

REPORT

FOR THE INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION OF THE

SCALING-UP MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND THE USE OF CLIMATE
INFORMATION IN GEORGIA

PROJECT

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TITLE PAGE

TITLE OF UNDP-SUPPORTED GCF-FINANCED PROJECT

Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia

UNDP PIMS# AND GCF PROJECT ID#

UNDP PIMS ID number: 5846

GCF ID number: FP068

INTERIM EVALUATION TIME FRAME AND DATE OF REPORT

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Date of Report: May 15 2022

REGION AND COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT

Europe and CIS, Georgia

Implementing Partner

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture

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III. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARDA	Agency for Rural Development and Agriculture
C4ED	Centre for Evaluation and Development
CBEWS	Community-Based Early Warning Systems
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate change adaptation
CRR	Climate Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
EIEC	Environmental Information and Education Centre
EMS	Emergency Management Service
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning Systems
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gases
GOG	Government of Georgia
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IEU	Independent Evaluation Unit
IE	Interim Evaluation
KAP	Knowledge, Awareness, and Practice
LEDS	Low greenhouse-gas Emission Development Strategies
LG	Local Government
LoA	Letter of Agreement
LORTA	Learning-oriented Real-time Impact Assessment
MDF	Municipal Development Fund
MEPA	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture
MHDRIS	Multi-Hazard Disaster Risk Information System
MHEWS	Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
MHRM	Multi-Hazard Risk Management
MMR/MR	Monitoring Mechanism Regulation
MRDI	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAS	National Adaptation Strategy
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NFA	National Food Agency

O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ODS	Ozone-depleting substances
ProDoc	Project Document
PSC	Program Steering Committee
RD	Roads Department
RDA	Rural Development Agency
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SC	Steering Committee
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SRCA	Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture
TAWG	Technical Advisory Working Group
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

FIGURE 1: PROJECT INFORMATION TABLE

Project Title	Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia		
UNDP PIMS ID Number	5846	FAA Approval Date:	October 12, 2018
GCF ID number	FP068	CEO Endorsement Date:	December, 2018
Project Document (ProDoc) Signature Date (date project began):			Dec 7, 2018
Country:	Georgia	Date project manager hired:	March 4, 2019
Region:	Europe and CIS	Inception Workshop date:	April 10, 2019
Intermediate Evaluation completion date:			July 2022
Planned closing date:	October 12, 2025		
Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner:	UNDP CO Georgia		
Other execution partners:	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia		

Financing Plan at Design¹	
GCF grant	USD 27,053,598
Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 27,053,598
<i>Parallel co-financing (all other co-financing (cash and in-kind) administered by other entities; non-cash co-financing administered by UNDP)</i>	
Government	USD 38,239,024
Cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP	USD 5,000,000
Total co-financing	USD 43,239,024
Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	USD 70,292,622

¹ This is the financing plan as set within the planning/design phase. Actual financing and co – financing are presented in the relevant sections of this report.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As the planning documents indicate, this project was designed with the objective to: *reduce exposure of Georgia’s communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action.*

The GCF Paradigm shift objectives have been expressed as: to reduce exposure of Georgia’s communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazard through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action. The GCF project will provide critical climate risk information that would enable the Government of Georgia to implement a number of nation-wide transformative policies and actions for reducing exposure and vulnerability of the population to climate-induced hazards. The project will thus catalyse paradigm shift in the national climate risk management, climate-proofed disaster risk reduction and early warning approaches. The project innovation and transformative change will also include (a) participatory “Last Mile” communications solutions tailored to the needs of local communities, including CBEWSs; (b) increasing implementation capacities for carrying out cost-effective risk reduction and community resilience measures through such innovative approaches as watershed/floodplain restoration, agroforestry, etc., and combination of structural and non-structural protection measures aimed at reducing exposure and increasing effectiveness of the early warning; (c) combining best available science and local knowledge for vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping, disaster modelling and forecasting; (d) (e) carrying out a comprehensive community, municipal and nation-wide awareness raising, education and capacity development activities on multi-hazard risk reduction, including preparedness, response and EWSs. For this, the Project has three expected outcomes, as seen in the table below.

Table 1: Project outcomes

A5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems access climate finance from the GCF and other funds
A6.0 Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making
A7.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks

The outputs expected to be achieved, and through which the above mentioned outcomes and the overarching objective are expected to be obtained, are also three. These are:

Output 1: Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks.

Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities.

Output 3: Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures.

In turn, these three outputs are expected to be achieved through a number of activities each. Although not entirely conceived as field sites per se, since they are more than that, the Project does focalize its actions in a number of localities, municipalities, as well as in eleven river basins in the country.

It must be pointed out that the *Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia* project is a part of a programmatic approach to climate change interventions in Georgia. Due to this, the GCF-funded project is the lead component in the UNDP Georgia and Government of Georgia seven-year program dedicated to *Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters* that has been in place in the country since December 2018. The overarching program includes three inter-related on-going components, besides the seven-year GCF-funded project being evaluated in the current process. The other two interventions are:

- A Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) funded five-year project called “*Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia*”, and
- A Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) funded four-year project named “*Improved Resilience of Communities to Climate Risks*”.

PROJECT PROGRESS SUMMARY

Project progress responds to the overarching aim of the intervention which is to reduce exposure of Georgia’s communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action. For Output 1 (*Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks*) its progress is delayed; however this has implementation challenges for other two outputs since they are very much contingent upon the achievements within Output 1 to fully realise the other two outputs. This has impacted with shortcomings in all three expected outputs. In the last few months there has been speeded up processes in procurement to have a positive effect on implementation and overall on achievements. For Output 2 (*Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities*), although some products have not been achieved at expected levels due to some degree (as stated above) to delays in implementation of Output 1, a number of activities and products regarding baseline tools, national policies as well as coordination have been either achieved or are in process to be achieved. Lastly, for Output 3 (*Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures*), this is the output most affected (in turn) by delays from the other outputs,

since non-structural measures cannot be implemented until mapping and full vulnerabilities assessments are completed. Non-structural measures such as those in education and awareness raising have begun with full community involvement at the locations where the structural measures are to be implemented. Some of the structural measures have begun to be implemented in the last few months before this intermediate evaluation.

INTERIM EVALUATION RATINGS & ACHIEVEMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Measure	Interim Evaluation Rating ²	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective: To reduce exposure of Georgia's communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action. Achievement Rating: S	Project was designed to generate needed tools for Georgia to deal in an integrated manner with vulnerabilities to climate – induced natural hazards, fostering the conditions for technically informed decision-making processes. The objective is satisfactory in and of itself since (due to a participatory approach to planning) it reflects relevance to Georgia and a country – driven strategies. At the objective level, the Project has met expectations. That is, Project with partners have driven forward the aims of the intervention to increase resilience and reduce vulnerabilities in Georgia.
	Output 1: Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks Achievement Rating: MS	Output is delayed; however this has implementation challenges for other two outputs since they are very much contingent upon the achievements within Output 1 to fully realise the other two outputs. This has impacted with shortcomings in all three expected outputs. In the last few months there has been speeded up processes in procurement to have a positive effect on implementation and overall on achievements.
	Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities. Achievement Rating: MS	Although some products have not been achieved at expected levels due to some degree (as stated above) to delays in implementation of Output 1, a number of activities and products regarding baseline tools, national policies as well as coordination have been either achieved or are in process to be achieved.
	Output 3: Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures. Achievement Rating: MS	This is the output most affected (in turn) by delays from the other outputs, since non-structural measures cannot be implemented until mapping and full vulnerabilities assessments are completed. Non-structural measures such as those in education and awareness raising have begun with full community involvement at the locations where the structural measures are to be implemented. Some of the structural measures have begun to be implemented in the last few months before this IE.
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	MS	There are delays in project implementation. These are associable to design architecture to some degree, given that delays in one expected output is linked to delays in other outputs and expected outcomes. Furthermore, procurement issues have also impacted negatively upon delivery, COVID-19 related matters. However, in recent periods (i.e. in the last few months) delivery has increased its pace, and there has been adaptative management to the extent possible in strengthening technical support.
Sustainability	L	Sustainability is likely <i>if</i> appropriate exit strategy is developed and implemented attending to: national and sub national capacity to maintain, sustain, and update as necessary the different outputs and products achieved; multistakeholder entity created and implemented that can run the system derived from achievements, policy framework for sustainability adopted and implemented, proper financing is continued over time.

² Ratings for Objective/Outcome Achievement and Project Implementation & Adaptive Management relevant to the rankings presented here: 5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings; 4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings. Ratings for Sustainability: 4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability.

CONCISE SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Georgia is a country highly vulnerable to extreme weather events and other types of hazards. It is fully understood within the country that without multi-hazard early warning systems to use for planning and mitigating hazardous impacts, the country's ability to minimize these events is weak. The relevance of the *Scaling-Up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System And The Use Of Climate Information In Georgia Project* arises out of this. As GCF indicates, the shared sequence across the expected project results is the integration of enhanced climate risk information and application of best practices in broader planning, thereby ensuring sustainability and introducing a paradigm shift.

The Project is quite important for all partners involved. It is one of the largest projects within the UNDP portfolio in the country as well as one of the largest cooperation supports in the environment field that the Government of Georgia has received. The design of this project was very well aligned with national relevance, and it was participatory. The resulted design is very well ground on GCF principles for potential funding. For instance, as it relates to underpinning the Project to a strong climate rationale providing the scientific foundation for evidence-based decision making, and fully grounding the Project upon the best available climate data and science. Therefore, the structural measures to deal with climate hazards that need to be applied in Georgia to build resilience as well as the policy and planning instruments that need to be adopted in order to enhance preparedness need to be based on high quality technical data, which is what the Project seeks as its first expected result. This is the inter linkage between the three expected results that, although proper conceptually and technically, has demonstrated to be problematic in execution. This is where the theory of design has faced challenges vis-à-vis the reality of implementation. Delays (for several reasons) in implementing the first expected output have had as a causal consequence delays in implementing expected outputs two and three.

The assumption of rapid interlinkages was not proper due to a number of external issues this did not occur as planned. While the complexities of many sorts, such technical and policy complexities, tended to be underestimated, several risks/assumptions were not full-fledged at design as they should have been for such a complex and large intervention involving a myriad of partners. The Project has generated thus far a set of achievements such as updating an outdated hydrometeorological system, developed baseline studies in policy, began hazard mapping, carried out training/awareness raising and capacity building activities at different levels (including at the local municipal level), it also began implementing some structural measures to deal with weather – related hazards.

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

These are summarized recommendations. The full recommendations set is found in the final chapter of this report. The recommendations are for current implementation process.

