

**Joint Programme of
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Country: Georgia**

**SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES' LIVELIHOOD
DEVELOPMENT IN SAMEGRELO-ZEMO SVANETI REGION**


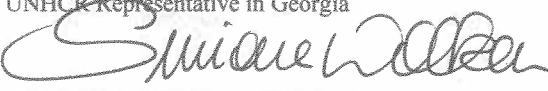
Joint Programme Outcome (UNDAF): Reduced number of households living in poverty through the realization of the economic potential and provision of social welfare

Programme Duration: 24 months
Anticipated start/end dates:
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Fund Management: pooled
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Total estimated budget: USD 290,000
Out of which:
1. **Funded Budget:** USD 290,000
2. **Unfunded budget:** _____

Sources of funded budget:

- UNHCR USD 270,000.00
- UNDP USD 20,000.00

UNDP	UNHCR
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Executive Summary

In keeping with global UNDP-UNHCR MoU and the guidelines on UN Joint Programme, with the overall goal to increase resources and achieve a sustainable development impact through collective efforts, UNDP and UNHCR have developed the current joint programme for western Georgia

Similar to the joint programmes currently implemented in Pankisi and Shida Kartli, the present UNDP/UNHCR joint programme is designed:

- i. to assist the development a transitional strategy from direct individual humanitarian assistance to sustainable human development for all communities, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region; and
- ii. to strengthen the national system of protection of IDPs and to enhance local development in a broader context of democratic governance, addressing poverty issues and promoting sustainable human development in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, Georgia.

In addition to the direct impact of the programme, the complementary goals include:

- the creation of a model to be adopted by the Government and other development actors for supporting small holder farmers, as well as support the integration of IDPs;
- the enhancement of the protection capacity of UNDP staff on the issues relevant to the work with persons of concern to UNHCR and ensuring their inclusion in future UNDP actions¹;
- the expansion of the new approach as a system-wide best practice for both joint transitional programmes and collaboration between UN Agencies.

This initiative is aligned with the Transitional Solution Initiative or Nordic Plus Initiative² which is based on the recognition that displacement challenges cannot only be addressed through humanitarian means. In order to achieve sustainable solutions, avoid protracted displacement situations and break the cycle of dependence on humanitarian assistance government, humanitarian and development actors need to jointly address humanitarian, as well as development issues and adopt situation specific comprehensive approaches, similar to some good past practices of the past.

Moreover, the joint programme is in line with the current United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) 2011-2015 for Georgia (http://www.undp.org.ge/files/4_93_811877_UNDAF2011-15-eng.pdf), which identified two thematic areas that support those Millennium Development Goals which have been recognized by the Government of Georgia as national priorities, namely:

- Poverty Reduction: advancing inclusive development, employment creation and access to health, education and essential social services, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Democratic Development: promoting balanced, independent, fair and participatory governance systems and processes at all levels based on the Rule of Law, human rights and equality principles.

¹ Throughout the implementation of the current joint programme, UNHCR Georgia will continue to fully exercise direct protection monitoring and response, including promoting and overseeing a network of local and international NGOs and other partners and the establishment of referral mechanisms and targeted protection interventions.

² The inadequate response to the needs of IDPs and refugees, particularly to developmental needs continues to be a major challenge to finding durable solutions for this group. The Nordic Plus Initiative signifies collaboration between humanitarian and development, bilateral and multilateral actors, aiming to work together with national governments in finding solutions and sustainability of interventions for displaced persons and local community members.

Situation Analysis

Local Integration of IDPs. As a part of the efforts to achieve sustainable/durable solutions for IDPs, successful local integration pending return can only be achieved through inclusive and equitable economic and social development. In this regard, assistance efforts should be transformed from emergency and humanitarian response to sustainable development measures, with special emphasis on internally displaced persons.

According to the findings of the participatory assessments and from continuous monitoring of IDPs, most of the concerns and challenges currently faced by IDPs are not necessarily IDP-specific but are rather common for the general population. However, certain groups of IDPs remain particularly vulnerable even after, in some cases, over 15 years of displacement. The most acute problem - livelihood needs of IDPs, are in most cases a result of the generally poor economic situation in the country. These problems could be addressed through strengthening livelihoods and promoting access to employment and income opportunities in a sustainable manner in the communities where IDPs reside.

Improvement of livelihoods of the vulnerable communities can only be achieved through long-term, sustainable economic development of entire areas equally involving IDPs and local populations through establishing new and enhancing existing supply chains to support income generation, create employment and self-employment opportunities, and providing technical skills and advice³.

In particular, populations/IDPs in rural areas with access to arable land are in need of improving agricultural productivity and a shift to market orientated farming practices. This would be an effective method to address livelihood issues of IDPs and local population.

Profile of Vulnerability of IDPs in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region. Georgia's internally displaced population is mainly concentrated in the regions of Tbilisi (87,000), Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (81,000), Imereti (25,000) and Shida Kartli (estimated 18,000 long-term IDPs).

