

Georgia

Executive Summary

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Georgia continued to successfully position itself as a policy adviser to the Government on key child rights' issues and build strong alliances with Government and partners advocating for the realisation of child rights.

In partnership with the European Union (EU), UNICEF supported the Government in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Code, which is considered one of the most contemporary normative acts for justice for children in the region. UNICEF initiated a multi-disciplinary process with policymakers and practitioners to develop a common understanding, approach and solution to challenges preventing effective application of the Code in practice.

Children will have better access to early and preschool education, including a compulsory year for school readiness, following the adoption of the Law on Early and Preschool Education (EPE) in June 2016. The law establishes cross-sectoral national standards, introduces mechanisms for the prevention of violence and supports municipalities to improve the quality and access in early childhood education (ECE) services. With UNICEF support, the Government developed national standards and bylaws, and strengthened governance capacities of municipalities to prepare for successful implementation of the law entering into force on 1 April 2017.

The number of children living in extreme poverty (below US\$1.25 per day) was more than halved between 2013 and 2015. Despite the population's improving poverty trends in Georgia, children remained the poorest population group. Every fifth child lives under the general poverty line and every sixth child lives under subsistence minimum. The improved targeted social assistance (TSA) scheme with the newly introduced child benefit in 2015 is a significant step towards reduction of child poverty in Georgia. In 2016, 153,686 children below the age of 16 benefited from cash transfers, of whom 70,251 qualified because of the new methodology.

To reduce mother and child mortality, UNICEF supported the Government to systematically introduce the regionalization of perinatal care ensuring health needs of delivering mothers and their infants are matched to maternities with appropriate levels of care (human resources and technology). In 2016, UNICEF successfully graded maternities and trained the medical staff of three regions (Ajara, Samegrelo, Guria). Furthermore, UNICEF supported the development of the new National Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy and Action Plan.

UNICEF supported the introduction in January 2016 of the new national Maternal and Child Health (MCH) electronic surveillance system, which tracks every pregnant woman and newborn throughout pregnancy and childbirth. With UNICEF's advocacy, 13,000 children from the most vulnerable families benefited from improved nutrient status through the distribution of multiple micronutrient supplements.

Children with severe disabilities remain left behind in large-scale institutions. UNICEF in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiated

the development of a model for a small-scale, alternative family-care facility (SSACF). The first facility opened in Kutaisi in December 2016. The legislative reform on children with disabilities is closely interlinked with Government policy development of a social model of disability assessment.

The Government, with UNICEF support, developed a child assessment referral instrument that will be used by social agents to identify potential cases of child rights violations and refer them to a social worker. UNICEF Georgia trained all social agents and social workers throughout the country. Nationwide piloting of the instrument is currently underway.

The Government of Georgia submitted its fourth periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The dialogue between the Committee and the Government will take place at the start of 2017, after which the Committee's concluding observations and recommendations will be issued. In 2016, the Government ratified the Third Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which will allow children to submit complaints regarding violations of their rights. With UNICEF support, the Government established an Inter-institutional Commission safeguarding the implementation of the Convention and child rights issues.

In the conflict-affected region of Abkhazia, UNICEF continued its efforts to support service delivery through community support capacity building for doctors, nurses, teachers, and other professionals working with children. Furthermore, UNICEF began promoting student-centred instruction methodologies and mother tongue-based multilingual education to address access and equity gaps in quality education for children. UNICEF also initiated the development of social work as a profession through a pilot programme in three districts. The international community has no access to the Tskhinvali / South Ossetia region and the situation of children continues to be unmonitored.

Humanitarian Assistance

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia strengthened its partners' and own staff's response capacities for humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. With support from the UNICEF Regional Office (RO), UNICEF conducted comprehensive emergency preparedness and response training in line with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs) and Inter-Agency Standing Committee policy for Government, humanitarian partners, and UNICEF Georgia staff.

Overall, UNICEF Georgia envisioned comprehensive investment in capacity development for all UNICEF-(co-)led clusters and areas of responsibilities, including nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection, and gender-based violence in emergencies. To date, with support from the global education cluster, UNICEF Georgia conducted education in emergencies training in line with the International Network for Education in Emergencies standards and the CCCs with active participation of line ministries, United Nations (UN) agencies and civil society. The training provided an opportunity for UNICEF to pilot-test training materials based on the draft risk informed programming for resilience education guidance note. The capacity building for the remaining UNICEF-(co) led clusters and areas of responsibilities will be conducted in 2017.

As an active member of Georgia's Disaster Management Country Team, UNICEF participated in an inter-agency simulation exercise (SimEx to practise a timely, effective and coordinated response to a natural hazard-caused disaster (earthquake scenario). The SimEx involved sixty participants, including representatives of Government, UN Agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors. The SimEx included several response elements for the first 6-48 hours and 72 hours to ten days, including the drafting of a situation report, Central Emergency Response Fund, flash

appeal and needs assessment. A series of humanitarian country team, donor and cluster meetings were also conducted.

Emerging Areas of Importance

Early childhood development (ECD). Within the Country Programme of Cooperation 2016-20, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government in initiating the establishment of comprehensive, cross-sectoral early childhood development (ECD) policies and services to provide young children (up to five years of age) with a conducive environment that will enable them to survive, thrive and reach their full potential. In 2016, the Government, with UNICEF support, developed ECD legislation, policies and programmes that promote multi-sectoral approaches promoting healthy child growth, development and protection.

To bolster progress towards child growth development and monitoring, the primary healthcare system was identified as the main entry point to support families with young children (up to three years of age) through the systematic implementation of a home-visiting service. With UNICEF support, a comprehensive home-visiting concept for the Georgia context was developed outlining clear referral pathways for children with developmental delays/disabilities, and requirements for capacity building of primary health professionals. Furthermore, UNICEF collaborated with the Government to reform the MCH surveillance system and supported the development of child health and social e-modules. The health module collects routine, real-time data entered by nurses during their home visits to families, and ensures linkages with the social e-modules allowing effective data analysis of children's developmental issues in Georgia.

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia assisted the Government in accelerating the shift from the current medical model to a bio-psychosocial model for disability assessment based on the Internal Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The national model for disability assessment was initiated, and will be piloted for nationwide introduction in 2017 and beyond. In addition, UNICEF, in partnership with USAID, developed a model for a SSACF to address the needs of children with severe disabilities deprived of parental care. With UNICEF advocacy, the Government agreed to institutionalize the model as part of child protection state programmes and provide sustained funding for the new service. The first SSACF opened under earmarked state funding in December 2016.

