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Social Assistance

Description and Recommendations

2014-2016

**Analysis of Social Benefits/Assistance Provided to the Population
of Georgia by Central and Municipal Governments**

Tbilisi

2017

This research has been conducted with the assistance of UNICEF and the European Union.

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, the Social Services Agency and other institutions were actively involved in the process. The research was carried out by a group of consultants.

The authors of this report are solely responsible for the accuracy and quality of its information. The views presented in this document belong to its authors and do not do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and UNICEF.

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Terms and Expressions

- **The local level** - 71 municipal units that provided social benefits to socially vulnerable persons and participated in this research (for the complete list see Annex N 1);
- **The central level** - 6 ministries that provided social benefits to socially vulnerable persons and participated in this research (for the complete list see Annex N 1);
- This research covers three types of social benefits:
 - **Direct financial aid** – monetary assistance provided to beneficiaries by local or central government bodies regularly or only once.
 - **Indirect financial aid provided in the form of a subsidy** – an amount allocated by local or central government bodies which allows beneficiaries and their families to use various services under preferential conditions. For example, this includes utility services and transport.
 - **Service** – different types of benefits provided by local or central government bodies, with the exception of direct and indirect financial aid.
- **Beneficiary** – a person or a group of persons who receive a benefit/assistance;
- **This research covers five beneficiary categories:**
 - **Single elderly persons** – unemployed pensioners who live alone (or a family consisting only of unemployed pensioners);
 - **Single parents / single foster parents** – persons with a child (children) who have not had a spouse and/or a widows/widowers who takes care of a child (children);
 - **Persons / children with disabilities;**
 - **Children deprived of parental care** – children under state care;
 - **Poor families with children:** a family with children, if (a) the family's social rating score is 100 000 or lower; b) the family's assistance eligibility score is defined by the local government; c) the family's assistance/subsidy/service does not depend on the social rating score and is provided based on some other criteria, in accordance with the decision of a local government.

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Executive Summary

The aim of this report is to make an inventory of the different types of social benefits provided by central and local administrative bodies in Georgia. This report covers three types of social benefits provided to five socially vulnerable target groups at local and central levels. Namely, these benefits are: **direct financial aid, indirect financial aid in the form of a subsidy and services.**

According to the definition, “**direct financial aid**” is a sum of money received by a family/person from the central or local budget regularly or once. “**Indirect financial aid**” includes an amount allocated in the central or local budget to allow a person/family to use different services under preferential conditions. The third type of benefits is „**services**”. This includes all other types of benefits which are not provided within direct and indirect financial aid.

One of the tasks of the research was also to describe those programs, which use a rating score as a criterion to define the beneficiary’s eligibility for targeted social assistance.

The research identified five target groups, namely: single elderly persons, single parents, persons/children with disabilities, children deprived of parental care, and poor families with children.

This report describes and analyses the social assistance programs planned and implemented by 71 municipalities and six ministries in 2014-2016. Since the data collection for this report started in summer 2016, it is based on the information for the period from 2014 through the third quarter of 2016.

Information sources included written information provided by the ministries, public information available on the ministries’ web pages, as well as the data on municipal and central state budgets for the year 2016.

Processing of the information available at the central level demonstrated that in 2014, 2015 and 2016 the central budget expenses for general social assistance equaled 21%, while healthcare expenses were 7.4 %. On average, social expenses equaled 7% of GDP, while healthcare expenses were 1.6 % of GDP.

The ministries provide all three types of social benefits to all five target groups. Direct financial aid is provided through 11 programs, while indirect financial aid is provided through 13 programs. There are 17 programs that provide social assistance in the form of services (this category includes the biggest number of the programs, but not the highest allocations).

Adding together the data available at the central level revealed that out of all costs for social assistance in 2014-16 provided by the ministries, **direct financial aid** was the highest, reaching 9.1% of the state budget and 3% of GDP on average. During the same period, indirect financial aid accounted for less than 1% of the state budget, while the ministries’ spending on services equaled more than 1% of the state budget.

At the central level, direct financial assistance is mainly provided by two ministries: the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia. IDP financial assistance is issued by the Social Service Agency (SSA) based on the information provided by the Ministry of IDPs; however, the Ministry of IDPs also issues other one-off financial aid. The total direct financial aid provided by both ministries covers all five target groups of this research.

In 2014, the total amount spent by both ministries on direct financial aid of the target groups equaled GEL 934,237.246 million, in 2015 - GEL 887,873.691 million, and in three quarters of 2016 (including August) - GEL 809,166.096 million.

At the central level, the target groups of this report receive **indirect financial aid in the form of a subsidy** from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia.

At the central level, the target groups of this report receive social benefits in the form of **Services** from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia.

Some types of benefits offered by central government bodies are directly linked to the social rating scores of the target social groups. This is especially true with regard to the following three target groups: single elderly persons, persons/children with disabilities and poor families with children.

At the local level, the information obtained on Tbilisi and the 10 regions of Georgia shows the priorities on which the local municipalities finance social assistance programs and the socially vulnerable groups to which these programs are provided.

The Municipal Budget Resolutions for 2016 show that direct financial aid prevails among three types of social benefits (direct financial aid, indirect financial and services). In all 71 municipalities the number of social benefits provided in the form of “direct financial aid” twice exceeds the number of those provided as “indirect financial aid”. The number of social benefits provided as “services” is the second highest. The funds spent on services are smaller compared to direct financial aid but only one third less than indirect financial aid.

Municipalities provide direct financial aid for compensation for damages caused by natural disasters, families of veterans, families with many children, and allowances to families of newborn children. Additionally, direct financial assistance is paid on the 9th of May and monetary assistance is provided for injuries received in the workplace (for example, in Gori and Telavi Municipalities). Direct financial aid is also provided by municipalities in the form of one-time assistance for funeral services and celebration events, and for reintegrated youths (for example, in Khashuri Municipality).

Municipalities provide indirect financial aid to subsidize the costs of transport, free food, medicines, utility bills (electricity, gas, water and in some cases telephone and waste management). Rural municipalities often provide indirect financial aid to supply socially vulnerable families with firewood.

Social assistance provided in the form of services includes healthcare programs and co-financing of medical services. The priority is given to oncological diseases, patients with renal failure who are in need of dialysis, and co-financing of treatment and diagnostics of hepatitis C patients. Additionally, in some municipalities technical assistance is also used for financing special institutions (centers), rehabilitation programs, and integration programs.

Most of the municipalities use the social rating score assigned by the Social Services Agency as an eligibility criterion for social assistance. Nevertheless, the number of social benefits linked to the score, as well as the required score thresholds, differ between municipalities. The rating score is mainly applied for provision of free food, medicines, and medical services. Additionally, the rating score is also used for the provision of indirect financial aid, namely to mitigate the burden of utility bills. Municipalities set an upper threshold of the rating score in order to define a target group. For example, in Gurjaani Municipality the upper threshold is 160 000, while in Signagi Municipality it is 200 000.

In 2014-2016 annual municipal budgets increased as well as the allocations for healthcare and social protection programs. Despite this, in 2016, the share of the above programs in the total budget reduced to 14.22%, compared with 15.25% in 2014.

During the reporting period (2014-2016) among all municipalities Tbilisi had the highest allocations for healthcare and social protection programs – approximately one fourth of total budget expenses.

Observations

The data collected during the research demonstrates the state's willingness to cover all five target groups. At the central level, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs has the largest number of programs and beneficiaries. The ministry offers approximately 21 types of social assistance to the five target groups (single elderly persons, single parents, persons with disabilities, children deprived of parental care and poor families with children). Ten types of social benefits are provided in the form of a direct financial aid, two have the form of an indirect financial aid (subsidy), while nine are provided as services.

It is also worth noting the social assistance activities carried out by other ministries:

- The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia offers the target groups three types of assistance – one direct financial aid, one indirect financial aid, and one as a service.
 - The Ministry of Education and Science offers five types of assistance – two in the form of the indirect financial aid, and three as services.
 - The Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Corrections offers its beneficiaries two types of assistance – one in the form of the indirect financial aid and the other as a service.
 - The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs provides two types of assistance in the form of services.
 - The institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Justice offer four types of indirect financial aid to the target groups.
- It should be noted that with the exception of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the other ministries do not necessarily cover all five target groups. For instance, the Social Service Agency (SSA) under the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs distributes IDP financial assistance, but the decision to assign the status of IDP is taken by the Ministry of IDPs. It is also unclear why direct financial aid to IDPs is provided by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. Logically, this aid should be provided by the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.
 - The majority of social assistance is provided by central institutions to the single elderly, persons/children with disabilities and poor families with children and is directly linked to the social rating scores of these target groups.
 - Direct financial aid is the most common type of social assistance provided by municipalities. The amount of indirect financial aid provided in all 71 municipalities is two times higher compared to the number of subsidies provided. The number of services provided is second. It exceeds the amount of indirect financial aid by almost one third.
 - There are often cases when municipalities give one-time direct financial aid after reviewing the circumstances of a citizen, regardless whether the beneficiary satisfies the criteria necessary for receiving social assistance.
 - 61¹ out of 71 reviewed municipalities use the social rating score assigned by the Social Services Agency as an eligibility criterion for social assistance. Nevertheless, the number of social benefits linked to the score and the required thresholds are differ between municipalities.
 - Even though municipalities are independent units, the analysis of data shows that their priorities match those of the central authorities. The priorities defined by central institutions greatly influence local municipalities.

¹ The above system is not used by the following 10 municipalities: Tsalenjikha, Chkhorotsku, Telavi, Mtskheta Governor's Office, Kazbegi, Adigeni, Aspindza, Terjola, Lentekhi and Poti (city) municipalities do not use the social rating score for these types of services.

- The majority of municipalities have four clearly defined target groups for social assistance. Namely these target groups are: single elderly persons, persons with disabilities, children deprived of parental care and poor families with children. Only a few municipalities have a separate target group for single parents and then only single mothers are included.
- Some municipalities provide certain benefits that are specific only to them and do not take place in any other municipalities. This might be caused by the traditions or needs of a particular region. From the perspective of this research, it is interesting to study and analyze how effective such benefits are. For example:
 - Gori Municipality provides direct financial aid to sportsmen;
 - Kaspi, Khashuri and Telavi Municipalities provide direct financial aid to compensate the costs for persons injured as the result of an industrial accident;
 - Khashuri Municipality provides services to students of an Art School, so that they can receive education free of charge;
 - Gori (city) Municipality provides indirect financial aid (subsidy) to victims of violence and also helps to co-finance purchase of condominium apartments;
 - Mtskheta Municipality provides indirect financial aid (subsidy) to local regional development centers;
 - Dusheti Municipality provides direct financial aid to employees who are on sick leave;
 - Adigeni Municipality provides services to the Reintegration Centre for Children with Disabilities;
 - Aspindza Municipality provides services to the Centre for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - Akhalkalaki Municipality provides education subsidies (indirect financial aid) to families with many children;
 - Borjomi Municipality provides assistance to distinguished persons;
 - Ninotsminda Municipality provides indirect financial aid (subsidy) to children of poor families studying music or participating in sports as well as an indirect financial aid (subsidy) to poor families for purchase of fuel;
 - Municipality of Akhaltsikhe town provides indirect financial aid by supplying hygiene products;
 - Oni Municipality provides direct financial aid to the population living in those areas that are neighbouring the occupied territories;
 - Tsalenjikha Municipality provides indirect financial aid (subsidy) to support activities of the Council of Veterans;
 - Senaki Municipality provides services to the network that delivers caregiving services for social adaptation;
 - Zugdidi Municipality provides direct financial aid within the framework of the „Program Supporting Persons Who Suffered Damages due to Various Reasons“;
 - Municipality of Zugdidi town provides indirect financial aid through financing the Program “Social Housing with Comfortable Conditions”;
 - Lanchkhuti Municipality finances the Club of Winner Women and provides accommodation for specialists invited to medical facilities.
 - Ozurgeti (town) provides direct financial aid to blind persons;
 - Khulo, Keda and Shuakhevi municipalities provide indirect financial aid by subsidizing construction materials to repair houses;
 - Shuakhevi Municipality finances arrangement of memorial boards for soldiers who died during the war;
 - Khelvachauri Municipality provide direct financial aid to phenyketonuria patients;

- Terjola Municipality provides direct financial aid to homeless persons;
- Zestaphoni Municipality provides indirect financial aid by financing medicines for epilepsy patients;
- Gurjaani Municipality provides direct financial aid by financing students' education fees and funeral services for single persons without relatives.

Conclusions

- This research shows that the existing healthcare and social protection programs of the central authorities and local municipalities cover all five target groups of this research. They receive direct financial aid, indirect financial aid and services. The research also demonstrated that it is easier to identify beneficiaries of assistance provided by ministries, than those receiving social benefits from local municipalities. Identification and calculation of all three types of social benefits provided by ministries is much easier than identification and calculation of the same benefits provided by municipalities. It is possible that some benefits might be duplicated. The same beneficiary might be receiving social assistance from both central and municipal levels. Although this kind of duplication most likely occurs in the case of one-time assistance.
- The data received during the research allows us to conclude that the priorities of the healthcare and social protection programs of the central authorities and local municipalities are identical. For example, in order to improve the demographic situation municipalities often give one-time or monthly allowances to families of newborn children or families with many children. Additionally, to ensure inclusion of beneficiaries into healthcare programs, the municipalities finance their transport costs and co-finance medical tests.
- At the central level the most active social assistance is provided by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. The Ministry provides direct financial aid, indirect financial aid (subsidy) and services. Other ministries provide partial assistance to beneficiaries by means of various special programs.
- Based on the data, we conclude that the forms and priorities defined by the municipalities for provision of social assistance are very similar. In some cases municipalities might not have a specific beneficiary type singled out as a separate group, but the eligibility criteria do not exclude such persons from the beneficiary groups. Therefore, there is a high probability that the target groups included in this research receive social assistance from municipalities.
- Both central and municipal bodies provide different types of social benefits linked to the rating score. Only 10 out of 71 municipalities do not use the social rating score as an eligibility criterion. At the central level, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Science provide social benefits based on the rating score.
- The information upon which this research is based shows that the allocations made for healthcare and social programs in the central budget are higher than in municipal budgets. In 2014-2016, central budget expenditure for social programs was almost 10% higher than the same expenditure provided within municipal budgets. The trend is the same for healthcare programs. In 2016, 7% of the central budget was spent on healthcare programs, while only 2% of the municipal budget was spent on healthcare programs.

Recommendations

- Analysis of the findings demonstrated that there is a need to develop a standard form for data collection and reporting. A standard template would allow the central and municipal authorities to receive, process, and analyze the data on healthcare and social assistance programs in a more efficient, accurate, and timely manner and thus identify beneficiary groups and categories.
- In order to ensure more targeted identification of needs and provision of social assistance, the municipalities plan their social programs and define priorities in coordination with the Social Services Agency. They also submit to the Agency annual information about their programs. Despite this, there are no standard planning or reporting templates. This makes it difficult for in-depth study of social programs and limits the opportunities to monitor their short, medium and long term effects. Existence of standard forms would make it much easier for the Agency and municipalities to plan social programs and make municipal assistance more targeted and clear. It would also provide more specific definition of the forms and types of direct financial aid, indirect financial aid, and services.
- Organising regular information meetings in regions would aid collection of information about social programs, identify the successful ones and enable the sharing of best practices across other municipalities.
- We recommend introducing periodic needs assessment at a municipal level. This could be done jointly by the representatives of municipal and central authorities. The results of such needs assessment would be used to plan social programs and define effective criteria for provision of social assistance.
- At present, cooperation and coordination between the municipalities and the SSA's regional offices depends on the good will of their employees. The SSA has formalised coordination with some municipalities (such as Batumi, Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Dmanisi, Rustavi and others). Taking into account the system's difficulties and in order to improve the processes it is advisable that communication is formalized to ensure its continuity. In future this could be carried out electronically.
- We recommend standardizing the current system. This means clearly defining the main types of regular and one-time allowances as well as the list of documents that are required in order to provide such assistance. At the same time, it would be beneficial to simplify the relationship with beneficiaries by providing electronic access to this information. This would save the beneficiaries' time and transport costs, which they currently have to spend in order to receive this information.
- A basic social assistance system must be implemented in each municipality. However, municipalities must be allowed to design their own specific social programs for the needs of their particular region. Nevertheless, the types of assistance included in a basic system must be provided in all municipalities.
- A beneficiary (user) oriented service system should be introduced at the central and municipal levels. The system must make it easier for beneficiaries to communicate with state authorities and therefore increase their satisfaction level. We advised enhancing cooperation between the Service Development Agency and public service centers, to allow beneficiaries to receive social services through the Public Service Halls.

The Research Aims

The aim of this research is to make an inventory of different types of social benefits provided by central and local administrative bodies. The report also describes the programs that use the social rating score as an eligibility criterion for social assistance.

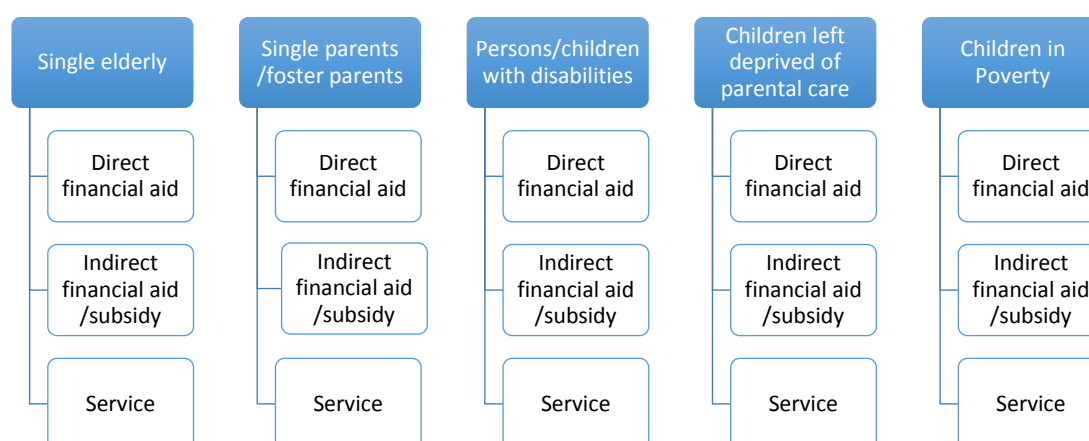
The research will allow us to better analyze various social assistance programs and identify duplications and shortfalls existing between central and local levels.

2.1 The Target Groups and Types of Benefits Covered by the Research

This research describes the social assistance provided by six ministries and 71 municipalities in 2014-2016. Since the data collection for this report started in the summer of 2016, it is based on the data including the third quarter of 2016.

While planning and implementing this research, the authors identified three types of social benefits and five target groups (see Chart N 1):

Chart 1: Three Types of Benefits and Five Target Groups



A detailed description of the types of data obtained and its collection and analysis is given in the following chapter.

2.2 Research Methodology

The process of collecting the data for this report was planned in advance between the consultant and UNICEF representatives. The research was conducted in four main stages. At the first stage the research framework, focus and general design were defined. During the second stage different ministries were requested to provide information, which was received and processed. During the third stage desk based research was conducted and meetings with selected municipalities were held in order to clarify certain issues. Finally, at the fourth stage the data was analyzed and summarized.

The applied methodology belongs to a qualitative research category. Therefore, the research implied analysis of the data obtained from documents and interviews. Taking into account the aim and focus of the research, the data collection and analysis was targeted to achieve the following: 1) Description of the social

programs implemented in Georgia at the central and local levels; 2) Calculation of the share of the social assistance in the total state budget and GDP; 3) Description of the central and municipal social assistance programs linked to the social rating score; and 4) Identification of the central and municipal social assistance program categories. The latter will allow identification of overlaps and gaps existing in the current social assistance processes. This will give an indication about how appropriate and well-targeted the social assistance is.

In order to improve and test the questionnaire prepared by the researcher in advance, three meetings were held with the representatives of Mtskheta, Telavi and Gardabani Governor's offices (Gamageoba). The minutes of these meetings and information about the questions are given in Annex N 1. The meetings revealed the need for some improvements, which were made to the questionnaire prior to it being finalised.

2.3 Data Collection Process and Existing Shortfalls

On August 24, 2016, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs sent letters to 71 urban and rural municipalities and 9 ministries (see Annex N 1) in order to request information. The required information was defined in advance by the researcher. The letter included explanatory notes and Table N 1 attached.

The goal was to obtain data for 2014-2016 with regard to the three types of social benefits and five social groups. Each institution was given an opportunity to provide information for the research. Based on the preliminary analysis of the information received from 71 municipalities and six ministries (it became clear that three ministries² do not provide social benefits and do not have social assistance programs) it became possible to define the benefit forms and clearly identify the target groups.

