

#### **Major partnerships**

41. The Country Programme will work in cooperation with key counterpart Ministries, including the Ministries of Labour, Health, and Social Affairs; Education and Science; Justice; Corrections and Legal Assistance; and Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, as well as local authorities at the regional and municipal levels. Other national partners include the Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights and Civil Integration and on Health Care and Social Issues, the Public Defender's Office and the National Alliance on Early Child Development. Key civil society partners are the Georgian Young Lawyers Association, Association of Young Economists of Georgia, CLARITAS, Children of Georgia, Civic Development Institute, and national professionals.

42. UNICEF is partnering with the European Union and the Government of Netherlands to assist the Government in developing capacity across the juvenile justice system to ensure international norms and standards. The Child Welfare Reform process has benefited from close collaboration among USAID, the European Community and the World Bank. They are also key partners in health-sector reform and in UNICEF support to maternal and child health. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency has been partnering with UNICEF in the field of WASH in conflict-affected areas as well as in child protection. Close collaboration among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes remains essential in addressing populations with humanitarian needs and ensuring access to areas where humanitarian programming is required.

**Monitoring, evaluation and programme management**

43. The UNDAF results matrix and its monitoring and evaluation plan will provide the overall framework for monitoring and evaluating achievement of UNDAF/UNICEF outcomes. Monitoring the status of children and families, especially the socially excluded, is a key component of the country programme.

44. Child-rights impact assessments and research on child poverty and exclusion will be supported. In conjunction with the midterm review, planned for 2013, the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan will include midyear and annual reviews with partners, informed by field visits, evaluations and surveys.

45. The Office of the Prime Minister will review and monitor the programme. Country programme components will be implemented by the respective line Ministries as well as the regional governments. Close coordination and collaboration will be carried out with the wider United Nations Country Team.

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