Rec #	Recommendation	Entity Responsible
1	<i>Request an ample no -cost extension.</i>	Project
2	<p><i>Speed – up work planning and delivery.</i> Some specific sub recommendations in this aspect are as follows:</p> <p>a. Generate a clear schedule for the time-bound action (roadmap/critical path) regarding the activities that the Project intends to implement.</p> <p>b. Establish clear timelines to adhere to, and follow through with a strict schedule of implementation while monitoring spending level progress and correcting quickly whatever bottlenecks may arise.</p> <p>c. Developed critical path/road map should orchestrate also the concatenation of products and processes, given that they are clearly linked and that some products feed into other products quite closely as do expected outputs.</p> <p>d. If possible and relevant, procurement of tasks and processes should be grouped in order for implementation to be more efficient and time binding.</p> <p>e. Project management and governance system should track implementation in order to substantiate the correct execution in a timely manner according to the tools available.</p>	Project
3	<i>Engage a Chief Technical Advisor.</i>	Project
4	<i>Stream-line reporting.</i>	Project
5	<i>Improve intra project communications.</i>	Project
6	<p><i>Further integration of gender mainstreaming.</i> Some specific sub recommendations in this aspect are as follows:</p> <p>a. Further integrating and mainstreaming the gender approach in all relevant planning, analysis, tools, and assessments originating out of this project</p> <p>b. Further mainstreaming gender in processes and tools developed within the Project a such a way that women benefit from the effects of the intervention according to their differential needs and their unequal access to resources, production, and their vulnerabilities facing hazards, etc.</p> <p>c. Work with government stakeholders (at the national, sub national and local levels) so that the MHEWS gender - sensitive mechanisms, assessment tools, and planning instruments are endorsed and used at the appropriate level.</p>	Project
7	<i>Increment capacity building as an overarching objective.</i>	Project

8	<i>Engender local capacity, sub national ownership, and trust.</i>	Project
9	<p><i>Generate an exit strategy . An integrated exit strategy should contain the aspects indicated below:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Multi-stakeholder platform. b Financial sustainability. c Institutional and policy framework. d Capacity. e Systematization of lessons learned and good practices. 	Project
10	<i>Grant a no-cost extension.</i>	GCF
11	<i>Establish GCF SOP and guidance.</i>	GCF
12	<i>Approve updated indicators in Gender Action Plan.</i>	GCF
13	<i>Improve GCF communication and feedback.</i>	GCF

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERIM EVALUATION

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE IE

The interim evaluation (IE) of the project named *Scaling-Up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System And The Use Of Climate Information In Georgia* has focused primarily on assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and potential sustainability of the Project considering the accomplished outcomes, objectives as well as effects. It is intended that this interim assessment will also serve as an accountability tool for and to the different partners involved in the Project. This external independent interim assessment evaluates the implementation and progress towards achievement thus far against what is specified as expected outputs and outcomes in the planning documents. By identifying the signs of successes, failures or bottlenecks in implementation, the evaluation establishes a number of lessons learned as well as a number of recommendations to be implemented in order to channel adjustments as needed to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results.

Besides the above mentioned criteria, the IE was also assigned to assess the following:

- Implementation and adaptive management
- Risks to sustainability
- Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities
- Gender equity
- Country ownership
- Innovativeness
- Replication and scalability
- Unexpected results, both positive and negative
- Comprehensive assessment of impact of COVID-19 on project implementation.

The IE is in line with the arrangements for monitoring, reporting and evaluation as stated in the Project's Funded Activity Agreement³ (FAA) between UNDP and GCF. It is stated in that document that an independent mid-term evaluation would be undertaken within the fourth quarter of the third year of project implementation. It is also set in that document that findings and responses should outline either corrective measures or measures to enhance the project results during planning and implementing activities for the upcoming three-year period after this assessment. This IE is also aligned with the evaluation criteria from the GCF IEU TOR

³ The Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) is an agreement signed by GCF and the Accredited Entity that establishes how a project will be implemented. The FAA becomes effective once an AE meets certain conditions negotiated and agreed with GCF. Once the FAA is effective, the project is considered to be under implementation. The Accredited Entity can then request disbursement of funds from GCF to carry out the project activities. Source: www.gcf.org.

(GCF/B.06/06) and GCF Evaluation Policy, along with guidance provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and UNDP guidance for these sorts of assessments.

Two independent consultants conducted the interim evaluation in a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, UNDP, project team, other donors, and key civil society stakeholders. Notwithstanding this integrated approach, each of the stakeholders involved in the evaluation had different roles (consultation, provision of information, feedback, assistance with reaching stakeholders, assistance regarding arrangements for field visits. etc.) and the consultants maintained their independence in the evaluation processes as well as in the analysis. The evaluation team followed steps to protect the rights and confidentiality of consulted persons, and conducted interviews and field visits solely with the participation of the stakeholders with whom the evaluators were engaged in site visits and also in interviews. The consultants did not participate in project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and had no conflict of interest with project's related activities. And although different stakeholders provided feedback to the evaluators, they maintained their independence in the incorporation of said feedback or not in the report as relevant.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY: PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF THE IE, IE APPROACH AND DATA COLLECTION METHODS, LIMITATIONS TO THE IE

The intermediate evaluation scope is the whole project up to the time of the interim evaluation. Design as well as implementation is analysed within this scope. The different categories of project progress were examined using the evaluation criteria, issues, and questions presented in the Terms of Reference (ToR) for this process and follows relevant guidance.

The approach for the Project's evaluation was contained in the ToR for this assignment and –therefore—this IE followed methods and approach as stated in these and other relevant guidance materials. The analysis entailed reviewing different stages and aspects of the Project, including design and formulation; implementation; results; and the involvement of stakeholders in the Project's processes and activities. It has been carried out following a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, UNDP, GCF, project team, other donors, and other key civil society stakeholders.

In order to carry out this review exercise, several data collection tools for analysing information from the principles of results-based evaluations were used (see Annex 4: Interim Evaluation Questionnaire and Annex 5: Field observation guide). Following guidelines, the relevant areas of the Project were evaluated according to performance criteria and prospects of sustainability with ratings as summarized in the tables found in annexes (see Annex 6: Ratings Scales).

The interim evaluation followed methods as stated within OECD, GCF, and UNDP guidance. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic is still impacting upon the evolution of these exercises, and that the impact of the pandemic will be one of the issues to be analysed, UN directives for these sorts of assessments within this context were also followed.

The tools employed were relevant quantitative, qualitative and combined methods to conduct the Interim Evaluation. Regarding specific methodologies to gather information, the following tools and methods were used:

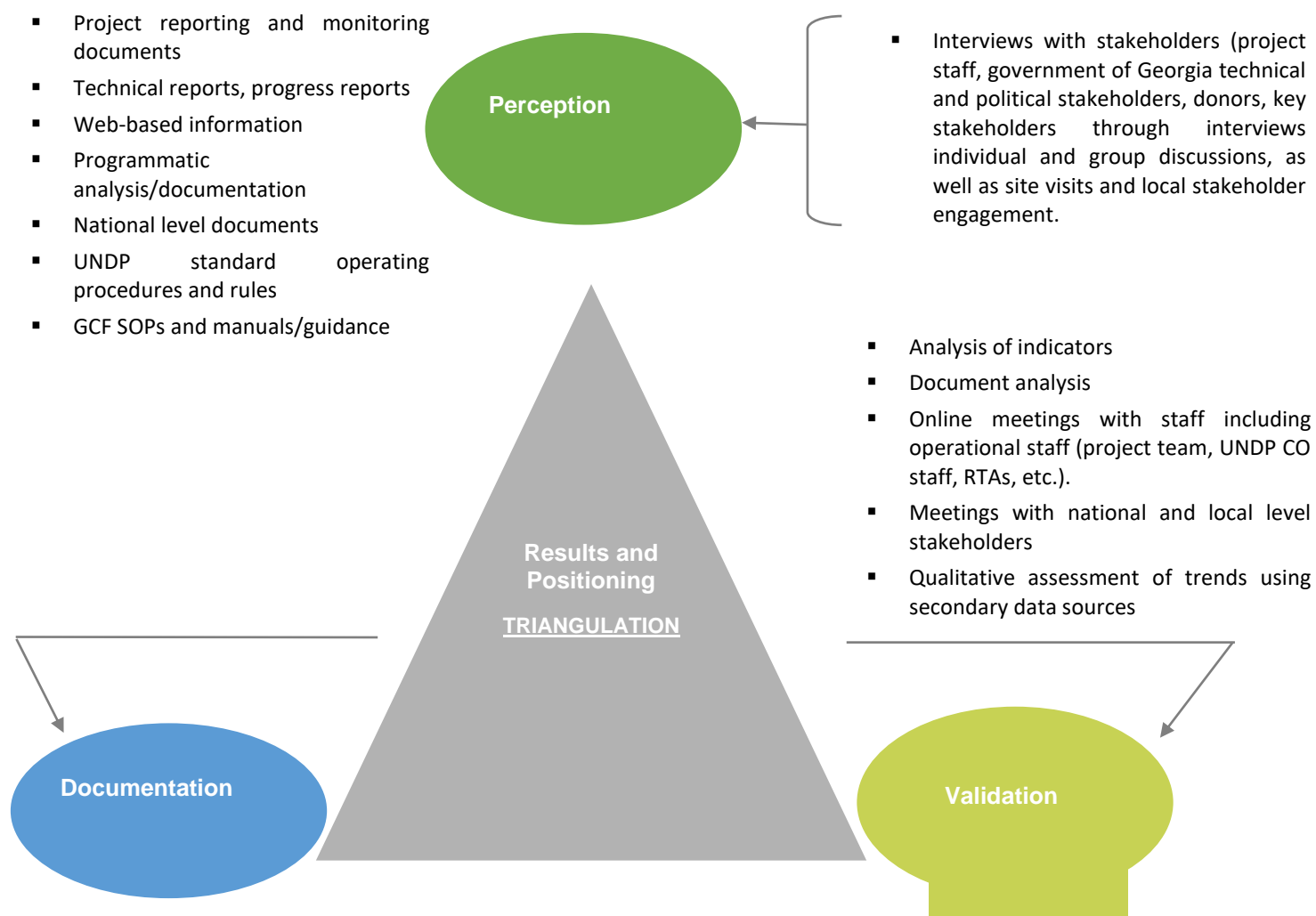
- *Document analysis:* The following types of documents were analysed: (a) those prepared during the planning phase (such as FAA funding proposal, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), the Project Document); (b) those prepared during the implementation phase such as project reports, project budget revisions, national strategic and legal documents; (c) The relevant tracking and monitoring tools prepared to oversee implementation (e.g. annual work plans --, etc.); (d) other relevant documents and materials, if available, such as technical documents, publications, social media.