The information provided by some ministries also included data about expenses, so that the total costs of the benefits distributed in 2014-2016 could be totaled. However, the letters received from municipalities did not provide clear information about their social program expenses in 2014-2016. Therefore, the researcher decided to use their Budget Resolutions for 2016 to provide the missing information. These Resolutions also included information for the years 2014-2015.

2.4 Gaps in the Data Obtained at the Central Level

One aim of the research was to find out the total budget of the central and municipal authorities allocated for social and healthcare programs in Georgia as well as the share of these expenses in the central budget and GDP. It was also desirable to find out the average annual or monthly expenses per one beneficiary, in GEL.

Unfortunately, based on the information available we were not able to show the whole picture, including estimation of the above percentages or calculation of an average amount spent per each beneficiary. The obtained information was fragmented, in some cases monthly and in other cases annual. Furthermore, the budget information for 2014-2015 was actual, while that for 2016 – forecasted.

The data provided by the ministries included only program expenses allocated for the target groups of this research and did not contain any information about the amounts spent on other social groups. The data provided by some ministries was not related to the target groups but to the whole vulnerable population in general. This information was useful, but did not allow the totalling of amounts spent at the central level and to calculate the number of beneficiaries.

² The information provided in the letters about social assistance programs and corresponding expenditures of different ministries is given below. Please note, that according to the letters received from the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (Letter #18/5761, date 01/09/2016), the Ministry of Regional Development (Letter#01/2834, date 07/09/2016) and the Ministry of Agriculture (Letter#11626/01, date 09/09/2016), these ministries did not have any social programs and corresponding expenses in 2014-2016.

2.5 Gaps in the Data Obtained at the Municipal Level

The information provided by 71 municipalities in response to the letters of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs could not be used for the purpose of this research due to the following reasons:

1. It did not clearly specify whether a benefit was one-time or regular. As a result, it became impossible to calculate the amounts and exact numbers of beneficiaries. Therefore we could not find out how many representatives of the five target groups received the assistance;
2. Some of the data did not show the full amounts spent by the municipalities on social programs. This could be because in the municipal records the five social groups were not specifically defined as separate beneficiary categories and the employee preparing this information had to make an arbitrarily decision on whether or not a certain type of assistance and its beneficiary belonged to the target group of this research;

Based on the recommendation from the Ministry of Finance, the researcher used resolutions of municipal councils on approval of annual budgets (source: www.matsne.gov.ge). (This information included the municipal budgets for 2016 approved in 2015).

2.6 Description of the Materials Used in this Research

It should be noted that the collected materials gave far more comprehensive information on social programs than can be independently obtained from the budgets of the respective institutions.

The Table clearly shows that in 2014-2015 there were no significant changes in the annual budgets of each municipality. For example, the researcher used 2015 budget data in order to fill in the missing information on the 2014 year budgets of Ambrolauri (town), Mestia, Ozurgeti, Khulo, Gori, Adigeni and Akhalkalaki municipalities. In cases where the budgets for 2014 and 2016 were available and the 2015 budget was missing, the researcher used the amounts specified in the budget for 2016.

While processing the information received from the municipalities, the researcher analyzed the social benefit forms based on predefined criteria agreed with the client in advance. Information about social programs taken from the annual Budget Resolutions of 71 municipalities was sorted according to the five beneficiary groups and three forms of assistance. The information sorted by the researcher is attached to this Report (see Annex N 2).

Most municipalities do not keep separate records for different categories of socially vulnerable populations. However, based on the analysis of the data, the consultants grouped social assistance types at their own discretion. E.g.: unlike the category of “Persons/Children with Disabilities”, the category of “Single Elderly” is very rarely accounted for separately. Despite this, it can be assumed that a single elderly person might be covered by social assistance within the categories of “Socially Vulnerable Families” or “Families of Soldiers who Died Defending Georgia’s Integrity”, in which case a single elderly person would receive direct or indirect financial aid.

Besides a municipality might provide single elderly persons with one-time assistance for funeral services, pharmaceuticals or single daily meals. Therefore, while defining the beneficiary categories for different types of assistance, the consultants applied the following principle:

If the data did not clearly specify which of the target groups received a form of assistance and if presumably the form of assistance did not exclude eligibility of any of the five target groups, the assistance was recorded in the graphs of all five target groups of the given municipality. This is why the same type of assistance is repeatedly shown in the graphs of different target groups of each municipality (for detailed information please see Annex N 2. Social Programs of Municipalities).

2.7 The Scope of this Research

This Research does not provide an in-depth analysis of each central or municipal social and healthcare program. Instead, it shows the general picture of the costs, target groups and administrators of these programs.

The budget data described in the Report is not absolutely accurate. It is intended to show main trends.

2.8 The Report Structure

This Report consists of five main chapters: the first chapter gives a brief overview of the research contents; the second chapter describes the research goals and methodology; the third chapter is dedicated to the social benefits provided by the central government bodies and their beneficiaries; the fourth chapter provides information about social benefits provided by municipalities and their beneficiaries; and the last chapter contains observations and recommendations.

3. Social Assistance Provided at the Central Level and Benefits Linked to the Social Rating Score

- Population of Georgia: 3 720.4 (thousand people)³.
- Population of Georgia by gender: 1 779.5 men and 1 940.9 women (thousand people)⁴.
- In 2014-2016, the national budget expenditures for social assistance programs on average equaled 21.6%, while healthcare programsⁱ accounted for 6% of the country's budget⁵.
- In 2014-2016, the share of the central budget expenses for social assistance programs in the GDP equaled 7%, while that of the healthcare programs – 1.6% of the GDP.

Chart # 1 – Social and Healthcare Programs in 2014 (the Central Budget of Georgia 2014)

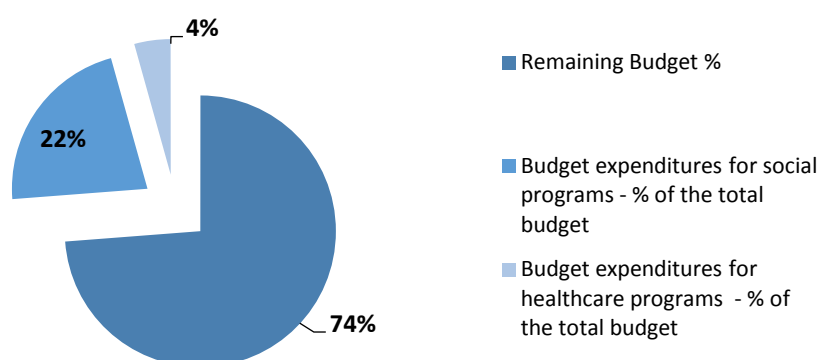
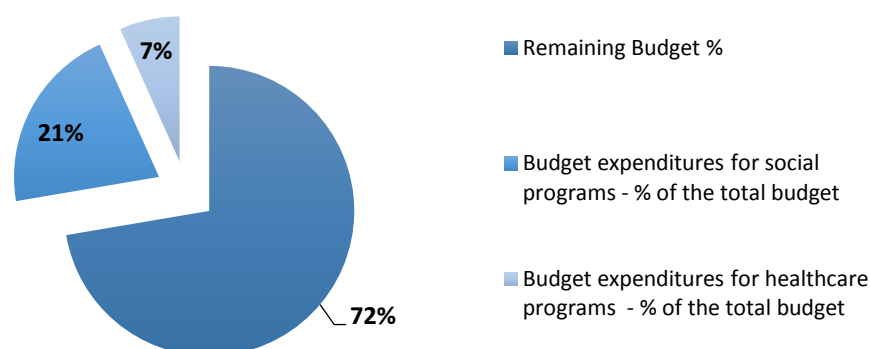


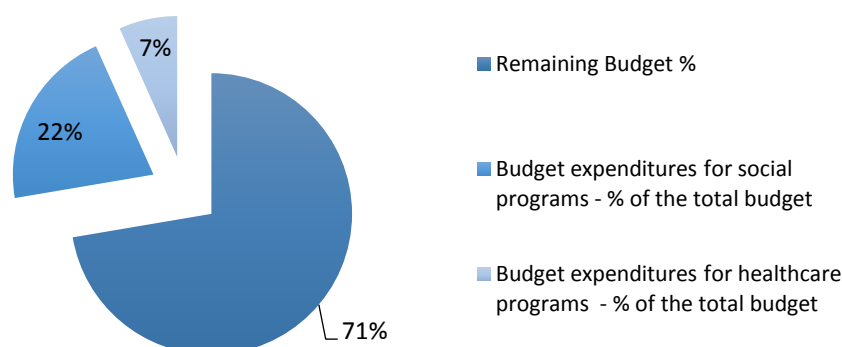
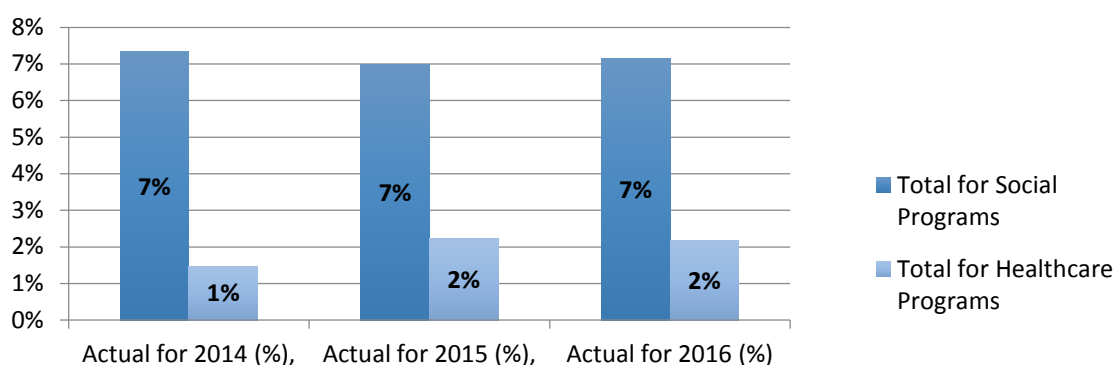
Chart # 2 – Social and Healthcare Programs in 2015 (the Central Budget of Georgia 2015)



³ The information was received from the webpage of the National Statistics Office of Georgia (<http://www.geostat.ge>) on February 25, 2017.

⁴ The information was received from the webpage of the National Statistics Office of Georgia (http://www.geostat.ge/cms/site_images/files/georgian/genderuli%20statistika.pdf) on February 25, 2017.

⁵ The State Budget of Georgia for the years 2014-2015 is actual, while 2016 year budget numbers are forecasted. The information is taken from the Law of Georgia on the State Budget for 2016 (<https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3108373>);

Chart # 3 - Social and Healthcare Programs in 2016 (the Central Budget of Georgia 2016)**Chart # 4 - The Share of Central Budget Expenses for Social and Healthcare Programs in the GDP (%) in 2014 – 2016**

3.1 Social Benefits Provided by Ministries and their Subordinated Institutions

The data obtained from the central authorities shows that the share of direct financial aid is biggest among all social benefits provided by the ministries to the target groups of the research. In 2014-2016, on average, it accounted for 9.1% of the state budget and 3% of GDP. During the same period, the share of indirect financial aid was less than 1% of the country's budget, while the share of ministries' expenses spent on services was above 1%.

At the central level direct financial assistance is provided by two ministries: the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia. IDP financial assistance is issued by the Social Service Agency (SSA) based on the information provided by the Ministry of IDPs; however the Ministry of IDPs also issues other one-time financial assistance (The decree No. 868 issued on May the 2nd, 2017 by the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia). The first of these two ministries provides direct financial aid to five target groups through the following 10 programs:

- Pension;
- Monetary compensation for health damages received at work (the so-called regression pension);
- State compensation;
- Subsistence allowance;
- Social assistance package;
- Compensations paid during a maternity leave in case of pregnancy, childbirth, and child care, as well as during adoption of a newborn child;
- The State Program for Improvement of the Demographic Situation;
- Household subsidy (a type of a monetary assistance that is issued to certain categories (such as war veterans, the family members of the repressed individuals) and is issued in the form of municipal utilities subsidies;
- reintegration allowance; and
- IDP allowance.

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides direct financial aid through one program:

- One-time financial assistance.

IDP financial assistance itself is issued by the Social Service Agency (SSA) based on the information provided by the Ministry of IDPs; however the Ministry of IDPs also issues other one-time financial aid.

The assistance provided by both ministries together covers all five target groups of this research. It should be noted that the monthly IDP allowance is one of the direct financial aids provided by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. In total, direct financial aid expenses of both ministries equaled GEL 934,237.246 million⁶ in 2014, GEL 887,873.691 million in 2015, and GEL 809,166.096 million from the beginning of 2016 throughout the end of August.

At the central level, government authorities provide indirect financial aid (subsidy) through 13 Programs.

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs provides indirect financial aid by subsidizing two programs:

- Urgent assistance to families who have children and are in a crisis situation, and
- Preventive assistance to families.

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia implements one program:

- Apartment rent subsidies for IDPs.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia provides two types of subsidies to the representatives of vulnerable social groups:

- State Educational Grant, and
- State Educational Grant for Masters Programs.

The Ministry also finances a sub-program on integrated classes at public schools that provide supportive/ additional services for the integration of children with autism, severe and multiple hearing loss into a teaching and learning environment.

⁶ The data is calculated based on the Ministry's information in which the beneficiary categories and amounts transferred to them are separated.

The agencies subordinated to the Ministry of Justice of Georgia finance the following programs:

- The State Service Development Agency has a program that issues certificates to persons with disabilities, pensioners, and socially vulnerable persons;
- The National Archive of Georgia subsidises the issuing of biometric passports, certificates on change of the name, and ID certificates to people with disabilities and people registered in the Database of Socially Vulnerable Families (whose rating score equals or is lower than the threshold established by the government). They also provide a 50% subsidised cost for pensioners;
- The Notary Chamber implements four subsidy programs: services to residents of children's shelters, residents of Tbilisi Shelter for Elderly, elderly people receiving assistance from the International Humanitarian Union Catharsis, and children from socially vulnerable families;
- The Public Service Hall subsidizes a program called "Welcome".

The Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Probations subsidizes jail visitation fees for socially vulnerable families. Despite this, the data shows that indirect financial aid may not cover all target groups.

At the central level assistance is also provided in the form of **services**. In total there are 17 such services.

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs implements the following ten programs:

- Foster care financing;
- Support of war veterans' rehabilitation;
- Provision of medical aid accessories;
- Support of deaf persons' communication;
- Daycare Centers;
- Community Organizations;
- Shelters for persons with mental disorders;
- Childcare programs;
- Child foster care costs reimbursement;
- Universal Healthcare Program;
- Other Healthcare programs (such as healthcare vertical programs, which includes a Hepatitis 'C' treatment program and mental health program).

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides assistance through services within the Sustainable Housing Solutions Project.

The Ministry of Education and Science implements three types of programs:

- Promotion of Inclusive Education at Vocational Education Institutions
- Transit Education Program for Homeless Children
- Social Inclusion Support Program.

The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs provides assistance in the form of services through the following programs:

- Project on Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities
- Project for Support of Youths without Family Care and Youths with Special Needs.

The Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Probations of Georgia provides services by covering the costs of rehabilitation programs for accused and sentenced persons (psycho-social rehabilitation, vocational training and education courses).

3.2 Social Assistance Provided to the Target Groups by the Central Government Institutions and their Subordinated Agencies

As it has already been mentioned, the five target groups of this Report receive social benefits from the central authorities. In order to show a clear picture, it is important to see which services are offered by different government bodies to each target group.

The central state institutions offer **single elderly persons** all three types of benefits. The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs provides the following direct financial aid to single elderly persons: pensions, subsistence allowances, state compensations, the regression pensions (monetary compensation for health damages received at work), household subsidies, and subsistence allowances. Additionally, the Ministry also gives monthly IDP allowances to single elderly IDPs, while the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides one-time financial aid.

As for indirect financial aid, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees subsidizes apartment rents for the same category of beneficiaries. The Notary Chamber of the Ministry of Justice subsidizes the shelter for elderly “Catharsis” and Tbilisi Shelter for Elderly. The State Service Development Agency gives preferential treatment to elderly persons when issuing certificates. The National Archive of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia also gives preferential treatment to pensioners when issuing certificates. The Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Corrections gives vulnerable families discounted jail visitation fees.

The social assistance provided in the form of services includes the following: the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs provides services to single elderly persons within the framework of the Universal Healthcare Program and Community Organizations Program. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides social assistance within the Sustainable Housing Solutions Project.

Single parents receive direct financial aid from the following programs of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs: subsistence allowance, household subsidy, social assistance package, maternity leave compensations during pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare, as well as during adoption of a newborn child and allowances paid within the State Program for Improvement of the Demographic Situation. Single parents can also receive regression pensions, state compensation and an IDP allowance. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia gives one-time financial assistance to this beneficiary group.

All three target groups receive indirect financial aid (subsidy) from the following two programs of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs: urgent assistance to families who have children and are in a crisis situation and the program of preventive assistance to families. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides apartment rent subsidies to a group of beneficiaries which may include single parents.

Both ministries provide social assistance to this social group in the form of services. The first ministry does this within the framework of the Universal Healthcare Program and Shelter/Care for Homeless Children, while the other provides services through the Sustainable Housing Solutions Project.

Children and persons with disabilities receive direct financial aid from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs through the following programs: social assistance package, reintegration allowance, foster care, the regression pensions (monetary compensation for health damages received at work), state compensation, and subsistence allowance. The Ministry also offers IDP allowance to this group. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees also offers one-time financial assistance.

Children/persons with disabilities receive indirect financial aid (subsidies) from the Ministry of Education and Science. This assistance is provided through three programs: Promotion of Inclusive Education in Vocational Institutions, the State Educational Grant and the State Educational Grant for Masters Programs. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees subsidizes apartment rents for IDPs.

This target group receives social assistance from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs in the form of services, through the following programs: Community Organizations, Early Development of Children, Support of War Veterans' Rehabilitation, Provision of Medical Aid Accessories, Shelters for Persons with Mental Disorders, Support of Deaf Persons' Communication, Adoption of Children, Rehabilitation/Habilitation of Children, Daycare Centers, Foster Care Programs, Emergency Assistance for Families with children in critical condition, Small Family Houses Program and Universal Healthcare Program. The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees offers them services within the Sustainable Housing Solutions Project. Persons/children with disabilities can also benefit from the Social Inclusion Promotion Program implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs offers the Integration Program for Persons/Children with Disabilities and Support Program for Children Deprived of parental care and Children with Special Needs. They are also eligible to receive certificates free of charge or at discounted tariffs from the National Archive of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

Children deprived of parental care receive direct financial aid from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs through the following programs: financial-social assistance package, reintegration allowance, and subsistence allowance. Residents of the Children's Shelter receive indirect financial aid from the Notary Chamber of the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs provides social assistance to this group in the form of services provided by the following programs: Small Family-Type Homes for Children, Foster Care and Universal Healthcare Program. The Ministry of Education and Science provides assistance to this group by means of the Transit Education Program for Homeless Children, while the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs – through the Program of Supporting Children Deprived of Parental Care and Youths with Special Needs.

Poor families with children receive direct financial aid from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs through the following programs: subsistence allowance, social assistance package, compensation paid during maternity leave during pregnancy, childbirth, and child care, as well as during adoption of a newborn child, the State Program for Improvement of the Demographic Situation, the regression pension (monetary compensation for health damages received at work), state compensations, household subsidies, and reintegration allowance. This target group can also receive a monthly IDP allowance from the Ministry.

Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided to poor families with children by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, through the following programs: provision of food for children facing the risk of abandonment and urgent assistance to families with children during crisis situations. The Ministry of Education and Science provides subsidies for the State Educational Grants and State Educational Grants for Masters Programs. They also receive social assistance from the Notary Chamber of the Ministry of Justice through the program for socially vulnerable families and from the Public Service Hall (within the Welcome program). The Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Corrections subsidizes jail visitation fees for socially vulnerable families.

The Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice provides social assistance in the form of services to people registered in the Database of Socially Vulnerable Families whose rating score does not exceed 57,001. These families are exempt from all fees payable for the service of changing their name as recorded at birth in the civil act records (except for the accelerated rule of procedure). Also, the Agency issues free IDs to those individuals registered in the Database of Socially Vulnerable Families whose score

does not exceed 70,001. The National Archive issues certificates under preferential conditions for this target group. The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs offers then the Daycare Center program. The Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Probations implements a rehabilitation program for accused and sentenced persons (psycho-social rehabilitation, vocational training and education courses) for the target group.

The information about the programs described in this chapter is summarized in the Table below.