UNICEF Georgia supported the continued expansion of quality ECE and the implementation of the recently adopted Law on Early and Preschool Education, which mandates free high quality education for all children two to six years of age and the introduction of a pre-primary year for all five-year-olds, and promotes the inclusion of children with disabilities in the system as well as compliance with mandatory national standards for preschools for improved WASH and feeding services in preschools. Furthermore, in 2016, the Government adopted a new Decree on Child Protection Referral Procedures introducing responsibilities of ECE institutions and municipal governments for the protection and prevention of all forms of violence against children.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

BCP	Business Continuity Plan
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action
CMT	Country Management Team
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECE	Early Childhood Education

EPE	Early and Preschool Education
EU	European Union
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GSSC	Global Shared Service Centre
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HQ	Headquarters
LTA	Long-term Agreement
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MoLHSA	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCDC&PH	National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PDO	Public Defender's Office
RO	Regional Office
SimEx	Simulation Exercise
SSACF	Small-Scale, Alternative Family-Care Facility
TSA	Targeted Social Assistance
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WMS	Welfare Monitoring Survey

Capacity Development

Capacity development remains a key strategy in the new Programme of Cooperation 2016-20. To facilitate the implementation of the newly adopted law on early and preschool education, UNICEF supported the capacity development of 20 municipal governments on preschool data analysis and monitoring, including training on adherence to WASH and nutrition standards in line with newly developed regulations.

To strengthen decision making for improved MCH outcomes, UNICEF Georgia together with the Government, the Norwegian University of Tromso and Georgian universities committed to the capacity development of public health professionals in epidemiological analysis in Georgia.

UNICEF Georgia in partnership with the EU continued to support the Government in the specialization of 500 professionals in the field of justice for children. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the development of educational packages for children in contact with the law to inform them about their rights and existing mechanisms.

The Government, with UNICEF support, developed a national model for SSACF to allow the end of institutional care for children with severe disabilities. The first SSACF opened in Kutaisi with UNICEF providing training to staff and social workers of the region on issues related to disability and the new SSACF model. Following the adoption of the new Child Protection Referral Procedures aimed at protecting children from all forms of violence, UNICEF supported the training of Government social workers, psychologists, caregivers and lawyers.

In Abkhazia, UNICEF continued to strengthen the quality of health, education and child protection services via training for 200 doctors and nurses, 600 teachers, 30 psychologists, and, with World Vision, 30 staff of three child development centres and a new rehabilitation

centre for children with disabilities as well as 25 members of child protection committees at the community level.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia continued generating evidence to support policy dialogue and advocacy for children's rights addressing critical equity gaps in education, health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and social protection.

The biennial Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS) 2015 revealed that poverty rates remain higher in households with children. Every fifth child lives under the poverty line, and every sixth child lives under the subsistence minimum. UNICEF used the findings as an opportunity to spark a public debate on child poverty and to influence the upcoming national child welfare strategy.

Together with the World Bank and Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA), UNICEF Georgia developed a joint publication on the evaluation of Georgia's recent TSA and child benefits reforms with recommendations for building a child-friendly social protection system. UNICEF also strengthened its partnership with the National Statistics Office for improving the data collection methods on child rights and welfare.

UNICEF undertook a comprehensive assessment of the national vaccine procurement system to provide sound recommendations enhancing sustainability in the vaccine supply for children and women. The Government, with UNICEF support, carried out a survey on critical bottlenecks in the national immunization programme and factors influencing child participation to provide a sound baseline for the development of a communication strategy.

With UNICEF support, the national nutrition monitoring and surveillance system to systematically assess the nutritional status of the population became functional in four regions of Georgia (Tbilisi, Ajara, Samegrelo and Kakheti).

The qualitative study on root causes of stigma against children and analysis examining social norms on violence against children both contributed to the development of communication for social change strategies.

In Abkhazia, UNICEF exposed policymakers and education experts to international best practices on mother tongue-based multilingual education and advocated on its positive impact on children's learning outcomes and social cohesion.

Partnerships

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia successfully forged strong alliances with the Parliament, Government and civil society to promote legislative changes and the realization of child rights, as follows.

- a) In partnership with the EU, UNICEF supported the Government in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Code.
- b) The Law on EPE was adopted by Parliament in June 2016 and will enter into force on 1 April 2017. The Government developed national standards (ECE, infrastructure, preschool pedagogues) and national EPE bylaws.
- c) In June 2016, Parliament adopted the legislative package of amendments of ten laws to improve legal safeguards of children living and working on the streets and victims of domestic violence.

d) The draft Law on Adoption and Foster Care and the supporting legislative amendments for 11 laws were initiated by Parliament in August 2016.

e) The legislative reform on children with disabilities in line with the CRC and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is closely interlinked with Government policy development of a social model of disability assessment. UNICEF initiated a partnership with the private sector to establish a small scale alternative family care facility for children with severe disabilities in Tbilisi for 2017.

f) A Ministerial Decree approved the national guidelines on WASH in preschools in July 2016, while the technical regulations on sanitation norms for food safety are still awaiting enforcement.

g) UNICEF continued its partnership with the Government to advocate for child-focused social protection policies.

UNICEF Georgia and the Georgian Orthodox Church signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) committing to: protect children from violence and neglect, improve mother and child health and address the high level of stigma against children with disabilities. Furthermore, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and the Open Society Foundation signed an MoU to jointly support the development of quality ECE services in Georgia.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia was a leading voice for children, and actively stimulated national debates on child rights. Children's issues were active on the public agenda through social media campaigns, public discussions, advocacy campaigns and over 1,000 media stories about children.

UNICEF continued its partnership with the Charter of Journalistic Ethics for media monitoring and regular dialogue with journalists to further enhance the capacity of Georgian media on ethical reporting of children and to increase coverage of stories on children's issues in the media.

Regarding the 2016 Georgian Parliamentary elections, UNICEF successfully called on political parties to include children's issues in their pre-election campaigns, resulting in increased public debates on child rights.

The social experiment on stigma against children living and working on the streets under the global #fightunfair campaign became one of the most watched UNICEF videos published on social media throughout the world, with more than 160 million views and four million shares on Facebook. The video features the different ways a six-year-old girl named Anano is treated depending on her physical appearance and assumed social status. In Georgia, the video reached more than 60 per cent of the Facebook users in Georgia.

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia reached more people on social media platforms than ever before. The maximum reach was over one million unique users and about 11,300 monthly-engaged users on Facebook. The number of returning visitors on UNICEF Georgia's website increased to 12,928, which is about 30 percent of all unique users.