- *Key informant interviews and other engagement with key informants/stakeholders:* Interviews and other similar engagements (group discussions, etc.) were conducted through a series of open and semi-open questions raised to stakeholders directly and indirectly involved with the Project. This evaluation was carried out by a team made up of a national evaluator and an international evaluator. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the mission of the international evaluator to Georgia did not take place, yet the interviews and other engagements were done online through available platforms or via telephone, by the team. The national evaluator carried out field site visits. These took place in Khobi Municipality and Kobuleti Municipality. Local level stakeholders (mayors, municipal staff, project implementers at the local level, students, and local inhabitants were consulted during these visits). At the local site visits there were interviews (individual and group), focus group discussions, as well as direct observation. Based on an institutional typology of relevant stakeholders to engage with and a list of these persons (both provided by the Project), the evaluation team selected key stakeholders to interview and with whom the evaluators would engage with. Interviewees were selected in a way to make the interview and personal engagement process feasible to implement within the time and resource limitations that this evaluation may have had and to have a representative sample of actors involved in the interviews/dialogues processes. This selection was drawn taking into account that stakeholder engagement is key for a successful IE and to create ownership of this process. This selection was done attending to a set of criteria, such as: (a) interviewees are key stakeholders, i.e. people who have participated fully and who --potentially-- have the possibility of giving inputs to the evaluation; and (b) there was an assortment in the typology of stakeholders' institutions (for example, international – national -local institutions), in relation to their overall participation. In order to engage with the greatest number of stakeholder's possible, yet within the time and resource limitations of this IE, interviews were at times clustered in groups again following criteria, such as belonging to the same institution and/or working in the same project component(s). The consultants held interviews/discussions with 40 stakeholders; the list with their names and institutional affiliation is found in annexes.

The methodologies and tools applied fed into each other. Data validation was ensured through using diverse research methods and tools and collecting data of different types. These aggregation methods also triangulated the information, and thus ensured the validity of the data that give rise to the evaluation process. Strategically, the use of both qualitative and quantitative

data supported the validation and triangulation of information. Through a combination of methods and feedback between the various tools as well as validation between different levels and types of data collection was sought to triangulate the information, and thus ensuring the validity of the data that gives rise to the evaluation process and to this report. The following figure graphically indicates the evaluation approach for analysis.

FIGURE 2: EVALUATION APPROACH FOR ANALYSIS



Indicators embedded in tracking tools and monitoring reporting were used to measure success in implementation by comparing attainments vs. expected results (quantitative analysis). Qualitative examination was mainly applied to the information harnessed by using thematic analysis of interviews' responses.

As seen in the figure above, for example, assessments of quantitative data (for instance, indicators of achievements) were analysed comparing their progress from start of implementation to date of this evaluation, and analysed these vis-à-vis inputs attained from interviews and field site visits. This not only allowed for deeper analysis, but also for reviewing progress toward results assessed based on data provided by the Project, amongst others, in the Project Document, project work plans, tracking tools, implementation reporting, as well as results substantiated in the course of the mission. The analysis also entailed not only monitoring of attainments but deeper scrutiny regarding the reasons why achievements were attained or not. By identifying these findings, the evaluation made a set of recommendations on how to overcome barriers to the achievement of objectives, outputs and outcomes, as well as recommendations to support successful processes and activities within this project.

Tools were used for the interviews (single person interviews and group interviews) as well as for site visits. The evaluation guiding questions regarding achievements and assessment criteria were operationalised in an evaluation question form. These were guidance questions used mainly as a guide for open – ended interviews with relevant stakeholders. This was an overarching tool with queries that were used by catering suitably the questions for each stakeholder typology (project staff, government, donors, UNDP members, local stakeholders, other actors). In annexes a copy of the surveying questions is found (see Annex 4: Interim Evaluation Questionnaire). The form, as presented therefore, asks general guiding questions that were tailored to each relevant stakeholder interviewed and become more specific in the application of the guidance questions themselves and as part of counter questions. In some of the interviews translation to Georgian took place. Another tool used for the data gathering was an observation guide used when site visits took place (see Annex 5: Field observation guide).

This was also a gender-responsive evaluation that assessed how gender issues are included in the project (from design/planning to implementation processes). That is, the IE process was implemented using gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensured that gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs, were incorporated as relevant. The gender-responsive evaluation assessed how (or if) gender issues were included in the Project (from design/planning to implementation processes)⁴ and provided information on the way in which the Project is or will be affecting women and men differently and how women are included in the project within a rights framework.⁵ Gender-responsiveness includes and relates to both what the evaluation examined and how it was undertaken. Therefore, this evaluation fulfilled both aspects of gender responsive, not only by exploring how gender is included in the Project but also assuring that the assessment process was inclusive of women and participatory. Fifty-five percent of the stakeholders engaged with in interviews were women.

⁴ UNDP. Evaluation Guidelines. *The Gender Results Effectiveness Scale (GRES): A Methodology Guidance Note*.

⁵ Independent Evaluation Office, 2015. *How to Manage Gender Responsive Evaluation*. UN Women. pp 4.

Limitations: As it occurs in most of these sorts of assessments, there can be a series of limitations, and these can be exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis situation. Besides the characteristic evaluability issues such as access to inputs, constraints in terms of time and resources, there were other specific limitations identified. Limits of time existed given the need to carry out this process quickly since it needed to fit into other monitoring process. Also, there were limitations of resources since not all of the stakeholders could be reached within the time frame of the evaluation process. With the COVID-19 pandemic there have been other limitations identified. For instance, in light of the pandemic, mission travel did not take place for the international evaluator. Therefore, a national evaluator led the meetings and carried out face to face interviews and site visits. Furthermore, different access instruments were used (such as different tools for key interviews, video conference, telephone interviews, etc.) to make up for the lack of in-person interaction.

The number of field visits can be considered as to be limited. This is related to the limits on resources (funds and time) that the evaluation has had. However, the field sites were chosen according to their representativeness within the overall field intervention implementation the Project is undertaken. Therefore, the evaluators are confident that the sampling and sample responses are very adequate, with the understanding that an evaluation of this sort can only carry out a limited number of interviews, focus group discussions and field site visits just as long as the stakeholders engaged with are representative of the whole.

STRUCTURE OF THE INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION REPORT

The Interim Evaluation report is structured beginning with an executive summary, where a project summary, ratings tables, progress, conclusions and recommendations of this report are summarized. A second section introduces methodologies, scope and information of the execution of this mid-term assessment. A third section contains an overall project description within a developmental context, including an account of the problems the Project sought to address, as well as its initial objectives. A fourth core section of this report deals principally with review findings related to the actual implementation of the Project. The fifth section of the present report entails overall conclusions as well as forward looking issues such as recommendations for future actions and future programming. Lastly, an annex section includes project and intermediate evaluation support documentation.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND CONTEXT

DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT: ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, INSTITUTIONAL, AND POLICY FACTORS RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

Georgia faces a number of climate change-related risks including landslides, mudflows, erosion, avalanches, floods, drought, and strong winds. These risks are increasing in frequency, intensity and geographical spread due to climate change. Subsequently, the need for robust climate information and early warning has become a priority in managing risk to Georgia's sustainable development. Due to the complex mountainous terrain and climate, Georgia is subject to both geological and hydro-meteorological hazards. According to Georgia's 2nd and 3rd National Communications to the UNFCCC, and other studies, due to climate change the frequency, intensity and geographical spread of extreme hydrometeorological hazards will increase.

The socio – economic impact and context of these risks is clear. Georgia's statistic agencies estimate economic losses from climate-induced hazards without climate adaptation measures for the period 2021-2030 to be USD 10-12 billion, while the cost of adaptation measures is estimated to be 1.5-2 billion USD. National disaster statistics indicates that there is growing trend in cumulative damages and losses of lives from climate-induced natural hazards over the last 20 years. Economic assessments of climate-induced hazards and their impacts under CC conditions, shows that 1.7 Million people (40% of the population) including the most vulnerable communities in remote rural and densely populated urban areas are at risk from the main hazards.

In direct relevance to the Project's objectives and scope, there a number also of economic issues related to the country's development context that directly and indirectly concern adaptation to climate change and overall risk management issues. As indicated at the time of this project's design, despite deep and ongoing economic transformation, Georgia is still a country in transition with around 2.7-2.9% annual GDP growth rate, high internal and external indebtedness, negative export-import balance, 13 percent unemployment and particularly, high youth unemployment (26 percent) significant disparity between incomes of rural and urban population, with a greater degree of poverty at the rural level.

Rural level fragility is also evidenced by several other factors such as land fragmentation, soil degradation, low access to local capital and foreign markets, prevalence of subsistence and small-scale farming, outdated infrastructure, low capitalization and mechanization of the agriculture sector, shortage of inputs and farmers' poor knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices. This is of note especially since the agricultural sector has been deemed as the most vulnerable productive sector in Georgia due to the effects of climate change threats, including increased frequency and severity of droughts, flooding, and landslides.

Estimates of COVID-19 economic impact has been critical. It is estimated that, due to the pandemic, propelled an estimated economic contraction of 6.2 percent in 2020 and that poverty rate increased by an estimated 5.4 percentage points. For this, as well as other previous economic shocks, Georgia's economic performance is worsening, and there have been a number of budget cuts since this project was planned. Therefore, it is altogether understood that the country needs international support to deal with climate change and disaster risk management fully and proactively.

At the time of design, a series of policy contexts were recognised as a framework for this project. Georgia's Economic Development Programme until 2020, Georgian Basic Data and Directions for 2018-2021, 3rd National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 3), Georgia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and, National DRR Strategy and Action Plan for 2017-2020 all identify current and future risks associated to climate change and how these should relate climate change adaptation and climate risk management. These documents comprehend an array of proposed disaster response and prevention activities. Amongst the most salient activities included in these policy tools are improved risk knowledge through enhanced hydrometric monitoring and forecasting, hazard and risk assessment, establishment of early warning systems, increase in the resilience of institutions, communities and infrastructure, capacity building, as well as awareness raising and education.

PROBLEMS THAT THE PROJECT SOUGHT TO ADDRESS: THREATS AND BARRIERS TARGETED

The project tries to address a series of issues related to identified (and targeted) threats and barriers. Hydrometeorological hazard risk management has relied in the country on limited and expensive hard structural protection measures; emergency response with limited reliance on forecasts and early warning of the population; post event compensation and relocation of victims resulting in eco-migrants; and post event recovery and risk reduction. In order to adapt to climate change, Georgia needs to adopt a proactive integrated climate risk management (CRM) approach centred around risk reduction, prevention, and preparedness through the establishment of a multi-hazard early warning system and an enhanced use of climate information in planning and decision-making across all sectors.