Table # 2: 2014 – Forms of Assistance Provided at the Central Level in 2016 and their Beneficiaries

BENEFICIARIES	DIRECT FINANCIAL AID	INDIRECT FINANCIAL AID (SUBSIDY)	SERVICES
Single elderly persons	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Pensions, subsistence allowance, regression pensions, state compensation, subsistence subsidy, IDP allowance</p> <p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>One-time financial assistance</p>	<p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>Apartment rent subsidies for IDPs</p> <p>The Notary Chamber of the Ministry of Justice provides assistance in the form of subsidies to:</p> <p>Elderly people receiving assistance from the International Humanitarian Union Catharsis and residents of Tbilisi Shelter for Elderly</p> <p>The National Archive of the Ministry of Justice:</p> <p>Beneficial conditions for issuing certificates to pensioners</p> <p>The Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice:</p> <p>Preferential conditions for issuing certificates to pensioners</p> <p>The Ministry of Corrections:</p> <p>Discounts for jail visitation fees for socially vulnerable families</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Community organizations, Universal Healthcare Program</p> <p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>Sustainable Housing Solutions Project</p>

Single parents / foster parents with children	<p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>One-time financial assistance</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Subsistence allowance, IDP allowance, household subsidy, social assistance package, compensation paid for maternity leave during pregnancy, childbirth, and child care, as well as during adoption of a newborn child, The State Program for Improvement of the Demographic Situation, regression pensions, state compensation</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs provides the following types of assistance:</p> <p>Urgent assistance to families with children in a crisis situation</p> <p>Program of preventive assistance to families</p> <p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>Apartment rent subsidies for IDPs</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Provision of shelters to homeless children / Childcare programs, Universal Healthcare Program</p> <p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>Sustainable Housing Solutions Project</p>
Persons/children with disabilities	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Subsistence allowance, social assistance package, reintegration allowance, the regression pension, state compensation, IDP allowance</p> <p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>One-time financial assistance</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education and Science:</p> <p>Promotion of Inclusive Education at Vocational Institutions, the State Educational Grant and the State Educational Grant for Masters Programs.</p> <p>A sub-program on integrated classes at public schools that envisages provision of supportive / additional services to ensure effective integration of children with autism spectre, heavy and multiple hearing loss into the teaching and learning environment</p> <p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>Apartment rent subsidies for IDPs</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Community organizations, Early Development of Children, Universal Healthcare Program, Support of war veterans' rehabilitation, Provision of Medical Accessories, Shelters for Persons with Mental Disorders, Support of Deaf Persons' Communication, Adoption of Children, Foster Care, Children's Rehabilitation / Habilitation, Day Care Centres, Urgent assistance to families with children during crisis situations, Specialised Family-Type Services (family-type homes)</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science :</p> <p>The Social Inclusion Support Program</p> <p>The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs:</p> <p>Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities;</p>

			<p>Support of Youths Deprived of the Family Care and Youths with Special Needs.</p> <p>The National Archive of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia:</p> <p>Beneficial conditions for issuing certificates to persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia:</p> <p>Sustainable Housing Solutions Project</p>
Children deprived of parental care	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Social assistance package, reintegration allowance, foster care.</p>	<p>The Notary Chamber of the Ministry of Justice:</p> <p>Subsidies for residents of the Children's Shelter.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Small Family-type Houses for Children, and the Universal Healthcare Program.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science :</p> <p>Transit Education Program for Homeless Children</p> <p>The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs:</p> <p>Support of Youths Deprived of the Family Care and Youths with Special Needs</p>
Poor families with children	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Subsistence allowance, social assistance package, compensation paid for maternity leave during pregnancy, childbirth, and child care, as well as during adoption of a newborn child, the State Program for Improvement of the Demographic Situation, regression pensions, state compensation, universal subsidy, reintegration allowance and the IDP allowance</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Provision of food for children facing the risk of abandonment, and urgent assistance to families with children during crisis situations</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science :</p> <p>The State Educational Grant and the State Educational Grant for Masters Programs</p> <p>The Notary Chamber of the Ministry of Justice:</p> <p>Assistance to Socially</p>	<p>The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs:</p> <p>Universal Healthcare Program, Daycare Center.</p> <p>The Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice:</p> <p>Free certificates on change of name (for poor families with children whose social rating score does not exceed 57 001), and free IDs (for the families whose social rating score does not exceed 70,001).</p>

		Vulnerable Families The Ministry of Justice Public Service Hall: “Welcome” Program (for families with children whose social rating score is 100 000 or less.) The Ministry of Corrections: Discounts for jail visitation fees for socially vulnerable families	The National Archive of the Ministry of Justice: Beneficial conditions for issuing certificates to socially vulnerable citizens. The Ministry of Corrections: Rehabilitation programs for accused and sentenced persons (psycho-social rehabilitation, vocational training and education courses)
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3.3 Forms of Direct and Indirect Financial Aid Provided at the Central Level and Corresponding Financial Data

At the central level social protection and healthcare policy is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairsⁱⁱ. Legal entity of public law Social Service Agency, which is subordinated to the Ministry, and supports the functioning of the social system and implementation of its programs.ⁱⁱⁱ In parallel with the programs of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the five socially vulnerable target groups of this research also receive assistance from six other ministries.

In order to show the complete picture, below we describe the social assistance programs which are implemented with significant contributions from the following ministries: the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, the Ministry of Corrections (through the Penitentiary Department), the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (through the Service Development Agency, the Notary Chamber, and National Archive), and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

This information was provided to the researcher by the ministries in September–November 2016, while additional information was obtained from their websites and publicly accessible portals (for detailed information please see Bibliography). The following chapter presents more detailed review of the three types of social assistance – direct financial aid, indirect financial aid (subsidy), and services.

3.3.1 Types and Definition of Direct Financial Aid

As already mentioned above, the five target groups receive direct financial aid from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia.

Forms and beneficiaries of the direct financial aid:

- Pensions - financial assistance given to persons who reached the retirement age (for women – from the age of 60, for men – from the age of 65) regardless of whether they belong to a socially vulnerable group. Starting from July 2016 the pension amount equals GEL 180 per month (the State budget of Georgia for 2016, Article 24).^{iv}
- Regression pensions - monthly financial social assistance appointed to those Georgian citizen who were former employees of 100% state owned liquidated enterprises that were located on the

territory of Georgia (with no legal successors), if the employee has a professional disease caused by such employment or if the employee's health was damaged during implementation of official duties or due to the employer's fault.^v

- State compensation – a monetary allowance paid to persons for implementation of special services, after their retirement from the position, retirement due to old age, disability status, or due to the death of a family member or breadwinner.^{vi}
- Household subsidy - monthly monetary allowance to various social categories to meet the needs for subsistence and utilities provided to the following persons: war veterans (GEL 44), participants of World War 2 and persons with equal status (GEL 22), persons recognized as victims of political repression and members of their families (GEL 7) and families receiving pension due to the loss of a breadwinner as a result of the incident at the Chernobyl nuclear electric station (GEL 7).^{vii}
- Social assistance package – a monthly monetary allowance given to persons with disabilities, persons who lost a breadwinner, victims of political repressions, and persons to whom a state compensation was appointed. This allowance is not paid to persons who receive a pension.^{viii}
- Maternity leave compensation paid during pregnancy, childbirth, and child care, as well as during adoption of a newborn child - monetary assistance of maximum total GEL 1000 paid to an employed person during pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare as well as during the child adoption for an employed person.^{ix}
- Reintegration allowance - monetary assistance (the amount of which is set by the Georgian Government) and paid to the biological families of the persons living in specialized institutions in order to support reintegration with their biological families.^x
- Subsistence allowance (TSA Targeted Social Assistance) - monetary social assistance linked to the social rating score and paid to families taking into account the number of family members, including children under 18 years of age. The allowance amount varies from GEL 60 to GEL 100 per family member, depending on their social rating score.^{xi}
- The State Program for Improvement of the Demographic Situation - monetary incentives given to families of newborn children in order to support improvement of the demographic situation in Georgia. Although, there are some eligibility criteria set for this benefit. The program beneficiaries are families of a child/children born after June 1, 2014. The beneficiaries must live in those regions of Georgia where the annual average natural growth indicator was not positive 2 and for 3 years before their child's birth (this indicator is defined by the National Statistics Office of Georgia) and the infant (in case of twins – one of the infants) is the third or following child of the biological mother.^{xii}
- IDP allowance - IDPs are entitled to receive a monthly allowance of GEL 45 per month from the state budget GEL 45, on the condition that the IDP's monthly income does not exceed GEL 1250.^{xiii}

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides the following direct financial aids:

- One-time financial assistance - paid once to IDP families who submit an application for receiving assistance, are in an extremely difficult economic condition and need medical services. Applications and the family's circumstances are assessed by the Commission on IDP Issues which meets once a month.^{xiv}

Direct financial aid provided by both ministries more or less covers all five target groups. For example, the IDP allowance provided by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs is given to corresponding social groups from all five beneficiary categories. Pensions are paid to all target groups, except persons with disabilities and children deprived of parental care. These two categories cannot receive the regression pension either. Compensation covers four target groups, with the exception of children deprived of parental care. Subsidies are provided to three categories, except persons with disabilities and children deprived of parental care. Children deprived of parental care are not eligible for subsistence allowance which covers the other four categories. The social assistance package covers four categories, with the

exception of single elderly persons. Reintegration and foster care allowances cover only two categories. They are children deprived of parental care and poor families with children.

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides direct financial aid to persons with disabilities, single parents and single pensioners (see Letter #04-03/04/23512, dated: 08/09/2016).

In the table given below we attempt to show expenses carried by the ministries for direct financial aid. It should be noted that the information received from the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia for the year 2016 does not include expenses for the fourth quarter, while the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs provided the data for the period including the end of November 2016.

Table # 3: Total Amount of Direct Financial Aid Provided to the five Target Groups in 2014-2016, Calculated Based on the Information Received from the Ministry of Healthcare and its Share in the Central Budget and GDP (%)

	2014	2015	2016
Expenses incurred for direct financial aid (million GEL) ^{xv}	934,237,247	887,873,692	809,166,096
Share in the country's budget	10.4%	9.1%	7.8%
Share in GDP	3.5%	3.0%	2.5%

It should be noted that these expenses do not fully reflect the amounts spent on direct financial aid.

Table # 3 shows the amounts spent on direct financial aid provided to all 5 target groups, namely pensions, compensations, household subsidies, social packages, regression pensions, reintegration allowance, subsistence allowance and IDP monthly allowance.

The Table shows that from 2014-2016 the amount of direct financial aid was reducing. In 2014-2015 the Ministry's direct financial aid expenses reduced by GEL 46.37 million. During the same period the share of the direct financial aid in the country's central budget dropped by 1.2%, and by 0.5% for GDP.

The data provided by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs allowed us to calculate the amount spent by the Ministry on direct financial aid covering all five target groups. The following Table shows the amounts spent by the Ministry on assistance provided to each target group in 2014-2016.

Table # 4: The Total Amount of the Direct Financial Aid Provided by the Ministry to the five Target Groups (the average annual amount paid per person, in thousand GEL).

Social Group	2014	2015	2016
Amounts paid to single pensioners	2,239.51	2,371.40	2,271.45
Amounts paid to single parents	2,037.35	2,154.22	2,026.74
Amounts paid to persons with disabilities	1,931.68	2,104.88	1,807.59
Amounts paid to children deprived of parental care	5,415.44	6,026.15	4,112.64
Amounts paid to socially vulnerable people with children	603,79	655,80	732,09

Table # 4 shows that the financial aid provided to all five target group categories in 2014-2015 increased. The most significant increase was for children deprived of parental care. The amounts spent by the Ministry

on assistance provided to this category increased by GEL 600 in 2015 in comparison to the amount spent in 2014.

As already mentioned, direct financial aid is also provided by the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia. This assistance covers: persons with disabilities, single parents and single pensioners. According to the data provided by the Ministry, one-time financial assistance covers one more beneficiary category, namely “Single Persons” who are neither single parents nor single elderly. This category was recorded separately, because IDPs recorded this status while filling in forms and the Ministry did not check the data. Therefore, IDPs have this status and the Ministry offers them one-time financial assistance (see Letter #04-03/04/23512, dated: 08/09/2016).

Table # 5 Direct financial aid provided by the Ministry in 2014-2016 to the three target group categories

Benefit Form	2014	2015	2016
Total one-time financial assistance (in thousand GEL) ^{xvi}	167,820	144,595	114,695
Average amount per person (GEL) ^{xvii}	625	716	833

Although it also includes the direct financial aid received by single persons”, who are neither single parents nor single elderly. ^{xviii} It is also worth noting that the data does not include the amounts spent on targeted social assistance.

It should be noted that the total number of benefits provided by the Ministry is reducing from year to year but the amount paid to each family is increasing.

The following table shows direct financial aid provided by both ministries. The Table gives us an indication about the trend rather than accurate factual data. Based on the data available it is very difficult to define the exact amount spent by both ministries for social assistance provided to all five target groups.

In order to find out the amount of direct financial aid provided at the central level in 2014-2016, the researcher used the numbers given in tables #3 and #5.

Table # 6: Direct Financial Aid Expenses of Both Ministries

	2014	2015	2016
Total financial assistance provided at the central level (thousand GEL)	934,405,067	888,018,287	809,280,791
Central financial assistance as share of the country's budget (%)	10.3%	9.1%	7.8%
Central financial assistance as share of the GDP (%)	3.2%	3.0%	2.5%

At the central level, the direct financial aid expenses of both ministries are reducing. In 2014-2015 the social assistance amount dropped from GEL 934,4 million to GEL 888,8 million. The incomplete data for 2016 shows that the downward trend continues. The share of the direct financial aid expenses in the country's budget and GDP are also reducing.

3.3.2 Indirect Financial Aid/Subsidy

At the central level the target groups receive indirect financial aid/subsidies from five ministries. The Social Service Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs provides urgent assistance to families with children in crisis situations. More specifically, it implies supplying a family in need with food for children, as well as with accommodation or rent; conducting construction/rehabilitation works of the residential building and supplying with other non-essential items/services. The total sum of provided goods/services should not exceed GEL 1000;^{xxix}

The Ministry also finances preventive measures in support of families. This assistance can be received by socially vulnerable families participating in the reintegration program. However, in order to receive this assistance the family must meet certain eligibility criteria. For example, a family at the moment of applying for a food voucher must be registered in the Database of Socially Vulnerable Families and the family's rating score must be lower than 57 000.^{xxx}

The Ministry also helps families by subsidizing their electricity bills. E.g.: in 2015 the Ministry provided indirect financial aid to more than 1,376 thousand families. The Ministry continued providing this assistance in 2016 and provided subsidies to families up to the amount of GEL 2,984 thousand.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia finances education fees of socially vulnerable populations. The Ministry offers grants to students from families whose social rating score is less than 70 000. The Ministry also provides assistance to students with mild, moderate or severe disabilities. In addition, the grant is given to students who are under the care of the state (providers of caregiver services or in foster care) or were under the care of the state for a minimum of two years and to a maximum of three years ago. Grants in the form of education subsidies are also given to students from families with many children and orphans.^{xxxi} The grant is provided to first year and masters course students. The first program is called the State Educational Grant, while the second program is called the State Educational Grant for Master's Program. The first grant is given for four academic years and the second, for two academic years. The maximum grant amount is GEL 2 250. In 2014 State Educational Grants were given to 1380 students and to 1367 students in 2015. In 2014 and 2015 State Educational Grants for Master's Programs were only given to 142 students.

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides apartment rent subsidies to IDPs. There were 109 families who received rent subsidies in 2014, 153 in 2015 and 127 in 2016 (incomplete data). The Livelihood Agency under the Ministry of IDPs also implements assistance programs for IDPs, which aims to increase access to livelihoods for socially vulnerable families of IDPs. IDPs also benefit from the various programs of the autonomous governments.

The agencies of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia give discounts/exemptions to the target groups of this Research for different types of services. Although it must be noted, that the discounts are also given to other social groups. For example, the Service Development Agency provides the following services to the target groups of this Research:

Table # 7 The types and amounts of services provided by the Ministry of Justice

Services Provided in the Form of Indirect Financial Aid/Subsidy	Estimated Expenses in 2014 (GEL)	Estimated Expenses in 2015 (GEL)	Estimated Expenses in 2016 (GEL)
Judicial recognition of a changed name ^{xxii}	107,730.0 ^{xxiii}	128,760.0 ^{xxiv}	55,500.0 ^{xxv}

Certificate on registration of acts on civil status for submission to the social security authorities. ^{xxvi}	474,0 ^{xxvii}	444,0 ^{xxviii}	70,0 ^{xxix}
Assignment of the status of a person without citizenship based on a request of the guardianship and care authorities ^{xxx}		50 ^{xxxi}	100 ^{xxxii}
Biometric passports/travel documents ^{xxxiii}	4,509,900.0 ^{xxxiv}	4,541,400.0 ^{xxxv}	3,496,300.0 ^{xxxvi}
Electronic ID /certificate on the place of residence ^{xxxvii}	1,580,010.0 ^{xxxviii}	909,420.0 ^{xxxix}	624,780.0 ^{xl}
Electronic ID and certificate on the place of residence ^{xli}	3,240.0 ^{xlii}	3,060.0 ^{xliii}	2,310.0 ^{xliv}
On-site service ^{xlvi}	31,200 ^{xlvi}	33,300 ^{xlvi}	35,200 ^{xlvi}
Total (GEL)	6,232,554	5,616,434	4,214,260

The National Archive of Georgia mainly provides social assistance in the form of free services. The data provided for 2014-2016 shows that the social groups entitled to receive these services at beneficial conditions are persons with disabilities, the socially vulnerable, and pensioners. These three beneficiary categories mainly use the following services: preparation and issuing of certificates on social and legal status, property rights, household membership, education or academic degree, marital status, dekulakization (confiscation of farmers' properties during the communist period) and cooperative membership.

Table # 8. The National Archive's Annual Budget for Indirect Financial Aid, Number of Beneficiaries and Estimated Amount Spent per One Beneficiary in 2014-2016 (as of September 1, 2016).

Social Group	Amount of Indirect Financial Aid (2014-2016)	Number of Beneficiaries in (2014-2016)	Average Amount per Beneficiary in (2014-2016) ⁷
Persons with Disabilities	52,882.0	1,559	34
Socially vulnerable persons	22,709.0	711	32
Pensioners	192,152.8	11,349	17

The data sent by the Notary Chamber for the period 2014 - September 2016, does not clearly emphasize the five target groups of the research. The analysis showed that the Notary Chamber provides indirect financial aid (subsidy) to the following three categories: residents of the children's shelter, elderly persons and socially vulnerable groups. Based on this we can assume that the services provided by the Notary Chamber covers certain categories of the target groups of this research.

⁷ The average amount was calculated by the author.

Table # 9: Types of Indirect Financial Aid/Subsidy⁸ Provided by the LEPL Notary Chamber in 2014-2016 (as of September 2016) to Socially Vulnerable Persons.

Target Group	Benefit/Subsidy	Annual Budget for 2014	Annual Budget for 2015	Annual Budget for 2016
Residents of the Children's Center	Invitation to lunch in McDonald's, transportation of children; tickets to New Year celebration/shows.	631	355	
Residents of Tbilisi Shelter for Elderly	Textiles, household equipment, food products and sanitary products	1,977.2	679	
Elderly people receiving assistance from the International Humanitarian Union Catharsis	Financing of dinner expenses		500	385
Children from Socially Vulnerable Families	Entertainment and free meals at an entertainment center; provision of food and personal items.		475	993,4
Total Allocation		2,608.2	2,009	1,378.4

This data does not provide a full description of the Notary Chamber's indirect financial aid expenses. However, these expenses are not large and cannot significantly influence the target group's welfare. Despite this, we note a downward trend. For example, during the period from 2014 to 2016 this assistance dropped by 50%, from GEL 2,608.2 to GEL 1,378.4.

Project "Welcome" was planned in order to increase public awareness of the Public Service Hall. Within this project, families who have children and whose rating score is 100 000 or lower would receive gift sets when they first apply for a birth certificate. According to the plan this project had to start on October 17, 2016. According to forecasts, the amount allocated for one person would be GEL 57.61, the number of recipients would be 2 500 families and the total annual budget, GEL 144,036.1. It must be noted that this service covers only one target group of this research - poor families with children.

Table #10 Subsidy Amount Allocated for the "Welcome" Project in 2016 (GEL)

Target Group	Benefit Type	Annual Budget for 2016	Expenses per one person/family in 2016	Total number of beneficiaries in 2016
Families with children, whose the rating score is 100 000 or less.	"Welcome" project of the Public Service Hall	144,036.1	57.61	2500

Based on the obtained data it is very difficult to define the exact amount of indirect financial aid received by the five target groups of this research. It is clear that the ministries directly or indirectly cover certain

⁸ It is worth to note that in the information provided by the Ministry of Justice this assistance is mentioned as "Service/Non-Financial Assistance".

target group categories. Despite this, the assistance often has a symbolic nature and cannot significantly influence the welfare of its beneficiaries.