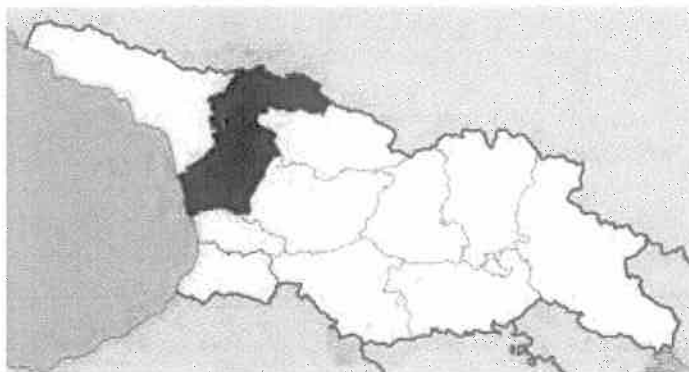
Vulnerability to physical resources is particularly pronounced among IDP households, who are less likely to own land, livestock or houses. Lack of access to livelihood and ensuing poor living conditions and poverty are considered one of the main reasons for vulnerability of IDPs and the main impediment for achieving durable solutions. Generally, similar to the local population, the economic conditions of IDPs in small towns and villages are worse than the conditions of those in large cities. Due to their economic situation, most IDPs are included in the Government social assistance programme. Moreover, while much attention is paid to IDPs in collective centres, there is concern that the needs of IDPs in private accommodation are less addressed, in spite of equally destitute living conditions. Only one-third of IDPs country-wide are employed, the majority (more than one half) in private or state establishments, approximately one fifth are self-employed, while more than one tenth work on their own land plots and approximately the same share has some kind of temporary employment.

The region of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti hosts the second largest caseload of IDPs after Tbilisi, almost 90,000 persons, out of which some 30,000 still live in collective centres. Many of these IDPs are living below the poverty line and in sub-standard conditions.

³ As a report "Monitoring Livelihoods and Food Security among IDPs" by MRA/WFP highlights, "improving IDPs' physical and financial assets would need to be combined with more assistance in product development and marketing in order to boost current income levels, particularly from agriculture". In a similar way, UNHCR's "Participatory Assessment for the extension of the IDP Action Plan in Georgia" conducted from September till November 2011, highlight that the priorities, as identified by IDPs of agricultural background, are related to increasing production (through skills training and additional technical means), as well as assistance in access to market (selling products and transportation).



Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region



The Government has been constructing new IDP settlements in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region over the past four years. IDPs from different areas in Georgia have been and are resettled to Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and provided with new or renovated apartments that constitute decent living conditions. About 50% of IDPs in Georgia have been resettled so far. However, the resettlement process does not solve the challenges related to their socio-economic environment and identifying a livelihood.

The largest part of the IDPs in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti resides in the city of Zugdidi, while the remainder live in rural areas, where agriculture is the dominating income generating activity. Unemployment, inadequate or unsuitable professional skills and non-viable, mostly subsistence oriented agriculture, are the main factors hindering the economic prosperity of households, both for IDPs and the local population. The remittances from household members living and working abroad are the main monetary incomes for many families. The limited opportunities for engaging into economic activities, such as viable employment and business, lead to vulnerability of the local community, where IDPs represent the highest risk group.

The economy of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti is characterized by:

- prevalence of agriculture with dominant smallholder production and a significant part of the production being used for household consumption;
- low potential of farmland allocated to IDPs and in many cases no agriculture land owned by IDPs;
- limited investments for development of enterprises in rural areas;
- significant labour migration to seek jobs in the domestic and international labour markets, as the young and better skilled workers prefer to leave the region.

Agriculture in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti is dominated by sub-tropical fruits, maize and animal husbandry. As elsewhere in Georgia, production response and output volumes are constrained due to the small size of plots, as well as risk aversion and involuntary organic production (due to the high cost of inputs).

In this context, and in the absence of the land market which would enable increasing farm size through purchase of additional land, opportunities for agricultural commercialization remain limited. Nonetheless, even quite small increases of production, which would suffice for both household consumption and sale, translate into significant increases in family income and welfare.

UNDPs/UNHCR experience with joint programmes and lessons learnt. UNDP has built a strategic partnership with UNHCR in improving livelihoods of vulnerable communities residing in economically depressed areas of Georgia. Two joint programmes, launched in Pankisi valley (Kakheti region) and Shida Kartli (with concentration on Kaspi municipality), represent a multifaceted approach to supporting the vulnerable local and displaced communities.

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The driving principle of these programmes is to achieve economic security of individuals and communities, which would result not only in protection from economic threats and food insecurity, but also in a healthier diet, improved material living conditions, better access to basic services and infrastructure, increased personal and community security, as well as higher potential for political empowerment.

The experience of the implementation of the joint programmes has clearly demonstrated the following:⁴

- the need to focus on areas with a high concentration of IDPs - in new or old settlements, in accommodation which is privatized or to-be privatized, targeting rural areas⁵ and places in which UNHCR and/or UNDP already implemented livelihood or other projects and where basic infrastructure to support the joint programme is available e.g. training centres, businesses, specialized NGOs;
- the necessity to create new services and/or facilities for transformation of the existing ones to better support the income generation activities;
- the necessity to develop and facilitate a common understanding among the local stakeholders of the transformation of the humanitarian into development assistance. This transformation causes a consequent change of roles of the local stakeholders - community, NGOs and others, to which they need to adapt;
- the value of active outreach and mobilisation of the target community members to promote the new joint programme activities and to manage expectations among potential beneficiaries and partners;
- the importance of ensuring a measurable impact on the households in the target communities during the inception period of the programmes and of building trust among the target community members;
- the importance of designing the activities which are mutually beneficial to local/host and IDP community members.
- the necessity to give priority to building capacities of public institutions when establishing implementing partnerships that are more sustainable and can be integrated into the Government plans⁶.

Synergy of UNDP and UNHCR initiatives implemented in the target region. Since 2009, UNDP has implemented the 'Human Security and Social Integration Programme (HuSSIP)' in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, with the financial support of the Government of Norway. The programme supports the deliberate and strategic transition from recovery efforts to long-term development, focussing on building the human capabilities of the displaced to improve IDPs' integration into the social life, as well as to further develop their livelihoods.