UNICEF forged partnerships with modern art representatives and writers for the UNICEF@70 celebrations, including a Tiny Stories literary campaign, public discussions on how social issues are reflected in various art forms – cinema, literature, theatre and modern

art – and a competition among the students of the Visual Art faculty on the theme “Hope for Every Child”.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF Georgia continued to foster South-South cooperation on general education between Estonia and Georgia. Estonia was identified as a valuable partner for Georgia as the country undertook significant education reforms resulting in high national learning outcomes. In fact, Estonia’s school students rank first place in Europe and third place overall in the world according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) newly released 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results, while Georgian students still achieved low learning outcomes. Hence, UNICEF facilitated the knowledge exchange, and sharing of good practices and lessons learned between the two countries, resulting in the revision of the entire Georgian national curricula (grades 1-12) and improvement of pre-service training programmes for school teachers at eight Georgian state universities. UNICEF in partnership with INNOVE Foundation organized a study tour for university and Ministry of Education and Science representatives to Estonia, enabling a vibrant exchange on quality education and teacher training. UNICEF Georgia with INNOVE produced a powerful video capturing the study tour experience and the value-added of the Georgian-Estonian partnership in 2016. The cooperation will continue throughout 2017-2019.

In Abkhazia, UNICEF facilitated South-South cooperation in the fields of MCH, public health promotion and mother tongue-based multilingual education through four study visits. Medical professionals were supported to visit Kazakhstan to learn about the country’s experience in introducing integrated management of childhood illnesses, and to visit Belarus to learn about the country’s experience in developing a programme for the prevention of iodine deficiency. Furthermore, UNICEF facilitated a further study tour to Kazakhstan for health journalists on public health promotion. In addition, UNICEF facilitated a study visit of policymakers and education experts to Malaysia and Singapore to learn about international best practices in mother-tongue based multilingual education.

Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government to initiate the establishment of holistic, cross-sectoral ECD legislation, policies and services to ensure all young children are supported to survive, thrive and reach their full potential for success in school and later in life. UNICEF continued its advocacy for the introduction of systematic home visiting to monitor and educate parents and caretakers on child growth and development. With UNICEF support, the national MCH surveillance system introduced health and social e-models allowing effective data analysis of children’s developmental issues.

UNICEF Georgia also assisted the Government to develop a social model for disability assessment and a model for an SSACF linked with relevant health, education and social protection services to address the needs of children with disabilities. Finally, UNICEF Georgia supported the implementation of the recently adopted Law on Early and Preschool Education, which provides all children of Georgia with accessible, quality and inclusive ECE that ensures their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development in accordance with their individual abilities and needs.

Georgia has limited programmes for catch-up and accelerated learning to provide opportunities for out-of-school children (OOSC) to re-enter the formal education system, enrol in catch-up compulsory education and achieve quality learning outcomes. UNICEF Georgia supported the Ministry of Education and Science in the revision of the national curriculum and the development of the Inclusive Second Chance Education Action Plan as a

holistic and overarching framework to guide system reform. Administration guides and methodological resources for teachers and school administrators were developed for catch-up and accelerated learning for OOSC and children at risk of dropping out in grades one through six.

In Abkhazia, UNICEF, in cooperation with World Vision, continued the provision of basic, cross-sectoral health, education and child protection services within three child development centres and 25 social community centres for children in remote rural and returnee areas.

Service Delivery

Due to Georgia's middle-income country context, service delivery was not a primary intervention strategy and was mainly applied to support conflict-affected regions. Hence, in Abkhazia, UNICEF's work continued to support service delivery through provision of capacity building for medical, educational and social professionals and delivery of equipment and supplies to maternities, hospitals, rural medical points and schools. Through its partner World Vision, UNICEF continued to provide 272 children with disabilities and their parents with basic services (life-skills development, speech therapy, physiotherapy and psychological counselling) through three child development centres.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

The Government of Georgia finalized its fourth periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In 2016, UNICEF submitted a corresponding report and the Committee shared a list of issues in relation to the fourth periodic report requesting the State party for additional information. The dialogue between the Committee and the Government will take place at the start of 2017, after which the Committee's concluding observations and recommendations will be issued.

In 2016, Georgia also underwent its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the Human Rights Council. UNICEF contributed information to the United Nations Country Team report for the UPR, and made a statement during the adoption of the UPR report, *inter alia* successfully advocating for ratification of the third Optional Protocol to the CRC by Georgia.

With UNICEF support, the Government established an Inter-institutional Commission on the implementation of the CRC and issues related to children under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Human Rights Secretariat.

To increase state accountability for the realization of rights of all children, UNICEF Georgia supported the capacity development of the Public Defender's Office (PDO) as an independent child rights monitoring institution. A Consultative Committee on Child Rights within the PDO was established, and introductory training on child rights was conducted for the staff of PDO's offices at the central and regional levels. Furthermore, UNICEF established coordination mechanisms with NGOs for child rights monitoring at the national level.

UNICEF actively participated in the Consultative Council of PDO's Department of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to monitor and ensure the proper implementation of the CRPD, which was ratified by Georgia in 2013.

Finally, UNICEF continued mainstreaming human rights principles into all programmes, and closely cooperated with the Government and partners to achieve progress in the realization of children's rights in Georgia. In Abkhazia, the informal Working Group on Child Wellbeing and Protection, under the coordination of UNICEF and consisting of cross-sectoral line ministries, was key in promoting progress on child rights.

Gender Equality

UNICEF Georgia continued to take part as an active member of the UN Gender Theme Group and the Task Force on Early Marriages, strengthening coordinated action of UN, donors and civil society towards gender equality and empowerment.

In partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF began collaboration on a research study on early marriage to establish an evidence base to advocate for multi-faceted interventions to tackle the harmful practice of early marriage. Findings will be finalized in 2017 and will provide insight on the prevalence of and beliefs about early marriage of teenagers as well as prevalence and causes of female genital mutilation.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign lasted from 25 November (the International Day to End Violence against Women) to 10 December 2016 (Human Rights Day), resulting in increased media attention and public discussions on gender roles and violence in the community.

UNICEF Georgia conducted analysis examining social norms on violence against children, which included a component on gender roles and stereotypes. The analysis will serve as the foundation for the development of communication for social change strategy to be implemented next year. Finally, UNICEF Georgia will conduct a comprehensive gender review of the Country Programme in 2017.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability and WASH are mutually reinforcing and interdependent; well-planned sanitation programmes protect freshwater and coastal ecosystems. To address pollution from human waste, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government in the development of national guidelines and technical regulations for WASH in preschools. UNICEF also focused on the promotion of good sanitation and hygiene practices among preschool students and personnel, including increasing the knowledge and understanding of proper management of water and sanitation systems in preschools to avoid contamination of the surrounding soil and water.