The assistance of the Social Services Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs is vitally important for the beneficiaries. The social assistance of the agencies subordinated to the Ministry of Justice is also important for the target groups to be able to receive benefits from public services. The assistance provided by the Ministry of Education and Science is also important, although it must be extended and become targeted.

3.3.3 Services

Services are provided by seven ministries. The Social Services Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs implements the “Social Rehabilitation and Childcare Program 2016”. This program includes 14 subprograms. Within this program the Ministry covers persons with disabilities, the elderly, children deprived of parental care, socially vulnerable, homeless and children facing the risk of abandonment^{xlix}. Additionally, the Ministry also implements healthcare programs. In total, the Ministry has the following programs:

- **Foster care** - a service that provides for the upbringing of a child in a family for a certain period of time under agreement between the state and a foster family. The reimbursement for foster care is determined based on the child’s health and the condition of the foster family and varies from GEL 15-20 to GEL 200-300 per month.ⁱ
- **Support of war veterans’ rehabilitation** - offers the veterans consultation with medical specialists, physiotherapeutic and laboratory/instrumental examinations, balneological procedures, therapeutic physical training and manual therapy procedures. The above services are provided to persons with disabilities or elderly war veterans, regardless of gender. The service cost per veteran must not exceed GEL 250.^{li}
- **Provision of medical accessories** – this service is a subprogram of the government’s Childcare and Rehabilitation Program 2015. Within the framework of this program the target group can receive hearing devices, wheel chairs, prosthetic orthopedic devices and cochlear implants.^{lii}
- **Support of deaf persons’ communication** - Provision of sign language interpretation service in a minimum of eight regions of Georgia (except Tbilisi)^{liii}.
- **Daycare Center Services** - the aim of the sub-program is to support families belonging to the target group and prevent abandonment of children. Its beneficiaries are children between 6-18 years of age at risk of abandonment who do not fall under the category of children with disabilities and whose families are registered in the “Unified Database of Socially Vulnerable Families”. The rating score for inclusion of a child in a day care center should also not exceed 100 000. This service can be received by children of the above age group who do not fall under the category of the disabled and whose families receive the reintegration allowance.^{liv}
- **Community organizations** - render food supply, skills development and if necessary, medical service to beneficiaries who fall under the category of persons with disabilities above 18 and the elderly (women – above 60, men above 65).^{lv}
- **Shelters for persons with mental disorders** – this program provides daily meals, medical services and rehabilitation for persons with mental disorders.^{lvi}
- **Childcare programs** – this program consists of a number of sub-programs, such as specialised family-type small homes, foster care, child adoption, protection of children from violence, provision of shelters to homeless children, children’s early development and rehabilitation/habilitation of children.^{lvii}
- **Universal Healthcare Program** – the services rendered by the program include planned and emergency ambulatory care, emergency hospital service, planned surgery, chemotherapy, childbirth. The aim of the program is to provide access to medical services to the population of Georgia who have no health insurance.^{lviii}

- **Other healthcare programs** – includes subprograms for persons suffering from drug addiction, diabetes, HIV infection, Hepatitis C”.^{lix}

The information provided by the Ministry only covered expenses for foster care, small family homes and Universal Healthcare Programs, as detailed in Table#11.

Table # 11: The Ministry’s Expenses on Foster Care, Small Family Homes and Universal Healthcare Programs in 2014-2016.

	2014	2015	2016
Services	127,553,369	170,015,332	79,599,815.93

The Ministry’s expenses for three social benefits provided in the form of services in 2014-2015 was increasing. During this period the increase exceeded GEL 42 million, although according to the incomplete data for 2016 the expenses for these services reduced by GEL 90 million compared to the previous year.

At the central level, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia is also actively involved in provision of social assistance services. It implements inclusive education programs for persons with disabilities and special educational needs,^{lx} subsidizes transport costs and offers sign language interpreter services. The Ministry also actively participates in mobility and orientation training and helps with the purchase of adapted educational materials.

Table # 12: Expenses of the Ministry of Education and Science on “Promotion of Inclusive Education at Vocational Education Institutions” in 2014-2016 (in GEL)^{lxi}

Social Assistance Program / Service ^{lxii}	2014	2015	2016
Services provided to persons with disabilities and special educational needs: - Expenses for using transport from home to the vocational education institution and back.	GEL 30.000, average number of beneficiaries – 10.	GEL 30.000, average number of beneficiaries – 10.	GEL 30.000, average number of beneficiaries – 10.
Services provided to persons with disabilities and special educational needs: - Services of sign language translators; - Services of trainers in mobility and orientation; - Purchase of adapted educational materials	GEL 110,000, maximum 60 beneficiaries	GEL 110,000, maximum 60 beneficiaries	GEL 110,000, maximum 60 beneficiaries

The Ministry of Education and Science also provides services to homeless children. This service is provided as a subprogram of the Program “The Second Chance for Education of Children Left Beyond the Learning Process in Georgia” and offers education programs to homeless children.^{lxiii} This program was funded in 2015-2016 and it is planned to continue to be funded in 2017.

Table # 13: Annual Budget (in GEL) and Number of Beneficiaries of the “Transit Education Program for Homeless Children”.

Social Assistance Program	2015	2016
Transit Education Program for Homeless Children: - homeless children (so called “children living and working in the streets)	33,954 Beneficiaries - 23 children	103,620 Beneficiaries - 100 children

The data does not show the amount spent on this service in 2014. However, there was an increasing trend in 2015-2016 both with regard to the beneficiary numbers and spent amounts. Although it should be noted that the information for 2016 is incomplete.

The Ministry also promotes inclusive education in schools of different regions. An evaluation of this program was carried out by the Ministry in 2016.⁹

Table # 14: Social Inclusion Support Subprogram

(the Table includes the data from the 2016 year budget in GEL and the number of beneficiaries.)

Target Group	Budget for 2016	Number of Beneficiaries in 2016
Students of nine education institutions for children with special educational needs.	15,360	163
Students with emotional and behavioral disorders from N15 public school of Samtredia	12,000	13
IDP youths resettled in 2008 from the Liakhvi river valley to the Shaumian village of Marneuli municipality and local Armenian youths.	10,000	120
Roma youths living in different regions of Georgia	17,600	200
Repatriated youths and youths without Georgian citizenship living in different regions of Georgia.	10,000	106
Muslim youths from public school of the Duisi village of Akhmeta municipality.	5,000	50

The above Table does not fully reflect the services provided in the different regions and towns of the country. Despite this, the total data for 2016 shows that expenses are the highest for three programs: the program for Roma youths living in different regions of Georgia, the program for children with special educational needs, and the program for students with emotional and behavioral disorders from N15 public school of Samtredia.

The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs implements social assistance projects. Two target group categories of this research are covered by two of the Ministry’s project programs: “Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities” and “Support of Youths Left without Family care and Youths with Special Needs”. In 2014-2016 this program had six main goals:

⁹ The webpage of the Ministry of Education and Science, 2016, <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=6856&lang=geo> .

- Social integration of persons with disabilities;
- Popularization of sports and healthy lifestyle;
- Creation of motivation for achievements in the field of art and creative work;
- Motivation of talented youths;
- Increase of the Georgian population's knowledge about persons with disabilities;
- Employment of persons with disabilities.

The activities organized within this program for persons with disabilities include sports competitions, healthy lifestyle events, art and cultural events, informal education, special training and other educational activities. These activities include organization of wheelchair basketball games and competitions, rafting, chess, drafts, darts, sailing, running at 30 meter distance, art exhibitions, and informal education. This also includes adaptation of equipment and tools for persons with disabilities, their transportation and participation in international events.

Table # 15: Expenditures of the Project on Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities in 2014-2016 (in GEL)

Social Assistance Program	2014	2015	2016
Program on Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities	100,000	86,338	115,000

The above Table shows that from 2014 to 2016 the budget for this program increased. Despite this, the increase was not consistent across all years. The 2015 year budget was almost GEL 14,000 smaller, while the 2016 year budget was GEL 15,000 bigger than the budget for 2014.

Besides social integration, the Ministry also implements a program to support youth left without family care and youth with special needs. The projects implemented within this program aim to improve youths' different skills. Young people are involved in general education, dancing, sports, cloisonné enamel courses, "life skills" and other courses.

The Ministry also donates books to children's shelters and organizes excursions for young people. Usually these social programs were managed by the Youth Affairs Policy Management Department of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs in 2014-2016. However, some local NGOs and international organizations also participated in their implementation. For example, in 2014 activities were implemented with the help of SOS Children's Village, Caritas Georgia, and My Home. In 2014, the number of the program beneficiaries equaled 150 children, while the total expenses were GEL 30 850. Children from "SOS Children's Village" received 250 books from the "Family Enhancement Project".

In 2015, the Youth Affairs Policy Management Department of the Ministry implemented educational and sports activities for children deprived of parental care. They were delivered with assistance from the following organizations: non-profit organization Student Unity, Caritas Georgia, My Home, SOS Children's Village, Gori Municipality's service provider Society "Biliki" (received 800 books as donation). The LEPL Children and Youth Development Center of the Ministry, NGO Caac Fund organized cloisonné enamel courses for 15 children living in the street. Life skills training was conducted at the World Vision, Bress (in Telavi and Kutaisi) "Abkhazia" and SOS Children's Village shelters. The total expenses of the program equaled GEL 70 625.

These programs continued in 2016. For example, SOS Children's Village, Caritas Georgia, and My Home conducted life skills trainings for 12-18 year old residents of the shelters in Tbilisi. Society "Biliki" carried out the same training in Gori and Khashuri. The same year it was planned to conduct erudition courses for

the same target groups in Tbilisi (SOS Children's Village, Caritas Georgia, and My Home), Gori (Society "Biliki") and Mtskheta municipality villages of Tsilkani and Galavani (Divine Child Foundation of Georgia). In Gori and Kutaisi football training for 120 children aged 7-14 year old was organized by a non-profit organization Healthy Generation. The program „Clothes for Fellow Citizens” started in the capital where any person could bring clothes to a specially selected site. During two years the Ministry has also been implementing a project “Books for Every Village”. This project was funded by the Children and Youth Development Fund of the Ministry. 35 000 books were collected and distributed to up to 200 libraries in different regions of Georgia. In 2016 the Ministry's budget allocation for this activity was GEL 100 000. The budgets of these programs in 2014-2016 are presented in the table below.

Table # 16: Expenses of the Project for Support of Youths Deprived of Parental Care and Youths with Special Needs (2014-2016) (in GEL)

Social Assistance Program / Service	2014	2015	2016
Project for Support of Youths Deprived of Parental Care and Youths with Special Needs	30,850	70,625	100,000

The Table above shows that the allocations for the Project for Support of Youths Deprived of Parental Care were increasing. In 2014-2016 its budget almost tripled.

The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia provides housing to IDPs within the Sustainable Housing Solutions Project. As of September 2016, residential apartments were provided to 9 664 IDPs, although the total number of IDPs entitled to participate in this project is 24 728; that is, only 39% of beneficiaries received apartments.^{lxiv}

The Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Probations of Georgia provides rehabilitation services for accused and sentenced persons. Namely, these services include psycho-social rehabilitation, vocational training, and education courses. The program expenses are given in the Table below.

Table # 17. The Ministry's Expenses on Rehabilitation Programs for Accused and Sentenced Persons (Psycho-Social Rehabilitation, Vocational Training, Education Courses) in 2014-2016^{lxv} (in GEL)

Service	2014	2015	2016 (incomplete data)
Expenses for rehabilitation programs of accused and sentenced persons (psycho-social rehabilitation, vocational training, education courses)	116,891.34	49,053.21	200,000

From 2014 to 2016, budget allocations made for this program increased. However, there is a significant difference between the 2015 and 2016 budget allocations. Unfortunately, the data does not allow us to define which categories of the target group are covered by this program.

3.4 Central Social Assistance Linked to the Social Rating Score

Based on the review of the social assistance programs implemented at the central level, it became clear that social benefits linked to the rating score are provided by three ministries, namely: the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Ministry of Justice of Georgia (see Table #18). The three target groups well covered by this social benefits are: single elderly persons, persons with disabilities and poor families with children.

Based on the rating score, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia provides six types of social benefits to single elderly persons, persons with disabilities and poor families with children. These benefits are: food for children, children's early development programs, community organizations' services for food and shelter, subsistence allowance (financial assistance), daycare center services and food for children at risk of abandonment. The highest rating score threshold for these services is 100 000.

The agencies subordinated to the Ministry of Justice are involved in different social programs. For example, the Public Service Hall was planning to start a program of distributing gift sets to families of newborn children (if the family's rating score was below 100 000). The Public Service Development Center issues certificates free of charge to persons whose rating score does not exceed 70 001. This assistance belongs to the category of subsidies and covers poor families.

The Ministry of Education and Science gives grants to cover education costs of students from those families whose social rating score does not exceed 70 000. It is interesting to note that out of the five social groups covered in this research poor families with children have the highest chance of being beneficiaries of this assistance.

Table # 18: Benefits Provided at the Central Level Based on the Rating Score

Institution	Single Elderly Persons	Persons/Children with Disabilities	Poor Families with Children
The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia	Subsistence allowance - GEL 60 per person if the family's rating score is below 30001; GEL 50 per family member if the family's rating score is above 30001 and below 57001; GEL 40 per family member if the family's rating score is above 57001 and below 60001; GEL 30 per family member if the family's rating score is above 60001 but below 65001;	Subsistence allowance - GEL 60 per person if the family's rating score is below 30001; GEL 50 per family member if the family's rating score is above 30001 and below 57001; GEL 40 per family member if the family's rating score is above 57001 and below 60001; GEL 30 per family member if the family's rating score is above 60001 but below 65001; GEL 10 per child below 16 years of age, if the family's rating score is below 100 001; Children's early development - children from families registered in the Unified Database of Socially Vulnerable Families whose rating score is the lowest as of the application submission date; Community organization – provision of food and housing to families whose rating score does	Subsistence allowance - GEL 60 per person if the family's rating score is below 30001; GEL 50 per family member if the family's rating score is above 30001 and below 57001; GEL 40 per family member if the family's rating score is above 57001 and below 60001; GEL 30 per family member if the family's rating score is above 60001 but below 65001; GEL 10 per child below 16 years of age, if the family's rating score is below 100 001; Daycare Center, if the family's rating score is below 100 001. Provision of food for children facing the risk of abandonment – families with rating score below 57 001 who have children;

	Community organization – provision of food and housing to the families whose rating score does not exceed 57 000 (the beneficiaries are also persons with disabilities);	not exceed 57 000; Urgent assistance to families who have children and are in a crisis situation – a family which is registered in the Unified Database of Socially Vulnerable Families, has a child with disabilities and/or a family which at the moment of applying for food vouchers is registered in the Unified Database of Socially Vulnerable Families and whose social rating score is lower than 65 001 (beneficiaries are also poor families with children).	Urgent assistance to families with children during crisis situations – a family of a child with disabilities and/or a family which at the moment of applying for the food voucher is registered in the Unified Database of Socially Vulnerable Families and whose social rating score is lower than 65 001;
The Ministry of Education and Science			The State Educational Grants and The State Educational Grants for Masters Programs – for students from families whose official rating score is below 70 000.
The Ministry of Justice ^{lxvi}			The Public Service Development Agency issues IDs and/or residence certificates, as well as services for changing the name - socially vulnerable families whose official rating score is below 70 000; Public Service Hall is involved in the Welcome program - Families with children, whose rating score is 100 000 or less.

4. Municipal Social Assistance and its Beneficiaries

4.1 Tbilisi (city)

Population (as of 2014): 1,113,000

Tbilisi (city) Municipality provides 11 types of direct financial aid. This social assistance includes both one-time and monthly financial aid. Namely, one-time financial aid includes newborn child allowances, compensations for damages caused by natural disasters and funerals for war veterans. Monthly allowances are paid to war veterans, persons/children with disabilities, war veterans (in regions) and elderly persons above 100 years of age.

Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided by Tbilisi City Municipality through four subprograms, including subsidies for water supply and other utility services, transport, and food products for socially vulnerable families.

Services are provided by Tbilisi City Municipality by means of 28 subprograms. These services include health diagnostics, rehabilitation and therapeutic services; specifically in the field of drug addiction, hepatitis C, breast cancer, mental health and urgent medical assistance. Additionally, Tbilisi municipality implements health-improving, educational and cultural programs for the poor, persons with disabilities and elderly single persons. (For more details please see Annex #2).

Tbilisi provides social assistance to all five social groups of this research i.e.: single elderly persons (Day Center services), single mothers (child abandonment prevention program), persons/children with disabilities and to poor families with children (mostly in the form of monetary assistance and services). Even though there is no separate category assigned to children deprived of parental care and therefore no corresponding sub-programs, it is clear that this social group is covered by many programs, as shown by the data given in Table N 1.

Eight of all social assistance and healthcare programs implemented by Tbilisi are based on the social rating score. Namely, assistance is provided to persons with disabilities, hepatitis C patients, and families with many children. Furthermore there is a program of homecare services, transport subsidies and assistance for covering expenses of funerals. The data shows that the required rating score is in most cases 70 000 or lower. Despite this, a person is entitled to receive homecare services if the rating score is from 0 to 200 000, while in case of persons with disabilities – from 0 to 150 000 (for additional information please see Appendix N 3).

4.2 Kakheti Region

Administrative center: Telavi (city)

Population(as of 2014): 318 583

Includes the following 9 administrative units: Telavi (city) Municipality, Akhmeta Municipality, Sagarejo Municipality, Telavi Municipality, Gurjaani Municipality, Dedoplistskaro Municipality, Lagodekhi Municipality, Signagi Municipality, and Kvareli Municipality.

Social assistance programs implemented in the Kakheti region are as follows:

1. **Telavi (city) Municipality** provides direct financial aid to persons with disabilities, socially vulnerable population, families with children, war veterans and their funeral ceremonies, compensation of damages caused by natural disasters and celebrations. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for purchase of medicines, financing of soup houses and utility bills for socially vulnerable persons. Services include healthcare programs, healthcare sub-programs, and social protection measures. Single mothers, persons with disabilities and families with children are specifically defined as beneficiary groups.
2. **Akhmeta Municipality** provides direct financial aid for war veterans, compensation of damages caused by natural disasters and socially vulnerable families. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is used to provide free meals for socially vulnerable persons, transport costs and healthcare programs. Services are provided to assist financing of medical treatment of patients and airplane tickets for the Tusheti population. The services presumably cover all target groups, although only socially vulnerable persons/families are defined as a beneficiary group.
3. **Sagarejo Municipality** provides direct financial aid to persons with disabilities, families with children, war veterans and socially vulnerable families. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided to elderly and socially vulnerable persons as free meals at soup houses. Services are provided in the form of healthcare programs. This benefit covers all social groups, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, socially vulnerable families and war veterans.
4. **Telavi Municipality** provides direct financial aid to persons who received workplace injuries, families who lost breadwinners, disabled persons and children, persons impacted by natural disasters, war veterans and socially vulnerable families. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for utility bills and transport costs of socially vulnerable persons, as well as transport costs of renal patients who depend on dialysis. Services cover public healthcare programs, assistance to socially vulnerable population, and provision of temporary housing. Services are provided to war veterans, persons with disabilities, the elderly, persons impacted by natural disasters, families who lost breadwinners, mothers with many children and socially vulnerable persons in general. Specially defined beneficiary groups are single parents, elderly single persons and children deprived of parental care. Despite this, the eligibility criteria of the social and healthcare programs do not exclude the possibility of assistance to other social groups.
5. **Gurjaani Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral costs, families with many children, financial assistance to socially vulnerable persons, compensation of damages of persons impacted by natural disasters and financing of university fees of students. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided by the non-profit organization "Support of Citizens". Services are provided for funerals of those with no relatives, cofinancing of medical services and within healthcare programs in general.
6. **Dedoplistskaro Municipality** provides direct financial aid for socially vulnerable persons and funerals of war veterans. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided in the form of free meals for socially vulnerable persons. Services include healthcare programs.
7. **Lagodekhi Municipality** provides direct financial aid for financing medical services of ill socially vulnerable persons, assistance to socially vulnerable families with children and funeral services. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided in the form of firewood supply and free meals at soup houses. Only IDPs, persons with disabilities and socially vulnerable persons are specifically defined as beneficiaries. Despite this, other target groups of this research also receive benefits even though their categories are not clearly mentioned.
8. **Signagi Municipality** provides direct financial aid to families with children, war veterans and the socially vulnerable. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for free meals and purchase of medicines. Services are provided within healthcare programs. Clearly specified beneficiaries of these programs are single mothers, socially vulnerable families with children, and the elderly.
9. **Kvareli Municipality** provides direct financial aid to families of war veterans (one-time assistance), socially vulnerable families (to improve their living conditions), to families with many children and single parents (monetary assistance). Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided to help purchase medicines and for free meals. Services are provided within healthcare programs. In Kvareli municipality the social groups are not fully covered by social assistance. Target groups of this research are not identified directly, although the eligibility criteria do not exclude them from the

list of possible beneficiaries (for additional information regarding benefits and social groups please see Appendix N 2).