The HuSSIP modules are designed to mobilise wider positive benefits, encompassing IDP host communities, as well as addressing the larger social integration priorities of the Government. The main focus of the HuSSIP programme for the period of 2013 lies in:

- Vocational education and business development through:
 - establishment and support to business support centers and a business incubator;
 - introduction of best practices and new technologies for agriculture development in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region;
 - institutional development of vocational training centres.
- Government-civil society interaction, public awareness and rule of law through:
 - supporting empowerment of civil society and human rights advocacy (community groups, youth, women empowerment);
 - coordination of state and non-state stakeholders;
 - access to justice via the legal aid service for IDPs and vulnerable local population.
- Cross ABL (Administrative Boundary Line) parallel technical activities such as:

⁴ Reference is made to the Internal Note on lessons learnt from ongoing Joint UNDP-UNHCR Programmes in Georgia and recommendations for planned joint programmes 2013 which contain details on valuable lessons learnt and recommendations reflected in this document.

⁵ The priority is given to rural areas since urban areas receive comparatively more attention from the Government and other donors.

⁶ UNHCR Implementing Partners in western Georgia carrying out livelihood activities until 2012 expressed their interest to become UNDP partners under the current programme. This is not feasible however in view of UNDP's approach to give priority to public institutions when establishing partnerships in order to avoid creating parallel structures.



- Integrated pest management control to fight the damaging effect of the Fall Web Worm.

For HuSSIP activities, UNDP will allocate in 2013 an amount of USD 500,000. In addition, under a separate UN Joint Programme aiming at enhanced gender equality in Georgia and involving UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA, UNDP will implement a range of women farmers' support activities to enhance women's economic empowerment through skills development and income generation support. The same initiative envisages building social mutually supportive networks of women (total budget - USD 183,000). In addition, UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and local authorities is supporting the region in developing its Regional Development Strategy. UNDP is currently finalizing the vulnerability assessment, which will provide a comprehensive baseline analysis of the social vulnerability status of the population in Georgia with specific emphasis on IDPs.

In the framework of its annual budget and in line with its strategy for 2013 and beyond, UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation of IDPs to identify problems and challenges and advocate for their solution with responsible authorities. Where possible UNHCR will provide targeted, individual assistance in accordance with Standard Operating procedures and UNHCR vulnerability criteria. This includes referral to non-governmental partners. Other activities of the UNHCR programme will include assistance to the Government in further developing its policies vis a vis IDPs and in the implementation of the IDP Action Plan. The office will maintain a comprehensive, country wide legal advice and referral system through a network of NGOs and other partners (advice shall be offered in areas of IDP documentation, access to assistance schemes, privatization, the creation of condominiums and on other issues linked to displacement). As part of its strategy, UNHCR will advocate for a revision of IDP legislation and of the assistance schemes available to IDPs with a view to using limited resources more efficiently to support the most vulnerable IDPs. The amount allocated by UNHCR for countrywide activities for IDPs is amounting to US\$1,000,000.

The above activities implemented in parallel by UNDP and UNHCR will complement and in part facilitate interventions planned under the current joint programme maximising the benefit for IDPs from the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region.

4. Strategies and proposed activities

The planned UNDP/UNHCR initiative for Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region derives from a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to supporting the most vulnerable communities in the region, and through its operational design to deliver long-term benefits to IDPs and host communities alike. UNHCR and UNDP will therefore jointly identify the most vulnerable areas and groups of population where different components of the programme will have a significant impact on the livelihoods of people, as well as the socio-economic development of the region.

It is underpinned by an approach which seeks to build the capacities of individuals and the community to better manage and where possible reverse economic insecurity, as well as to reduce the threats to livelihoods faced by populations affected by conflict and socio-economic shocks. It will take its cue from the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) emphasis to design development interventions which assertively build local capacities to stimulate the transition from humanitarian to development assistance through the rehabilitation of social infrastructure and support for income generation activities.

The programme will address some of the social and economic concerns of the IDP population at large, whose unresolved situation stands as a reminder of the need to find durable solutions to some of Georgia's prolonged socio-economic challenges. The programme is also in line with the extension of the IDP Action Plan of the Government of Georgia for 2012- 2014, which states the socio-economic integration of IDPs as one of its main objectives. By presenting a coherent approach to support IDP and non-IDP communities, the programme will simultaneously support socio-economic benefits and grass-roots social integration.



The main activities of the joint programme are:

- to support farmers, both IDP and host communities, to increase yield and productivity through provision of advice and consultancy services;
- to introduce advanced, yet affordable farming technologies;
- to support local farmers to increase their income from agriculture through supporting them to diversify and expand markets for their produce.

5. Results Framework

The programme is in line with the Government's socio-economic measures stipulated in the State Strategy for IDPs, whose main goal is to promote IDPs' socio-economic integration and improve their living conditions. To reach this goal, the Action Plan strives to provide long term solutions to the accommodation needs of IDPs, the reduction of their dependency on the state and the integration of the vulnerable IDPs into the governmental social assistance programmes based on clear and transparent criteria until their return becomes possible.

The outcome of the proposed programme is to develop rural livelihoods of vulnerable IDP and host communities through increasing the productivity of and returns to small-scale farming in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, thereby raising income of farming families and increasing their food security at the household level.

The programme envisages the establishment of a value chain linking the farmers/farmers' groups, low cost agricultural processing facilities and service providers, as well as strengthening their capacity through training, extension support and access to markets.

The target groups will be farmers in selected vulnerable communities in Senaki, Martvili and Abasha municipalities, and will include host communities and IDPs. The beneficiaries will be selected from the vulnerable communities with a high number of IDPs in rural areas, in consultation with UNHCR, NGOs and grass root organisations with involvement of local authorities. In total, support will be provided to 150-200 farming oriented households in three municipalities.