Effective Leadership

The year 2016 marked the implementation of new UNICEF Programme of Cooperation 2016-20. Under the UN Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2016-20, UNICEF Georgia together with Government and UN partners developed and successfully implemented the UN Joint Work Plans across sectors for 2016. Furthermore, UNICEF Georgia ensured the development of the Annual Management Plan 2016 with active participation of all staff and mid-year review taking in account the new Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) business processes.

The country management team (CMT) convened on a regular basis and played an important role in steering critical programme and operation management issues. The CMT and programme management team closely monitored UNICEF Georgia's performance against scorecard performance indicators. The CMT continued using the electronic Microsoft Outlook/TeamSite-based task management system to enhance the oversight function of undertaken tasks. The other well-established statutory committees ensured the efficient and effective functioning of key office processes.

To enhance emergency preparedness, UNICEF Georgia reviewed and updated its Early Warning and Early Action and was awarded high preparedness ratings by the UNICEF Regional Office.

Furthermore, the business continuity plan (BCP) was updated after conducting a SimEx in 2016. The SimEx comprised a working-from-home scenario and select critical staff working from the alternative office location, and included the testing of ICT equipment and remote network connectivity. The revised BCP integrated business continuity issues of the zone office in Abkhazia and is fully in line with the latest UNICEF Georgia Enterprise Risk Management Performance analysis approved by Georgia's Disaster Management Country Team on 1 March 2016.

Financial Resources Management

The country management team and programme management team closely monitored UNICEF Georgia's performance against the scorecard programme and management indicators. By the end of 2016, full utilization of regular resources and other resources was achieved with no outstanding direct cash transfers over six months. Donor reports were submitted in a timely manner with successful management oversight throughout the year.

UNICEF Georgia continued fulfilling the requirements of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and partnership policies ensuring the effective application of monitoring and management tools. For the implementation of HACT financial assurance and assessment activities in Tbilisi-administered territories, the services of a local audit company continued to be used. For HACT assurance in the conflict zone of Abkhazia, UNICEF Georgia used UNICEF Armenia's audit company, as Tbilisi-based companies do not have access to the territory.

Due to the introduction of the GSSC, UNICEF's bank reconciliation underwent major changes affecting UNICEF Georgia's work with efficiency gains in terms of staff time. A major part of the process was delegated to the GSSC, while local logistics such as collection of statements from banks and financial processing of outstanding issues rested with UNICEF Georgia.

Fundraising and Donor Relations

While UNICEF Georgia continued to operate in a challenging resource mobilization environment, it succeeded in mobilizing 52 percent of other resources of the approved ceiling of the country programme 2016-2020 in 2016.

UNICEF Georgia prepared a resource mobilization strategy for the end of January 2017. The resource mobilization task force continued to ensure a systematic approach to fund-raising and strategic leveraging of resources.

In the Georgia context, the major donors to UNICEF are the EU, USAID and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the Governments of Germany, Estonia, and Bulgaria. Joint fund-raising was enhanced with UN Agencies through UN Joint Programmes on the Protection of Human Rights and on Access to Justice (with EU funding support), as well as on confidence building in the breakaway region of Abkhazia (with USAID funding support).

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia ensured the effective monthly monitoring and utilization of financial resources and other key performance indicators. All ten required donor reports were submitted in a timely manner in line with quality standards for donor reporting.

Evaluation and Research

UNICEF Georgia prepared and implemented the plan for research, impact monitoring and evaluation (PRIME). No evaluations were undertaken during the reporting period.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia was an active member of the UN Country Team Operations Management Team (OMT), which analysed options for efficiency gains and costs savings in management and operations. The consultations for the adoption of a joint UN Business Operation Strategy were underway and final decision on the matter will be taken in the first quarter of 2017. Furthermore, the OMT established various long-term agreements (LTAs) for administrative services, resulting in significant efficiency gains in operations across UN Agencies.

Major efficiency gains were also realized because of the migration of business processes to the GSSC. Noteworthy staff time was saved due to GSSC support on invoices, payment processing and bank reconciliation. Furthermore, there was a substantial transaction cost reduction in terms of cross-border bank transfers, since with the introduction of GSSC this business process was performed from UNICEF global accounts rather than local ones.

Due to the improvement of Georgia's public transport system, UNICEF Georgia benefited from transportation cost savings through partially substituting travel for staff from motor vehicle to public transport. This provided significant costs savings through driver and fuel savings.

Supply Management

In the context of a middle-income country, UNICEF Georgia mainly focuses programming on policy advisory, advocacy and capacity building activities, and the supply component has been reduced compared to past years. A majority of the supplies were procured for the conflict-affected region of Abkhazia (value of approx. US\$ 324,800), which continued to apply a supply delivery approach as part of its community work. Due to movement restrictions, logistics related to the Abkhazia region are complex. UNICEF Georgia collaborated with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to use their trucks to enter the conflict-affected area and deliver goods directly to recipients.

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government of Georgia in the procurement of vaccines and safety injections (value of approx. US\$ 3,404,220, which was cost-shared between GAVI and the Government. The Government procured most vaccines through UNICEF's Supply Division (except DTaP-HepB-Hib-IPV, rabies and influenza vaccines; value of US\$ 1,070,831). Supplies were of and good quality and were delivered in a timely manner to both Tbilisi-administered territories and the Abkhazia region.

Close collaboration between the operations and programme teams ensured effective functionality of the supply component. UNICEF Georgia benefited from established global and local LTAs, including UN joint and Office LTAs. Non-LTA procurements followed the relevant standard solicitation process in line with UNICEF rules and regulations. In total, more than 30 processes were undertaken (including invitations to bid, requests for quotation and requests for proposal) to identify quality suppliers and service providers.

At the start of 2016, UNICEF Georgia signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government for the free-of-charge use of a 500-m² warehouse facility for the duration of the Programme of Cooperation 2016-20. By the end of 2016, the overall value of the inventory amounted to US\$3,000. In addition, the warehouse served as storage for various office supplies, spare parts and archives.

Below are the total values of the procurements conducted by UNICEF Georgia in 2016, including purchase orders for programme and operational supplies, services and procurement services.

UNICEF Georgia Procurement 2016	US\$ value of all supplies (goods & services)
Programme supplies	324,769
Operational supplies	68,986
Services	460,656
Construction (where applicable)	56,002
Procurement Services (non-vaccines)	1,070,831
Total	1,981,244
CO Procurement of Vaccines 2016	US\$ value of vaccines channelled via procurement services
Channelled via regular Procurement Services	2,518,915
Channelled via GAVI	885,305
Total	3,404,220

Security for Staff and Premises

All security-related matters, including those related to the staff and premises, are managed under the leadership of the UN Department of Safety and Security, with oversight by the UN Security Management Team where UNICEF is a regular member. The UNICEF Georgia office locations in Tbilisi and Sukhumi are both located in UN common premises.

