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UNICEF IN GEORGIA

Newsletter #1 (#20)

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July, 2018

Strengthening child rights monitoring



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A new interagency council to track progress on children's rights

Child rights in Georgia received a welcome boost in 2017 with the creation of the Interagency Council on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC). The Council will develop a comprehensive plan for CRC implementation and coordinate and monitor Georgia's implementation of its international and national obligations on protecting child's rights. The Council will also ensure that Georgian legislation complies with the CRC and other international standards, collecting relevant data and information, and work to implement all concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Interagency Council is a first for the country, and was established at the Administration of the Government of Georgia in response to a key recommendation from the UN Committee in its most recent concluding observations. The Council is chaired by the Head of the Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of the Government and includes representatives of key ministries, Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Public Defender's Office, UNICEF and the country's main child rights NGOs.

In partnership with the Human Rights Secretariat, UNICEF has provided technical support to the Council for the development of the three-year action plan on children as part of the Government's Action Plan on the Protection of Human Rights.

Strengthening child rights monitoring at the Public Defender's Office

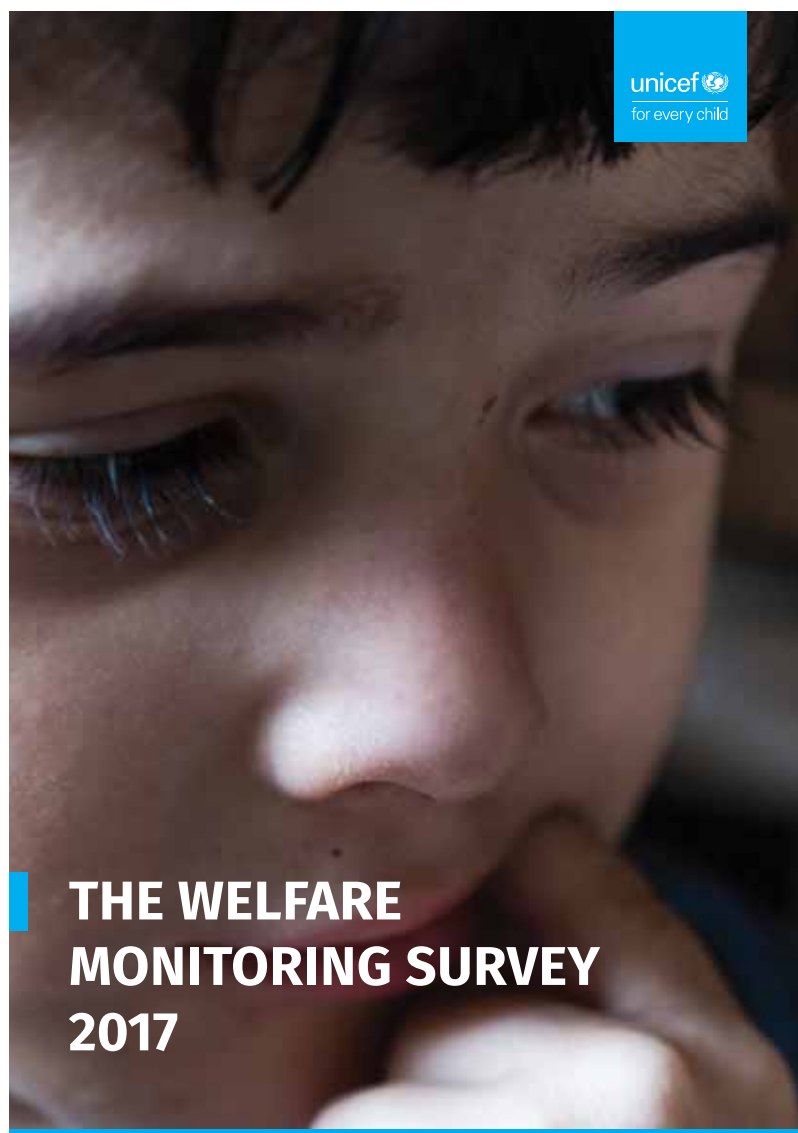
Independent child rights monitoring is enhanced by UNICEF's partnership with the Public Defender's Office (PDO), which is building the capacity of its Child Rights Centre and regional offices in this area. In particular, UNICEF has supported the Office in skills building to identify and report child rights violations.

To improve monitoring of such violations, a consultative committee of civil society organizations and different departments of the PDO was established in 2017.

The committee identified violence against children as a priority area for its work.