The regular business development support and coaching will be provided to the selected target groups with special attention to women and female-headed households in advancing farming activities, developing professional and business skills and facilitation of access to market and financial products.

With the aim of avoiding tensions within the local community, the programme interventions will be directed at the entire population of the target communities, not favouring one group over the other, aiming at enhancing integration of the IDPs, prevention of social tensions due to perceived inequality, and elevating the area from poverty.

Implementation

Activity 1: Support Farmers to Increase Yield and Productivity through Provision of Extension Services⁷

Agriculture extension services will be developed in Senaki and will focus on improvement of produce quantity and quality, thus ultimately increasing incomes to the farmers' households. The emphasis will also be made on grading, creation and use of demonstration plots and capacity building of basic business management skills. The extension services will be relevant to the local farming such as gardening, animal husbandry, fruit and vegetable growing.

⁷ It should be noted that this and the following activities correspond to project activities of ongoing joint programmes in Shida Kartli and Pankisi. Based on the experience and success of these projects, similar approaches have been taken with the inclusion of lessons learnt and recommendations formulated in an internal note (refer previous foot note).



The extension services will be provided by locally based branches of higher education institutions, i.e. Zugdidi University, using a mix of classroom training and practical field demonstrations. Part of the extension services will be facilitated using classroom-based group training, since this method proved to be both efficient and cost effective. In addition, farmer field schools that will be based at demonstration plots will enable practical demonstrations.

Field extension schools will also be used to the extent feasible, providing classroom-based training in locations closer to farmers, since many farmers can not easily reach current classroom extension.

Extension will also promote farm business management, aimed at ensuring the best returns to the farm businesses as a whole, an area in its infancy in Georgia, where extension tend to focus on agronomic aspects of crop husbandry and on livestock production techniques. Farm business management support will also be provided mainly using classroom-based techniques and will focus initially on simple methods of estimating returns as a basis for farm business planning.

In addition to boosting returns to existing crops, extension will explicitly aim at diversification and innovative approaches to production, since the rural economy in Georgia shows considerable homogeneity of produce, this greatly contributing to harvest time gluts and sharply reduced gross margins. Diversification of farms will help address this, given different production seasons and production of crops less commonly found on Georgian markets. It is expected that initially only less risk-averse farmers will be interested in diversification but, once there is a critical mass, demonstration effects are likely to occur.

The farmers' groups represent a crucial component to ensure effectiveness of the programme's components during the implementation stage and sustainability after the implementation phase. Hence, in addition to the capacity building activities, the extension centre will serve as an umbrella for developing a farmers' association in the target area, preferably a joint association of IDPs and local farmers, consisting of beneficiaries of the extension centre and demonstration projects. The programme will support self-management capacities of the farmers' groups and facilitate their joint actions.

The sub-activities under this component will include:

- 1.1 Develop a Master Plan for provision of extension services;
- 1.2 Reach out to and mobilize potential client farmers and formation of farmer groups;
- 1.3 Deliver on-field group and individual consultation sessions.

The desired **impact** of extension services is based on the experience of the Kachreti Extension Centre⁸, which has been supported by UNDP, showing the greatest gains from extension with farmers who have not yet received extension support. This support leads to sharp initial yield and production increases, with the scale of the increases then tending to tail off. Consequently, increasing the benefits of extension will depend in part on increasing the numbers of farmers benefiting from extension and, in particular, bringing in new farmers as clients.

Activity 2: Implementation of Demonstration Projects and Developing Green House Infrastructure⁹

Demonstrations of greenhouse production will form one element of the project. These will focus on use of 'light' low-cost greenhouses, which are affordable and suitable for backyard plots. These greenhouses are likely to be unheated, so they will mostly serve for production in the shoulder seasons, when open field production is not possible. Small greenhouses will be backed by a larger demonstration greenhouse, which will be on a scale large enough to demonstrate production of a wide range of greenhouse crops under heated conditions.

⁸ Impact Analysis of Extension Services Provided by Kakheti Extension Centre. UNDP Georgia, 7th March, 2011.

⁹ It should be noted that similar projects are currently implemented by UNHCR implementing partners in Senaki. However, the proposed methods in this proposal will be more advanced and could contribute to improving existing green house production. Moreover, existing projects lack marketing support.



The aim of the greenhouses will be multiple, not only to demonstrate the production of the crops, but also to indicate to farmers increased returns upon investments in up-scaling greenhouse production and introducing higher technology alternatives. In addition, it will provide vulnerable household farms with low-cost seedlings and plants, thus reducing significantly the inputs costs. A secondary benefit of a larger greenhouse demonstration will be the employment provided to some members of the local community.

The number of demonstration projects will be implemented, addressing not only existing crops, but also new crops thought suitable for client farmers. Arrangements for demonstration projects provision would be formalised. Farmers will be receiving assistance and inputs for the demonstration projects and, in return, agree to follow specified recommendations on production and to allow access to the projects to other farmers for a defined period. The eligibility criteria for farmers will be developed, giving priority to IDPs, women and vulnerable local households.

The selected location of the demonstration projects will be in the areas of the communities of concern, i.e. IDP or mixed settlements, which would be agreed jointly by UNDP and UNHCR, together with regional and local authorities and local communities.

The template demonstration projects will be developed by the extension centre's consultant. The templates of the demonstration projects will include the description of technical and financial aspect of the projects, in order to help the farmers to understand the benefits and inputs to the projects. During the selection process, extension consultants will provide relevant advice to the farmers on the most effective projects for them.