The main concern for UNICEF Georgia in terms of security remains the situation in the conflict-affected breakaway regions, resulting in challenges for programme implementation for field operations. The international community has no access to the Tskhinvali / South Ossetia region, and the situation of children continues to be unmonitored. There are still significant restrictions in terms of access and staff movement between the main office and the Field Office based in the Abkhazia region. Furthermore, communications were difficult due to phone connectivity issues between the Tbilisi-based and Sukhumi-based staff. With support from UNICEF headquarters (HQ) security funds, UNICEF Georgia initiated the procurement of additional satellite phones and High Frequency (HF) radio base stations, which will result in improved connectivity between the offices and vehicles (during travel).

UNICEF Georgia continued to maintain its alternate office location for business continuity purposes, situated in a more secure area out of the Tbilisi city centre in case of civil unrest, armed conflict or emergency. Functionality of the alternative office was tested as part of the BCP simulation exercise. The SimEx included an all-staff exercise working from home and select critical staff working from the alternative office location. The aim was to ensure that all staff could use UNICEF critical business services from home or other remote locations and that all proper communication tools for emergency connectivity were functional from the alternative office. The revised BCP integrated business continuity issues of the zone office in Abkhazia.

Human Resources

UNICEF Georgia ensured the implementation of the new performance management system 'ACHIEVE' for all staff. In this regard, the human resource (HR) assistant participated in the regional HR meeting in Geneva and shared knowledge gained with all staff emphasizing the key shift towards a culture of constant feedback.

UNICEF Georgia developed an action plan in response to the results of UNICEF's most

recent Global Staff Survey 2014, which included the following actions agreed between management and all staff: weekly information-sharing meetings were conducted; management practised an open door policy; staff were encouraged to use flexible working hours; workload of low complexity with administrative and logistical tasks for general service staff was reduced by outsourcing such functions through a special long-term agreement (LTA); the office set up a suggestion box and staff were encouraged to take initiative in the discussion of staff issues, suggestions, problems, development and training opportunities; and staff were encouraged to approach the local staff association in cases of discrimination or harassment.

Four staff members were released on stretch assignments to the RO and GSSC. Furthermore, staff were encouraged to discuss their individual development needs with supervisors, resulting in a variety of individual and office group training activities (emergency preparedness, report preparation skills and general writing skills).

With UNICEF Regional Office support, UNICEF Georgia organized an emergency preparedness and response training for all staff in line with UNICEF's CCCs and Inter-Agency Standing Committee policy. Furthermore, one staff member participated in the UN Cares training on "UN staff dignity and inclusion in the UN workplace".

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The Office 365 platform and its supported components were fully implemented. All staff could operate from home or travel locations using office laptops and smart phones. Skype for Business was actively used for conducting webinars and remote meetings with HQ, the RO and the field office. It remained the main method for communicating with the Sukhumi-based field office. Georgian's TeamSite continued to be actively used for file sharing, and provided space for archiving office files and documents.

The UNICEF Georgia website and Facebook page were regularly used to share information on ongoing UNICEF initiatives and programmes with the public. News, vacancy announcements, publications and other public information are accessible through the mentioned Internet sites.

UNICEF Georgia continued to use an interactive data portal (www.data.unicef.ge), which enables user-friendly access and analysis and makes UNICEF-generated data available to the public. The aim is to engage the wider public, academia, researchers, Government, and partners to encourage further analysis and promote evidence-based policymaking.

In order to increase knowledge about child nutrition issues among parents, preschool personnel and the general public, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government in the development of the content for the web application on nutrition advice for children (two to six years of age). The application will be integrated into the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC&PH) official website on "Healthy Lifestyle".

The information technology (IT), high frequency (HF) and very high frequency (VHF) radio equipment was upgraded in line with the latest UNICEF standards. Furthermore, UNICEF Georgia invested in new IT equipment, satellite phones and the Broadband Global Area Network, which was readily available at the alternative office location in case of emergency.

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Management and Development Effectiveness

Analytical Statement of Progress:

- All statutory and governance systems were fully functional and the Annual Management Plan was updated and reviewed in the midyear to reflect GSSC-related work process changes
- Financial resources were effectively managed and utilized as per agreements with respective donors.
- Human resource capacity planning was results based and implemented as approved by the recent programme budget review in the Country Programme Management Plan.
- Coordination of programme management was effective and all partner relationships were fully compliant with HACT guidelines.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

All mandatory Governance systems were established and agreed among all staff as part of the annual management review process. As a result, the 2016 Annual Management Plan was established. The document was reviewed in the May-July period after the migration of the office into GSSC work processes in March 2016. Current systems functioned well, but there was some room for improvement and a better adjustment to work sharing with GSSC.

OUTPUT 2 Management and stewardship of financial resources

Analytical Statement of Progress:

- By the end of the year UNICEF Georgia Georgia achieved a utilization level of 100 per cent with actuals up to 98 per cent (due to unpaid commitments on purchase orders such as freight or components with delivery dates in 2017).
- The HACT procedures were followed well; there were no unliquidated direct cash transfers over six months throughout the year.
- Bank reconciliation procedures were strengthened in line with GSSC-related process splits; there were no long-unresolved unreconciled items throughout the year.

OUTPUT 3 Management of Human Capacities

Analytical Statement of Progress:

- All funded vacant posts were filled throughout the year.
- A staff development plan was established and implemented.
- Four staff members participated in stretch assignments at the RO and GSSC.
- A new electronic performance appraisal system (e-PAS) was introduced to all staff and integrated into office culture.
- Global Staff Survey issues were taken into consideration and respective corrective measures and practices were put in place.

OUTPUT 4 Programme Coordination and Advocacy/Communication

Analytical Statement of Progress:

- Premises-related requirements were fully budgeted and implemented.
- Transportation, communication and other logistical/administrative needs of the office were fully accommodated.

- HACT-related assessment, assurance and audit activities for implementing partners were fully accomplished as per 2016 plans.

OUTCOME 2 Programme Effectiveness (Cross Sectoral)

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The UNICEF Georgia Country Programme was efficiently designed, coordinated and managed to advance the realization of children's rights in Georgia.

Furthermore, UNICEF Georgia continued to be a strong independent voice for children, and actively advocated to keep children's issues on the public agenda through social media campaigns, public discussions, generation of evidence and public advocacy campaigns.