Social policy



THE WELFARE MONITORING SURVEY 2017

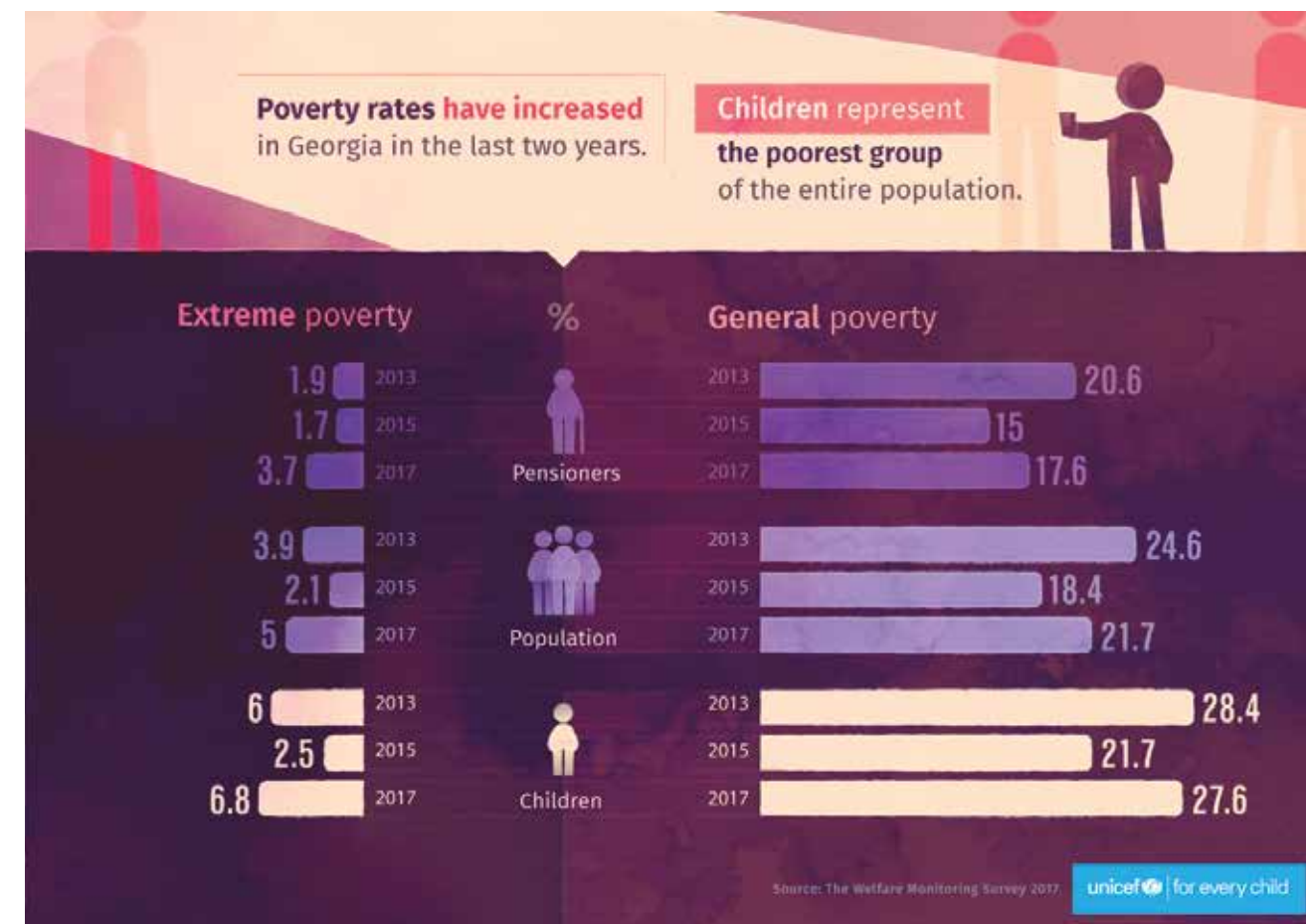
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Welfare Monitoring Study

UNICEF made significant investments in 2017 to generate hard evidence on the situation of children and women in Georgia, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized. The Fifth round of the Welfare Monitoring Study, a bi-annual household panel survey that tracks poverty and inequality trends, was completed and the results were presented at the high-level round-table meeting.

The Study is a key tool for informing policy decisions on child poverty and inequality, as well as social protection programmes.

Targeting of social assistance increased and together with Child Benefit has a high impact on reducing child poverty; targeted social assistance can better identify poor households with children; poverty levels increased for all groups though people's perception of being in poverty have improved; less people experience financial barriers in accessing health services; the gap for preschool attendance decreased; due



to absence of kindergartens, around 14 000 children still do not attend preschool services – these are some of the findings of the UNICEF's Welfare Monitoring Study.



Mapping social services

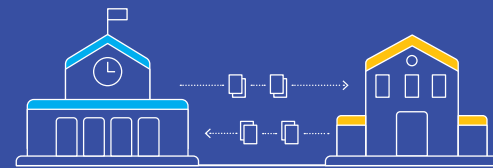
As part of the EU UN joint project on 'Human Rights for All', UNICEF collected data and other information in 2017 to map out existing services and benefits for five socially vulnerable groups: single elderly people; single parents; adults/children with disabilities; children deprived of parental care; and poor families with children.

The mapping covered three types of social benefits:

- Direct financial aid;
- Indirect financial aid in the form of subsidies;
- Services.

This research found that while the existing healthcare and social protection programmes of the central authorities and local municipalities cover all five target groups, some benefits might be duplicated. The research also found that municipalities use targeted social assistance scores to deliver their local social programmes. As the priorities of the healthcare and social protection programmes of central authorities and local municipalities are similar, the same beneficiaries might be receiving social assistance from both the central and municipal levels, while others who are not part of the central programmes might be missing out.

The resulting report, *Social Assistance: Description and Recommendations*, sets out four key recommendations emerging from the research, based on better cooperation and coordination between municipalities and the Social Service Agency's regional offices.



- Standardizing data collection and reporting forms. Standard forms would make it easier for the Social Service Agency and municipalities to plan social programmes and help to make municipal assistance more targeted and clear.
- Standardizing the system. To be effective, the basic social assistance package must be implemented in each municipality.
- Introducing a service system oriented towards the beneficiaries at both central and municipal levels.
- Conducting periodic needs assessments at municipal level.

A new child assessment instrument

A Child Assessment and Referral Instrument (CARI) was developed in 2017 to detect and prevent potential cases of violence and neglect, and to refer child victims to appropriate social services. Social agents and social workers were also trained to use the CARI. This will be a valuable tool for the social agents who carry out

family well-being assessments. The assessments determine receipt of targeted social assistance (TSA). As social agents visit about 40 percent of families in Georgia, it is hoped that the CARI will help to prevent, identify and refer cases of violence and neglect. It was piloted with approximately 400 families across Georgia in 2017 and is now being finalized to become fully operational in 2018.



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Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

Developed and supported by UNICEF, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) is one of the largest international household surveys. It is designed to collect estimates of key indicators that are used to assess the situation of children and women. MICS is being launched in 2018 by the National Statistics Office of Georgia with technical and financial assistance provided by UNICEF and other donors. The fieldwork will be conducted from September 15 to December 15. MICS in Georgia will collect high quality and

internationally comparable data about women and children in various areas and strengthen evidence-based planning and policy development. Lead testing will also be carried out within the MICS framework. It will measure levels of lead in children's blood and provide key evidence for taking appropriate regulatory, policy, inspection, market surveillance and other public health related measures aimed at preventing and eradicating lead poisoning in Georgia.

The results of the survey, including lead testing, will be available in 2019.