In demonstration projects, special attention will be paid to promotion of modern, environmentally friendly technologies. For example, solar and underground heating systems will be applied for the main big green house. At the same time, modern insulation and cover materials will be used to cover the main big and smaller field green houses. Considering that use of natural energy and warmth is cost efficient in long-term, use of these energy efficient technologies will contribute to sustainability of the facilities.

It is hoped that the learning-by doing-effect will demonstrate to the farmers the advantages of the new methods and technologies and help to increase production, provide access to new methods of farming and gradually upgrade farming skills. At the same time, the demonstration projects are seen as an investment to support the farmers' activity.

The sub-activities under this component are:

- 2.1 Develop model demonstration projects;
- 2.2 Select eligible farmers and identify demonstration projects;
- 2.3 Implement demonstration projects and arrange farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange

3. Improved Marketing Through Produce Market Promotion

Harvest consolidation centres offer a way of establishing backward linkages with farmers, which enable procuring fresh fruits and vegetables. These harvest consolidation centres are mutually beneficial to both buyers and farmers, since the goal of buyers is to have a steady and continuous supply of fresh fruit and vegetables into the marketing chain, while the goal of the farmers is to reduce the market risks and transaction costs. The establishment of harvest consolidation centres offers an alternative to brokers, wholesalers and commission agents to whom farmers would normally sell their produce, if they could find a market at all.

Widely established in many European countries, the consolidation centres become a management tool ensuring supply of fruit and vegetables to market chains, but are also rebalancing the relationship between farmers and buyers¹⁰. Direct supply by farmers will also allow increased control over quality, supply reliability and price stability. An added advantage is that it provides flexibility to the farmers to exit from this system in case of

¹⁰ http://www.agrologistick.nl/downloads/Agro_folder_UK_06_web.pdf

dissatisfaction, since there are no written contracts. This makes the concept well suited for small and marginal farmers, since they are not locked into a marketing arrangement.

The extension service provider will work with farmers to improve quality and appearance of produce, in order to ensure the best prices and marketability. It is expected also that a more direct relationship between buyers and farmers will enable monitoring of trends related to market requirements and market needs, including demand for new products. The marketing operations of the client farmers harvest will be supported by the extension service consultants, who will provide advice to the client farmers. The marketing component is a natural continuation of the farming business and management component of the extension services.

The sub-activities under this component will include:

- 3.1 Assess and define marketing opportunities and sales channels for farmers' products;
- 3.2 Support farmers in establishing links with potential buyers.

Sustainability and time frame. The sustainability of the proposed joint programme will be ensured by a mix of approaches relevant for the planned activities.

Adequate institutional affiliation of the project activities, capacity development of the partner entities, as well as business plans based on analytical survey, which is serving for assessing the long-term financial sustainability of the projects' activities, will be utilised for ensuring sustainability of the mechanisms developed by the programme.

The improvement of services to farmers, i.e. agriculture extension and business development services for farmers and possibly to farmer groups, is considered to be implemented by already operating and capable entity – Zugdidi University, with which UNDP has a record of successful cooperation.

The approach which is followed in this project - building on existing sustainable institutional structures instead of creating the new ones is the precondition for sustainability of implemented actions. Zugdidi University, with its Vocational Education Center and Senaki VET College would serve as the main base for project activities. Thus, agricultural extension capacities, as well as capacities for mobilizing farmers, applying special approach for the integration of IDPs, and cementing linkages between the IDP and host communities will remain and be continued by the Zugdidi University.

Environmental impact. The proposed joint programme will be implemented with due consideration of its impact on the environment having in mind its institutional, policy and operational aspects. The implementing partner will be provided with technical assistance in environmental sustainability based on good practices. Furthermore, the environmentally friendly agricultural practices will be promoted through the agricultural extension activities, and every project will be assessed on its impact on environment.

Therefore, UNDP, UNHCR and the joint programme implementing partner(s) will ensure compliancy of the equipment and other inputs procured with the internationally recognised environmental standards and UNHCR's internal rules and regulations. Moreover, an environmentally friendly heating technology (hybrid solar and underground warmth based heating system) will be considered for being utilized in agricultural production practices.



Gender. The proposed joint programme will respect age, gender and diversity mainstreaming as one of the five UN management principles. It will ensure proactive participation of women in the activities proposed – training and consultancy to farmers and implementation of demonstration projects. A high number of women beneficiaries, especially women IDPs, will be supported through promoting equal opportunities at each stage of implementation of the project. The female headed household farms will be prioritised in the selection process. The project management will ensure tracking of the participation of women in the planned activities through maintaining relevant statistics and monitoring the project activities.

Moreover, the joint programme's operations will be complementary to the women economic empowerment components' activities under the joint UN programme 'Enhancing Gender Equality in Georgia' and UNHCR's countrywide project implemented in western Georgia through Atinati. The mentioned components envisage support to women farmers through increasing their efficiency and positioning them stronger on the market.