The specific barriers identified to be addressed by the *Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information* Project were as follows⁶:

1. lack of financial, technical and human capacities within the government to establish nation-wide multi-hazard hydro-meteorological and geological risk assessment, monitoring, modelling and forecasting - lack of adequate real-time automatic observations due to inadequate hydrometric network; lack of human and financial resources to implement and

⁶ Source: Project Document.

maintain a national system for all appropriate climate-induced natural hazards and; absent definitive hazard, vulnerability and risk mapping for Georgia;

2. gaps in legal, institutional and coordination frameworks for the Multi Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) and enhanced use of climate information - lack of clarity with respect to roles and responsibilities for MHEWS; absent national protocol for the MHEWS; lack of clear and effective communication lines between different agencies; lack of Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs), communication protocols and Codes of Conduct for the various elements of the MHEWS and response; absent hazard, vulnerability and risk, including multi-hazard risk assessment mandates and methodologies; poor risk management and response capacities at municipal level, weak government capacities and knowledge for risk identification and assessment, risk prevention/mitigation, risk reduction, risk transfer, preparedness, CRM and CCA;

3. climate information is not effectively delivered and utilized for the national, sectoral and local planning and decision-making – absence of climate risk-informed sectoral strategies and activities due to the lack of comprehensive and definitive national hazard, vulnerability and risk mapping; absent climate forecasting and advisory products; absent planning platforms and methodological guidelines for multi-hazard risk management;

4. insufficient adaptive capacities and outdated risk reduction solutions for effective community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM), including Community-Based Early Warning System (CBEWS) – presence of outdated flood defence infrastructure, heavy reliance on using hard structures as means of DRR and practically absent practices for using non-structural solutions, e.g. bioengineering methods – restoration of floodplain zones, integrated watershed management, agroforestry; absent “last mile” communication and delivery of the warning to local communities and community-based risk reduction; limited CRM knowledge and capacities of local communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGY: OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES AND EXPECTED RESULTS, DESCRIPTION OF FIELD SITES

The above is a background introduction to the Project. As the planning documents indicate, this project was designed with the objective to: *reduce exposure of Georgia's communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action.*

The GCF Paradigm shift objectives have been expressed as: to reduce exposure of Georgia's communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazard through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action. The GCF project will provide critical climate risk information that would enable the Government of Georgia to implement a number of nation-wide transformative policies and actions for reducing exposure and vulnerability of the population to climate-induced hazards. The project will thus catalyse paradigm shift in the national climate risk management, climate-proofed disaster risk reduction and early warning approaches. The project innovation and transformative

change will also include (a) participatory “Last Mile” communications solutions tailored to the needs of local communities, including CBEWSs; (b) increasing implementation capacities for carrying out cost-effective risk reduction and community resilience measures through such innovative approaches as watershed/floodplain restoration, agroforestry, etc., and combination of structural and non-structural protection measures aimed at reducing exposure and increasing effectiveness of the early warning; (c) combining best available science and local knowledge for vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping, disaster modelling and forecasting; (d) (e) carrying out a comprehensive community, municipal and nation-wide awareness raising, education and capacity development activities on multi-hazard risk reduction, including preparedness, response and EWSs.

For this, the Project has three expected outcomes, as seen in the table below.

Table 2: Project outcomes

A5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems access climate finance from the GCF and other funds
A6.0 Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making
A7.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks

The outputs expected to be achieved, and through which the above mentioned outcomes and the overarching objective are expected to be obtained, are also three. These are:

Output 1: Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks.

Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities.

Output 3: Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures.

In turn, these three outputs are expected to be achieved through a number of activities each⁷. Although not entirely conceived as field sites per se, since they are more than that, the Project does focalize its actions in a number of localities, municipalities, as well as in eleven river basins in the country.

It must be pointed out that the *Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia* project is a part of a programmatic approach to climate change interventions in Georgia⁸. Due to this, the GCF-funded project is the lead component in the UNDP Georgia and Government of Georgia seven-year program dedicated to *Reducing the*

⁷ The activities will be listed in following sections to this report.

⁸ Although it is understood that this interim assessment will evaluate this UNDP-supported GCF-financed project.

Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters that has been in place in the country since 2018. The overarching program includes three inter-related on-going components, besides the seven-year GCF-funded project being evaluated in the current process. The other two interventions are:

- A Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) funded five-year project called “*Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia*”, and
- A Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) funded four-year project named “*Improved Resilience of Communities to Climate Risks*”.

The SDC project is a co-financer under the GCF project. SIDA funds were additionally leveraged from 2020 as a top-up funding by UNDP to extend the scale of the interventions related to enhancing community resilience⁹.

The overall financing plan as set at design is as follows:

Financing Plan	
GCF grant	USD 27,053,598
Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 27,053,598
Parallel co-financing (all other co-financing (cash and in-kind) administered by other entities; non-cash co-financing administered by UNDP)	
Government	USD 38,239,024
Cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP	USD 5,000,000
Total co-financing	USD 43,239,024
Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	USD 70,292,622

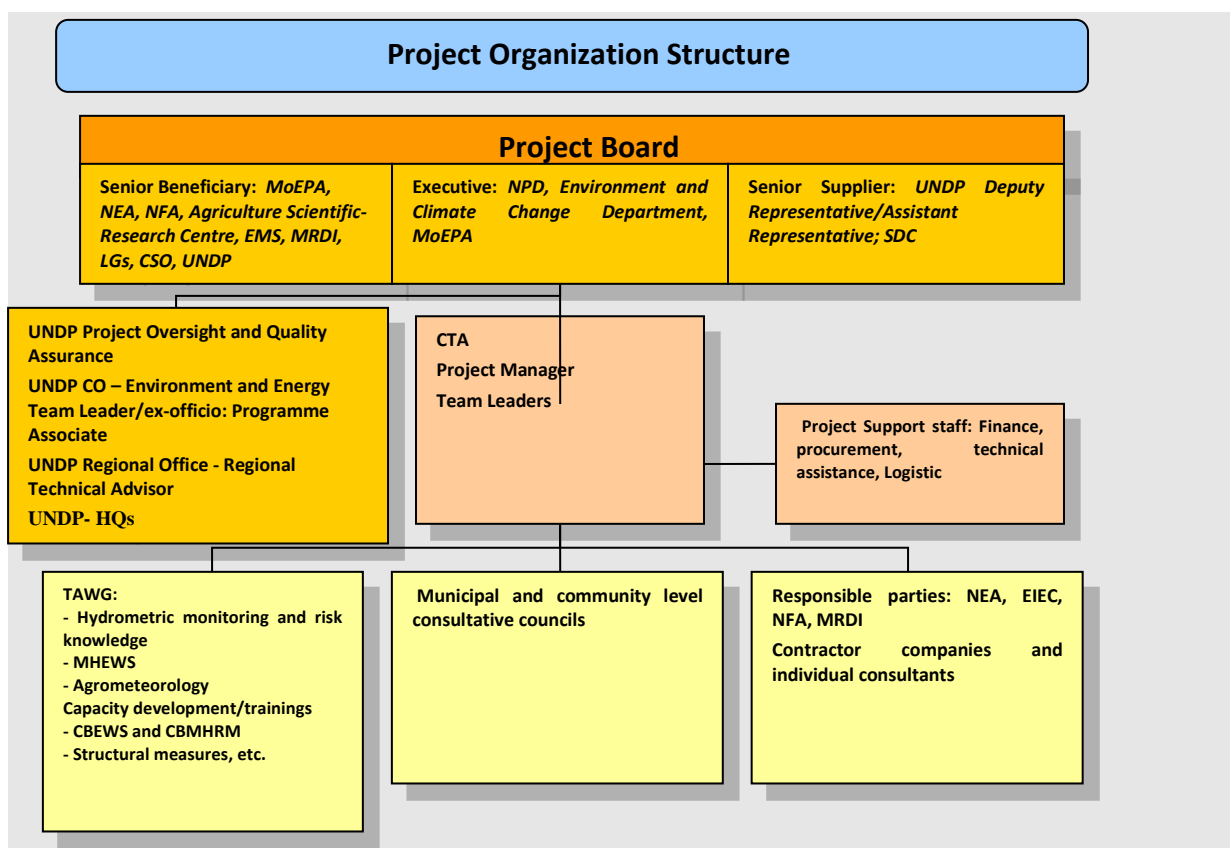
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS: KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNER ARRANGEMENTS, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT BOARD AND OF COMMITTEES

The Project is implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) of Georgia playing an executing entity’s/implementing partner’s role. A number of other stakeholders participate in key roles in project guidance and implementation.

Project planning documents included a description of implementation arrangements and project board responsibilities. This is illustrated in the figure below.

⁹ This is within the third expected outcome of the GCF project

FIGURE 3: PROJECT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Planning documents (Project Document and FAA) indicate how the Project Board (which is called by the Project Steering Committee after implementation¹⁰) would be composed and what are the responsibilities of this governing body. The Board was prescribed to be composed of representatives MoEPA, NEA, EIEC, SCMSC, MRDI, MIA, UNDP and representatives of the local governments and civil society organizations in the FAA. UNDP’s Project Document indicates that the Project Board (PB) will be composed of the representatives of: MoEPA, NEA, EIEC, EMS, MRDI, MIA, UNDP, SDC and representatives of the local governments (LGs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), including community-based organizations (CBOs).

The PB is responsible for making, by consensus, management decisions and –due to this– is the executive decision-making body of the Project. The PB’s decisions are to be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. The Project Board was planned to meet every six months (or more often if required by PB members).

¹⁰ When the text deals with design, the actual phrasing of the design documents are used (i.e. Project Board or PB).

Considering the programmatic approach of SDC and GCF-funded interventions, the projects do share the Project Board (PB).

The overarching program (UNDP Georgia and Government of Georgia seven-year program dedicated to *Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters*) within which the GCF-funded project is imbedded has a steering committee as follows¹¹:

- Representative(s) of the MoEPA– Executive
- Representative(s) of National Environmental Agency (NEA), MoEPA – Senior User
- Representative of Environmental Information and Education Center, MoEPA – Senior User
- Representative of National Food Agency, MoEPA – Senior User
- Representative of Agriculture Scientific-Research Center, MoEPA – Senior User
- Representative of Emergency Management Service (EMS), MIA – Senior User
- Representative of Joint Operations Center/MIA – Senior User
- Representative(s) of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI) – Senior User
- Representatives of local municipalities – Senior Users
- Representative(s) of Tbilisi Municipality – Senior User
- Representatives of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)– Senior Users
- UNDP Country Office Management – Resident Representative, Deputy Resident Representative – Senior Supplier
- Representative(s) of the Swiss Cooperation Office in the South Caucasus (SCO) - Deputy Regional Director
- SCO’s Head of Program in Georgia on Effective Democratic Institutions, Human Safety and Security, SCO’s National Programme Officer – Senior Supplier
- Representative(s) of Swedish International Development Agency in Georgia (observer member)

The responsibilities and roles of the Steering Committee are:

- Review and approve semi-annual and annual work plans and progress reports, including risk logs for GCF, SDC and SIDA funded projects;

¹¹ Their individual role regarding the Steering Committee is at the end of each bullet point.