Social inclusion for children with disabilities



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Supporting the shift to a social model of disability

In 2017, UNICEF continued to assist the Government as it made the shift from a medical model of disability (focused on the disability itself) to a social model focused on a person's abilities and the barriers to their greater participation in society. For decades, the determination of a person's disability status in Georgia has been based solely on a medical assessment conducted by physicians. While this approach identifies person's health-related needs, it does not consider their abilities or the functional constraints that limit their potential. An overly medicalized view also fails to address the social and environmental factors that prevent their full participation and does not determine their individual needs for assistive technology and social services.

The social model perspective does not deny the reality of impairment or its impact on the individual, but it does imply that the environment and approaches must change to enable people living with disabilities to participate in society on an equal basis with others. The social model starts from the perspective that if society imposes systemic, environmental and social barriers upon a person with disabilities, then it is society – rather than the person – that must change to sweep those barriers away.

If a wheelchair user cannot use public transport, for example, because that transport is not accessible, the transport needs to be adjusted, rather than leaving the wheelchair user isolated.

The strongest point of the social model is that responsibility lies with society, rather than the person with a disability.

UNICEF provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) to embed a social model approach in the disability assessment and status determination system. In particular, the process of determining the status of a child with disabilities should consider their individual social and functional needs and abilities, as well as their diagnosis and enhance the role of the child and their family in the evaluation process.

Such an approach will also contribute to the evaluation of environmental barriers and resources to promote the implementation of the social model. As a result, social policy will be adjusted to the real needs of children with disabilities.

In particular, UNICEF has collaborated with the World Health Organization to identify instruments for functional assessment based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). UNICEF will support the Ministry to adapt these assessment instruments to Georgia's socio-cultural context and pilot the new system of disability status determination in 2018.

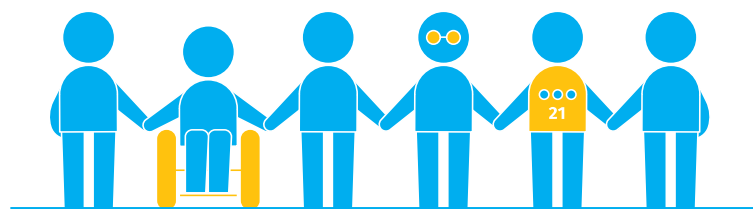
High-level policy discussion

High-level policy discussion was organized by the Government of Georgia and UNICEF in December 2017 to bring together different partners and parents of children with disabilities to analyse the flaws in disability policy. At present, thousands of children with disabilities face barriers to education and social inclusion because of a lack of services to meet their needs, the uneven distribution of the services that do exist, and continuing stigma around disability.

There is an urgent need to map the limited services that are available, and the situation in the municipalities and regions where there are no services at all. This will make it possible to pinpoint the gaps and define the resources that are needed to ensure all children with disabilities in Georgia have access to basic services and support.

A significant number of children with disabilities remain 'invisible' in Georgia, without social benefits or access to services, and facing exclusion and discrimination. The availability of reliable statistics about the number of children with disabilities in the country and their needs is fundamental for the development of effective national policies and programmes.

Policy discussions on this issue aim to develop specific recommendations and set out a roadmap to improve the accessibility and availability of services across the country. These recommendations will also become part of the national policy agenda.



Specialized services

A Specialized Family-Type Service in Kutaisi

A Specialized Family-Type Service for Children with Severe Disabilities was established in Kutaisi in 2017 by the MoLHSA, with financial support from USAID and technical support from UNICEF.

The Service is the first unit in Georgia to provide community-based care for young children with severe and profound disabilities. Here, children transferred from large state-run institutions receive 24-hour individual care, therapy to stimulate their development, and support for community integration.

The goal of this State-provided service is to ensure that infants and young children grow up in a family environment and receive all the services necessary to meet their individual developmental needs. Within the framework of the USAID-supported project, UNICEF helped the Government to rehabilitate and equip the building; develop standards of care; train professionals such as caregivers, nurses and social workers; and link the service with health care clinics and the regional Social Service Agency in Kutaisi.

The establishment of such services will allow the Government of Georgia to expand alternative services for children with disabilities to gradually replace the model of institutional care for these children. Similar services need to be established across the country so that children with disabilities who still live in large institutions can be transferred to family-type environments.



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Specialized Family Type Service in Tbilisi

In partnership with the local business Real Estate company M² another Specialized Family Type Service for children with disabilities has been constructed in Tbilisi and will open in 2018. The M² Company has contributed financial resources for the construction of family-style house while UNICEF, in partnership with USAID, has provided technical expertise, rehabilitation services and equipment and has enhanced the capacity of the professionals working with children. The house will provide care and services for children with severe disabilities who will be moved from the Tbilisi Infants' Home, one of only two remaining large-scale institutions for children in Georgia. This partnership of the Government, international organizations and the corporate sector is contributing to the creation of a caring environment for children with disabilities.

A Day Care Centre in Borjomi

Since December 2017, children and youth with disabilities from Borjomi have had access to high quality services and live more active and independent lives, thanks to a new day care centre for children with disabilities – the first such centre in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region. Its establishment has been funded by Bulgarian Development Aid and its work is being carried out with the support of UNICEF and the McLain Association for Children.

The centre caters for 30 children with disabilities aged 6 to 18, and offers informal education, therapeutic activities and social skills development. Transportation to and from the centre, as well as meals, are all part of the service.

UNICEF renovated and equipped the building to create a friendly environment for learning, development and fun, and trained professionals from different fields to improve their skills. There is a special emphasis on networking with public schools to ensure children's effective enrolment in formal education.