In Kakheti, the forms of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

Of all rural and urban municipalities of Kakheti region, only Telavi municipality did not have any benefits linked to the rating score. Sagarejo municipality has the largest number of benefits linked to the rating score (it is used as one of the criteria of seven assistance programs and mostly varies from 0 to 120 000). Kvareli municipality has only one score-based assistance. In Kakheti, medical services and one-time financial assistance are most frequently linked to the social rating score.

Out of all target groups of this research, single parents and persons with disabilities are specifically defined in Dedoplistskaro and Sagarejo municipalities as beneficiaries of assistance linked to the rating score. Nevertheless, score based benefits are also provided to students who are orphans or come from poor families, as well as to poor families in general.

However, application of the rating scores is not uniform. Municipalities apply different rating scores for the same benefits or beneficiary groups. The eligibility scores vary from 0 to 200 000. For example, the rating score applied in Gurjaani municipality is 160 000 while in Signagi municipality it is 200 000. (For additional information please see Appendix N 3).

4.3 Imereti Region

Administrative center: Kutaisi

Population (as of 2014): 533 906

The administrative units of this region are: Kutaisi (city) Municipality, Chiatura Municipality, Tkibuli Municipality, Tskaltubo Municipality, Bagdati Municipality, Vani Municipality, Zestaphoni Municipality, Terjola Municipality, Samtredia Municipality, Sachkhere Municipality, Kharagauli Municipality, Khoni Municipality and Khobi Municipality.

Social assistance programs implemented in Imereti region are:

1. **Kutaisi (city) Municipality** provides direct financial aid to leukemia and cancer patients (one-time), socially vulnerable persons, persons with disabilities, families with many children, persons with special needs and for ritual services. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for utility bills, improvement of living conditions, gas infrastructure development, and transport costs. Services include healthcare programs, homecare programs and housing for socially vulnerable persons. In Kutaisi the five target groups of the research are almost fully covered. Beneficiaries include children without family care, single pensioners and persons with disabilities.
2. **Chiatura Municipality** provides direct financial aid to persons with work-related injuries (regression pension), families with children, socially vulnerable families, war veterans (covering the 9th of May celebration). In addition, direct financial aid covers funeral costs and compensations to victims of natural disasters. Beneficiaries of indirect financial aid (subsidy) are socially vulnerable citizens, who receive free meals at soup houses. Services are provided to the local population in general, persons and children with disabilities (within healthcare programs) and for persons with health problems. In Chiatura three out of five target groups of this research are specifically defined as beneficiaries. These categories are persons with disabilities, single mothers and the elderly over 100 years of age.
3. **Tkibuli Municipality** provides direct financial aid to fire victims, war veterans, families of soldiers who died defending Georgia, families of newborn children, as well as for covering funeral costs and

assistance within individual programs. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for free meals at soup houses for persons in extreme poverty. Services are provided within the framework of the central healthcare programs and financing of integrated daycare centers. In Tkibuli Municipality only socially vulnerable families are specifically named as beneficiaries of social assistance. Persons with disabilities, the elderly, children deprived of parental care and single elderly persons are not specified as separate beneficiary categories. Nevertheless, the eligibility criteria do not exclude them from the list of possible beneficiaries.

4. **Tskaltubo Municipality** provides direct financial aid for those over 100 years of age, funeral services, incentives for improvement of the demographic situation, and one-time financial assistance. There is no information about any indirect financial aid (subsidy) in Tskaltubo Municipality. Services include central healthcare programs, inclusive centers for children, houses for elderly and cofinancing of medical services, financing of shelters for elderly, and assistance to the victims of fire and other natural disasters.
5. **Bagdati Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral costs, assistance to families of war veterans, one-time assistance for urgent financial needs, assistance to families with children and for compensation for damages caused by natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for free meals. Services are provided within central healthcare programs, as well as cofinancing of medical services provided to socially vulnerable families.
6. **Vani Municipality** provides direct financial aid to finance social activities, families with many children, families who lost breadwinners, children with disabilities, war veterans and those over 100 years of age. Direct financial aid is also provided for damages, one-time assistances to families of newborn children and funeral costs. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for provision of medicines for dialysis program participants and food for persons who do not have caregivers. Services include financing of healthcare infrastructure and the Public Healthcare Center of the municipality.
7. **Zestaphoni municipality** provides direct financial aid for families with children, financing of funeral costs, assistance to families who lost breadwinners, compensation of damages caused by natural disasters, assistance to persons with disabilities and to persons with financial problems. The assistance is also provided to persons injured on the 9th of April. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) includes free meals, medicines for patients with epilepsy and transport costs of patients with renal diseases. Services include the services provided for in the targeted central transfer and financial assistance for medical needs. In Zestaphoni municipality all target groups of this research are identified as social assistance beneficiaries, including single mothers, elderly, persons with disabilities, children deprived of parental care, and poor families with children.
8. **Terjola Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral costs, assistance to persons with disabilities, people left without shelter, families of newborn children, and war veterans, as well as one-time financial assistance to poor people. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for financing free meals. Services include national healthcare programs as well as services of rural out-patient hospitals and cofinancing of healthcare expenses.
9. **Samtredia Municipality** provides direct financial aid for mothers and children, one-time financial assistance (three sub-clauses of which also belong to the “Subsidy” category), funeral costs, financial assistance to war veterans and for celebration of the 9th of May. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for free meals, medicines and apartment rents. Services include healthcare programs and services provided by the non-profit organizations “Support of Citizens” and “Samtredia Municipal Shelter for the Elderly”. In Samtredia social assistance fully covers the beneficiaries, including single elderly persons, single persons (these might be children deprived of parental care), single mothers, persons with disabilities and poor families with children.
10. **Sachkhere Municipality** provides direct financial aid to persons with health problems, persons with disabilities, families with children, persons who suffered damages due to natural disasters, families of war veterans, unemployed persons and persons who lost breadwinners. This aid also covers costs of funerals and celebrations. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is used for payment of apartment rents, free meals and transport costs. Services include financing of integrated day centers and healthcare facilities, social assistance of persons with disabilities and healthcare programs funded by targeted transfers from the central budget. In Sachkhere Municipality, single mothers, single

pensioners, persons with disabilities and socially vulnerable families with children are clearly defined as beneficiary groups.

11. **Kharagauli Municipality** provides direct financial aid to families of newborn children and persons who suffered damages due to natural disasters. Direct financial aid is also provided for funeral services, compensation of damages caused by natural disasters and celebration programs such as the distribution of monetary assistance on the 9th of May. Indirect financial aid (subsidies) are allocated for free meals at soup houses. Services are provided within central healthcare programs, for rehabilitation and equipment for social protection centers. In Kharagauli Municipality the beneficiary groups are clearly defined as children deprived of parental care, single mothers, persons with disabilities and families living in extreme poverty, including poor families with children.
12. **Khoni municipality** provides direct financial aid as one-time assistance to socially vulnerable persons and for payment of funeral costs. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for provision of firewood and covering utility bills of war veterans. Services are allocated as free meals at soup houses, shelters for the elderly and healthcare programs. Beneficiaries are the elderly, families with many children, persons with disabilities, single mothers, and war veterans.
13. **Khobi municipality** provides direct financial aid for covering funeral costs of war veterans, social expenses of World War 2 veterans, incentives for families with many children, one-time assistance to poor families and families of newborn children, persons who suffered damages due to natural disasters, and for improvement of living conditions. Subsidies are allocated for free meals, transport expenses and water supply. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for free meals and transport costs. Services include healthcare services within healthcare programs (for detailed information on benefits and social groups please see Annex N 2).

In Imereti the forms of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

In Imereti social benefits provided by the municipalities are based on the social rating score. An exception is Terjola Municipality, where the rating scores are not used at all in planning social assistance distribution.

In Kutaisi (city) Municipality eight social benefits are linked to the rating score, while four social programs in Vani and Zestaphoni are based on the score. In other municipalities the number of benefits linked to the rating score is considerably smaller.

As for the types of assistance, they are mostly related to improvement of living conditions, services provided within healthcare programs, installation of gas infrastructure, subsidies for utility bills, assistance to families with many children, pharmaceuticals, holiday gift sets and funeral expenses. One-time financial assistance is frequently linked to the rating score. Different municipalities apply different rating scores for the same type of assistance. The scores vary from 0 to 100 000 (for additional information please see Appendix N 3).

4.4 Ajara Autonomous Republic

Administrative center: Batumi (city)

Population (as of 2014): 333 953

The administrative units of this region are: Batumi (city) Municipality, Keda Municipality, Kobuleti Municipality, Khelvachauri Municipality, Shuakhevi Municipality and Khulo Municipality.

Social benefits provided by the municipalities of the Ajara Autonomous Republic are as follow:

1. **Batumi (city) Municipality** provides direct financial aid to children suffering from leukemia and hemodialysis, socially vulnerable persons, families with many children, families of newborn children, and single mothers. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for installation of gas infrastructure, medicines, transport costs, and water supply/sewage bills. Subsidy beneficiaries are persons with disabilities, war veterans, and children deprived of parental care. Regarding services, medical services are provided (funded by transfers from the central budget), as well as allocations for vocational training, night shelters and the promotion of civil organizations.
2. **Keda Municipality** provides direct financial aid for celebrations and funeral ceremonies, assistance to families with newborn children or many children, and persons who suffered damages due to natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for roof installation, medicine, transport and free meals. Keda municipality finances ambulance services as well as arrangement/maintenance of medical institutions.
3. **Kobuleti Municipality** provides direct financial aid for damages caused by natural disasters, newborn children, families with many children, orphans who lost both parents, extremely poor families of deceased persons, war veterans and families of soldiers killed in battle. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free meals, transport benefits, installation of gas infrastructure, and free food packages. Services include medical services and their financing.
4. **Khelvachauri Municipality** provides direct financial aid to phenylketonuria patients, families of newborn children, persons who suffered damages due to natural disasters, socially vulnerable families in case of death of a family member, mothers with many children, families with many children, orphans who lost both parents, war veterans and families soldiers killed in battle. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free meals at soup houses, transport and medicines. Services include implementation of homecare and healthcare programs for socially vulnerable persons and persons with special needs.
5. **Shuakhevi Municipality** provides direct financial aid to children who lost both parents, families of soldiers who died in battle, families with many children or newborn children, war veterans. A one-time direct allowance is provided to extremely poor families, to finance funeral costs, and provide single daily free meals. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) finances medicines, transport costs and roof repair. Services include installation of honors boards for soldiers killed in battle, financing of service centers and medical institutions.
6. **Khulo Municipality** provides direct financial aid to war veterans and families soldiers killed in battle, extremely poor families, families with newborn children, poor families with young children, orphans who lost both parents, families with many children, oncological patients (one-time assistance), and persons who suffered damages due to natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers transport costs, free meals at soup houses, pharmaceuticals, materials for house renovations, and children's rehabilitation courses. Services include medical services provided within healthcare programs (for detailed information on the benefits and social groups please see Annex N 2).

In Ajara Autonomous Republic, the forms of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

Among urban and rural municipalities of Ajara Autonomous Republic, the social rating score is applied by Batumi City Municipality to six types of social benefits and to 5 types of social benefits by Kobuleti Municipality. In both municipalities the required rating score varies from 0 to 70 000.

Mostly score based social benefits are one-time financial assistance for families below the poverty level and healthcare programs. It is important to mention that benefits also include assistance for funeral services, installation of gas infrastructure, and cofinancing of roof repair. The rating score is also used for assistance to families with many children.

Out of the five target groups of this research only single elderly and persons with disabilities are mentioned among beneficiaries. Despite this, the eligibility criteria do not excluded other target groups. The lowest rating score used by all municipalities of the Ajara Autonomous Republic is 0, while the highest is 200,000 (applied by Kobuleti municipality) (for additional information please see Appendix N 3).

4.5 Guria Region

Administrative center: Ozurgeti

Population (as of 2014): 113 350

The administrative units of this region are: Ozurgeti (town) Municipality, Ozurgeti Municipality, Lanchkhuti Municipality and Chokhatauri Municipality.

In Guria, social assistance provided by its municipalities is:

1. **Ozurgeti (town) Municipality** provides direct financial aid to families with many children, orphans who lost both parents, families of newborn children, war veterans, IDPs, the elderly, persons living in extreme poverty, blind persons, and persons suffering from renal disease. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers transport costs, free meals, utility bills and apartment rents. Services include public healthcare programs, urgent medical assistance, funeral costs for war veterans, promotion of gender equality projects, medical tests for hepatitis C patients, medical services to persons living in poverty, and social protection of persons with health problems. In the Municipality of Ozurgeti (town) specially defined beneficiary groups are persons with disabilities and families with children. Despite this, the eligibility criteria for the above do not exclude the other target groups of this research.
2. **Ozurgeti District Municipality** provides direct financial aid to blind persons, orphans who lost both parents, and families with many children, as well as for improvement of living conditions of citrus farmers, payment of compensation to families who suffered damages due to natural disasters, and financing of social events and funerals. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated to provide medicines, medical tests for patients suffering from hepatitis C, assistance to patients suffering from renal disease, leukemia or oncological diseases, and assistance to IDPs.
3. **Lanchkhuti Municipality** provides direct financial aid to persons over 100 years old, families of soldiers killed in battle, war veterans and families with many children. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers transport costs of students from high mountain areas, medical services, free meals, and provision of firewood for IDPs. Services provided include financing of the “Club for Winner Women” and costs of apartments for specialists invited to medical institutions. In Lanchkhuti Municipality specially defined beneficiary groups are: elderly persons, children deprived of family care, persons with disabilities and poor families with children. Although, service benefits are not extended to single elderly persons.
4. **Chokhatauri Municipality** provides direct financial aid for social protection of families and children, IDPs (part of this assistance belongs to the “Subsidy” category, e.g.: provision of firewood), families of soldiers who died in the fight for the territorial integrity of Georgia, funeral services, and compensation of damages caused by natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers the provision of firewood to IDPs. Services are provided within healthcare programs as well as cofinancing of medical services. In Chokhatauri Municipality specially defined beneficiary groups are: elderly, families with children and persons with disabilities. Despite this, the eligibility criteria for the above does not exclude the possibility of covering other target groups (for detailed information on the benefits and social groups see Annex 2).

In Guria region, the forms of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

Not all of the rural and urban municipalities of Guria link different social protection and healthcare benefits to the rating score. For example, in order to provide assistance for medical treatment within the hepatitis C program, assistance for families with many children and war veterans, Lanchkhuti municipality requires applicants to bring an abstract from the register showing their rating score. However, the eligibility rating score was not specified in the information provided. In Guria, Ozurgeti municipality has the highest number of social benefits (seven) linked to the rating score. The rating score threshold varies from 100 000 to 150 000.

In Guria's municipalities, benefits linked to the rating score are mostly related to the healthcare services and also covers purchase of medicines and financial assistance to poor families. The rating scores are also used to provide assistance to vulnerable persons suffering from different diseases and to poor families with many children. Despite the fact that our target groups are not specified among the beneficiaries of the score based benefits, this does not mean that they do not receive the social assistance. The eligibility criteria for the above social assistance do not exclude the possibility that it covers other target groups. (For additional information please see Appendix N 3)

4.6 Samegrelo – Zemo Svaneti Region

Administrative center: Zugdidi

Population (as of 2014): 330 761

The administrative units of this region are: Zugdidi (town) Municipality, Zugdidi Municipality, Poti (city), Abasha Municipality, Martvili Municipality, Mestia Municipality, Senaki Municipality, Chkhorotsku Municipality, Tsalenjikha Municipality and Khobi Municipality.

In Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, social assistance provided by its municipalities is as follows:

1. **Zugdidi (town) Municipality** provides direct financial aid to IDPs, to families who suffered damages due to natural disasters, families who lost breadwinners, socially vulnerable persons on certain special occasions only, vulnerable families, war veterans and families with children. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free meals at soup houses, apartment rents and medicines. Services include healthcare programs, "Comfortable Social Housing" and different social programs. In this municipality specially defined beneficiary groups are: children deprived of parental care, including orphans, single elderly persons, single mothers, persons/children with disabilities, and poor families with children.
2. **Zugdidi District Municipality** provides direct financial aid for the elderly, war veterans, families with children, rehabilitation programs for persons with disabilities, families who lost breadwinners, celebration events, and IDP allowances. The municipality has a program of "Assistance to Persons who Suffered damages due to Different Reasons" and the IDP Support Program within which it provides direct financial assistance. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided to the population of the Church village, students from extremely poor families, transport costs of renal patients who depend on dialysis and to citrus farmers during harvest. Services include cofinancing of programs provided by different organizations to improve living conditions of the socially vulnerable and poor families, housing programs for homeless persons and persons living in extremely bad conditions, medical assistance programs, healthcare services and other activities. In Zugdidi Municipality specially defined beneficiary groups are: persons with disabilities, single mothers, single elderly persons and poor families with children.
3. **Poti City Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral costs, single mothers, families of the persons who died during the military conflict with Russia in August 2008, war veterans, poor families, blind persons families with newborn infants, families with many children (monthly allowance), families with five or more children and celebrations. This municipality also provides one-time direct financial assistance to its population. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers transport costs, free meals and medicines. Services include healthcare programs, children's center services, rehabilitation assistance and financing of the medical test center in Poti.
4. **Abasha Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral costs, assistance to orphans, war veterans, families with many children and families damaged during fires. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free meals and transport costs. Services include healthcare programs and expenses for renovation of the medical center.

5. **Martvili Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families of newborn children, funeral costs, orphans, families with many children, the extremely poor (in the form of one-time assistance), persons over 100 years of age, war veterans (on the 9th of April and 9th of May), and persons who suffered damages as a result of fire. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for one-time financial assistance of persons damaged as a result of fire, earthquake or other natural disaster. It should be noted that this assistance does not cover any of the target groups of this research. Services are provided within the framework of healthcare programs. Beneficiaries of Martvili Municipality's social assistance are poor families, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and orphans.
6. **Mestia Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families with children, persons damaged as a result of natural disaster, war veterans, the elderly, families who lost breadwinners and one-time financial assistance to poor families. Services are provided within the framework of healthcare programs. Beneficiaries of Mestia Municipality's social assistance are the elderly, poor families with children, and persons with disabilities. Mestia Municipality does not provide indirect financial aid.
7. **Senaki Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families of those who died during the military conflict with Russia in 2008, the elderly, persons with disabilities, orphans, families with many children, damages caused by fire, celebrations, programs for children with rare diseases, programs for stimulation of birth rates, individual assistance programs and funeral services. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers transport costs of renal patients who depend on dialysis and provision of construction materials for socially vulnerable families. Services include preventive medical tests for school students, financing/cofinancing of medical treatment and caregiving services at the social adaptation network.
8. **Chkhorotsku Municipality** provides direct financial aid for compensation of damages, one-time financial assistance to families in extreme poverty, improvement of living conditions of poor families, and elderly persons over 100 years of age. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free meals and shelters for homeless persons. Services include shelters, cofinancing of medical services, and healthcare programs.
9. **Tsalenjikha Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families of war veterans, compensation of damages caused by natural disasters, families with many children, funeral costs and one-time assistance to socially vulnerable families. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free meals. Services include healthcare programs and supporting of Veterans Council's activities. Beneficiaries of the social assistance provided by Tsalenjikha Municipality are: persons with disabilities, pensioners, and poor families with children.
10. **Khobi Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral costs of war veterans and IDPs, social expenses for participants of World War 2 and persons damaged as a result of the incident at the Chernobyl nuclear electric station, one-time financial assistance to families with four or more children, orphans, elderly persons over 100 years of age, and families of newborn children. Khobi Municipality also provides one-time financial assistance to persons living in extreme poverty, persons damaged as a result of fire or natural disasters, and to help improve social or living conditions. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers transport costs, social assistance to persons with health problems, free meals for the extremely poor, homecare services for the elderly, and the water bills of socially vulnerable persons. Services include healthcare programs. (For detailed information on the benefits and social groups please see Annex 2).

In Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region the types of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

Not all of the social assistance programs implemented by the rural and urban municipalities of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti are linked to a rating score. E.g.: social assistance provided by Poti (city), Chkhorotsku and Tsalenjikha municipalities is not based on the social rating score. The majority of other municipalities has one or two benefits linked to a rating score, with the exception of Zugdidi Town Municipality, which uses the rating score as an eligibility criterion for eight benefits. The required score varies from 65 000 to 100 00. (For additional information please see Annex 3).