- Review progress of the previous year (APR) for GCF funded project against the respective Log Frame as well as annual work plan for the next year and approve/endorse it;
- Give strategic guidance to the program and assist in overcoming potential difficulties during the projects' implementation;
- Review the end-of-program report, prepared by PMU which captures lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to highlight projects' results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. At the PSC meetings, the findings outlined in the program terminal evaluation report and the management response will also be discussed;
- Address the grievances, if any, coming from local stakeholders on social and environmental impacts of the program, based on the Social and Environmental Review Sheet (checklist) prepared by the Project Coordinator (GCF), Project Manager (SDC), Team Leader of Component 1 (SIDA).

The Project also has an Informal Technical Advisory Working Groups (TAWG). The purpose of this working group is to provide inputs to and endorsement of the design and quality of the project outputs.

PROJECT TIMING AND MILESTONES

The Project has a planned seven-year duration. The start date of this Project was December 2018 (that is the date that the funding agreement –FAA– between GCF and UNDP was signed) while February 2019 was the date of the inception meeting in Georgia.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS: SUMMARY LIST

At the design stage a stakeholder analysis took place. The purpose of this analysis was to identify the main potential stakeholders and to consider their potential roles and responsibilities in the implementation and/or guidance of the Project. The stakeholder list and their potential engagement originated from consultations that were conducted at the project preparation stage with relevant actors. An extensive list of stakeholders identified at the design stage, as follows:

- Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture
 - Minister
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection:
 - First Deputy Minister/NDA
 - Head of the Integrated Management Department
 - Heads and representatives of Climate Change and Water Resources Management Divisions of the Integrated Management Department

- Head and representatives of International Relations and Policy Department
- Head of the National Environmental Agency and representative of hydromet and geology departments
- Head and representatives of the Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC)
- Crisis Management Centre (CMA), State Security and Crisis Management Council (SSCMC)
 - Director of the CMA
 - Senior Advisor to the Director of the CMA
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia:
 - Deputy Minister
 - Head of the NATO Integration Division, International Relations Department;
 - Head of Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Unit, International Relations Department;
 - Representatives of Emergency Management Department EMA
- Ministry of Agriculture:
 - Deputy Minister
 - Deputy Heads and Representatives of National Food Agency (NFA)
 - Deputy Head of Agriculture Scientific-Research Centre
 - Deputy Head of the Agricultural Cooperatives Development Agency (ACDA)
 - Representatives of Amelioration and Land Management Department
 - Head of the International Relations Department
 - Head of the Policy Analysis Department
 - Representative of the Regional Coordination Department
 - Head of the Public Relations Department
- Ministry of Energy:
 - Head of the Energy Department
 - Head of the Division for Energy Efficiency and Alternative Sources
- Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure:
 - First Deputy Minister

- Acting Head of the Division for Relations with Infrastructure Development Partners, Department for Infrastructure Policy and Relations with Development Partners
- Deputy Head and representatives of Road Department
- Head of the Department for Relations with Regions and Local Self-governing Agencies
- Tbilisi City Hall:
 - Vice-Mayor of Tbilisi
 - Head of Department of International Relations
 - Representative of the of Environment and Green Spaces/landscaping
- Georgian Co-investment Fund:
 - Chief Executive Officer
 - Managing Director (Finance, Risk and Investor Relations)
 - Operational Risk Manager, Risk Analysis Department
 - Managing Director (FMCG and Logistics)
 - Senior Associate (Energy & Infrastructure)
- MAGTICOM:
 - Chief Information Officer
 - Director for Institutional Marketing Department
- Municipal governments of 10 target municipalities where structural measures have to be implemented
- UNDP Country Office Management
 - Resident Representative;
 - Deputy Resident Representative;
 - Head of Programme Unit / Assistant Resident Representative;
 - Operations Manager
- Manager of AF/UNDP Rioni Flood Risk Management Project
- FAO Project Manager
- SDC representatives – Director, Head of Programme, DRR Officer
- Representatives of European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+)

4. FINDINGS

PROJECT STRATEGY

PROJECT DESIGN

When analysing the Project, it must be pointed that the design was based on and constructed upon a previous successful intervention implemented in Georgia: the *Developing Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities of Georgia Project* (also known as the Rioni Project due to its focus on the Georgian river basin with that name). The Rioni Project was a UNDP – implemented Adaptation Fund – financed intervention which was executed from 2012 to 2017 in the country. The *Scaling-Up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System And The Use Of Climate Information In Georgia* being evaluated here has as its explicit aims to build upon the Rioni intervention. That is, it aims to scale up piloted activities (such as hazard mapping, floodplain modelling, floodplain zoning and early warning systems) of the AF – funded intervention as well as to use its achievements, findings, baseline information and learning as a baseline for the GCF – supported project. The explicit aim of the project undergoing this intermediate evaluation is not only to upscale to other regions and other river basins in the country based on the learnings and lessons from the Rioni Project, but also to extend the range of climate – induced hazards.

The design process was wide-ranging, consultative and participative, as clearly indicated in the planning documents (for instance, Project Document). It included a large number of stakeholders, consultations and technical inputs. However, although this participatory process had some positive aspects, such as the incorporation of national needs, it was rather complicated. It was positive in the sense that a participatory process underlined national needs and there potential commitment to the project being designed. Also, it highlighted the highly complex and very significant project being envisaged. Nevertheless, as stated in the interviews with key stakeholders who did participate in the design processes in different capacities, it also resulted in a highly multi-layered process, with a number of experts’ hubs in charge of designing different aspects of the planned project. This was –therefore-- also multi – layered and highly intricate. Key stakeholders have also indicated that due to this highly complex process, there was truly not proper timing to process design and to pull all the expertise and inputs that was provided individually or by hubs in a more cohesive manner. It must also be pointed out that at the time of design GCF did not underwrite project preparation and therefore UNDP exclusively supported this part of the preparation process.

The design is clear on its strategy. The need to realign Georgia’s climate adaptation in the direction of a more integrated, informed, proactive and innovative manner to deal with climate change exacerbated natural hazards is the corner stone of the strategy. And it is considered by this evaluation (supported not only by documents but also by the varied stakeholder inputs) that the strategy addresses the problem in a relevant manner. The strategy is also relevant since it addresses a number of negative impacts that climate change is having or might be having in the near future. That is, for instance, it not only addresses infrastructure losses, but also refers to

human losses and economic negative impact that natural disasters have and are project to have Georgia if an integrated adaptation approach based on multi-hazard early warning system and information is not adopted.

The project design follows a standard structure for these sorts of interventions with intended results originating out of the implementation of activities that lead to outputs. Moreover, the formal logic of the interventions identifies threats as well as barriers and plans to endeavour to act upon them in order to obtain products, processes and results. The overall approach is satisfactory, in the sense that barriers and threats to deal with the issue at the national level are identified and ways to overcome these are recognised. Therefore, it is understood that the objective would be achieved through the implementation of activities and obtaining outputs.

The resulting design is within a framework of an overall objective *to reduce exposure of Georgia's communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action.* The resulting design is specified as follows:

- Output 1: Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks.
 - Activity 1.1: Procurement, installation and operationalization of new hydro meteorological monitoring equipment.
 - Activity 1.2: Climate sensitive hazard and risk maps used in planning and zoning.
 - Activity 1.3: Identification and application of approach and tools for gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessments.
 - Activity 1.4: Multi-hazard disaster risk data repository centralizing information management, applying relevant data protocols and with an accessible knowledge portal in place.
- Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities.
 - Activity 2.1: Policy, regulatory and legal frameworks in place and institutional capacities built for enhanced use of climate information and MHEWS.
 - Activity 2.2: Design and introduction of MHEWS covering all 11 river basins of Georgia (including last-mile coverage).
 - Activity 2.3: Access and use of tailored climate weather information products and advise to farmers/agricultural enterprises.

- Activity 2.4: Climate-informed multi-hazard risk management (MHRM) responsive system in place: including basin-level multi hazard risk management plans and municipal-level multi-hazard response and preparedness plans.
- Output 3: Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures.
 - Activity 3.1: Participatory community-based adaptation planning reinforced through community-based early warning schemes and community-based climate risk management.
 - Activity 3.2: Public awareness and capacity building to effectively deliver climate risk information for communities and local first-responders.
 - Activity 3.3: Implementation of project selected from 13 short listed sites for location specific priority risk reduction interventions.

As is seen above, and as assessed by all stakeholders, the Project is rather ambitious in its architecture. In many ways it puts a lot emphasis on technical matters. Furthermore, and in retrospect, one of the most salient analysis (and what has proven a bottleneck in implementation thus far) is the sequencing in a highly bolted and anchored manner that the Project is supposed to unfold. That is, the assumption and plan has been that –for example-- once Activity 1.1 within Output¹² 1 is achieved (i.e. *Procurement, installation and operationalization of new hydro meteorological monitoring equipment*) at that point that would supply the needed inputs (hardware, data, information) to define climate vulnerabilities, risk maps, etc., so that policies can be drawn and implemented and focalised risk reduction measures are applied at the municipal and community levels. This is an example but all expected outputs and most expected activities are interlinked between and among themselves. While this is highly positive in a conceptual or theoretical manner, delays in implementation of the first tranche of activities as well as timing assumptions imbedded in design did not evolve as expected. Since this is relevant to implementation it will be taken up in that section of this report.

However, and also supported by stakeholders’ inputs as well as documentation, there are other caveats that have risen regarding design. Again, although the logic and strategy has been deemed correct in theory, the over ambitiousness of the Project is thought to be detrimental. Furthermore, the Project puts a strong emphasis on technical manners without amply considering other “soft” issues that are cornerstones to uptake and use of climate information

¹² In some ways there is a conceptual confusion in some of the terms used for expectations of the results. When the project planning documents indicate that there are three expected outputs, these are phrased more as outcomes since, in many ways, they describe changes (for example, when Output 3 is defined as “Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures”, there is a change / result / outcome being defined since the phrase describes the intended changes in development conditions that result from the interventions of governments and other stakeholders). Definition extracted from: Independent Evaluation Office. United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines. Revised Edition June 2021*).

for improved adaptation to climate change and for facing these hazards in an integrated manner in the country. Lastly, there was no thorough capacity assessment of the country upon design. Therefore many issues related to uptake of the achievements and in long - term sustainability of the results in a country with still low capacity to deal with these issues still remain.

Besides the programmatic (even tacit) assumption seen above about the sequencing, there were other types of assumptions. Some were and have proven to be realistic. Others have not. For instance, the assumption stated as *“Capacities created at relevant agencies through the project are maintained and periodically renewed”* is deemed unrealistic due to the high rotation of personnel that deal with DRR within governments (national, sub national, municipal) that is inherent to Georgia. The assumption: *“No delay in procurement and installation of hydro-met monitoring equipment”*, as will be seen in the sections on implementation, has proven to be very unrealistic. There were a number of delays, not due to the allocation of resources and co - financing per se, but due to many other factors. First, due to the complex nature state of the art of the equipment being acquired the procurement processes was technically more demanding than planned within a context of national government limited capacity to procure equipment. The long-overdrawn procurement processes due to this issue and due to state procedural aspects that delay governmental procurement. Procurement delays were also due to contracted bidders’ failure to deliver. Altogether, therefore, the assumption that there will be no delay in equipment did not evolve as planned.