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Table 1: Results Framework

UNDAF Outcome #1: Outcome #1 – Inclusive Development and Poverty Alleviation Promoted through International, National and Local Economic Policies, Including in the Area of Trade and Investment							
JP Outputs	Participating UN organization	Participating UN organization corporate priority	Implementing Partner	Indicative activities for each Output	Resource allocation and indicative time frame*		Total
					Y1	Y2	
<p>Output: Income and food security of farming households increased through improved productivity of and returns to small-scale farming within overall enhanced rural livelihoods of the IDP and host communities in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region.</p> <p>1.1/ Lack of institutionalized extension services accessible to vulnerable communities / At least 80 farmers received consultations and services of extension center</p> <p>2.1/ No facilities and formats for initiation of innovative methods in farming are available in the area / At least 10 types of innovations disseminated and applied by means of extension service provider</p> <p>2.2/ Lack of practical demonstration sessions for local farmers / 50 demonstration projects implemented within the farms of client farmers (at least 30% women)</p> <p>2.2/ Lack of providers of high quality and affordable inputs for farmers / accessibility of innovative type of greenhouse suitable for delivery of inputs to extension client farmers and provision of demonstration sessions</p> <p>3.1/ Lack of information on marketing opportunities of harvested products / provision of information on market channels and prices to client farmers</p>	<p>UNDP, UNHCR</p> <p>UNDP CP Outcome: 1.5. Equitable economic growth promoted through close cooperation with private sector entities within the overall framework of corporate social responsibility</p> <p>Zugdidi State University</p>	<p>Activity 1. Support farmers to increase yield and productivity through provision of quality advice</p> <p>1.1 Develop Master Plan for provision of extension services;</p> <p>1.2 Reach out to and mobilise potential client farmers, formation of groups;</p> <p>1.3 Deliver of on-field consultation sessions to groups and/or individuals.</p> <p>Activity 2. Implementation of demonstration projects and developing green house infrastructure</p> <p>2.1 Develop model demonstration projects;</p> <p>2.2 Select eligible farmers and identify suitable demonstration projects;</p> <p>2.3 Implement demonstration projects and arrange farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange.</p> <p>Activity 3. Improve marketing through produce market promotion</p> <p>3.1 Assess and define marketing opportunities and sales channels for the farmers products;</p> <p>3.2 Support farmers in establishing links with potential buyers.</p> <p>Activity 4. Programme Monitoring</p> <p>4.1/ Conducting regular field trips</p> <p>4.2/ Monitoring project implementation</p>	<p>46,500</p> <p>26,500</p> <p>118,800</p> <p>43,284</p> <p>3,150</p> <p>0</p> <p>18,150</p> <p>14,716</p> <p>186,600</p> <p>64,500</p> <p>15,054</p> <p>3,846</p> <p>0</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>186,600</p> <p>84,500</p> <p>15,054</p> <p>3,846</p> <p>201,564</p> <p>88,346</p> <p>251,000</p> <p>18,900</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>0</p> <p>271,100</p> <p>18,900</p> <p>290,000</p>	<p>73,000</p> <p>162,084</p> <p>3,150</p> <p>32,866</p>			
UNHCR	Programme Cost				186,600	64,500	251,000
UNDP	Indirect Support Cost (GMS 7%)				15,054	3,846	18,900
	Programme Cost				0	20,000	20,000
	Indirect Support Cost (GMS 7%)				0	0	0
Total	Programme Cost				186,600	84,500	271,100
	Indirect Support Cost (GMS 7%)				15,054	3,846	18,900
	GRAND TOTAL				201,564	88,346	290,000

6. Management and Coordination Arrangements

Joint programme development stage:

The concept of the joint programme in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti has been thoroughly discussed and analysed between the two agencies during the design stage. To operationalize it, a number of meetings and joint field visits have been conducted in the course of 2012), resulting in an agreed approach to develop the joint programme on supporting farming activities in the region.

Based on the lessons learnt in the previous joint programmes, to enhance participation, support and commitment of different programme stakeholders, separate consultations have been conducted by UNHCR/UNDP with the local government authorities, associations of veterinarians, local NGOs operating in the area and IDPs themselves. To facilitate a better understanding by IDPs and other programme stakeholders of the transitional strategy, a leaflet has been developed, and disseminated during consultations. Key messages consolidated in the form of an anticipated “questions/answers” leaflet (in Georgian and English) enabled IDPs to understand the rationale, format, funding mechanisms of the joint programme and provide feedback.

As a result, all stakeholders confirmed commitment to support the implementation of joint programme activities in 2013 through information dissemination, community mobilization and other interventions.

Programme implementation:

The joint programme will be implemented over a period of two years (16 January 2013 – 16 January 2015). This timeframe takes into account the differences between the UNHCR and UNDP programme cycles and the pilot nature of this initiative. The programme could ,however, be subject to extension through other phases, with possible mobilisation of additional financial resources and partners.

The programme will be implemented by the UNDP Economic Development Team with direct involvement of the team of the project ‘Income Generation and Employment through Skills Development’ responsible for day-to-day management and coordination of the programme implementation with the support of UNDP Zugdidi office.

Coordination:

The joint programme coordination body (Steering Committee) will involve senior personnel of the two signatories of the joint programme document. The Steering Committee (SC) will be responsible for overall coordination of the programme and taking decisions on specific programme implementation aspects. The SC will meet once a year, during the course of the programme. Ad hoc meetings of the SC may be organized when and if required, at the request of any of its members at any time of the programme implementation.

Relevant UNHCR/UNDP staff, including focal points at the field level, will conduct appropriate monitoring and evaluation actions pertaining to the relevance, performance and progress towards intended outcome, facilitating the cooperation of the programme with relevant partners, public and private, and ensuring continuous and effective communication between the programme and its beneficiaries.

Joint quarterly monitoring exercises followed by coordination meetings will be organised regularly in western Georgia. This will allow for regular progress monitoring, feed back and exchange of information, referral and communication with partners as UNHCR will continue protection monitoring and assistance in the areas.