4.7 Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Region

Administrative center: Ambrolauri (town)

Population(as of 2014): 32 089

The administrative units of this region are: Ambrolauri (town) Municipality, Ambrolauri Municipality, Lentekhi Municipality, Oni Municipality and Tsageri Municipality.

In Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti the social assistance provided by its municipalities is:

1. **Ambrolauri (town) Municipality** provides direct financial aid to elderly persons (90 years old and above), war veterans, children deprived of parental care, children facing the risk of abandonment, families who lost the breadwinner, families with many children, persons with disabilities, families of newborn children, for compensation of damages caused by fire, and costs of funeral services. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for a single daily free meal, payment of apartment rents and utility bills and assistance with firewood. Services are provided within the framework of healthcare programs.
2. **Ambrolauri District Municipality** provides direct financial aid for people affected by natural disasters, and social protection of families, children, IDPs and war veterans. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for transport services and free meals. Services include the programs of the Public Healthcare Center and out-patient services.
3. **Lentekhi Municipality** provides direct financial aid for persons with disabilities, persons damaged as a result of fire, war veterans, persons with disabilities, the elderly, families with many children, funeral costs and social assistance to families and children. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers sanitary-epidemiological supervision and public healthcare. Services are provided through healthcare programs.
4. **Oni Municipality** provides direct financial aid for persons with disabilities, families with many children, funeral costs, persons suffering from damages caused by natural disasters, celebration programs, families of persons with disabilities (one-time financial assistance), the elderly over 100 years of age, and families living near the border of the occupied territories. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided to cover transport costs of students and the general population. Services include healthcare programs and social assistance to those with health problems.
5. **Tsageri Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral costs, the 9th of May celebration and social protection of mothers and children. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free meals. Services include public healthcare services. (For detailed information on the benefits and social groups please see Annex 2).

In the Racha-Lechkhumi region, the types of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

Of all the municipalities of Racha-Lechkhumi and Zemo Swaneti region, Lentekhi Municipality does not have any types of social assistance linked to a rating score. Oni and Tsageri Municipalities have two score based social benefits. In the municipalities that apply the rating score, it varies between 65 000 and 100 000.

Mostly rating score thresholds are set for those receiving one-time financial assistance, free meals, apartment rent subsidies, firewood and financing for diagnostic medical services. The target groups of this research are not listed as beneficiaries of social score based assistance, although this does not mean they are excluded (for additional information please see Annex 3).

4.8 Samtskhe-Javakheti Region

Administrative center: Akhaltsikhe

Population (as of 2014): 160 504

The administrative units of this region are: Akhaltsikhe (town), Akhaltsikhe Municipality, Adigeni Municipality, Aspindza Municipality, Akhalkalaki Municipality, Borjomi Municipality and Ninotsminda Municipality.

In Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, social assistance provided by its municipalities is:

1. **Akhaltsikhe (town) Municipality** provides direct financial aid for persons with disabilities, funeral costs, families of newborn children, compensation of damages caused by fire and war veterans (on the 9th of May). Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for transport, food and hygiene products. Services include financing of the Charity House and medical assistance programs.
2. **Akhaltsikhe District Municipality** provides direct financial aid to the elderly over 100 years of age, families of newborn children, families who suffered damages as a result of fire or landslide, families of soldiers killed in battle, persons with disabilities and finance funeral costs. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided to supply construction materials and firewood. Services include medical services and social assistance at schools.
3. **Adigeni Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families of newborn children, World War 2 veterans (on the 9th of May), funeral costs, one-time financial assistance to IDPs, families of soldiers killed in battle, families with many children and social assistance to socially vulnerable families in general. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for medicines. Services include financing of the Integration Center for children with disabilities and public healthcare services.
4. **Aspindza Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families of newborn children, funeral costs, and assistance to socially vulnerable groups. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for free meals. Services include healthcare programs, as well as financing of the Center of Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
5. **Akhalkalaki Municipality** provides direct financial aid for World War 2 veterans on the 9th of May, disabled war veterans, funeral costs of war veterans, families of war veterans and families of newborn children. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for education fee discounts for students from families with many children and for purchase of medicines. Services include healthcare programs, costs for surgery and medical treatment.
6. **Borjomi Municipality** provides direct financial aid for orphans (up to 18 years of age), families of newborn children, soldiers killed in battles for the territorial integrity of Georgia, funeral costs of war veterans, and other social assistance. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) helps socially vulnerable families purchase medicines, covers housing for persons who suffered from damages caused by natural disasters and the financing of soup kitchens. Services are provided to cover the costs of hospital treatment for socially vulnerable persons, assistance to distinguished persons and families with many children, compensations for persons who suffered from damages caused by natural disasters, operations on extinguishing forest fires and expenses related to healthcare programs. Borjomi municipality provides social assistance to all five target groups of this research.
7. **Ninotsminda Municipality** provides direct financial aid to orphans, persons with disabilities, families of war veterans (to cover funeral costs of war veterans), families with many children, families with children, and socially vulnerable families (one-time financial assistance). Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided to finance music and sports classes for children from poor families, purchase fuel for poor families, fund student grants and apartment rents. Services include healthcare programs. (For detailed information on the benefits and social groups please see Annex 2).

In Samtskhe-Javakheti region the types of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

Of all rural and urban municipalities of Samtskhe-Javakheti Region only Adigeni and Aspindza municipalities do not have any social benefits linked to a social rating score. Among the remaining municipalities, Ninotsminda has the largest number of score based social benefits. In Ninotsminda Municipality the social rating score is used as an eligibility criterion for seven social benefits and the threshold varies from 57 000 to 150 000. Akhalkalaki Municipality has four score based social benefits, followed by Borjomi Municipality, which has two and Akhaltsikhe (town) (one).

In the municipalities of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region, beneficiaries of score based social assistance are persons with disabilities, single pensioners, and orphans who lost both parents. As for social assistance types, most of the social benefits in this region are provided for medical services and pharmaceuticals. Other types of social assistance include one-time financial assistance, provision of medicines, single daily free meal, improvement of living conditions, and financing of university fees and apartment rents for students.

In Samtskhe-Javakheti the rating score thresholds set for the same types of assistance differ between municipalities. For example, they vary from 65 000 to 90 000 in Akhalkalaki Municipality to a maximum 150 000 in Ninotsminda Municipality. (For additional information please see Annex 3).

4.9 Kvemo Kartli Region

Administrative center: Rustavi (city)

Population (as of 2014): 423 986

The administrative units of this region are: Rustavi (city) Municipality, Bolnisi Municipality, Gardabani Municipality, Dmanisi Municipality, Tetritskaro Municipality, Marneuli Municipality and Tsalka Municipality.

In Kvemo Kartli, social assistance provided by its municipalities is as follows:

1. **Rustavi (city) Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral services, assistance to elderly, families with many children, families of war veterans, and students. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for persons with disabilities, compensation of housing costs, provision of medicines, transport costs, free meals and utility bills. Services include support of persons with disabilities, financing of the charity house for elderly and healthcare programs. Beneficiaries of social assistance provided by Rustavi (city) Municipality cover the following target groups of this research: persons with disabilities, elderly and socially vulnerable families with children.
2. **Bolnisi Municipality** provides direct financial aid for persons with disabilities and single disabled persons, reintegrated children, sportsman and students, war veterans, poor persons (in the form of one-time assistance), funeral services, and persons who suffered damages due to natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is for payment of apartment rents, transport costs, discounts for utility services and provision of medicines. Services include healthcare programs, financing of the charity house, medical treatment in hospitals, diagnostic medical examination in out-patient medical institutions and financing of the Day Center for the elderly. In Bolnisi Municipality two target groups of this research are specified as beneficiaries of social assistance. These are the elderly and persons with disabilities. Although single parents and children deprived of parental care are not mentioned among beneficiaries, it is possible that they receive social assistance.
3. **Gardabani Municipality** provides direct financial aid to cover funeral costs of war veterans and for social assistance to socially vulnerable persons (including war veterans). Indirect financial aid is provided to persons who depend on dialysis and transport benefits for teachers. Services include healthcare programs, assistance programs for children and parents, cofinancing of medical

expenses, and financing of surgery. Information provided by Gardabani Municipality was not clear if the target groups of the research are beneficiaries of the social assistance they provide (see Comment made on Gardabani Budget in Annex 2).

4. **Dmanisi Municipality** provides direct financial aid for covering funeral costs of war veterans. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) covers free transport. Services include financing of the healthcare center, charity house and medical tests. Due to very limited information, it is difficult to say which of the target groups of this research are beneficiaries of social assistance provided by this municipality.
5. **Tetritskaro Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families who've lost breadwinners, war veterans, IDPs, funeral costs and damages caused by natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for social protection of elderly people (mainly free meals). Services include medical services for persons with disabilities and maternity patients, as well as central healthcare programs. The social assistance provided does not cover all five target groups of this research, with the beneficiaries only the elderly and persons with disabilities. It is worth noting that Tetritskaro Municipality apply very strict criteria. For example, the beneficiaries included in the categories of "persons with disabilities" and "single elderly" are only those persons who are able to access all three types of benefits. The remaining three target groups receive only direct financial aid and are able to access the services provided.
6. **Marneuli Municipality** provides direct financial aid to help improve living conditions for poor persons (this assistance can also be provided as a subsidy, although in the municipal budget it is included only in the "Monetary Assistance" category), for funeral services, and for welfare assistance to children and families. Information provided by the municipality makes it difficult to identify indirect financial aid. Services include healthcare programs and medical services.
7. **Tsalka Municipality** provides direct financial aid for the elderly over 100 years of age, families of soldiers killed in war, poor families, persons impacted by natural disasters and funeral services. Information provided by the municipality make it difficult to identify indirect financial aid. Services are provided through healthcare programs with their beneficiaries being the elderly and persons with disabilities who depend on dialysis. (For detailed information on the benefits and social groups please see Annex 2).

In Kvemo Kartli, the types of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

Kvemo Kartli municipalities actively use the rating score for planning and implementing social assistance and healthcare programs.

Bolnisi Municipality applies the social rating score for 12 social benefits. The required threshold varies from 65 000 to 100 000. Marneuli Municipality uses the social rating score as an eligibility criterion for 10 social assistance programs. The threshold varies from 0 to 120 000. Tetritskaro Municipality uses the social rating score as an eligibility criterion for six social assistance programs. The required threshold varies from 65 000 to 100 000. Tsalka Municipality uses the social rating score as an eligibility criterion for six social assistance programs. The required threshold varies from 65 000 to 150 000.

In Kvemo Kartli rating scores are most frequently used as criteria for medical services and one-time monetary assistance. Score-linked benefits are also given to students who are orphans or come from poor families. Bolnisi municipality provides some benefits, which are linked to scores assigned to the population in 2015-2016. This municipality also provides finance services such as speech therapist's assistance and treatment of psoriasis patients.

Of all socially vulnerable target groups of this research, the elderly and disabled persons are the most frequently defined beneficiary categories in Kvemo Kartli (for example, in Rustavi city and Bolnisi). Marneuli municipality defines single mothers as a category in the beneficiary list. Furthermore, IDPs and war veterans are often beneficiaries of different types of social assistance, including the score-linked benefits.

Kvemo Kartli municipalities apply different rating scores for the same types of benefits or the same target groups. The scores start from 0 and are the highest in Tsakla and Rustavi (city) (up to 150 000) and Marneuli (up to 120 000) municipalities. (For additional information please see Annex 3).

4.10 Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region

Administrative center: Mtskheta (town)

Population (as of 2014): 94 573

The administrative units of this region are: Mtskheta (town), Mtskheta Municipality, Dusheti Municipality, Tianeti Municipality and Kazbegi Municipality.

In the Mtskheta Municipality Region, social assistance provided by its municipalities is as follows:

1. **Mtskheta (town) Municipality** provides direct financial aid for socially vulnerable persons (one-time financial assistance) and funeral costs of war veterans. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for construction materials, firewood, free meals for persons left without care, and food packages for families with many children. Services include assistance through the Healthcare Center, medical services, isolation of stray dogs, and assistance to the Investment and Humanitarian Project Union of Mtskheta.
2. **Mtskheta District Municipality** provides direct financial aid for families with many children, funeral costs, one-time social assistance and transport costs of renal patients who depend on dialysis. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for social protection of families and children. Services include financing of local regional development centers, healthcare programs and surgery.
3. **Dusheti Municipality** provides direct financial aid for IDPs, socially vulnerable families (one-time financial assistance), employees who are on sick leave, funeral services and for compensation of damages caused by natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) includes free meals, medicines and transport benefits for students. Services include financing of the Social Center, support to the Regional Agency, financing of healthcare expenses and healthcare programs.
4. **Tianeti Municipality** provides direct financial aid to socially vulnerable families and children and for funeral services. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided in the form of free meals. Services include healthcare programs.
5. **Kazbegi Municipality** provides direct financial aid for compensation of damages caused by natural disasters, persons with disabilities, funeral costs of war veterans and social protection of children and families (one-time monetary assistance). Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for social protection of persons with health problems. Services include healthcare services and social protection of persons with health problems (for detailed information on the benefits and social groups please see Annex 2). It should be noted, that the expenses carried for social protection of persons with health problems are covered by the municipality from the budgets allocated for indirect financial assistance and services.

In Mtskheta-Mtianeti the types of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

With the exception of Mtskheta District and Kazbegi Municipalities, all other municipalities of Mtskheta-Mtianeti apply social rating score for planning their social assistance programs, although they do this only for one or two social assistance programs. For example, the Mtskheta (town) and Tianeti municipalities have one type of benefit linked to the rating score, while Mtskheta and Dusheti municipalities have two. Most of the score linked benefits belong to the category of one-time financial assistance. Dusheti municipality has an assistance program (subsidy) that provides medicines, which is also linked to the rating score. The required rating score varies from 0 to 100 000. The highest rating score applied in Mtskheta-Mtianeti municipalities is 100 000.

In Mtskheta-Mtianeti none of the socially vulnerable groups targeted by this research is defined as a beneficiary group of score-linked benefits. Yet, the eligibility criteria does not exclude the possibility that these groups are covered. This is because persons who are socially vulnerable and registered in their municipality, have social rating scores and can apply for social assistance. (For additional information please see Annex 3).

4.11 Shida Kartli Region

Administrative center: Gori

Population(as of 2014): 263 382

The administrative units of this region are: Gori (city), Gori Municipality, Kaspi Municipality, Kareli Municipality and Khashuri Municipality.

In the Shida Kartli Region social assistance provided by its municipalities is as follows:

1. **Gori (city) Municipality** provides direct financial aid for persons with disabilities, families with many children, orphans, funeral services, students, persons who suffered as a result of fire or natural disaster, families of war veterans, single mothers, families living below the poverty level (one-time financial assistance in winter), homeless people and families in extreme hardship. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for financing the needs of victims of violence, cofinancing construction of condominium apartment blocks, and provision of free medicines. Services include healthcare services, rehabilitation and social support projects. Three target groups of this research are beneficiaries of social assistance provided this municipality. These are persons with disabilities, single mothers and poor families.
2. **Gori District Municipality** provides direct financial aid to single mothers (one-time assistance), reintegrated youths (one-time assistance), families of war veterans, the elderly over 100 years of age, orphans, families with many children, students and sportsmen. Additionally, direct financial aid is provided funeral services and compensation of damages caused by natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated for apartment rents, expenses for medicines and firewood supply. Services include healthcare programs and cofinancing of the rehabilitation program. In Gori Municipality the groups clearly identified as beneficiaries are single mothers, the elderly, families with children and persons with disabilities.
3. **Kaspi Municipality** provides direct financial aid in the form of one-time allowances for compensation of damages caused by natural disasters and funeral services of war veterans, as well as in the form of monthly pensions paid to persons who receive injuries caused by an industrial accident. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is used to provide firewood and for utility bills. Services include healthcare programs.
4. **Kareli Municipality** provides direct financial aid for funeral services and compensation of damages caused by natural disasters. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is provided for free meals, firewood, and electricity and water bills. Services include cofinancing of healthcare programs for families with children and healthcare programs in general.
5. **Khashuri Municipality** provides direct financial aid for the elderly over 100 years of age, compensation of damages caused by natural disasters, war veterans, funeral services, and those who receive injuries caused by an industrial accident. Indirect financial aid (subsidy) is allocated to provide housing, transport discounts, free meals, firewood and creation of basic living conditions for IDPs. Services include healthcare programs and free services to art school students. For detailed information on the benefits and social groups please see Annex 2).

In Shida Kartli, the types of social assistance linked to the rating scores are as follows:

In Shida Kartli all municipalities apply the social rating score as one of the eligibility criteria for social and healthcare assistance programs. Khashuri municipality has the biggest number of score-linked benefits. Eleven types of social assistance are provided based on the rating score. The required threshold varies from 0 to 100 000 and from 70 000 to 150 000. The municipalities of Gori (city) and Gori District provide eight types of social assistance based on the rating score. In Gori (city) Municipality the rating score threshold required for receiving benefits varies from 0 to 65 000 or from 0 to 100 000, while in Gori district municipality it varies from 0 to 47 000 or from 0 to 70 000).

In Shida Kartli, social rating scores are most frequently used as criteria for medical services and one-time monetary assistance. They are also used for provision of firewood in winter, and assistance to students, sportsmen and IDPs.

In Shida Kartli only Gori (city) Municipality provides score based social assistance to two target groups of this research. They are the elderly with the status of single pensioners and single mothers. In Gori and Khashuri municipalities persons with disabilities are defined as a separate beneficiary category.

In Shida Kartli, the rating score threshold required by municipalities for receiving the benefits starts from 0. Khashuri municipality has the highest rating score threshold of 150 000. (For additional information please see Annex 3).

4.12 Municipal Budgets for Different Types of Social Assistance

In order to define the share of social programs in the municipal budgets, the researcher studied the total budgets of 71 municipalities for 2014-2016 and the healthcare and social protection budgets of municipalities for the same period.

After adding together the total budgets of 71 municipalities and calculating the share of social and healthcare program expenses in the total budgets, it became clear that in 2014-2016 the share of social and healthcare program expenses in the total budget of 71 Georgian municipalities reduced by approximately 1%.