Relevant gender issues were raised upon project design.¹³ The Project was assigned a UNDP Gender Marker GEN2, signalling that it should make contributions to gender equality. The Project design includes a number of gender issues containing the impact of the project on gender equality as well as the participation of women in the different activities and processes the Project would promote. Quite specifically, design includes a *Gender Analysis and Action Plan*. The Gender Analysis is a comprehensive overview of gender-related information in the country. It also focuses on specific gender issues relevant to the project and examines mainstreaming opportunities within it.

Based on this analysis, it is indicated that to have effective national and community based early warning systems, climate-informed planning and improved resilience, gender considerations need to be integrated. The aims of the Gender Action Plan developed upon planning were to narrow gender inequality; addresses needs and constraints; avoid risks of adverse gender impacts; ensure women’s participation; and, ensuring women are included as planners, co-implementers and agents of change. The ensuing Plan includes gender mainstreaming actions, indicators and targets. At this stage of implementation, the GAP is undergoing analysis, mainly to change or adjust some indicators as during the last APR approval process GCF indicated that gender indicators should be elaborated as they are in case of socio-economic vulnerability. However, in this case as it has happened in other situations, GCF has

¹³ Gender – related processes are being updated at the time of this evaluation. Since this section deals with design it will circumscribe the analysis to that, and will deal with updating of gender – related tools and with implementation matters further ahead in this report in the relevant sections.

changed standard operating procedures and postponed the analysis/feedback and approval of the revised indicators by GCF.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK/LOG FRAME AND THEORY OF CHANGE:

The Project's log frame expresses objectives and outcomes in a distinct manner. The log frame is structured with expected results, definition of indicators, means of verification, baseline, mid-term and target indicators as well as assumptions. It is a well-structured tool in those terms.

As stated before, however, there is in some ways a conceptual confusion in some of the terms used regarding expectations of the results. When the project planning documents indicate that there are three expected outputs, these are phrased more as outcomes in some ways since they describe changes (for example, when Output 3 is defined as "*Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures*", there is a change / result / outcome being defined since the phrase describes the intended changes in development conditions that result from the interventions of governments and other stakeholders).¹⁴ This terminology is not fully aligned, furthermore, with GCF/Results Management Framework (RMF)/Performance Measurement Frameworks (PMFs) guidance whereby—for instance—outcomes in adaptation are designated as increased resilience of most vulnerable people and communities; health and well-being, and food and water security; infrastructure and built environment; and ecosystems and ecosystem services. Although this analysis might seem academic or theoretical, it is understood by this evaluation that it is not the case since the results framework, its definitions, and so on, are keystones for many planning tools, and very importantly are the underpinnings for indicators. For instance, output indicators are of a different nature than outcome indicators and—consequently—the definition of results as outputs or outcomes does play an important role on which indicators are set and on how tallying of achievements takes place.

The Results Framework has three indicators levels: baseline, midterm target, and end of project target. However, some of the baseline indicators are missing. Indicator analysis for these sorts of midpoint evaluations are based on whether these are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). For the *Scaling-Up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System And The Use Of Climate Information In Georgia* project, a midpoint SMART assessment leads to the following breakdown.

- S • Specific: Indicators must use clear language, describing a specific future condition:

Indicators are specific, they express a clear language and describe a future condition (both at midterm when relevant and at the end of project target level).

- M • Measurable: Indicators, must have measurable aspects making it possible to assess whether they were achieved or not:

¹⁴ Definition extracted from: Independent Evaluation Office. United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines. Revised Edition June 2021.*

Most indicators have measurable aspects. However, some do not since there is no specific metric attached. For instance, for Activity 6.2: *Use of climate information products/services in decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors*, the target indicator is expressed as: “Adopted river basin risk management plans, municipal risk management response and preparedness plans, agriculture sector plans integrate enhanced climate information”. There is no measurable indicator here, i.e. the number of adopted river basin risk management plans and other sectoral plans are not specified per se.

- A• Achievable: Indicators must be within the capacity of the partners to achieve:

In general, a robust number of indicators are deemed achievable (output, outcome, etc.). That is, a good number of indicators are within the capacity of the partners to achieve within the time period of implementation.

However, some of them are beyond the viability of being achievable due to several factors. First due to the over ambitiousness of the Project. Some indicators imply universal access for the whole country regarding for climate risk information (i.e.: “100% of Households, business and public sector services in Georgia with access to EWS services and relevant climate risk information”). Also several indicators are of outputs and not of outcomes. That is, when it is stated that plans are attained or that information is generated this is a product indicator. Yet this definition does not capture effect or outcome or achievement. If indicators are outcome or effect indicators, than the uptake and implementation of such tools needs to be defined as such to be captured as an outcome or effect indicator.

This evaluation has also found that several of the indicators tied to activities are not truly designed to capture effects or results. It has become clear during the interim assessments –for instance at the local level—that the trainings and awareness raising activities are measured by product level analysis (i.e. how many trainings, etc.) and not by results or changes that have or may occur as a result of these trainings/awareness raising activities.

Others are well beyond the scope of the Project. For instance, two indicators (“Protection/avoided expected loss of economic assets (properties and agricultural land) for the value of US\$19.5 million over 20 years through structural flood protection measures” as well as “avoided expected loss of life; 62 lives saved over 20 years through the introduction of the MHEWS) are indicators that, as described can only capture progress as achievable two decades after the project ends¹⁵, and it is also deemed as ambitious with regard to the intervention. That is, they are unattainable within the scope of the Project given that the types of change indicated here take a longer to attain beyond the timeline for an intervention such as this.

Lastly, because of the nature of disasters and disaster risk management, a number of indicators cannot be said that they are or will be achievable or not. For instance, it cannot be predicted what type of disasters will occur within the Project time frame nor if they will occur at

¹⁵ This is also referred to in the section on time-bound analysis of indicators below.

all, or if they do with what magnitude. Consequently, if the indicator is achievable or not it is impossible to determine due to the very nature of disasters.

- R• Relevant: Indicators must make a contribution to selected priorities of the national development framework:

All of the project indicators are relevant since they are aligned with national development priorities. This relevance not only is reflective of alignment of policies. It is also inherent in the relevance that the Project has for Georgia in order for the country to be supported in driving its efforts to deal with disaster risk management that causes losses (in lives and in livelihoods, as well as overarching economic losses).

- T• Time-bound: Indicators are never open-ended; there should be an expected date of accomplishment:

Most of the project indicators are T (time-bound) given that they have horizon of when it is expected that they would be achieved (midterm and/or end of project).

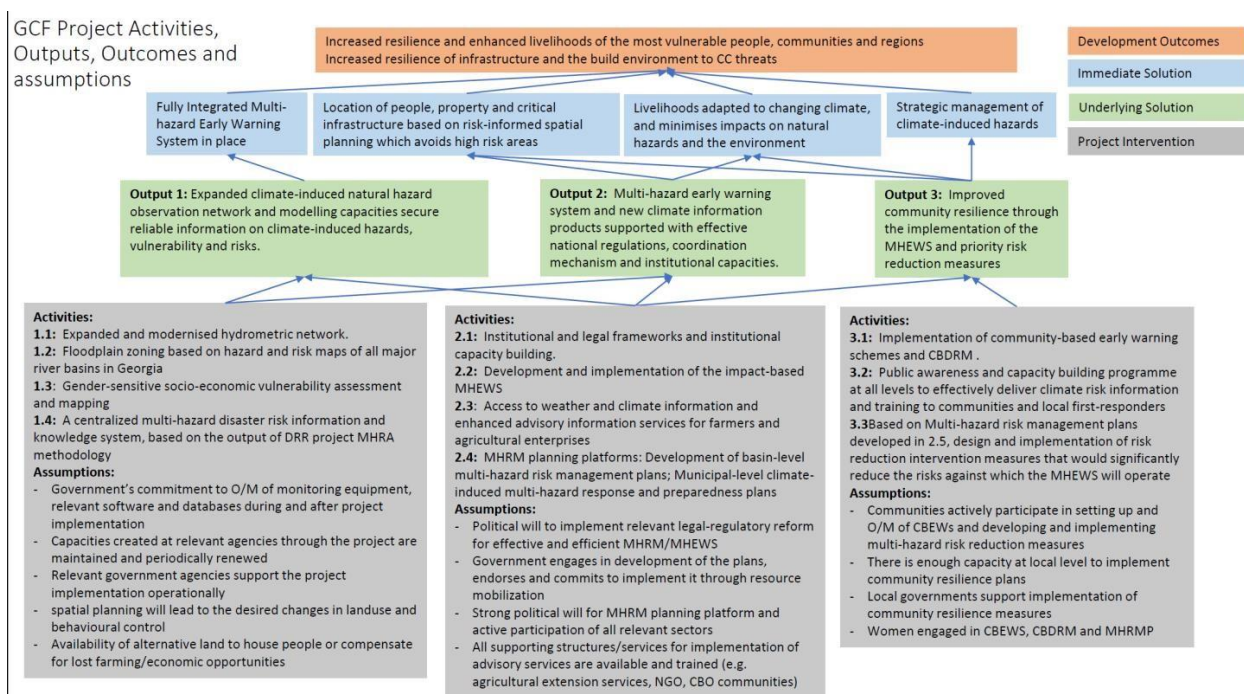
However, there are some key problems with some of the indicators since they are expressed in a time horizon well beyond the life – span of the Project. For instance, for the impact level 1.0 *Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions* expected result, the indicator is expressed as: *Avoided expected loss of life - 62 lives saved over 20 years through the introduction of the MHEWS*. Although time – bound in a strict sense, the time horizon is well beyond the time span of the Project.

Gender differentiation is part of some of the indicators. For instance, when attempting to capture female and male potential direct beneficiaries, percentage of females at project events such as consultations, or as part of project-related staff. However, a first analysis of gender mainstreaming inclusion in indicators in the log frame and in the indicators in the original Gender Action Plan reveal that they were not always harmonised with concrete steps in the technical parts of the Project. Although they are adequate for capturing women’s participation in the Project-related processes, they were not designed to fully capture other mainstreaming issues as it relates to multi-hazard early warning systems and the use of climate information differentially by women and men.

Germane partners (project implementation staff, government representatives, board / steering committee members, UNDP, GCF) are aware of the above issues and several of the related indicators’ issues and how they affect not only monitoring and follow through but also a results - oriented framework for implementation. For this reason, an internal analysis on the indicators has begun to take place (for results log frame as well as for the Gender Action plan). This matter will be further taken up in the pertinent sections of this report (such as adaptive management, monitoring).

The Project design has a proposed Theory of Change (ToC). The diagram below is the ToC set at the planning stages.