OUTPUT 1 Guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes are available to UNICEF and partners

Analytical Statement of Progress:

- Premises-related requirements were fully budgeted and implemented.
- Transportation, communication and other logistical/administrative needs of the office were fully accommodated.
- HACT-related assessment, assurance and audit activities for implementing partners were fully accomplished plans.

OUTPUT 2 Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights implemented

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Georgia's communication and public advocacy approach is fully in line with UNICEF's Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy, and Voice-Reach-Engagement guides all the communication efforts of UNICEF Georgia. The media monitoring key performance indicators (KPIs) were revised, and a country scorecard was produced in line with UNICEF's global KPI Handbook. UNICEF Georgia tracked almost all the KPIs and worked with a local media monitoring company to further enhance the monitoring and evaluation framework for communication and public advocacy. Georgia is among four countries in the Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) region with HQ tracking KPIs on voice-reach-engagement.

Throughout 2016, UNICEF's voice for children continued to be strong, and children's issues were active on the public agenda through social media campaigns, public discussions on children's rights issues, the release of important studies, and public advocacy campaigns, including UNICEF@70 anniversary celebrations.

UNICEF called on political parties to consider children's issues in their 2016 Georgian pre-election campaigns. A public advocacy campaign and roundtable discussions in the regions resulted in children's issues being better reflected in the pre-election programmes as well as public awareness being raised.

Considering the revamped UNICEF's global digital strategy, UNICEF Georgia internalized the shift from narrated to emotional storytelling. A successful example was the social experiment on stigma against children living and working on the streets, which became one of the most watched UNICEF videos published on social media throughout the world. As of July 2016, it was the best performing video that UNICEF published on social media with more than 160 million views, four million shares on Facebook and 2.1 million views on UNICEF's Global YouTube Channel. The video reached more than one million Facebook

users in Georgia, which represents 60 per cent of Facebook users in the country. The video repositioned the issue on the media radar in Georgia and brought the subject of street children to light globally.

Media monitoring, regular dialogue with journalists through workshops and roundtables and advocacy initiatives helped UNICEF Georgia boost partnerships with local media, improve ethical standards on child-friendly reporting and enhance media self-regulation bodies. UNICEF Georgia, together with the Charter of Georgian Journalistic Ethics, strongly positioned itself as a leading agency for ethical reporting.

Communication for development strategies around children with disabilities and violence against children were developed and planned to be launched starting in January 2017 to address stigma and negative social norms.

The UNICEF@70 anniversary presented a new opportunity to increase public attention of children's issues, and raise UNICEF Georgia's visibility and highlight its work for children.

OUTCOME 3 By 2020, all young children, especially the most vulnerable, are supported to survive, thrive and reach their full potential for success in school and later in life

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Within the Country Programme of Cooperation 2016-20, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government in initiating the establishment of a comprehensive, cross-sectoral conducive environment that will enable children to survive, thrive and reach their full potential.

In an effort to reduce maternal and child mortality, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government to introduce the risk-appropriate perinatal care approach to Georgia, ensuring that mothers and newborns are matched to maternities with appropriate levels of care. With UNICEF support, the regionalization process was completed for three regions. Furthermore, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government in the development of the new National Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy and Action Plan.

In order to bolster progress towards child growth development and monitoring, the primary healthcare system was identified as the main entry point to support families with young children (up to three years of age) through the systematic implementation of a home-visiting service.

Furthermore, UNICEF collaborated with the Government to reform the MCH surveillance system, which tracks every pregnant woman and newborn, and supported the development of child health and social e-modules allowing effective data analysis of children's developmental issues in Georgia.

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia helped the national nutrition monitoring and surveillance system become functional in four regions of the country. The data generated from the system served as a basis for UNICEF advocacy, and as a result, 13,000 children from the most vulnerable families benefited through the distribution of multiple micronutrient supplements.

To strengthen the national immunization programme, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government to implement the GAVI Graduation Action Plan. This included a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey to address vaccine hesitancy, and a vaccine procurement assessment to ensure an uninterrupted, sustainable vaccine supply in Georgia.

In Abkhazia, UNICEF Georgia continued promoting access to quality MCH services through capacity building for medical professionals, provision of small-scale MCH equipment and

health promotion campaigns. In addition, support continued to be provided to rural primary healthcare centres through the provision of basic equipment and small repairs. Finally, students, teachers, parents and community members received knowledge and skills on WASH in schools, immunization and nutrition through health promotion activities in rural areas.

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia assisted the Government to accelerate the shift from the current medical model to a bio-psychosocial model for disability assessment based on the Internal Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The national model for disability assessment was initiated, and will be piloted for nationwide introduction in 2017 and beyond. In addition, UNICEF, in partnership with USAID, developed a model for a SSACF to address the needs of children with severe disabilities deprived of parental care. With UNICEF advocacy, the Government agreed to institutionalize the model as part of child protection state programmes and provide sustained funding for the new service. The first SSACF opened under earmarked state funding in December 2016.

Children will have better access to quality early and preschool education, including a compulsory year for school readiness, as a result of the adoption of the Law on EPE in June 2016. The law mandates free high quality education for all children aged two to six and the introduction of a pre-primary year for all five-year-olds, and promotes the inclusiveness of children with disabilities in the system as well as compliance with mandatory national standards for preschools. With UNICEF support, the Government developed national standards and bylaws, and strengthened capacities of municipalities in order to prepare for successful implementation of the law entering into force on 1 April 2017.

OUTPUT 1 By 2020, national capacities to provide quality MCH services during pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery are improved to support infant and maternal survival

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government to introduce the risk-appropriate perinatal care approach to Georgia ensuring that mothers and newborns are matched to maternities with appropriate levels of care (I-III). UNICEF Georgia assessed 36 (out of 95) maternities, supported the capacity development of medical professionals from the assessed clinics, and issued recommendations to the Government for assigning levels of care. With UNICEF support, the regionalization process was completed for three regions (Ajara, Samegrelo and Guria), while two regions (Shida Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianeti) will fully introduce regionalization in 2017. Furthermore, UNICEF Georgia supported the incorporation of perinatal regionalization as part of the national agenda through the development of the Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy and Action Plan.

With UNICEF support, the new MCH electronic surveillance system, which registers every pregnant woman and newborn in Georgia and tracks them throughout pregnancy and delivery care, became operational in January 2016. In order to strengthen decision-making for improved MCH outcomes, UNICEF Georgia together with the University of Tromsø (Norway), the University of Georgia, Tbilisi State University, and the NCDC&PH committed in a joint MoU to support the capacity development of health professionals on epidemiological analysis. Three selected students will acquire comprehensive knowledge in register-based research by utilizing the newly implemented Georgian medical registries for their PhD research and will graduate in Georgia and Norway.