Chart # 5: 71 The Total Budget of 71 Municipalities in 2014 and the Share of Social and Healthcare Programs

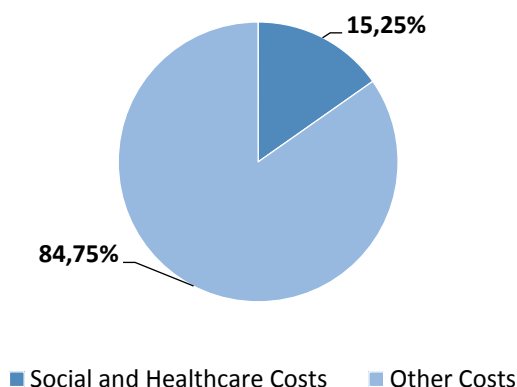
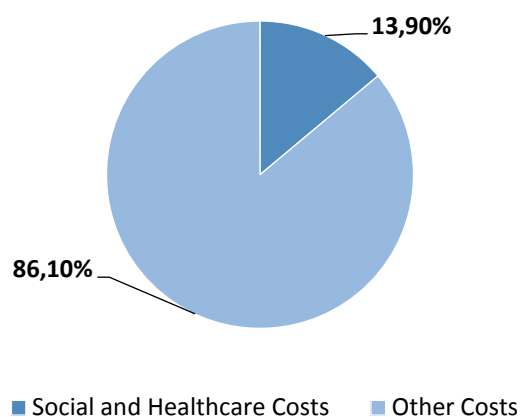
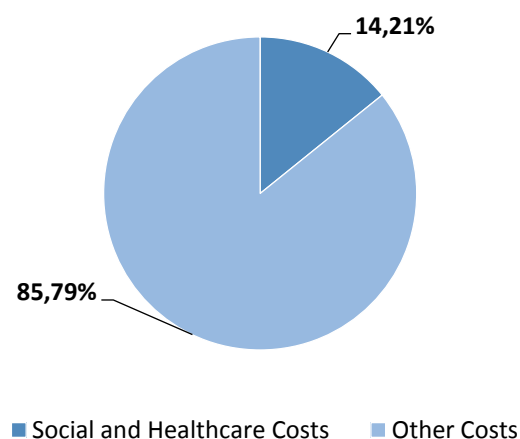


Chart # 6: The Total Budget of 71 Municipalities in 2015 and the Share of Social and Healthcare Programs**Chart # 7: The Total Budget of 71 Municipalities in 2016 and the Share of Social and Healthcare Programs**

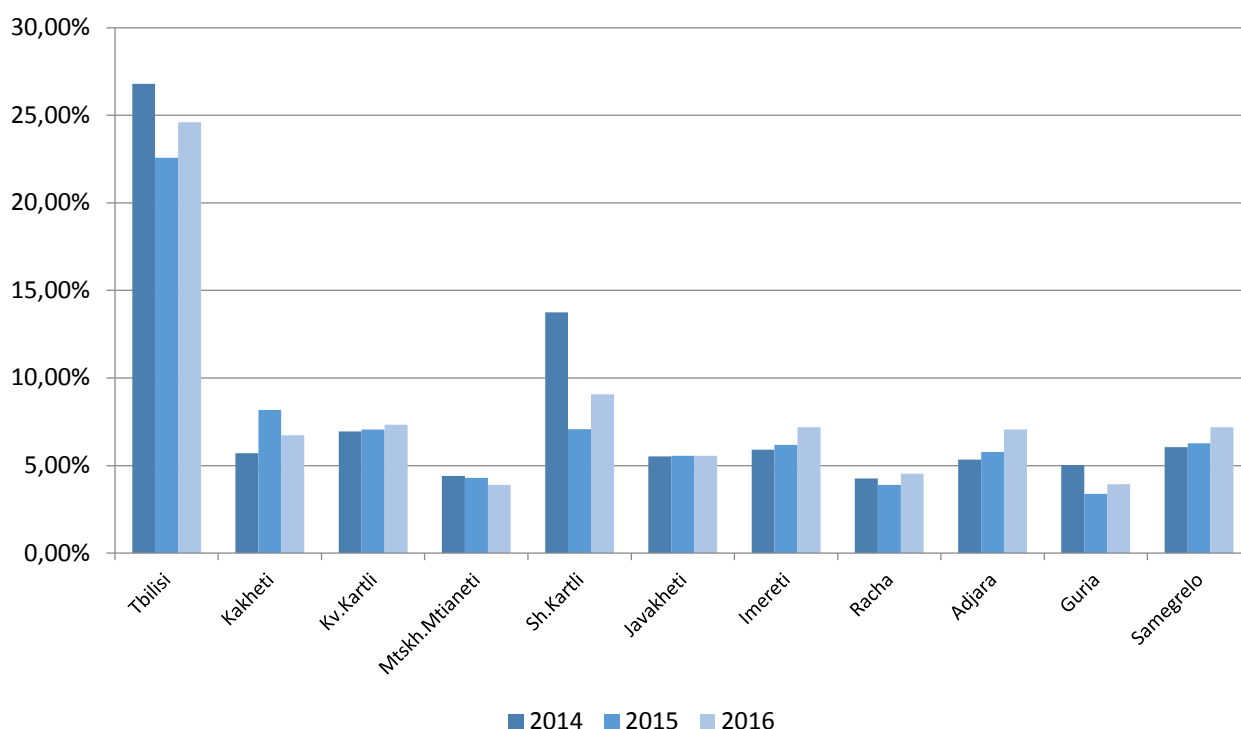
Information that served as the basis for the above charts is given in Table #1 below.

Table # 19: The Share of Social Protection and Healthcare Budget in the Total Budget of Georgian Municipalities in 2014-2016 (thousand GEL)

	2014	2015	2016
Total municipal budget (thousand GEL)	1568828.11	1983562.53	2018877.55
Healthcare and social protection costs (thousand GEL)	239263.92	275489.78	287013.93
The share of healthcare and social protection costs in the total budget (%)	15.25%	13.89%	14.22%

It is also interesting to review the shares of healthcare and social protection costs in the budgets of each region. For example, in 2014 in Guria, the share of these expenses was 5.04%, while in 2016 it reduced to 3.93%. Likewise, across 2014 and 2016, it reduced from 13.75% to 9.06% in Shida Kartli and in Tbilisi (city) from 26.8% to 24.59%.

Chart # 8: The Shares of Healthcare and Social Protection Expenses in Regional Budgets in 2014-2016.



The Table below shows the social program expenses of 71 municipalities 2014-2016 and their share in annual municipal expenses. It is worth mentioning that in 16 municipalities (including Gardabani, Tianeti, Lanchkhuti, Oni, and Mtskheta town) the share of social program expenses is quite low (between 2-4%).

The share of social program expenses is the highest in the budget of Tbilisi (city). They are also high in Bolnisi, Borjomi, Gori, Akhlagori, Samtredia and Shuakhevi municipalities.

Table # 19: The Share of Healthcare and Social Program Expenditures in the Total Budgets of 71 Municipalities in 2014-2016

Municipality	The share of social assistance and healthcare expenses in the total municipal budget for 2014	The share of social assistance and healthcare expenses in the total municipal budget for 2015	The share of social assistance and healthcare expenses in the total municipal budget for 2016	The share of social assistance expenses in the total municipal budget for 2014	The share of social assistance expenses in the total municipal budget for 2015	The share of social assistance expenses in the total municipal budget for 2016	The share of healthcare expenses in the total municipal budget for 2014	The share of healthcare expenses in the total municipal budget for 2015	The share of healthcare expenses in the total municipal budget for 2016
Tbilisi (city)	27%	23%	25%	23.37%	19.19%	19.70%	3.43%	3.39%	4.89%
Telavi (city)	5%	6.6%	6.6%	4.10%	5.71%	5.58%	0.90%	0.93%	0.98%
Akhmeta Municipality	6%	9.8%	6.5%	4.46%	9.07%	5.97%	0.73%	0.66%	0.58%
Gurjaani Municipality	7%	7.9%	8.0%	4.11%	4.52%	5.07%	2.89%	3.37%	2.91%
Dedoplistskaro Municipality	7%	6.7%	7.5%	5.85%	5.70%	6.49%	1.10%	0.98%	1.06%
Telavi Municipality	5%	6.6%	6.6%	4.10%	5.71%	5.58%	0.90%	0.93%	0.98%
Lagodekhi Municipality	4%	17.1%	6.6%	2.93%	16.41%	5.92%	0.79%	0.70%	0.72%
Sagarejo Municipality	6%	7.1%	7.5%	5.39%	6.06%	6.54%	0.90%	1.01%	0.97%
Signagi Municipality	5%	5.9%	5.6%	4.60%	5.07%	5.01%	0.71%	0.81%	0.56%
Kvareli Municipality	6%	4.1%	5.1%	4.97%	3.63%	4.58%	0.64%	0.47%	0.55%
Rustavi (city)	8%	9.0%	8.7%	7.73%	8.50%	8.17%	0.55%	0.50%	0.52%
Bolnisi Municipality	11%	10.0%	12.6%	9.68%	9.01%	11.73%	1.45%	0.98%	0.92%
Gardabani Municipality	7%	5.0%	5.5%	4.72%	3.52%	4.59%	1.97%	1.52%	0.88%
Dmanisi Municipality	3%	4.3%	3.3%	2.68%	3.58%	2.80%	0.70%	0.69%	0.53%
Tetritskaro Municipality	8%	7.0%	9.4%	6.57%	6.26%	8.38%	0.97%	0.76%	0.99%
Marneuli Municipality	4%	5.0%	5.1%	3.19%	4.47%	4.51%	0.74%	0.57%	0.59%

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2014-2016

Tsalka Municipality	4%	3.3%	2.5%	3.05%	2.72%	2.50%	0.58%	0.56%	0.44%
Mtskheta (town)	4%	3.7%	2.5%	3.81%	3.27%	2.04%	0.37%	0.42%	0.46%
Dusheti Municipality	5%	4.8%	5.3%	4.49%	4.43%	5.05%	0.59%	0.34%	0.27%
Tianeti Municipality	4%	3.6%	3.5%	2.58%	2.65%	2.67%	1.00%	0.97%	0.80%
Kazbegi Municipality	2%	3.5%	2.5%	1.50%	3.35%	1.64%	0.68%	0.73%	0.47%
Akhagori Municipality	11%	9.6%	10.3%	9.51%	8.00%	8.78%	1.66%	1.59%	1.55%
Mtskheta Municipality	4%	3.6%	2.5%	3.81%	3.16%	2.04%	0.37%	0.43%	0.46%
Gori (city)	20%	6.7%	11.5%	18.91%	6.66%	11.33%	0.68%	0.00%	0.15%
Gori Municipality	20%	6.7%	11.5%	18.91%	6.66%	11.33%	0.68%	0.00%	0.15%
Khashuri Municipality	19%	8.7%	7.7%	18.14%	7.84%	6.11%	0.80%	0.82%	1.61%
Kaspi Municipality	3%	3.1%	4.5%	2.52%	2.59%	4.01%	0.42%	0.47%	0.43%
Kareli Municipality	13%	10.0%	7.9%	12.11%	9.47%	7.37%	0.76%	0.49%	0.57%
Akhalsikhe (city)	2%	4.3%	3.5%	1.78%	3.58%	2.99%	0.11%	0.76%	0.46%
Adigeni Municipality	4%	3.8%	5.1%	3.41%	2.79%	4.00%	0.99%	1.03%	1.09%
Borjomi Municipality	10%	11.2%	11.8%	9.44%	10.61%	11.24%	0.78%	0.63%	0.51%
Akhalsikhe Municipality	0%	0.8%	0.5%	1.78%	3.58%	2.99%	2.01%	4.34%	3.45%
Akhalkalaki Municipality	5%	4.2%	6.5%	3.38%	3.22%	5.05%	1.20%	1.02%	1.40%
Aspindza Municipality	5%	4.1%	3.1%	3.27%	2.98%	2.37%	1.24%	1.15%	0.69%
Ninotsminda Municipality	4%	4.5%	5.7%	2.57%	3.06%	4.37%	1.74%	1.42%	1.29%
Kutaisi (city)	5%	4.7%	6.6%	3.05%	3.42%	5.18%	1.53%	1.31%	1.39%
Chiatura Municipality	4%	7.1%	7.0%	2.92%	6.38%	6.35%	0.81%	0.67%	0.63%
Tkibuli Municipality	5%	4.3%	4.6%	4.61%	3.64%	3.93%	0.66%	0.62%	0.63%
Tskaltubo Municipality	10%	8.5%	9.7%	9.80%	7.71%	9.22%	0.47%	0.81%	0.48%
Bagdati Municipality	3%	5.2%	4.2%	2.96%	4.51%	3.79%	0.35%	0.66%	0.45%

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 2014-2016

Vani Municipality	3%	5.8%	4.4%	2.48%	5.15%	4.02%	0.56%	0.62%	0.42%
Zestaphoni (city)	9%	9.5%	8.6%	7.77%	8.83%	8.03%	1.20%	0.71%	0.54%
Terjola Municipality	7%	6.6%	7.9%	6.18%	5.86%	7.02%	0.77%	0.76%	0.85%
Samtredia Municipality	7%	7.3%	10.0%	5.93%	6.64%	9.16%	0.78%	0.66%	0.80%
Sachkhere Municipality	6%	4.2%	7.6%	4.85%	3.59%	6.49%	1.48%	0.63%	0.69%
Kharagauli Municipality	8%	7.7%	8.1%	7.36%	6.56%	6.93%	1.00%	1.16%	1.15%
Khoni Municipality	8%	8.0%	9.5%	6.85%	6.98%	8.54%	1.11%	0.98%	0.99%
Ambrolauri (town)	5%	5.2%	6.1%	3.23%	4.32%	5.43%	1.45%	0.89%	0.69%
Ambrolauri Municipality	5%	5.2%	6.1%	4.16%	0.93%	1.52%	0.68%	0.89%	0.69%
Lentekhi Municipality	3%	2.9%	3.0%	1.94%	1.67%	1.80%	1.04%	0.94%	0.88%
Oni Municipality	2%	1.4%	2.4%	1.49%	1.04%	1.79%	0.46%	0.39%	0.61%
Tsageri Municipality	6%	4.8%	5.2%	5.24%	3.71%	4.06%	1.03%	1.07%	1.12%
Batumi (city)	6%	6.6%	8.2%	4.44%	4.29%	5.54%	1.72%	2.04%	2.22%
Kobuleti Municipality	3%	2.6%	3.1%	2.36%	2.24%	2.70%	0.39%	0.37%	0.40%
Khelvachauri Municipality	3%	2.5%	5.3%	2.39%	2.10%	4.38%	0.61%	0.40%	0.91%
Shuakhevi Municipality	5%	10.2%	10.0%	5.01%	8.69%	7.78%	4.59%	1.47%	2.20%
Khulo Municipality	8%	6.6%	6.3%	6.40%	5.29%	4.91%	1.32%	1.34%	1.36%
Ozurgeti (town)	5%	3.2%	3.8%	4.23%	3.11%	3.35%	0.31%	3.40%	3.36%
Chokhatauri Municipality	4%	5.5%	4.9%	2.92%	4.72%	4.18%	0.65%	0.78%	0.67%
Lanchkhuti Municipality	4%	2.8%	3.3%	3.35%	2.14%	2.56%	1.13%	0.64%	0.74%
Ozurgeti Municipality	7%	2.9%	3.9%	6.23%	2.42%	3.51%	0.43%	0.49%	0.44%

4.13 Municipal Social Assistance Criteria and Trends

According to the information supplied by municipalities, the assistance to be disbursed under social welfare and healthcare programs is regulated through the resolution on approving the local budget and the procedure on payment of local social assistance. The regulations specify the following criteria required for receipt of assistance:

1. Socially vulnerable person, who expresses desire to use municipality's social welfare or healthcare program, shall be registered at the municipality which accepts the application;
2. A person, who would like to use the social welfare or healthcare program in the respective municipality, shall be registered in the Unified Database of the Socially Vulnerable Persons;
3. A person/household, which would like to use social welfare or healthcare program linked to the score, shall submit and extract on the social score from the Social Services Agency;
4. A person/household, which would like to use a social security or healthcare program designed for a specific target group (e.g. persons with disabilities, single parents, children without parental care and etc.), shall submit to the municipality office a document proving such status.

In the event of especially acute disease or urgent need, municipalities provide assistance to persons who may not fall into the eligible categories set by the municipality for targeted social assistance groups. The Standing Commission established on the basis of the governor's resolution can review citizens individual assistance applications and their allowance. This type of assistance, in some municipalities, is paid in the form of one-time benefit, while in some cases it may be provided on a more regular basis.

It was difficult to identify what types of assistance were provided as one-time or regular benefits. However, certain trends were still identified. For instance, assistance required to compensate transport costs for persons with renal failure as a rule is provided repeatedly; the assistance for free food is paid once a day; assistance for persons with disabilities is paid once a month; payment of burial costs is a one-time payment; while assistance aimed at compensation of damages inflicted due to fire or/and natural disaster may be paid once a year to one and the same person or household. One-time assistance provided by the municipality, as a rule, is included in the category of direct financial assistance.

4.14 Social Assistance Linked to the Rating Score

Based on the information obtained from 71 municipalities it was revealed that 10 municipalities from six regions did not use a rating score when providing healthcare and social security assistance. It is difficult to identify why the rating score is not used by these municipalities, since neither their geographic nor demographic criteria allow us to see any special trend. However, it is important that they continue to be monitored. These municipalities are as follows:

1. **Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region:** Tsalenjikha, Chkhorotsku and Poti City Municipality;
2. **Kakheti Region:** Telavi Municipality;
3. **Imereti Region:** Terjola Municipality;
4. **Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Region:** Lentekhi Municipality;
5. **Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region:** Mtskheta and Kazbegi Municipality;
6. **Samtskhe-Javakheti Region:** Adigeni and Aspindza Municipality.

The other 61 municipalities use a social rating score as one of the criteria in the process of providing free food, medicines and medical services. Scores are also used (indirectly) for financial assistance, particularly for payment of subsidy for utilities.

In order to receive assistance for medical services and medicines, beneficiary's scores should be within the range of 65,000 – 100,000. However, families with many children having the score within the range of 0-100,000 are provided with direct and/or indirect financial aid mostly in the form of free food and other

types of subsidies. Two municipalities within Kakheti use the highest rating scores when assessing provision of assistance. The score used by Gurjaani Municipality is up to 160,000 and the one used by Signagi Municipality is around 200,000.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

- This research shows that the existing healthcare and social protection programs of the central authorities and local municipalities cover all five target groups of this research. All five social groups receive direct financial aid, indirect financial aid and services. This research also found that it is easier to identify beneficiaries of assistance provided by ministries, than those receiving social benefits from local municipalities. Identification and calculation of all three types of social benefits provided by the ministries is much easier than identification and calculation of the same benefits provided by the municipalities. It is possible that some benefits might be duplicated. That is, the same beneficiary might be receiving social assistance from both central and municipal levels. However, this kind of duplication most likely occurs in the case of one-time assistance.
- The data received during the research allows us to conclude that the priorities of the healthcare and social protection programs of the central authorities and local municipalities are identical. For example, in order to improve the demographic situation municipalities often give one-time or monthly allowances to families of newborn children or families with many children. Also, in order to ensure inclusion of beneficiaries in healthcare programs, the municipalities finance transport costs and co-finance medical tests.
- At the central level the most social assistance is provided by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs. The Ministry provides direct financial aid, indirect financial aid (subsidy) and services. Other ministries provide partial assistance to beneficiaries by means of various special programs.
- Based on the data, we can conclude that the forms and priorities defined by the municipalities for provision of social assistance are very similar. In some cases some municipalities might not have a specific beneficiary type singled out, but the eligibility criteria do not exclude such persons from the beneficiary groups. Therefore, there is a high probability that the target groups for this research receive social assistance from municipalities.
- Both central and municipal bodies provide different types of social benefits linked to the rating score. Only 10 out of 71 municipalities do not use the social rating score as an eligibility criterion. At the central level, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Science provide social benefits based on the rating score.
- The information received during the research shows that the allocations made for healthcare and social programs in the central budget are higher than in municipal budgets. In 2014-2016, central budget expenditures for social programs were almost 10% higher than those of the municipal budgets. The trend is the same for healthcare programs. For example, in 2016, it was 7% of the central budget and only 2% of the municipal budget.

5.2 Recommendations

- Analysis of the findings demonstrates that there is a need to develop a standard form for data collection and reporting. A standard template would allow the central and municipal authorities to receive, process, and analyze the data on healthcare and social assistance programs in a more efficient, accurate, and timely manner and thus identify the beneficiary groups and categories.
- In order to ensure more targeted identification of needs and provision of social assistance, the municipalities plan their social programs and define priorities in coordination with the Social Services Agency. They also submit to the Agency annual information about their programs. Despite this, there are no standard planning or reporting templates. This creates obstacles for in-depth study of social programs and limits the opportunities to monitor their short, medium and long term effects. Existence of standard forms would make it much easier for the Agency and municipalities to plan social programs and make municipal assistance more targeted and clear. Moreover, it would allow more specific definition of the forms and types of the direct financial aid, indirect financial aid, and services.
- Organization of regular meetings in regions would aid collection of information about social programs, help to identify successful ones and encourage the use of best practices in other municipalities.
- We advise the introduction of periodic needs assessment at the municipal level. This could be done jointly by the representatives of municipal and central authorities. The results of these assessment would be used to plan social programs and define effective criteria for provision of social assistance.
- At present, cooperation and coordination between the municipalities and the Agency's regional offices depends on the good will of their employees. Taking into account the system's difficulties and in order to improve the processes it is advisable to formalize this communication and ensure its continuity. In future it could be carried out electronically, although at this stage it is important to formalize the process.
- It is desirable to standardize the system, e.g.: clearly define the main types of regular and one-time allowances as well as the list of documents necessary for providing such assistance. At the same time it is important to simplify the relations with beneficiaries by providing electronic access to this information. This would save the beneficiaries' time and transport costs which they currently have to spend in order to receive information.
- The basic social assistance system must be implemented in each municipality. Based on this system the municipalities must be allowed to design their specific social programs for their particular region. Nevertheless, the types of assistance included in the basic system must be provided in all municipalities.
- We recommend the introduction of a beneficiary (user) oriented service system at the central and municipal levels. The system must make it easier for the beneficiaries to communicate with the state authorities and thus increase their satisfaction level. It is important that cooperation is enhanced between the Service Development Agency and public service centers to allow beneficiaries to receive social services through the Public Service Halls.

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- Letter #01/2834 of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, dated: 07/09/2016
- Letter #11626/01 of the Ministry of Agriculture, dated: 09/09/2016
- Letter #6124 of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, delivered on 14/09/ 2016;
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- Statistical information sent via e-mail by Mr. Dimitry Chkheide the Deputy Head of IT department of the Social Services Agency dated December 2, 2016;
- Document sent by the Ministry of Health on February 23, 2017 which covers programs implemented by municipalities in 2016.