FIGURE 4: THEORY OF CHANGE



The ToC indicates change pathways from activities to outputs to development outcomes. It is specified that the path from outputs to development outcomes would be achieved through intermediate stages such as fully integrated MHEWS in place; spatial planning that avoids high risk areas; adaptation of livelihoods, and strategic management of climate-induced hazards. The ToC outlines explicit assumptions. Therefore, these aspects are clear and it is not perceived that there is a need to retrofit or change the ToC. That is, in comparison to the approach, relevance, actions, interventions, and current context, the Theory of Change is deemed appropriate except for some of the assumptions as seen below.

In retrospect, although the critical pathways and other expected processes of the ToC are defined accurately, the same cannot be said of some of the assumptions. While the commitment by government to the processes and outputs/outcomes expected out of this project are clear (and have manifested themselves in implementation as planned) the issue of capacity to implement the outputs and outcome during and after project implementation are uncertain. This is particularly the case when the overall country – capacity to deal with hazards and risk planning and disaster risk management is weak (for instance as evidenced by the lack of robust staffing in these areas); the frequent and recurring changes in government (at the national and at the subnational levels) of staff dealing with these issues; as well as the limitations in allocation of government funding to these areas of work.

Besides the graphic representation of the ToC with all of its components, project planning documents included an analysis on what it is described as catalytic paradigm shift in the climate-informed national risk reduction and early warning approaches. This includes matters related to

critical infrastructure, energy, insurance, agriculture, and so on. This paradigm shift treatment of the Project expected results although it is deemed as aspirational it is also considered as overly ambitious within the expectations of what a project can attain.

RELEVANCE

Relevance is the extent to which a project's objectives are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners' and donors' policies. In the first place, the Project is relevant due to the importance to Georgia regarding climate change adaptation and hydrometeorological hazard risk management. The Project is also relevant due to limited resources and capacity to deal with protection measures. The context, priorities, needs –as well as the problem—were well analysed and reviewed during project planning. As a result of this analysis (which included a feasibility study) among other factors, relevance in light of the requirements and needs of Georgia with regards to climate adaptation and reducing Georgia's vulnerability to climate-induced natural hazards is high.

Alignment with national and corporate policies are also evident, and therefore reinforce a high relevance assessment within this intermediate evaluation. Regarding national policies, the aims of the Project are aligned with relevant policies at the time of design as well as new policies adopted after project initiation. The latter is indicative of the continued relevance accrued after design. The most salient policies with which the Project is aligned and relevant are:

- National Plan of Action for Capacity Development in DRR (2015-2019)
- National DRR Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2020)
- National Plan of Action for Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Economic Development Programme
- Climate Change Strategy (2030) and Action Plan (2021-2023)
- NDC (updated for 2021-2030).

The alignment with national policies and the relevance with regard to climate change and climate – related hazards as they affect Georgia are cornerstones to the ownership of the Project at the national as well as at the sub – national and community levels. As will be seen in the sections on implementation, relevance is one of the factors that link to a high level of appropriation by pertinent stakeholders.

The Project is also relevant vis-à-vis regional and international accords Georgia is party of. At the regional level, the most salient policy is the EU-Georgia Association Agreement in an overarching manner as well as in particular issues which are very akin to this project. For example, regarding the alignment needed for acquies of national policy in terms of flood hazard and risk mapping.

Regarding international agreements, the Project aids Georgia in fulfilling its global climate change and environmental commitments, such as those related to the following international accords and policies:

- SDG 13. Climate action, particularly the following SDG targets: Strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries (SDG Target 13.1); Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (SDG Target 13.3).¹⁶
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)
- UNFCCC and related accords, including the Paris Agreement.

The intervention is fully aligned with corporate mandates, and therefore relevant in this regard. At the time of design the relevant UNDP policies with which this project was aligned to were as follows:

- UNDAF/UNPSD 2016-2020 Outcome 8: Communities enjoy greater resilience through enhanced institutional and legislative systems for environment protection, sustainable management of natural resources and disaster risk reduction
- Country Programme Document (CPD) 2016-2020 Output 4.2: By 2020, environmental knowledge and information systems enhanced, including capacities for regular reporting to international treaties
- UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Output: 1.3: Scaled up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation cross sectors which is funded and implemented.

Here also the continued relevance of the Project is clear since it is aligned with corporate mandates and policies that came into effect after design, such as:

- United Nations Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025 (former UNDAF) Outcome 5/ Georgia Country Programme Document (CPD) 2021-2025 Outcome 2: “By 2025, all people, without discrimination, enjoy enhanced resilience through improved environmental governance, climate action and sustainable management and use of natural resource(s) in Georgia”.
- CPD 2021-2025 Output 2.2: “Climate-sensitive, resilient and risk-informed development promoted across all sectors in rural and urban areas to increase adaptive capacities and mitigate climate change impact”

¹⁶ (There is also an explicit link to SDG indicators, specifically: Indicator 13.1.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people.

- UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 Output 3.1: “Institutional systems to manage multi-dimensional risks and shocks strengthened at regional, national and sub-national levels”.

When analysing appropriateness and relevance of beneficiary selection, it can be assessed that this has been suitable and fitting. This is demonstrated through different factors. The chosen beneficiary institutions are those that need to deal with policy and implementation of policy related to climate change in the country, mainly the Project’s executing entity (i.e. the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA)) but also other institutional stakeholders at the national and sub – national levels that deal with climate threats. Also, the beneficiary selection made a broad analysis of those most impacted by climate and other hazards and the selection was appropriate in those terms. For instance, as the FAA indicates, the beneficiaries are “*up to 1.7 Million people at risk of climate-induced extreme events and hazards*” which is a high proportion of the country’s population and those exposed to vulnerable situations due to climate change and hazards. This is also reinforced below by the analysis of direct current and potential beneficiaries at the local level.

Although this evaluation was not requested to analyse relevance at the local/sub national level, clear significance emerges out of the analysis of this assessment, particularly after the field site visits and interactions with local actors by the national consultant. The relevance at the local level arises out of several issues. First of all, most locally implemented measures in Georgia have been reactive rather than proactive up to this project. That is, measures to deal with DDR have been undertaken after the disasters occur. Measures in compensation or even structural measures arise after the disaster occurs, as recovery mainly, but not as risk management nor as a result of holistic planning. At the local level it is indicated that there is high budgetary expenditure in recovery but little or no spending on preparedness or in long-term structural measures attuned to the vulnerability to disasters the regions’ experience. For instance, local stakeholders are keenly aware that frequent flooding produces a number of damages (such as damages upon agricultural land, infrastructure, even urban damages) and therefore the Project’s relevance at the local level in mitigating these damages are well perceived. Furthermore, at the local level, the innovation for Georgia that this project may bring about is relevant since it is understood that –for instance--agrometeorological stations are key tools for the development of the agriculture not only related to disaster risk management issues but also to harness information that is pertinent for overall agricultural productivity (i.e. by providing weather – related information that can support productivity). All of this is indicative of the relevance of this project at the local level that it is deemed that this is the first time that planning and preparedness takes place at this scale in the focalised areas.

PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES ANALYSIS

Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis in chart form follows. This graph reviews the indicator-level progress as reported to GCF. The chart includes an analysis regarding achievements and categorises them with colour coding as follows:

- (a) has already been achieved (colouring table cell green);
- (b) is partially achieved or on target to be achieved by the end of the Project (colouring table cell yellow); or
- (c) is at high risk of not being achieved by the end of the Project and needs attention (colouring table red).¹⁷

Furthermore, classifications following a Six - point Progress Towards Results Ratings have also been added (Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), or Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)). An explanation of these ratings is found in Annex 6.

The last column contains an assessment of status to date of the indicator. It should be noted that basis for this chart is the cumulative reporting to GCF as of December 2021, but it also includes updates provided by the Project on achievements fulfilled since then up to the time of this report. In the last column a justification for rating is provided based on the findings of the intermediate evaluation process not only on indicators per se but also on qualitative data that arises out of the analysis. Overall, this last column addresses not what has been achieved exclusively but mainly how realistic it is for target to be achieved.

As seen here and as will be seen in the narrative in the sections after the chart, there have been a number of demonstrated changes against the baseline vis-à-vis the investment criteria. Yet there are a number of factors that have constrained full achievements and –of course—a number of factors that have contributed to what has been achieved thus far.

¹⁷ Indicator Assessment Key: Traffic light system.

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved
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FIGURE 5: PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS MATRIX

Fund-level impact Core indicators	Baseline	Current value	Target (mid-term)	Target (final)	Remarks (including changes, if any)	Achievement Rating¹⁸	Analysis: status of indicator; justification for rating (triangulated with evidence and data); how realistic it is for target to be achieved
Total Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries; Number of beneficiaries relative to the total population	0	<i>Educational/awareness-raising community-level meetings were conducted in 10 target municipalities, directly covering 1180 persons (62% women) and indirectly benefitting the whole population of target municipalities - 435,254 persons (222,269 women)</i>	<i>Direct 3,250 men and women benefit from flood protection (0.1% of the total population)</i>	<i>Direct 1.7M people (47% of population, 0.89M women and 0.82M men) in the vulnerable/high-risk communities and regions benefit from MHEWS Direct 6,500 men and women benefit from flood protection Indirect (including direct) 3.6M men and women</i>	<i>In 2021, EIEC continued conducting education and awareness-raising interventions in the areas where flood protection measures will be implemented, covering 10 target municipalities. Moreover, preparatory works for constructions are initiated at two locations. It is expected that 566 people will benefit from improved flood protection through 2 structural flood protection investments.</i>	MS	<i>It is expected that upon completion this target will be achieved. Some activities have been carried out while groundwork has been carried out for construction of structural measures and shortly before the interim evaluation some of these measures have begun to be implemented, and they are ongoing.</i>

¹⁸ Six Point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU (see annexes for definitions of this scale)

A1.0 Increased resilience and enhanced livelihoods of the most vulnerable people, communities and regions							
<p>A1.1 Change in expected losses of lives and economic assets (US\$) due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0 (Preparatory works have been implemented (see remarks section))</p>	<p>Protection/avoided expected loss of economic assets (properties and agricultural land) for US\$2 million through structural flood protection measures</p>	<p>Protection/avoided expected loss of economic assets (properties and agricultural land) for the value of US\$19.5 million over 20 years¹⁹ through structural flood protection measures.</p> <p>Avoided expected loss of life - 62 lives saved over 20 years through the introduction of the MHEWS</p>	<p>In 2021 Design for 8 risk reduction measures (5 – government; 3 – GCF-funded;) developed.</p> <p>Pre-construction phase is ongoing on Pirveli Maisi, and Lagodekhi sites.</p> <p>Construction works are ongoing in one site (Kobuleti) and on the 3 GoG co-financed sites (Gaghma Kodori, Guleikari and Khodashniskhevi).</p> <p>Construction works finalized in one GoG co-financed site (Telaviskhevi)</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Although the target indicators have not been achieved as expected for the midterm point, given the work that has already been done, construction work being finalised in some of the sites, as well as ongoing construction works at other sites, it is expected that by project end the goals will be achieved at the expected levels.</p> <p>However, as indicated in the section on analysis of indicators, the indicator on change and expected losses of lives and economic assets might or might not evolve due to issues beyond the control of the Project which are unpredictable (for instance, hazards might not occur)</p>

¹⁹ 20-year duration refers to the lifespan for the investment of the assets, which is beyond the duration of the project implementation.