In Abkhazia, UNICEF Georgia continued promoting access to quality MCH services through capacity building for medical professionals, provision of small-scale MCH equipment and health promotion campaigns. Two hundred doctors and nurses benefited from UNICEF's

training on integrated management of childhood illnesses, perinatal care, immunization, nutrition and IT to efficiently use the UNICEF-supported electronic health database. Furthermore, 40 medical professionals benefited from three study visits organized by UNICEF Georgia to Kazakhstan and Belarus. In addition, UNICEF Georgia continued supporting rural primary healthcare centres through the provision of basic equipment and small repairs. Finally, about 3,000 students, teachers, parents and community members received knowledge and skills on WASH in schools, immunization and nutrition through UNICEF Georgia's health promotion activities in rural areas.

OUTPUT 2 By 2020, comprehensive home-visiting services are in place for healthy child growth, development and protection to support families with young children

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia jointly worked with the MoLHSA to address gaps in health services for children and women resulting in disparities and inequities in child mortality, immunization and nutrition.

To bolster progress towards child growth development and monitoring, the primary healthcare system was identified as the main entry point to support families with young children (up to three years of age) through the systematic capacity building of rural primary health care nurses in performing developmental surveillance and family support services.

UNICEF Georgia supported the development of a child health and social management information system, which assembles the model of integrated ECD services. The system enables routine, real-time data collection by nurses (with pre-defined data inputs entered into electronic handheld devices) during their visits to families, which then is reflected in the "birth registry" using a secure web application. This e-health module will be linked with the e-social modules allowing effective data processing and analysis of children's developmental issues in Georgia.

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia supported the national nutrition monitoring and surveillance system to become functional in four regions of Georgia (Tbilisi, Ajara, Samegrelo and Kakheti). Data from eight sentinel sites (two clinics per region) were collected as part of the exercise, and will strengthen evidence-based policy dialogue and advocacy for MCH. With UNICEF advocacy, 13,000 children from the most vulnerable families benefited from the improved nutrient density by using multiple micronutrient powders distributed by the Government.

To strengthen the national immunization programme and prepare the country's transition after GAVI graduation, UNICEF Georgia supported the Government to implement the recommendations from a joint appraisal in 2015. To identify the major barriers and gaps in the national immunization programme and key determinants that influence participation of infant and child in vaccination, a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey was carried out by NCDC&PH. The findings of the survey will inform the development of the communication strategy and action plan in 2017. As per the joint assessment's recommendations, a comprehensive review of current vaccine procurement practices was conducted with UNICEF technical support to identify existing bottlenecks and inefficiencies and propose solutions. The results will inform the development of a training module for relevant Government counterparts.

OUTCOME 4 By 2020, vulnerable children are benefiting from a proactive, child-sensitive social protections system that promotes social inclusion and the right to supportive and caring family environment

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Georgia continued advocating for a child-sensitive social protection system that promotes social inclusion and the right to a supportive and caring family environment. Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia continued advocacy and policy dialogue on child poverty reduction in the country.

The number of children living in extreme poverty (below US\$ 1.25 per day) was more than halved between 2013 and 2015. Despite the population's improving poverty trends in Georgia, children remained the poorest population group. Every fifth child lives under the general poverty line and every sixth child lives under the subsistence minimum.

UNICEF Georgia used its recent WMS 2015 findings as an opportunity to spark public debate on child poverty and to influence the upcoming national child welfare strategy. Furthermore, UNICEF Georgia conducted a comprehensive mapping of local and central social benefits to provide a sound foundation to inform the development of a comprehensive national social protection strategy.

The improved TSA scheme with the newly introduced child benefit in 2015 is a significant step towards reduction of child poverty in Georgia. In 2016, 153,686 children below the age of 16 benefited from cash transfers, of whom 70,251 qualified as a result of the new methodology.

Together with the World Bank and the MoLHSA, UNICEF Georgia developed a joint publication on the evaluation of Georgia's recent TSA and child benefits reforms with recommendations for building a child-friendly social protection system. UNICEF also strengthened its partnership with the National Statistics Office for improving the data collection methods on child rights and welfare.

The Government, with UNICEF support, developed a child assessment referral instrument that will be used by social agents to identify potential cases of child rights violations and refer them to a social worker. UNICEF Georgia trained all social agents and social workers throughout the country. Nationwide piloting of the instrument is currently underway.

UNICEF Georgia successfully forged strong alliances with Parliament, Government and civil society to promote legislative changes advancing the right to a supportive and caring family environment. With UNICEF support, the draft Law on Adoption and Foster Care and the supporting legislative amendments for 11 laws were initiated by Parliament in August 2016.

OUTPUT 1 By 2020, national legislation and policies support the realisation of child rights

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2016, UNICEF Georgia provided support to the Government to conduct a comprehensive mapping of local and central social benefits to provide a sound foundation to inform the development of a comprehensive national social protection strategy.

The Government, with UNICEF support, developed a child assessment referral instrument that will be used by social agents to identify potential cases of child rights violations and refer them to a social worker. UNICEF Georgia trained all social agents and social workers throughout the country. Nationwide piloting of the instrument is currently underway.

UNICEF continued to work with the National Statistics Office on improving national data collection in line with Eurostat on children and their families to advance child welfare evidence-based policy work. Data was collected on children's right to access to justice indicator through the TransMonEE tool, and a country analytical report was prepared to inform decision-making and policy development process.

UNICEF also produced its third Child Poverty Discussion Paper in a row based on the WMS 2015 results, and modelled possible scenarios for improving child welfare. The document will provide grounds for UNICEF's policy advocacy strategy on improving child welfare.

OUTPUT 2 By 2020, access to cash transfers is improved to reduce vulnerability and promote social inclusion

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2016, UNICEF continued working in close partnership with the MoLHSA and SSA to support development and revision of state policies related to social protection of children.

Because of the revised methodology of the State TSA, 476,084 people in 2016 (compared to 389,650 people in 2015) benefited from cash subsidies with total Government spending of US\$ 108 million (compared to US\$ 101.4 million in 2015). Among the beneficiaries, there were 153,686 children under the age of 16, of whom 70,251 qualified because of the new methodology.

Together with the World Bank and the MoLHSA, UNICEF Georgia developed a joint publication on the evaluation of Georgia's recent TSA and child benefits reforms with recommendations for building a comprehensive and efficient social protection and labour system. The report served to build institutional memory on the reform and set the agenda for future policy actions.