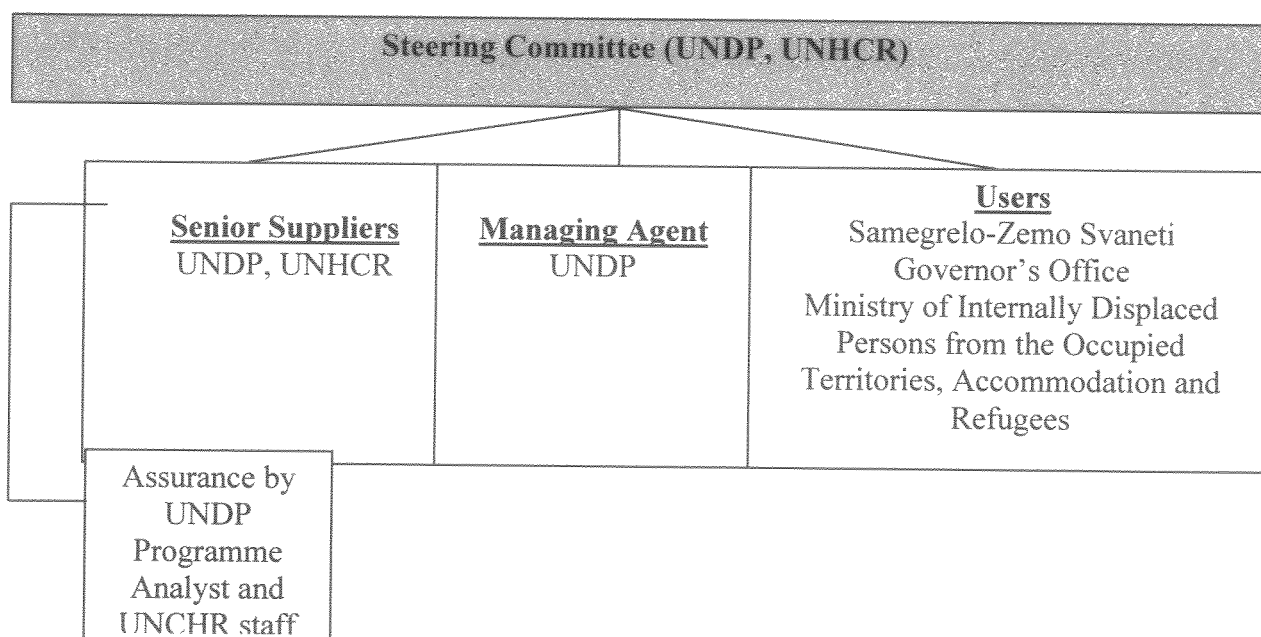
Coordination through meetings and frequent communication will be maintained with UNHCR former implementing partners in western Georgia (Accion Contra El Hambre, Charity Humanitarian Centre Abkhazeti, Atinati) to ensure dissemination of information and coordination of assistance by different agencies for the benefit of IDPs.

Cooperation with local authorities and other stakeholders:



The joint programme will draw from expertise already available in the region, e.g. from national and international NGOs who are working in the agricultural sector in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region and coordinate its planned activities with those partners. The programme will further cooperate closely and regularly with the Governor's office and local municipalities to ensure a maximal involvement of the local authorities and their support to the programme and further expansion in line with the regional development plan to be established. The programme will further coordinate and collaborate with other UN sister agencies, such as FAO and with different Ministries, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees (MRA).

In this initial stage, the joint programme for Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, will focus on the two sister agencies UNDP and UNHCR and on improvements of livelihoods of IDPs and host farmer communities in the agricultural sector. However, should this initial phase prove successful, an expansion into other sectors as well as the inclusion of other agencies and stakeholders (governmental, development actors, international and national agencies) will be envisaged.



7. Fund Management Arrangements

Based on the common understanding regarding the situation in the field between UNDP and UNHCR, on deliberations about the best path to transition from humanitarian assistance to development, and on the agreement on the most efficient and effective aid delivery at this particular location, the agreement has been reached between the agencies that the joint programme for Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region will be managed under pooled funding conditions, with UNDP as a Managing Agent.

UNHCR and UNDP will contribute funds to this joint programme in accordance with the budget in Appendix 1.

Under own financial regulations and rules, UNDP (as a Managing Agent) will establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds received pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed

between UNDP and UNHCR. The Joint Programme Account will be administered by UNDP in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to it, including those relating to interest.

The Joint Programme Account will be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid out in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the UNDP. The audit conducted by the Managing Agent's internal and/or external auditors will be considered acceptable to the participating UN Organizations.

UNHCR will transfer funds to the Managing Agent through wire transfer. When making a transfer to UNDP, UNHCR will notify UNDP's Treasury Operations of the details of the transfer.

Transfer of cash to national implementing partners. The cash transfers to national and sub-national implementing partners will be processed according to the rules and procedures of UNDP in compliance with the reporting and administrating requirements of the standard letter of agreements concluded with relevant national/sub-national partners. The schedule of payments will be agreed in advance with the national/sub-national partners and reflected in the letters of agreement.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Monitoring:

Monitoring of the joint programme activities will be an ongoing process involving a continuous review to determine whether activities are being undertaken as planned (by the designated actors, within the specified timeframe, within estimated costs) and whether they are meeting agreed objectives and contributing towards achieving the desired outcomes. Monitoring will be conducted during implementation and will serve to provide early indications of progress, or lack thereof, so that any revisions required can be made swiftly.

In general terms, monitoring will include:

- **Financial monitoring.** Quarterly financial reports will be prepared. In addition to reporting on financial expenditure, major deviations from the budget will be commented on.
- **Monitoring of inputs and activities.** The programme will use a common format for monitoring inputs and activities of the programme components, in order to keep track of who does what, where and how much and to what extent targets are achieved.