Communication for Social Change (C4SC) initiative – See Every Colour

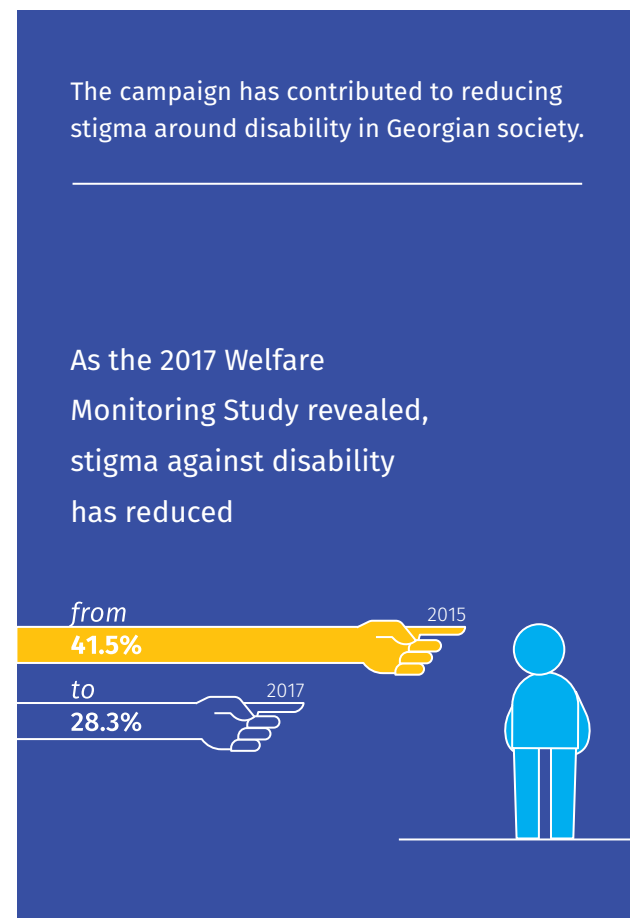
A two-year Communication for Social Change (C4SC) campaign – See Every Colour – was launched in February 2017 to change harmful attitudes and beliefs around children with disabilities and to foster their greater social inclusion.

Aiming to create a sustainable system to meet children’s needs, the campaign uses a mix of four approaches:

- Education about disabilities and countering prevalent myths and prejudices;
- Illustrating the abilities of children and young people with disabilities and highlighting right models of attitudes;
- Promoting interaction between young people with and without disabilities to build the constant communication that strengthens learning;
- Empowering children with disabilities and their parents through a platform for advocacy;
- Initiating policy and community discussions and strengthening local government mechanisms.

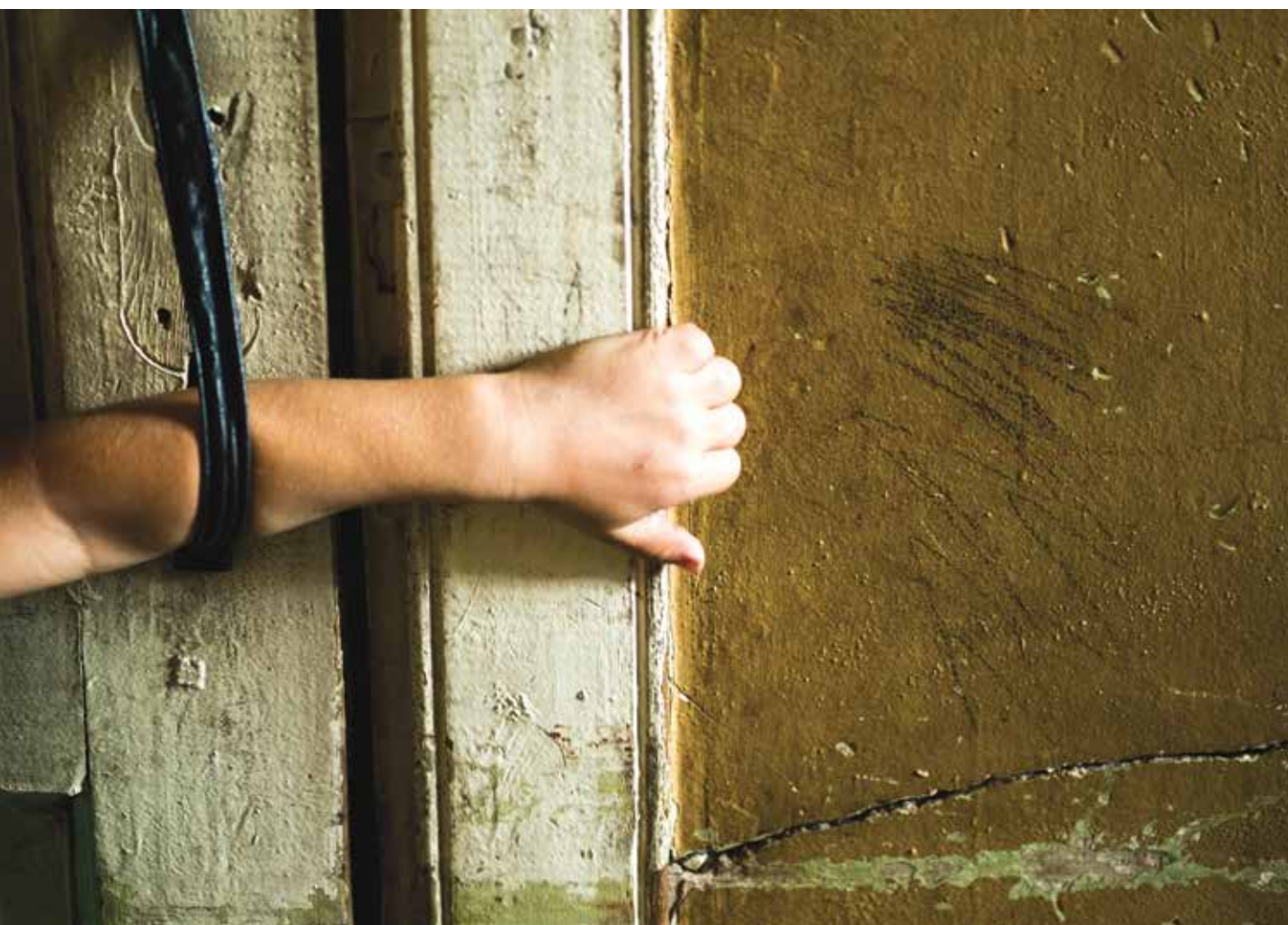
The campaign was kicked off in Tbilisi and seven regional centres of Georgia during local celebrations and public events; a series of photo and video stories, involving children and young people with disabilities, were launched to highlight their talents and to raise awareness of their needs; famous musicians and

conductors promoted the campaign through their concerts; a “Myths and Realities” brochure highlighting stigmas around disabilities and comics about Dos and Don’ts on communicating with people with disabilities were produced and distributed; meetings with local communities, and children and young people in schools and universities were organised; a contest was launched among municipalities to identify the best practices and social programmes for children with disabilities.



