



## DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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#### Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Georgia

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2022

**JP title:** Strengthening Georgia's food and energy resilience

**Thematic SDG Areas:** Food systems transformation; Climate action & energy transformation; Decent jobs & universal social protection;

**PUNOS:** UNDP, FAO, UNECE, IL

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; Private sector;

**Gender Marker:** Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

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#### Annual Progress

##### Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

##### Overall Progress

- UNDP developed analytical tools for assessment of impact of food and energy prices and other factors on vulnerable population. Relevant analytical tools will be submitted to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) – 2 key governmental entities responsible for overall economic and specific food and agriculture policy in Georgia. The developed analytical tools provide for the opportunity of rapid assessment of impact of changes in key food and energy prices on the vulnerable population – poor and those at the edge of poverty.
  - To ensure the effective deployment of analytical tools, institutional and functional capacity assessment of relevant ministries is underway.
  - FAO conducted a stakeholder mapping to prioritize partnerships (MEPA, National Statistics Office, Regional Services of the Rural Development Agency and Georgian Farmers Association) and a rapid assessment of the existing data collection and analysis tools to identify challenges of current agricultural data collection. The work with relevant stakeholders continues to assess the identified challenges in data collection and adopt relevant recommendations.
  - Derived from the results of the survey the project has made addition to the existing report to determine the current and potential impacts of food security in Georgia and to use the forecasting of food security indicators. Namely, indicators of self-sufficiency of selected agricultural products and their forecast for 2025 and 2030; also Global Hunger Index (GHI) indicator and Expenditures on Food in Georgia.
  - Training needs assessment of the Geostat and MEPA staff was conducted and following thematic priorities for the trainings were identified: a) Time series forecasting, using Python or EViews programs; b) regression modelling using agricultural data; c) development of the business plans in agriculture and interpretation of financial and non-financial indicators; d) Improving the

quality and quantity of food stocks (methodology, conversion rate)

- Consultations with MEPA and Geostat have started about the establishment of an Interagency Coordination Group for data analysis and exchange of operative and official data.
- UNECE conducted assessment of energy consumption by small businesses in rural areas of Georgia, providing energy consumption patterns for food producing and food processing small businesses. Energy consumption benchmarks for various essential food products were identified. UNECE then prepared recommendations to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency by small businesses in rural areas and developed case studies with targeted assistance for these businesses to introduce energy efficiency measures.
- In consultation with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. ILO assessed the current institutional system for receiving requests for social benefits and sources of information for agricultural workers. ILO then elaborated a methodology for assessment of extension of social protection schemes (maternity benefits, targeted social assistance (TSA)) for workers in agriculture.

Overall, 2/3 of the planned tasks and goals have been implemented. The final stage of implementation, planned for the first quarter of 2023, will focus on practical application of designed tools and recommendations, including by developing new/adjusting existing policy response measures and programs to address food and energy security issues for the most vulnerable and lay solid foundation for efficient policy response for future challenges.

### **SDG Acceleration progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the main SDG targets**

The present JP directly contributes to the progress towards SDG targets mentioned in the program. In particular, under SDG 1 and SDG 10, the program equips the government of Georgia with sufficient skills and practical instruments for efficient decision-making, in particular for rapid assessment of the impact of changes in food and energy prices on the vulnerable groups and design relevant policy response to reduce vulnerability and prevent people from further falling into poverty. Moreover, JP assesses current stance of social protection system and provides recommendations on its further development to better address the needs of vulnerable groups in the face of crisis and beyond.

Under SDG 2, the JP ensures that the Government of Georgia has identified and addressed the gaps in data collection in food security area.

Under SDG 7 SDG 13, the JP provides specific policy recommendations to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency by small businesses in rural areas of Georgia.

### **Constraints that were encountered and any adjustments that were made to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.**

Present JP has undergone the adjustment in terms of timing. No-cost 3 months extension was requested. This was due to lower than expected initial response rate from the Government and key stakeholders, which can be explained by summer vacations period matching the launching of the JP.

### **Next steps, scaling and sustainability [up to half a page]**

The program is planned to complete by March, 2023. In the remaining period, the JP envisages implementation of activities related to practical use and deployment of the analytical tools and assessment methodologies developed in the framework of the program. Moreover, in the last phase, the activities envisage to develop/redesign the policy response measures, state or municipal programs and other state response mechanisms to mitigate the adverse effects of crisis on the most vulnerable groups, including rural businesses and agricultural workers.

In order to ensure the sustainability of achieved results and developed tools, the JP envisages provision of capacity building activities and coaching sessions to relevant staff of government entities to enhance their knowledge on developed analytical tools and policy response mechanisms.

## **Strategic Partnerships and Communications**

### **Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP**

Please see partnership details in the results narrative, all activities are development and implemented in close coordination with the Government and private sector organizations

## Key meetings and events organized

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JP steering committee/ Strategic partners/ donors Kick-off meeting  
programme board meeting event

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## Priority Cross-cutting Issues

### Cross-cutting results/issues

Present JP uses gender marker 1 (GEN1) – “Make a limited contribution to gender equality/women empowerment”. However, the program directly corresponds to the principle of leaving no one behind, as this JP is designed to equip the Government with relevant tools and knowledge to ensure food and energy resiliency in response to crisis and mitigate the adverse effects on the most vulnerable.

### How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services);

### JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind

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Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
No	No	No	Yes

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## Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing

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Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	No		Yes	No	No

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### How and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

In consultations with the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoLHSA), JP assessed the current institutional system for receiving requests for social benefits and sources of information for agricultural workers. In response to identified challenges and shortcomings of the system, JP has elaborated methodology for assessment of extension of social protection schemes (maternity benefits, targeted social assistance (TSA)) for workers in agriculture.