Evaluation:

While monitoring is routine and on-going, evaluation will be an in-depth study, taking place at specific points in the life of the programme. The evaluation will have the following major purposes:

- providing information to the various stakeholders on the progress and impact of the programme and take corrective action if and where required;
- extracting lessons learnt to inform future development projects;
- providing programme partners and stakeholders with better means for learning from past experience, improving service delivery, planning and allocating resources, and demonstrating results as part of accountability to key stakeholders.

Reporting:

UNDP (as the Managing Agent) will provide UNHCR with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with the regulations, rules and procedures applicable to it:

- a. Brief Quarterly Progress Reports for each quarter. The Progress Reports will be drafted reflecting progress towards results, factors contributing to or impeding achievement of results and lessons learnt. The quarterly reports will reflect the programmatic and financial aspect of the Joint Programme;



- b. Narrative progress reports for each twelve-month period, which will be provided no later than three months after the end of the applicable reporting period in consistence with its usual reporting requirements;
- c. Interim, annual financial reports as of 31 December each year with respect to the Joint Programme Account, which will be provided no later than three months after the end of the applicable reporting period;
- d. A final narrative report and uncertified financial report no later than 6 months after the completion of the Joint Programme. The report will include an assessment and analysis of programme performance over the reporting period, including outputs produced, constraints, lessons learnt and recommendations for avoiding key problems in future projects;
- e. A final certified financial statement, will be provided six months after completion of the Joint Programme.

The joint programme work plan will be developed and used to set targets for the delivery of outputs and to develop a strategy for ensuring the achievement of programme objectives. The work plan will be reviewed and updated regularly by UNDP and approved by the Steering Committee. Performance measures will be identified to evaluate progress in implementing the programme. The measures will assess the effectiveness of the project in meeting the objectives of promoting socio-economic development, rural revitalization and poverty reduction.





Table 2: Joint Programme Monitoring Framework (JPMF)

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Indicators (with baselines & indicative timeframe)	Means of verification	Collection methods (with indicative time frame & frequency)	Responsibilities	Risks & assumptions
Income and food security of farming households increased through improved productivity of and returns to small-scale farming within overall enhanced rural livelihoods of the IDP and host communities in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region	<p>1.1 Lack of institutionalized extension services for all vulnerable communities / At least 80 farmers received consultations and services of extension center</p> <p>2.1/ No facilities and formats for initiation of innovative methods in farming are available in the area / At least 10 types of innovations disseminated and applied by means of extension service provider</p> <p>2.2/ No practical demonstration sessions available for local farmers / 50 demonstration projects implemented within the farms of client farmers</p> <p>2.2/ Lack of providers of high quality and affordable inputs for farmers / accessibility of innovative type of greenhouse suitable for delivery of inputs for extension client farmers and provision of demonstration sessions</p> <p>3.1/ Lack of information on marketing opportunities of harvested products / provision of information on market channels and prices to client farmers</p>	<p>Project Records, Implementing partners records, Farmers' cards records tracking; Reports on supported sales of products provided by the business consultants of extension centre</p>	<p>Joint UNDP and UNHCR mission visits (quarterly); Steering Committee discussions (quarterly); Regular reporting of implementing partners (quarterly); Interviews with selected clients</p>	<p>UNDP/UNHCR: regular missions, reporting and holding steering committee meetings on quarterly basis for mid-term evaluation of tracking of the indicators, level of involvement of the target group</p>	<p>Risks: Reluctance of farmers in joining the extension service format; Technical risks associated with innovative heating technology of the greenhouse; Lack of interest of farmers to engage in demonstration projects and opening them for other farmers; Low efficiency of market promotion service operations.</p>

10. Budget

	Output/Activity Budget Item Description	Impl Agent	Year 1		Year 2		Total
			UNHCR	UNDP	UNHCR	UNDP	
	Activity 1. Extension Services						
1.1	Establishing Senaki Extension Centre within Zugdidi University	LoA Zugdidi University	7,000	0	0	0	0
1.2	Provision of extension service related trainings and consultations	LoA	39,500	0	26,500	0	66,000
1	Total Activity 1		46,500	0	26,500	0	73,000
	Activity 2: Implementation of Demonstration Projects						
2.1	Support to development of demonstration farms and innovations for Senaki Extension Centre client farms	LoA	42,000	0	24,000	19,284	85,284
2.2	Greenhouse infrastructure	LoA	76,800	0	0	0	76,800
2	Total Activity 2		118,800	0	24,000	19,284	162,084
	Activity 3. Study on Agriculture Potential and flood prevention study and works						
3.1	Consultancies in marketing and agribusiness	UNDP	3,150	0	0	0	3,150
3	Total Activity 3		3,150	0	0	0	3,150
	Activity 4: Project Monitoring						
4.1.	Project coordinator	UNDP	6,000	0	6,000	0	12,000
4.2.	Travel	UNDP	3,500	0	2,000	0	5,500
4.3	Visibility and communications	UNDP	2,150	0	0	716	2,866
4.3.	Car Maintenance	UNDP	1,500	0	1,000	0	2,500
4.4.	Fuel	UNDP	5,000	0	5,000	0	10,000
4	Total Activity 4:		18,150	0	14,000	716	32,866
	TOTAL Activities Net		186,600	0	64,500	20,000	271,100
	General Administration Fee - 7%		15,054	0	3,846	-	18,900
	Grand Total		201,654	0	68,346	20,000	290,000

Signatures:

<p>UNDP Jamie McGoldrick UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia</p>  <p>Date & Seal 14/12/2022</p>	<p>UNHCR Simone Wolken UNHCR Representative in Georgia</p>  <p>Date & Seal 14/12/2022</p>
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