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Violence against children



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Global Partnership to End Violence against Children

With support from UNICEF, Georgia joined the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, which aims to strengthen international cooperation and help countries develop effective mechanisms to tackle such violence.

The Partnership unites the efforts of states, UN Agencies, international organizations, civil society, religious organizations, the private sector, researchers and academics and children to:

- Build and maintain political will to end violence against children;
- Accelerate actions to end violence against children;
- Strengthen collaboration within countries and share experiences among countries.

Georgia will be represented at the Global Partnership by the Chair of the Legal Issues Committee of Parliament and by the Secretariat on Human Rights Issues under the Government Administration.

Strengthening Child Protection Referral Procedures in municipalities

UNICEF supported the Government in strengthening and expanding its Child Protection Referral Procedures, which aim to identify, assess, refer and respond to cases of violence against children. This key accountability mechanism places a responsibility on all professionals working with children to identify any form of violence against them and provide an adequate response.

Municipalities have an essential role in protecting children against violence, given their close connections with the children and families that receive their services. To help them fulfil that role, UNICEF worked in all six municipalities of the Adjara Autonomous Republic to strengthen Child Protection Referral Procedures at municipal level. With the support of the EU, and working in partnership with the Georgian Association of Social Workers, this initiative aimed to identify relevant staff at municipal level and equip them with knowledge, skills and internal guidelines that they can use to take action when they witness or suspect child abuse and neglect.

Three key steps have been taken to date.

- 1 Focal points have been identified in every municipality in Adjara region to take responsibility for reporting. They have been trained on the bio-psycho-social aspects of violence against children, as well as the relevant legislation, with a special focus on Child Protection Referral Procedures.
- 2 Internal processes required by Child Protection Referral Procedures were developed and adopted in all six municipalities, with relevant changes made to the job descriptions of staff responsible for reporting on violence against children.
- 3 Major partners involved in Child Protection Referral Procedures (school and kindergarten personnel, medical professionals, police officers and community leaders) were mobilized in all six municipalities, with information shared on the Procedures and discussions on issues related to violence against children.

Follow up is planned in Adjara to further strengthen referral mechanisms at the municipal level and to build the capacity of municipal workers to identify and respond to family vulnerabilities.



Independent monitoring of violence against children in schools

The Office of Public Defender, with support from UNICEF, conducted monitoring of violence against children in general educational institutions.

The monitoring revealed cases of psychological and physical abuse of children by adults and by their peers, with shouting, abusive behavior and improper treatment among the various forms of violence experienced.



It also found that those with a responsibility to respond to such violence often lacked the necessary competence to do so, and schools did not have one common policy to address violence in all its forms. School personnel were not well-informed about state mechanisms on the protection of children against violence.

Students had limited awareness of their rights or the different forms of violence. Few knew who they should go to in cases of violence.

Conference with municipalities

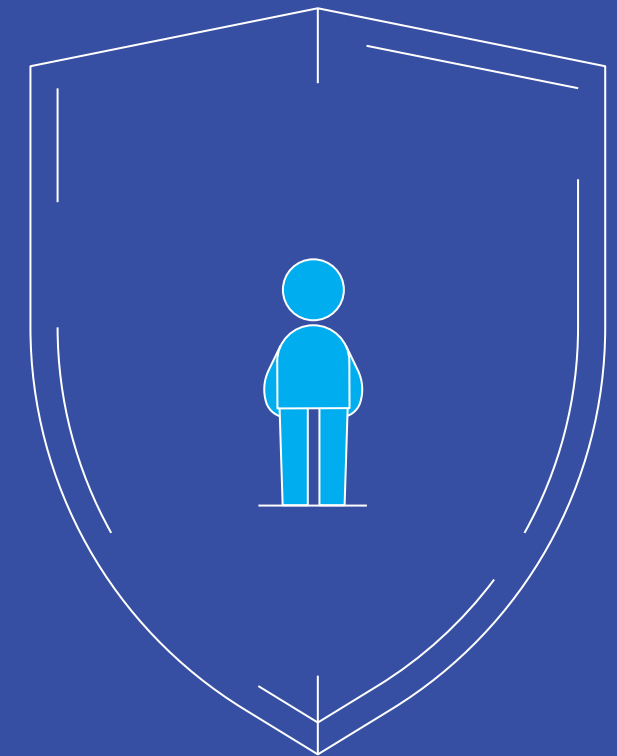
Municipalities from all over Georgia gathered at a two-day forum in Tbilisi to agree on the roles and responsibilities of central and local governments in addressing family vulnerabilities and violence against children.

The forum was organized by the Ministry on Labour, Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and UNICEF in partnership with the European Union. The participants included the mayors of all municipalities and heads of social departments, as well as representatives from governmental and non-governmental agencies, the Public Defender's Office and international organizations.

The participants agreed that municipalities have a crucial role to play in addressing the needs of vulnerable families, and discussed steps by the Government of Georgia to address violence against children and its plans to join the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

Three other key issues were discussed at the forum:

- 🔑 Steps by municipalities to introduce the internal processes required by the Child Protection Referral Procedures and to ensure adequate professional capacity to identify, refer and respond to violence against children at local level.
- 🔑 Different types of inclusive services at municipal level and existing best practices to protect the rights of children with disabilities and their families.
- 🔑 Ongoing social protection programmes and services at municipal and central levels, including the Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) programme, as well as ways to improve these services and develop social assistance schemes at municipal level for vulnerable groups that are currently outside the TSA programme.



The forum also aimed to contribute to development of the State De-Centralization Strategy and implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy 2014-2020 and its action plan.