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Georgia continued its advocacy efforts for improvement by targeting the MoLHSA, SSA and relevant institutions on specific policy issues, and informing the public about child poverty dynamics in the country.

In November 2016, UNICEF Georgia presented the main findings of its WMS 2015 to key public partners, highlighting child poverty and inequality within the country. The WMS results showed that absolute poverty trends, extreme poverty (population living below US\$1.25 per day), and general poverty levels (population living below US\$2.5 per day) declined. Despite the trend of poverty reduction, children remained the poorest group. Households with children were found to be poorer irrespective of poverty indicator used. Every fifth child lives under the general poverty line and every sixth child lives under the subsistence minimum. The WMS findings were widely discussed among the public, the Government, political parties, civil society and the media.

OUTCOME 5 By 2020, all children benefit from strengthened accountability for child rights implementation through the establishment of effective child rights monitoring mechanisms and improved access to justice

Analytical Statement of Progress:

To ensure that children have access to a child-friendly justice system, UNICEF Georgia in partnership with the EU supported the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Code, which is considered one of the most contemporary normative acts for justice for children in the region.

UNICEF Georgia initiated a multi-disciplinary process with policymakers and practitioners to develop a common understanding, approach and solution to challenges in order to foster effective application of the Code in practice.

UNICEF Georgia continued to support the Government in the specialization of 500 professionals in the field of justice for children. Furthermore, UNICEF Georgia supported the

Government in the development of a concept for a comprehensive data collection system and the establishment of a child-friendly environment in the justice system. In addition, UNICEF supported the development of educational packages for children in contact with the law to inform them about their rights and existing mechanisms.

To increase state accountability for the realization of rights of all children, UNICEF Georgia supported the capacity development of the PDO as an independent child rights monitoring institution. A Consultative Committee on Child Rights within the PDO was established, and introductory training on child rights was conducted for the staff of PDO's offices at the central and regional levels. UNICEF established coordination mechanisms with NGOs for child rights monitoring at the national level.

UNICEF Georgia actively participated in the Consultative Council of PDO's Department of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to monitor and ensure the proper implementation of the CRPD ratified by Georgia in 2013.

The Government of Georgia submitted its fourth periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The dialogue between the Committee and the Government will take place at the start of 2017, after which the Committee's concluding observations and recommendations will be issued. With UNICEF support, the Government established an Inter-institutional Commission safeguarding the implementation of the CRC and child rights issues.

In 2016, the Government ratified the CRC's Third Optional Protocol, which will allow children to submit complaints regarding violations of their rights.

OUTPUT 1 By 2020, children, especially the most vulnerable, have access to a child-friendly justice system which adequately responds to children's violation of rights and ensures fair, timely and effective solutions

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The adoption of the Juvenile Justice Code in 2015 was a very important step towards bringing the juvenile justice system in Georgia in line with international standards. In 2016, to support the implementation of the code, UNICEF Georgia initiated a multidisciplinary process to establish common understanding/practices, identify challenges related to the code implementation and seek solutions. Practitioners were interviewed, court decisions were analysed and policy roundtables and a regional multidisciplinary working meeting were conducted. This process was proven to be successful, and UNICEF Georgia will seek to institutionalise these multidisciplinary mechanisms in 2017.

UNICEF Georgia continued to support the specialisation of all professionals in the justice system (about 500 professionals were trained in 2016) and initiated a process of revision of the national primary and secondary civil, administrative violations and criminal legislation.

Furthermore, a concept related to the establishment of a child-friendly environment in the justice system was developed under the coordination of the Juvenile Justice working group. A similar process was initiated for the establishment of a comprehensive data collection and analysis system throughout the justice-for-children domain.

Further strengthening of linkages between the justice and the social systems, as well as of monitoring mechanisms with child-specific components (guidelines and tools) will need to be developed in 2017.

OUTPUT 2 By 2020, ministerial and independent child rights monitoring mechanisms are reinforced, to identify violations and enable evidence-based policymaking and response

Analytical Statement of Progress:

To strengthen independent child rights monitoring mechanisms, UNICEF Georgia and the PDO signed an MoU and developed a joint plan of action aimed at strengthening the capacities of PDO’s Child Right Centre and regional offices in 2016. Following the signature of the MoU, a Consultative Committee on Child Rights was established to support the work of the Centre, and introductory training on child rights was conducted for the staff of the PDO’s regional offices.

UNICEF Georgia actively participated in the Consultative Council of PDO’s Department of the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to support the proper implementation of the CRPD, which was ratified by Georgia in 2013.

UNICEF Georgia established a coordination mechanism with NGOs on child rights monitoring at the national level.

With UNICEF support, the Government established an Inter-institutional Commission safeguarding the implementation of the CRC and child rights issues under the Prime Minister’s Human Rights Secretariat.

While substantial progress was achieved in advancing national independent monitoring in 2016, ministerial monitoring remained generally insufficient and requires strengthening in 2017.

Document Centre

Evaluation and Research

Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
Ethical Coverage of Children's Issues in Georgia	2016/003	Study
Stigmatization of Children with Disabilities	2016/002	Research
The Well-Being of Children and Their Families	2016/001	Study

Other publications

Title
IPV Triplet
IDD Brochure
IEC Brochure
IEC triplet
Maternity Triplet
Q&A Immunization Triplet
Pneumo Triplet
Hepatitis B Triplet
Rota Triplet
HB Triplet
TB triplet
MMR Triplet
DTP Triplet
Child’s growth and development card (Parent-baby book)

“Short stories for children”
“Abkhaz – A learning textbook 1”
Iodine deficiency Promotion Booklet (Q&A) (Russian)
UNICEF Georgia 2017 Calendar
School readiness programme: Activity Book, Part 2
Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (GEO)
Tiny stories
The Welfare Monitoring Survey Summary
Guidelines for issues related to child reintegration
Micronutrient supplement sprinkle guidelines
Enhancing Access to Justice and Development
Continuous Improvement: Strengthening Georgia’s Targeted Social Assistance Program
UNICEF IN GEORGIA Newsletter #1 (19)

Lessons learned

Document Type/Category	Title
------------------------	-------

Programme documents

Document Type	Title	Name
AWP/RWP	Rolling Work Plan 2011-12, Mother and Child Health	RWP MNCH.PDF
AWP/RWP	Rolling Work Plan 2011-12, Education and Youth	RWP Education.PDF
AWP/RWP	Rolling Work Plan 2011-12, Child Protection	RWP Child Protection.PDF
CPAP	COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN	GoG-UNICEF CPAP 2011-15.docx