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Ministry of Health – Social Services Agency

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Ministry of Justice

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Ministry of Education

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Information about Municipalities, Ministries and Interviews (attached to this Report as a separate document)

Annex 2: Three Forms of Benefits Provided in 71 Municipalities to the Five Social Groups (attached to this Report as a separate document)

Annex 3: Local Social Assistance Linked to the Social Rating Score (attached to this Report as a separate document)

ⁱ Information retrieved from the 2016 -year budget of Georgia (given in the box) on social and healthcare programs covers the following five types of assistance: pension allowance – for those of retirement age (for women from the age of 60 and for men from the age of 65) and state compensation for specific categories of persons (employees of military bodies, prosecutor's office, civil aviation, former members of the Parliament of Georgia, diplomats of the highest rank and the other persons);

Social assistance for target groups of population – the following is disbursed for targeted social groups: for households below the poverty line - subsistence allowance; for target groups - social package; IDP allowance, reintegration assistance; monetary benefits facilitating improvement of demographic situation; pregnancy, childbirth and childcare assistance; assistance for adoption of a newborn child; compensations for damages inflicted to employees during fulfillment of their duties;

Social rehabilitation and childcare – improving physical and social situations for persons with disabilities, the elderly and children deprived of care and their social integration into society through preventive, rehabilitation, alternate, family oriented services and additional means;

Public healthcare – facilitating vaccination, early detection of diseases and screening, as well as control of contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, viral hepatitis, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle in the community;

Universal healthcare – planned outpatient, emergency and inpatient healthcare, planned surgery, chemo-, hormone- and radio – therapy; funding of childbirth and C-section services; provision of medicines to certain groups of beneficiaries (socially deprived, retirement age persons, veterans and etc.).

ⁱⁱ Resolution №249 of the Government of Georgia (December 31, 2005) on approving the Regulation of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

ⁱⁱⁱ For additional information about LEPL Social Services Agency see webpage: <http://ssa.gov.ge>.

^{iv} For additional information see *Law of Georgia on State Pension* #2442, (December 23, 2015) (http://ssa.gov.ge/files/01_GEO/JAN_PROG/Brdzanebebi-Kanonebi/Pension_about_Georgia_Law.pdf).

^v For additional information see the Resolution #45 of the Government of Georgia (March 1, 2013) (http://ssa.gov.ge/files/01_GEO/KANONMDEBLOBA/Kanon%20Qvemdebare/6.pdf).

^{vi} For additional information see the following legal acts: *Law of Georgia on State Compensation and State Academic Scholarship* and Decree N 46/m (February 10, 2006) of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia on Approving procedure for assigning state Academic Scholarship and its payment.

^{vii} For additional information see Resolution of the Government of Georgia on Monetization of the Social Benefits (http://ssa.gov.ge/files/01_GEO/JAN_PROG/Brdzanebebi-Kanonebi/12.pdf).

^{viii} For additional information see the Resolution №279 of the Government of Georgia on determination of social package (http://ssa.gov.ge/files/01_GEO/JAN_PROG/Brdzanebebi-Kanonebi/11.pdf).

^{ix} For additional information see Decree of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia on Approving procedure for compensating Maternity, Childbirth and Childcare leave, as well as leave due to adoption of a newborn child (http://ssa.gov.ge/files/01_GEO/KANONMDEBLOBA/Kanon%20Qvemdebare/4.pdf).

^x For additional information see *Law of Georgia on Social Assistance* (Article 9) (<http://www.tbilisi.gov.ge/img/original/2015/7/21/498963503135.pdf>).

^{xi} The amount of subsistence allowance is as follows: household for which rating score is less than 30,000 - GEL 60 (for each household member, including children under the age of 18); for a household for which rating score is 30,000 and more, but less than 60,000 - GEL 40 (for each household member, including children under the age of 18); for a household for which rating score is 60,000 and more, but less than 65,000 points- GEL 30 (for each household member, including children under the age of 18); household for which rating score is less than 100,000 - GEL 10 (only for those household members who are younger than 16). For additional information see the *Law of Georgia on Social Assistance* and the Resolution №126 of the Government of Georgia (April 24, 2010) on Reducing Poverty and Improving Social Affairs of Population in the country.

^{xii} Targeted state program on improving demographic situation was approved on March 31, 2014 under Government Resolution N 262 (March 31, 2014). This program, starting from 2014, will apply to the following regions: Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Samegrelo/Zemo Svaneti and Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti. For additional information, see Resolution #262 of the Government of Georgia. (http://ssa.gov.ge/files/01_GEO/KANONMDEBLOBA/Kanon%20Qvemdebare/99.pdf).

^{xiii} Pursuant to the *Law of Georgia on Internally Displaced Persons - Refugees from the Occupied Territories of Georgia*, monetary assistance of GEL 45 is paid monthly from the state budget to each refugee/IDP (if the income of a refugee/IDP does not exceed GEL 1250 per month). For additional information, see the Law at the following link: <http://mra.gov.ge/res/docs/2014041013582144976.pdf>.

^{xiv} The letter did not specify whether one-time assistance was provided for medical service needs of extremely poor families or within the Sustainable Housing Solutions Program. One-time monetary assistance is also paid to IDPs within the framework of the Sustainable Housing Solutions Program. The amount is defined individually, case by case, although it must not exceed GEL 20,000. This assistance is paid to families who took a mortgage loan to buy a residential property (Order #1125 of the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, June 3, 2014) <http://mra.gov.ge/res/docs/2016092612471957843.pdf>. According to the information published on the Ministry's webpage, one-time monetary assistance is paid to those IDP families who submit an application for assistance, are in an extremely difficult economic situation and need medical services. Judging by the fact that the number of one-time payments received by one person is not large it can be assumed that it is mainly for the provision of medical services.

^{xv} This amount was calculated by the author from the data provided and the shares are also calculated by him. Information was sent by Dimitry Chkhaidze, the Deputy Head of IT department of the Social Services Agency on December 2, 2016. It reflects information on statistics provided by the Ministry of Health. Monetary assistance includes the following benefits: pension, compensation, household subsidy, social package, regression pension, reintegration, IDP and subsistence allowances.

^{xvi} This amount was calculated by the author from the data provided. The information provided by the Ministry stated the number of refugees during 2014-2016 as well as the amount spent each year and for each person in GEL.

^{xvii} The amount of average allowance is calculated by the author based on annual expenditure and the total number of refugees supplied by the Ministry.

^{xviii} Data on such assistance does not cover targeted social assistance and it is not specified what types of assistance are included in the one-time monetary assistance. In addition, it does not include figures on households with children.

^{xix} For additional information visit the webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=1105&info_id=1422

^{xx} For additional information visit the webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=502

^{xxi} Apart from the above listed social groups, the above-mentioned subsidy will be issued to students with different social needs, including: "students having studied for the past three years at schools of high land areas and the regions of ecological migration and received a graduation certificate for complete general education; students who for the past two years studied at schools located on the occupied territories and have acquired the document certifying complete general education, as defined by the *Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories*, or whose complete general education has been recognized in accordance to the rule set by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, also students who had been studying for a year before August 7, 2008 in the school in the occupied territory but acquired the certificate of complete general education outside the occupied territory; students having studied in school in Azeri language for the last three years and been certified on complete general education by the above school; students having studied for the last three years in Armenian secondary schools of general education and got the certificate on complete general education from Armenian secondary school; students having been deported from Georgia during the Communist regime, descending from Samtskhe-Javakheti families; students having studied at schools located in frontier villages in the occupied territories and got certification on complete general education from those schools; "excerpt from the Letter # MES 3 16 01068462".

^{xxii} Members of the families who have been registered in the "unified database of socially vulnerable families" whose rating score does not exceed 57 000, are not charged the service fee for legal recognition of changing the name/surname in the birth records of the civil status act, neither are they charged the fee for repeated issuance of the civil status act registration certificate in case of making changes, corrections and additions to civil records (except for cases such as establishment of paternity and child adoption)" – explanation is excerpted from the Letter #6124 of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia dated September 14, 2016;

^{xxiii} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the standard fee for judicial recognition of changing the name/surname is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied), the tariff for correction/addition of the name/surname, and repeated issuance of the certificate is GEL 15 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). Since the total number of beneficiaries was specified in the information provided, the spent sums were calculated by the author;

^{xxiv} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the standard fee for judicial recognition of changing the name/surname is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied), the tariff for correction/addition of the name/surname, and repeated issuance of the certificate is GEL 15 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). Since the total number of beneficiaries was specified in the provided information, the spent sums were calculated by the author;

^{xxv} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the standard fee for judicial recognition of changing the name/surname is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied), the tariff for correction/addition of the name/surname, and repeated issuance of the certificate is GEL 15 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). Since the total number of beneficiaries was specified in the provided information, the spent sums were calculated by the author;

^{xxvi} A person is not charged a service fee for the repeated issuance of the civil status act registration certificate or civil status act registration if the certificate is required for the submission to social welfare agencies for awarding pension or allowance or recalculation" - the explanatory note has been excerpted from the Letter #6124 provided by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia dated September 14, 2016;

^{xxvii} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the fee for the above type of assistance is GEL 2 without an expedited procedure. The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xxviii} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the fee for the above type of assistance is GEL 2 without an expedited procedure. The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xxix} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the fee for the above type of assistance is GEL 2 without an expedited procedure. The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xxx} „When considering the issue of granting Georgian citizenship and preparing the relevant conclusion to establish the status of stateless persons, the service fee is not charged as per this Resolution, provided that the application is addressed to guardianship authorities with the relation to the person under the guardianship of this body; how many persons received stateless persons' status as a result of addressing guardianship and custodianship agency; (this type of benefit has been recorded in the program since September 17, 2015" – the explanatory note has been excerpted from the Letter #6124 provided by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia dated September 14, 2016;

^{xxxi} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the fee for the above type of assistance is GEL 50. The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xxxii} According to the information of Public Service Development Agency, the fee for the above type of assistance is GEL 50. The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xxxiii} For issuance of the biometric passport of a Georgian citizen, a 32-page passport of a Georgian citizen valid for a year and a biometric passport for persons without citizenship on the 10th working day, the following persons are not charged the service fee: a) Participants of the WWII; b) Georgian citizens wounded in the military actions fighting for territorial integrity, freedom and independence of Georgia; c) Veterans of war and military forces and IDPs – pay 50%. d) Persons with severe disabilities – pay 50%; e) Citizen of a foreign country who has been granted Georgian citizenship in compliance with the Constitution of Georgia, if the initiator of granting the citizenship as an exception is the President of Georgia; f) Persons under 18 – pay 50%." - explanatory note has been excerpted from the Letter #6124 provided by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia on September 14, 2016;

^{xxxiv} Based on the information of Public Service Development Agency, the mentioned service fee (for biometric passport) without an expedited procedure of issuance is GEL 100, while a 32-page passport - GEL 20 without an expedited procedure of issuance. The number of passports was multiplied by GEL 100 by the author. Consequently, the final sum does not correspond to the specified sum spent by the agency on the provision of the above service, but it is the result of the author's calculation;

^{xxxv} Based on the information of Public Service Development Agency, the mentioned service fee (for biometric passport) without an expedited procedure of issuance is GEL 100, while a 32-page passport - GEL 20 without an expedited procedure of issuance. The number of passports was multiplied by GEL 100 by the author. Consequently, the final sum does not correspond to the specified sum spent by the agency on the provision of the above service, but it is the result of the author's calculation;

^{xxxvi} Based on the information of Public Service Development Agency, the mentioned service fee (for biometric passport) without an expedited procedure of issuance is GEL 100, while a 32-page passport - GEL 20 without an expedited procedure of issuance. The number of passports was multiplied by GEL 100 by the author. Consequently, the final sum does not correspond to the specified sum spent by the agency on the provision of the above service, but it is the result of the author's calculation;

^{xxxvii} The following persons listed below are not charged the service fee for the issuance of the electronic ID of a citizen of Georgia to permanent foreign resident of Georgia, for issuance of electronic residence card to stateless persons and the service of photography on the 10th working day: a) A member of a family registered in the unified database of socially vulnerable families, whose rating score does not exceed 70 000; b) Participants of the World War II; c) A person injured in the fight for territorial integrity, freedom and independence of Georgia; d) Citizen of a foreign country who has been granted Georgian citizenship in compliance with the Constitution of Georgia, if the initiator of granting the citizenship as an exception is the President of Georgia" – excerpt from the Letter #6124 provided by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia dated September 14, 2016;

^{xxxviii} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xxxix} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xl} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xli} persons under 18 years of age who are under guardianship or custody of a guardianship /custody institution, are exempt from payment of the fees set for issuance of electronic IDs of Georgian citizens, electronic Residence Certificates of foreigners permanently living in Georgia and electronic Residence Certificates of stateless persons who have a status in Georgia within 10 working days after the application date, if the application for issuance of an ID of a Georgian citizen is signed by the corresponding guardianship /custody institution." – the explanatory note is taken from Letter #6124 (dated September 14, 2016) of the Ministry of Justice;

^{xlii} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xliii} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xliiv} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 30 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xliv} „In cases provided for in the Georgian legislation and in compliance with the set rules, the person whose movement is limited due to the health conditions, are exempt from payment of the service fee” - the explanatory note is taken from Letter #6124 (dated September 14, 2016) of the Ministry of Justice.

^{xlvi} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 100 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xlvii} According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 100 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

According to the information of the Public Service Development Agency, the tariff for the above type of assistance is GEL 100 (unless an expedited procedure is applied). The spent amounts were calculated by the author based on the total number of beneficiaries provided by the authorities;

^{xlix} For additional information see Resolution #102 (<https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/3206217>).

ⁱ The reimbursement for foster care is determined in the following manner:

- Placement of a healthy child under the foster care of a relative family - GEL 200;
- Placement of a healthy child under the foster care of a relative family - GEL 15 for one calendar day;
- Placement of a child with disabilities under the foster care of a relative family - GEL 300 per month;
- Placement of a child with disabilities under the foster care of a relative family - GEL 20 for one calendar day;
- For emergency foster care (including a child with disabilities) – GEL 20 for one calendar day. For additional information see “Social Service Agency” webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=49.

ⁱⁱ For additional information visit the webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=37&info_id=479

ⁱⁱⁱ For additional information visit the Ministry’s webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=420 ; also, see Resolution №138 of the Government of Georgia (March 30, 2015) on approving the state program of social rehabilitation and childcare for 2015:

http://ssa.gov.ge/files/01_GEO/KANONMDEBLOBA/Kanon%20Qvemdebare/106.PDF

ⁱⁱⁱ For additional information visit the webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=616

^{liv} The number of beneficiaries determined under this sub-clause should not exceed 580 all at the same time; A child with disabilities between 6- 18 years old, among them children with disabilities whose families receive reintegration allowance or are in foster care families. The number of beneficiaries determined under this sub-clause should not exceed 618; A person with disabilities. The number of beneficiaries determined under this sub-clause should not exceed 446; Children with disabilities suffering from severe mental disorders between the age of 6 to 18 years (among them children whose families receive reintegration allowance or are placed in foster care families). The number of beneficiaries determined under this sub-clause should not exceed 66. Besides, the beneficiaries of the target group under this sub-clause cannot enjoy other services that are prescribed for other target groups at the same time.

^{iv} For additional information visit the webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=790

^{ivi} The above sub-program takes into account daily services to be rendered to persons with mental disorders, namely: daily service by providing minimum three meals a day out of which dinner has to consist of three courses; taking care and devising and implementing individual rehabilitation programs for beneficiaries; teaching everyday life skills; providing medical assistance and psychological service as relevant; ensuring beneficiaries’ involvement in cultural events taking into account their abilities, among them events taking place outside the specialized institution. Persons with disabilities aged 18 and above suffering from congenital and acquired dementia can be the beneficiaries of the sub-program providing shelter. This also includes persons with such mental disorders who are in need of services envisaged by the sub-program and where there is a corresponding resolution of the regional council on their inclusion in the sub-program.

^{lvii} The mentioned program consists of the following sub-programs: 1) small family homes: the aim of this sub-program is to place children who are deprived of parental care in small family-type homes to be raised in home-like settings. The target groups of the sub-program include children living in fostering institutions or ones to be enrolled in this institution aged 6-18 who are deprived of parental care, among them children with disabilities, who cannot be returned to their biological families, placed in foster families or be adopted. This also includes children above 18 living in foster institution who are general education school pupils; 2) Child adoption and beneficiaries of the service: a prospective adoptee or abandoned child under 18; custody is awarded to a child who has not reached the age of seven, guardianship is awarded to a minor aged between 7-18; 3) Protecting a child against violence; 4) Provide shelter for homeless children. The target group of this sub-program consists of homeless children under 18, who have been identified as such by the relevant authorized social worker on the basis of a rule prescribed by the law; 5) Children's early development – the target group of this sub-program includes mentally-retarded children (among them children with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism and others) aged 0-7 years and no more than 480 children a month, the service is also rendered to no more than 335 children regardless of their place of residence in Tbilisi. Besides the child cannot be the beneficiary of early development sub-program and day center sub-program simultaneously; 6) Children's rehabilitation/habilitation – the aim of the sub-program is specific rehabilitation of children in target group, habilitation, improvement of physical health, strengthening adaptive capabilities and supporting social integration. The resolution on beneficiaries' involvement in the service is cancelled if the beneficiary fails to attend the planned course for any reason for 30 calendar days running. In this case, the beneficiary has to be included into the program anew and go through all necessary procedures. Besides, the necessary condition of restoring of the voucher is to conduct not fewer than 22 sessions of the needed services in total (a ten-day course which has to be fully conducted during 30 calendar days). The target group of the sub-program is: children with disabilities above the age of three (among them the ones placed in foster care/ fostering institution) suffering from cerebral palsy, spinal and muscular atrophy and related syndromes, muscular dystrophy, congenital myopathy, other muscular (among them unspecified) diseases as a result of primary damage, hemi-, para- and tetraplegia, central nervous system and vascular diseases, inflammatory polyneuropathy, peripheral nervous system resulted from birth trauma, also children under the age of three in a similar condition.

^{lviii} Universal state healthcare program started from February 18, 2013. The services provided by the program include planned and emergency ambulatory care, emergency hospital services, planned surgery, chemotherapy, childbirth. The aim of the program is to provide access to medical services to the population of Georgia having no health insurance. Beneficiaries of the program are Georgian citizens, namely: a) beneficiaries defined by Resolution N 218 of December 9, 2009 of the Government of Georgia on Implementation Measures of the Health Insurance of Population within the Framework of State Programs and the Terms of an Insurance Voucher"; b) Beneficiaries defined by Resolution N 165 of May 7, 2012 of the Government of Georgia on "Implementation Measures of the Health Insurance of Population within the Framework of State Programs and the Terms of an Insurance Voucher for children aged 0-5 years old, women aged 60 and above and men aged 65 and above (retirement age), students, children with disabilities and persons with severely expressed disabilities"; c) Privately insured persons as per February 28, 2013; d) The accused/ convicted persons who are under arrest in prisons.

^{lix} For additional information visit the webpage: http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=887

^{lx} The Ministry defines the term "inclusive education" in the following manner: "Inclusive education implies the involvement of pupils with all types of special educational needs into the general educational process together with their peers. Inclusive education also implies teaching persons with disabilities according to individual and/or modified curriculum". See webpage: <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=289&lang=geo>. Department of inclusive programs provides a detailed description of inclusive educational programs in Georgia. See: <http://inclusion.ge/geo/static/5> See more details at: <http://inclusion.ge/geo/static/7>.

^{lxi} See the detailed information related to the program on the webpage of the Ministry of Education and Science, 2017: <http://www.mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=4231&lang=geo>.

^{lxii} According to the information provided by the Ministry of Education and Science, the above program has been created with the following aim: "The Ministry of Education and Science has approved the sub-paragraph "Supporting the Introduction of Inclusive Education in Vocational Institutions". Within the framework of the above sub-paragraph, persons with special educational needs and persons with disabilities are provided with transportation. The cost depends on how far the beneficiary lives from the school. The case of each beneficiary is discussed separately at the session of the regulatory council created at the Ministry of Education and Science, which makes a decision on the reasonability of financing as a result of reviewing the relevant documentation. Vocational school is funded for the provision of transportation" - excerpt from the Letter #MES 3 16 01068462.

^{lxiii} The Transit Education Program for Homeless Children" is implemented at the service centers of the LEPL Social Service Agency by an NGO selected by means of an electronic tender. In order to be included into the Program the candidate must be a beneficiary of services provided by the Social Service Agency to homeless children. At day centers and 24 hour shelters so called "children living and working in the streets" who are not enrolled at school or are enrolled but have problems related to learning and communication with peers, are given an opportunity to develop living and basic academic skills corresponding to their age" (Abstract from Letter # MES 3 16 01068462).

^{lxiv} For additional information see Order #1125 of the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, June 3, 2014 (<http://mra.gov.ge/res/docs/2016092612471957843.pdf>).

^{lxv} According to the provided information the program is called: "Creation of Necessary Infrastructure for Rehabilitation Programs" – source: Letter, September 8, 2016 (MOC 3 16 00763953);