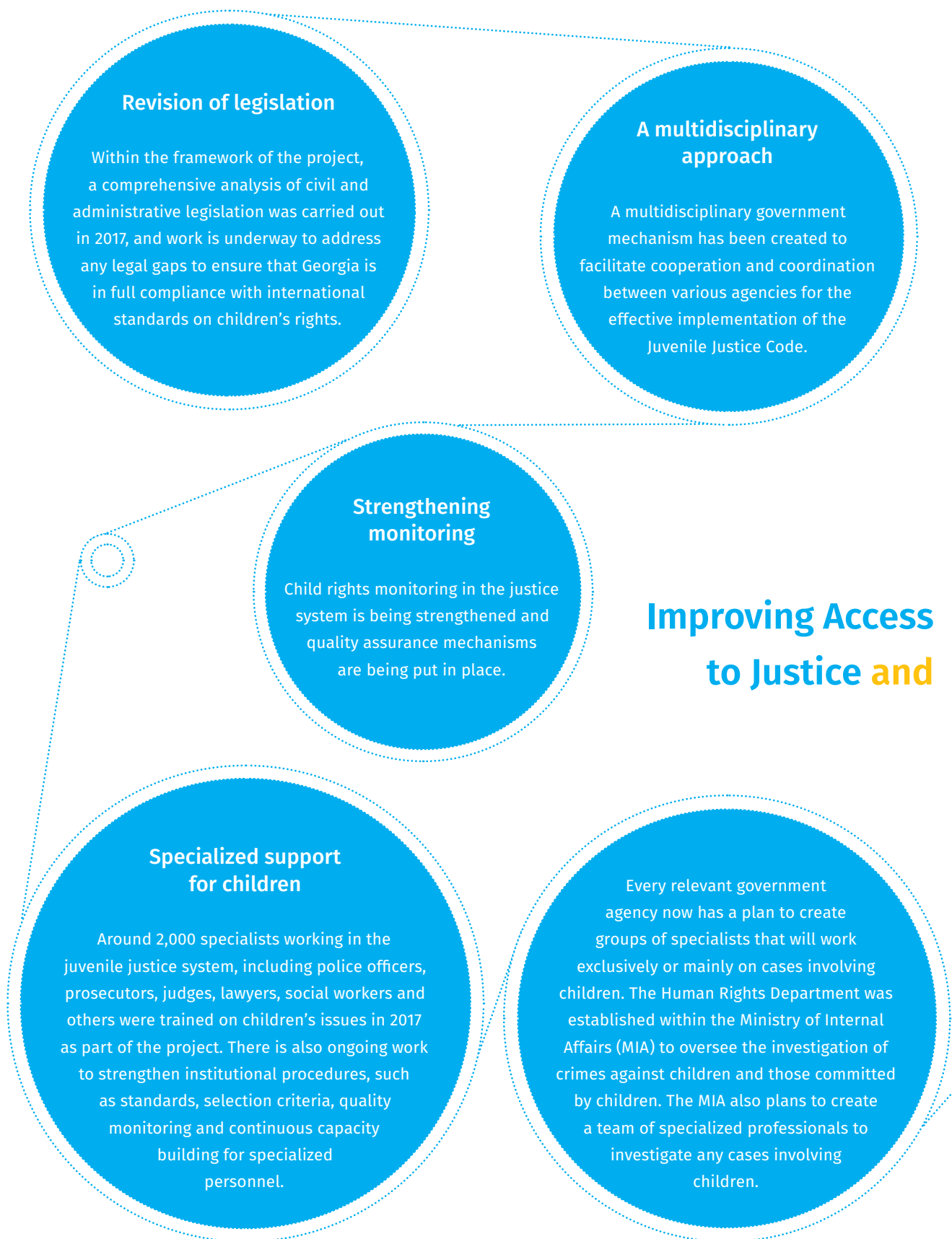
Justice for children

Georgia's juvenile justice reforms aim to create a system that is accessible, tailored to children's needs, and that safeguards the best interests of every child.

As part of the Government's reforms, the project 'Improving Access to Justice and Developing a Child-friendly Justice System in Georgia' aims to protect the interests of children who have come into contact with the law, whether they are involved in criminal or civil and administrative proceedings. The project is implemented by the Government with the support of UNICEF and the European Union.



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Quality education for all



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National mandatory standards on pre-school education

UNICEF has provided technical support to the Government to develop five national mandatory standards and technical regulations for early and pre-school education, as required by the Law on Early and Preschool Education and Care. The standards will promote equitable, inclusive, child-centred and quality educational processes that support child development and respond to their interests and needs in safe and child-friendly environments. Every kindergarten (whether state-provided or private) will have to meet these new mandatory standards by the end of 2018 if it is to be authorized.

Four of these standards and regulations were endorsed by the Government in October 2017 to reinforce key areas of this critical stage for children's education:

- 🔑 The State Standards of Early and Preschool Education;
- 🔑 Professional Standards for Caregiver Pedagogues;
- 🔑 Technical Regulations on Organization of Nutrition /Meals and Establishing Nutritional Value Norms for Institutions;
- 🔑 Technical Regulations on the Rules of Observing Sanitary and Hygiene Norms at Institutions.

A fifth set of regulations – on the Technical Regulations for Buildings, Infrastructure, and Material and Technical Resources of Institutions – is expected to be approved soon.

To ensure the supervision and monitoring of implementation of both the Law on Early and Pre-School Education and Care and the new national standards, the Legal Issues Committee of the Parliament established the Interagency Coordination Council on Preschool Education in 2017, composed of representatives of legislative and executive authorities and civil society. UNICEF provides support to the Council to steer the process and monitor the progress of reform. In addition, UNICEF has supported the Council in its development of the implementation strategy for the new Law.

As municipalities have primary responsibility for the implementation of new standards in pre-schools, UNICEF supported the Coordination Council on regional consultations and information sessions for legislative and executive representatives from municipalities across Georgia about the responsibilities envisaged under the law on Early and Pre-school Education and Care, as well as on the new national standards on early and pre-school education. To introduce the standards, the municipalities will have to plan systemic improvements, including ensuring enough pre-school places for all children through, for example, building new kindergartens, rehabilitating existing pre-schools and finding alternative services where necessary.

The aim is to ensure that all children have access to preschool education and to improve the quality of their education.

This requires the retraining and continuous professional development of pre-school personnel to comply with the new standards, the fine-tuning of municipality regulations and the establishment of a regular internal and external quality assurance system.

To facilitate implementation of the new standards, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education and Science to develop pre-school teacher training modules and education resources as well as an education standards monitoring system. In addition, with UNICEF's support, the Ministry conducted a national

assessment of school readiness programmes, aiming to ensure that all children aged 5 to 6 years in Georgia have access to programmes that develop their life skills and readiness for general education. The results of the assessment will become the basis for programming by the Ministry of Education and Science in 2018.



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Estonia-Georgia partnership for quality education

UNICEF launched a three-year partnership to strengthen the quality and inclusiveness of Georgia's national education system with Estonia's Ministry of Education and Research and Innove Foundation, the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science, and Georgia's state universities.

This partnership aims to design and introduce Bachelor and Master programmes in Georgian state universities for pre-service training of pre-school and secondary school teachers. It will also launch the new National Curriculum for primary grades in 15 partner schools, introducing innovations, new learning approaches and digital technologies for education. The resulting model of implementation for the new national curriculum will then be rolled out to all schools across the country.

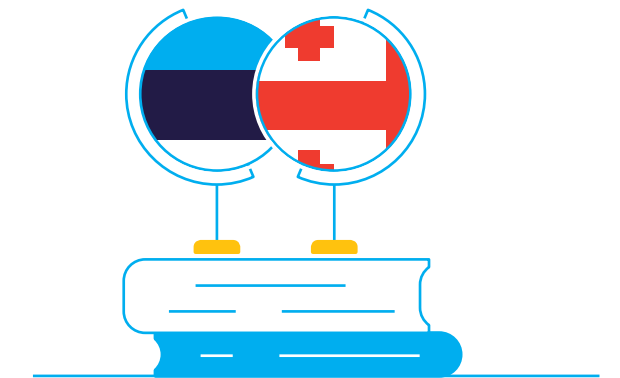
The partnership made good progress in 2017, with the support of UNICEF.

- A needs assessment was conducted in the partner schools to identify any gaps and define any further interventions that are needed.
- Teachers and school administrators in the partner schools received intensive training by experts from Estonia's Innove Foundation on innovative teaching techniques and implementation of the new National Curriculum.
- Educational resources, such as guidelines, training-modules and ICT-based instructions, have been developed to support the process.
- Study tours to Estonia have been arranged for principals and teachers from the partner schools, including workshops in Estonia and the creation of partnerships with Estonian schools. Estonian school principals and teachers also visited Georgia and held joint workshops and individual consultations with Georgian school administrators and teachers, sharing their hands-on experience.
- Partner schools received the necessary equipment to introduce information and communication technologies (ICT) in teaching and learning processes for every child, enabling them to develop their digital skills.
- Workshops with the Estonian experts, nine Georgia state universities, the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement supported the development of the pre-service system of training for future teachers. The resulting framework document for MA programmes for teachers' pre-service training has been officially adopted, and will form the basis for the development of MA programmes for programme accreditation.

Educational policy forums

Four educational policy forums were held by UNICEF, World Bank and the International School of Economics (IST) - to generate discussion and critical analyses around the government's education priorities and investments. The forums explored: general education, vocational education, early and pre-school education and higher education.

In each forum, representatives of different state Institutions and academia, as well as international and local experts and students, discussed the evidence on the challenges to education in Georgia and searched for potential solutions.



Maternal and child health



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Innovations in the health sector

Child growth and development monitoring electronic module

A child growth and development monitoring electronic module was launched in Georgia in 2017 with help from UNICEF. The module ensures the collection of routine, real-time data for children aged 0-6 years, assesses a child's development trajectory, and reflects data related to child nutrition, as well as information on child neglect and abuse. The module incorporates age-specific messages for medical personnel, reminding them of the health topics to be discussed with parents/care-givers, as well as age-specific text messages for mothers.

It includes a simple tool that allows primary health care professionals to evaluate a family's economic conditions and help vulnerable families obtain state allowances. The module also tracks maternal health and well-being during the postnatal period and reflects all potential factors for the timely detection of maternal health complications.



E-Management Information System for social services

UNICEF established the e-Management Information System for social services in 2017. This reflects all business processes related to social services for children and their families and will be operated by the Social Service Agencies (at central and regional levels), health and social service providers (day care centres, small group homes, rehabilitation centres, etc.); and state contracted social workers. The central server is located with, and will be managed by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

The e-Management Information System covers all aspects of the Social Rehabilitation and Child Protection State Programme run by the Ministry and its Social Service Agency and includes the following components.

- Rehabilitation and habilitation programme
- Early Childhood Development programme
- Maternal and child housing programme
- Child adoption programme
- Reintegration programme
- Custodian care programme
- Emergency programme for families with children in crises
- Social housing programme
- Housing programme for homeless children
- Home-care programme for children with severe and profound mental disorders
- Specialized family-type service programme for children with severe and profound mental disorders.

A planned pilot in 2018 will test potential linkages between the health and social systems via the electronic platforms developed in 2017.

Early childhood development

The commitment of the Government to build a holistic early childhood development (ECD) approach in Georgia continued throughout 2017. The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and UNICEF further elaborated the concept of a three-tiered system to involve primary health care professionals in early identification of developmental delays or risks factors by monitoring child growth and development, and linking families with young children to existing social, psychosocial or medical services.

UNICEF supported the identification of relevant screening instruments and facilitated discussions among key stakeholders to reach consensus on standardized low-cost developmental surveillance/screening/evaluation instruments for all levels of the proposed three-level ECD system.



First, the village/community level, aiming to ensure universal access to developmental surveillance and parental education for families with children under the age of six and referrals whenever a potential developmental problem is identified.

Second, the district level, which serves as the referral point for rural children with suspected developmental delays, and where trained paediatricians connect families to additional resources and interventions.

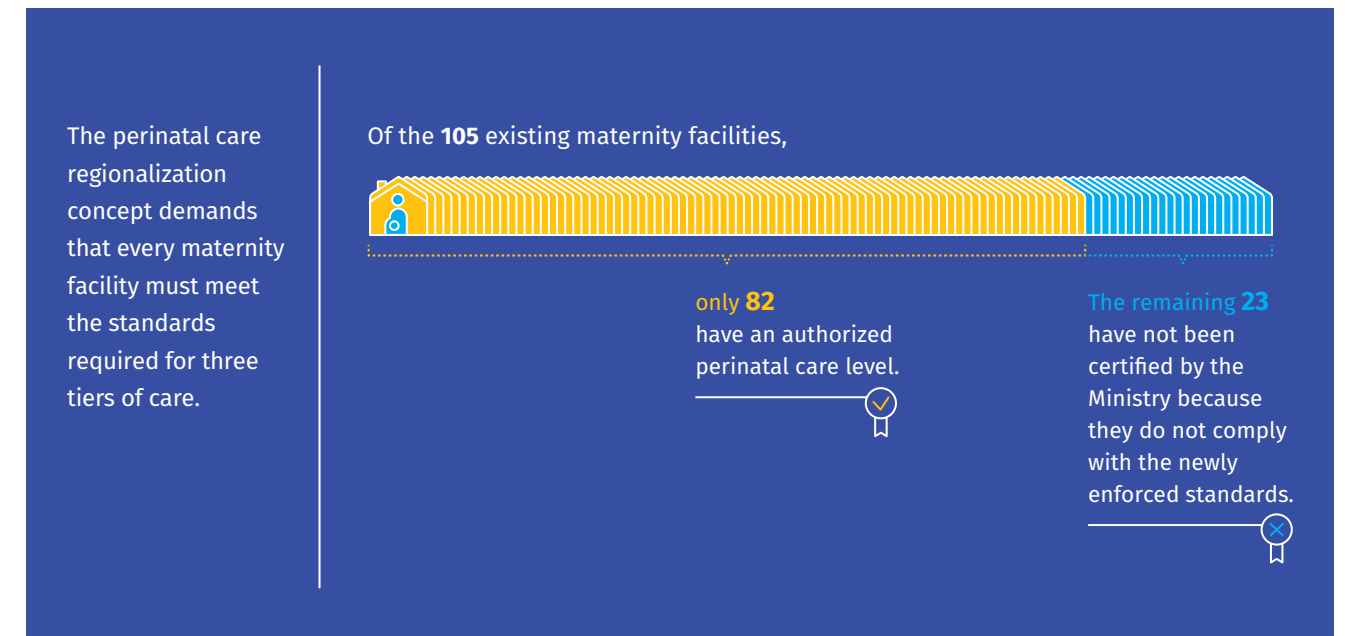
And third, specialized care for children identified as needing additional support. The use of standardized screening tools is important because clinicians without such tools correctly identify only 20 to 30 percent of children with developmental delays. With standardized tools, the percentage rises to 70 to 80 percent. In addition, the use of standardized screening tools not only improves earlier identification but also increases referrals and the utilization of early interventions.

The screening tools will be piloted in Adjara region in 2018.

Regionalization of perinatal care

Georgia is moving towards regionalization of perinatal health care which is an important step towards strengthening the maternal and child health care system. It envisages granting of levels of care (I-III levels) to the existed maternities in Georgia as per the predefined requirements for each level in terms of human resources, infrastructure, equipment, laboratory and diagnostic services.

The perinatal care regionalization process was scaled up country-wide in 2017, with UNICEF supporting the assessment of all maternity facilities and strengthening the capacities of medical professionals (such as obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists) in Adjara, Guria, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Shida Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianiti regions. The process envisages that every mother gives birth in a maternity facility that meets her specific needs in terms of skilled personnel, infrastructure, equipment and appropriate technology.



One major shift has been the upgrade of a core group of level 1 maternity facilities to level 2, signaling their membership of the growing number of facilities that meet the required standards for perinatal care (with 50 level 2 maternity facilities compared to 24 before the

reform). The set-up of the system is now fully in line with the recommendations outlined in the Perinatal Care Master Plan (developed with UNICEF technical assistance and adopted in 2011).

Young people

Parenting study

Family support and parenting programmes are central to UNICEF's global social inclusion agenda, with study after study confirming the importance of positive parenting for health, education, child protection and for the overall well-being of adolescents. Georgia was part of a regional study in 2017 on parenting programmes conducted by the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia to guide UNICEF and its partners in the development of parenting intervention packages for adolescents and their families.

The goal was to build the evidence base on how parenting is understood and practiced by parents/caregivers of adolescent boys and girls. The study also examined how individual, interpersonal, institutional and structural factors in Georgia affect parenting dynamics and influence parenting practices.



Children in a digital world

The State of the World's Children Report

The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World report presented UNICEF's first comprehensive look at the different ways in which digital technology shapes children's lives and life chances, identifying dangers as well as opportunities.

UNICEF Georgia initiated a discussion on this issue with a national perspective. At the national launch of the report, Georgian legislators, local and international experts, telecommunication operators and other stakeholders discussed their perspectives on children's access to the Internet and the potential risks.



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Ethical reporting on children



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UNICEF and the Charter of Journalistic Ethics carried out regular monitoring of media stories about children from April to December 2017. Reports on children in electronic, online and print media were monitored and their compliance with professional and ethical standards was analyzed. UNICEF's partnership with the Charter also included workshops for selected media outlets, roundtable discussions and the annual UNICEF and Charter prize, awarded to the best media report on children that complies with ethical and in-depth reporting standards.

This cooperation has had important results. Ethical reporting on children has improved markedly, and journalists and producers are now more careful when covering children's issues. Partnership with UNICEF has given the Charter – the only media self-regulation organization in Georgia – valuable expertise and has supported the development of high standards on ethical reporting. The guidelines created by the partnership are being used to review the applications the Charter receives, while the monitoring results have been used to develop specific recommendations on complying with ethical standards for reporting on children.

This Newsletter is published in English and Georgian and aims to provide information on UNICEF work in Georgia. This is the twentieth issue of the newsletter. Please let us know if you would like any additional information on UNICEF and its work.

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