A5.0 Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems access climate finance from the GCF and other funds							
A5.2 Number and level²⁰ of effective coordination mechanisms	1 coordination mechanism	1 coordination mechanism			Preparation of legal framework for Risk Knowledge and Preparedness and Response Capabilities components under MHEWS checklist is underway to be finalized in 2023. Recommendations for improving the legal framework are developed to be agreed upon with national partners. The institutional framework for Risk Knowledge and Preparedness and Response Capabilities components under the MHEWS checklist is developed through the results of activities 1.2, 1.4, 2.4.	MS	There are expectations (not only by the Project but also by key stakeholders at the national level) that not only will legal framework that can lead to coordinating mechanisms would be developed, but that it will be adopted by the country by project end.
	National MHEWS Protocol: Level 1	National MHEWS Protocol: Level 1					
	Multi-stakeholder CC coordination committee: Level 1	Multi-stakeholder CC coordination committee: Level 1					
	National MHEWS Protocol: Level 1	Agricultural outlook forum: Level 2	3 coordination mechanisms	3 coordination mechanisms			
	Multi-stakeholder CC coordination committee: Level 1	Preparatory work for enhancement has been conducted (see remarks section)	National MHEWS Protocol: Level 2	National MHEWS Protocol: Level 4			
	Agricultural outlook forum: Level 2		Multi-stakeholder CC coordination committee: Level 3	Multi-stakeholder CC coordination committee: Level 4			
			Agriculture sector CRM coordination mechanism: Level 3	Agriculture sector CRM coordination mechanism: Level 4			

²⁰ Level 1 = no coordination mechanism; Level 2= coordination mechanism in place; Level 3 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly with appropriate representation (gender and decision-making authorities); Level 4 = coordination mechanism in place, meeting regularly, with appropriate representation, with appropriate information flows and monitoring of action items/issues raised.

A6.0 Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making								
A6.2 Use of climate information products/services in decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors by stakeholders	Absence of MHEWS across the country at all levels; Low public awareness of MHEWS, risk reduction and resilience measures;	Development of municipal preparedness and response plans by EMS for 4 municipalities out of 11 is ongoing. ToT for EMS staff is completed.. (see remarks section)	Climate informed multi-hazard risk reduction, management planning frameworks (MHEWs +), and implementation capacities are in place	Adopted river-basin risk management plans, municipal risk management response and preparedness plans, agriculture sector plans integrate enhanced climate information.	Municipal preparedness and response plans for 4 municipalities is expected to be finalized by September 2022 and for all 11 municipalities – by the end of 2023.		MS	Municipal preparedness and response plans for all of the target local areas are expected to be achieved by 2023, which is well before expected project end.
A7.0 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks								
A7.1 Use by vulnerable households, communities, business and public-sector services of Fund-supported tools, instruments, strategies and activities to respond to climate change and variability	0% of households Absence of MHEWS across the country at all levels; Fully functional FFEWS exists only for Rioni; Low public awareness of MHEWS, risk reduction and resilience measures; Absence of knowledge and standardised methodologies on hazard, vulnerability and risk assessments.	0% of households, business and public sector services in Georgia with access to MHEWS services and relevant climate risk information Preparatory work has been conducted (see remarks section)	50% of households, business and public sector services in Georgia with access to EWS services and relevant climate risk information	100% of households, business and public sector services in Georgia with access to EWS services and relevant climate risk information	MHDRIS design has been developed and agreed upon with the national partners. Implementation of the system is expected to be launched in 2022.		MS	Although the target has not been met vis-à-vis the midpoint expectations, the baseline work has been developed, and the system is expected to be launched in the coming months, which is well before project end.

<p>A7.2 Total Geographic coverage of climate-related early warning systems and other risk reduction measures established/ strengthened</p>	<p>0 river basins with functional MHEWS; 0 high-risk settlements with established CBEWS</p>	<p>0 (no changes from baseline, preparatory work has been conducted, see remarks section)</p>	<p>MHEWS established in 4 major river basins, and a necessary institutional/ regulatory framework in place; CBEWS established in 30 high-risk settlements</p>	<p>MHEWS established in 11 major river basins, and a necessary institutional/ regulatory framework in place; CBEWS established in 100 high-risk settlements</p>	<p>Towards establishment of MHEWS, enhancement of forecasting platforms are on-going. Flood forecasting platform has been established and tested for 1 river basin (Rioni basin). In 2021, the project continued preparatory works for risk profiling. However, due to the delays in the development of hazard maps and risk profiles, the actual implementation of CBEWS was shifted for the next year</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Although the target has not been met vis-à-vis the midpoint expectations, the baseline work has been developed, and the system is expected to be launched in the coming months, which is well before project end.</p>
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1. Expanded hydrometeorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks							
<p>1.1 # of new hydrometeorological monitoring equipment functionally operating</p>	<p>Hydrometric monitoring network outdated and inadequate</p>	<p>7 meteostations; 50 meteoposts; 26 hydrological posts; 6 snow measurement stations; 1 super computer for EWS procured and operationalized; Telecommunication system equipment Procured</p>	<p>12 meteostations; 73 meteoposts; 44 hydrological posts; 13 snow measurement stations; 20 inclinometers; 8 mobile discharge meters; 3 radars; 2 drones; 2 upper air sounding equipment; 15 web-based agrometeorological stations; 1 super computer for EWS operation; telecommunication system equipment</p>	<p>12 meteostations; 73 meteoposts; 44 hydrological posts; 13 snow measurement stations; 20 inclinometers; 8 mobile discharge meters; 3 radars; 2 drones; 2 upper air sounding equipment; 15 web-based agrometeorological stations; 1 super computer for EWS operation; telecommunication system equipment</p>	<p>15 web-based agrometeorological Stations were procured. The delivery is planned in June-July, 2022.</p> <p>The process of market research for the procurement of landslide monitoring systems is ongoing.</p> <p>Preparation for procurement of supplies, including building materials and instruments for installation of hydrometeorological systems, is ongoing</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Innovative monitoring equipment has been procured and some of it has been delivered or delivery is ongoing.</p> <p>Further procurement is expected in the near future.</p> <p>Therefore, there are full expectations that the intended number of equipment to expand the country's meteorological network will be fulfilled by project end and that it will be operational to permit for modelling, and informed decision making.</p>
<p>1.2 Number of river basins for which hazard and risk maps (covering landslides, mudflows, avalanches, hailstorms and droughts), flood plain zoning and multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessments</p>	<p>0 hazard and risk maps, flood plain zoning and MH vulnerability and risk assessments</p>	<p>4 national-level hazard risk models/maps (avalanche, windstorm, hailstorm, drought) and hazard risk models (flood landslide, mudflow) for 3 river basins (Supsa, Kintrishi, Natanebi) developed</p>	<p>Hazard and Risk maps, flood plain zoning and multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessments (covering landslides, mudflows, avalanches, hailstorms, and droughts) are in place for 7 river basins</p>	<p>Hazard and Risk maps, flood plain zoning and multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessments (covering landslides, mudflows, avalanches, hailstorms, and droughts) are in place for 11 river basins</p>	<p>Flood, landslide and mudflow hazard risk models/maps for the West Georgia river basins (7 basins) are planned to be finalized by the end of 2022, and East Georgia river basins (4 basins) - in 2023.</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Although the target has not been met vis-à-vis the midpoint expectations, the baseline work has been developed, and the system is expected to be launched in the coming months for 7 of the 11 target river basins and by next year for the other 4 target river basins, which is well before project end.</p>

<p>1.3 Level²¹ of application for systemic gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessment in decision-making and resilience investment prioritization</p>	<p>Level= 0</p>	<p>0 (no changes from baseline, see remarks section)</p>	<p>Level = 2</p>	<p>Level = 4</p>	<p>Gender-sensitive socioeconomic vulnerability assessment methodology developed. Works on risk prioritization model for wind, hail, floods and avalanche data processing are ongoing. Risk prioritization models (maps) at national level for hail and wind were drafted.</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Work ongoing, Gender Action Plan under review, some products drafted already. However, regarding gender there are still challenges for stakeholders to understand and adopt an integrated mainstreaming approach.</p>
<p>1.4 Level²² of application of a centralized multi-hazard disaster risk information and knowledge system</p>	<p>Level = 0</p>	<p>Level=1 (See remarks section)</p>	<p>Level = 1</p>	<p>Level = 3</p>	<p>The design of MHDRIS is developed and agreed upon with the state representatives. The ICT company started implementation of MHDRIS and is working on the identification of the detailed specification of the system requirements and system design.</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Design for multi-hazard information system/central data depository and knowledge portal has begun. Therefore there are good expectations that by project end a portal will be implemented and fair expectations that this system will be used for analysis and DRM planning.</p>

²¹ Level 0: No awareness or application of gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessment; Level 1: Introduction and training on gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessment methods and tools; Level 2. Gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessments are generated by EMS Level 3. Decision-makers (MEPA/MDRI) consider gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessment in prioritization processes for resilience investments; Level 4. Investments align with findings/recommendations from gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessment.

²² Level 0: No centralized multi-hazard disaster risk information and knowledge system in Georgia; Level 1: A multi-hazard information system/central data depository and knowledge portal designed; Level 2: A multi-hazard information system/central data depository and knowledge portal fully implemented; Level 3: Decision-makers apply high-quality information from the multi-hazard information system for reporting, analysis and planning purposes

2. Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities							
<p>2.1 Level²³ of institutional capacity for implementation of MHEWS and delivery of climate information amongst key government agencies</p>	<p>Level = 0</p>	<p>0 (no changes from baseline, see remarks section)</p>	<p>Level = 1</p>	<p>Level = 2</p>	<p>Capacity assessment of MHEWS and use of climate information were completed. Capacity development plan is in the process of development. Legal review for Disaster Risk information component under MHEWS was completed.</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Baseline capacity assessments carried out, as well as legal reviews, that provide information for the institutional capacity present and needed to be at approximately the level expected at midterm and to be at expected enhanced level (50%) by end of project.</p>
<p>2.2 Status of the nationwide MHEWS covering landslides, floods, mudflows, avalanches, hailstorms and droughts</p>	<p>MHEWS does not exist: institutional responsibilities and communication protocols for EWS, climate and DRM are not properly defined. FFEWS is available only for the</p>	<p>Implementation progress 20% (see remarks section)</p>	<p>Operational MHEWS for floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, hailstorms and droughts in place covering 4 river basins, including: multi-hazard forecasting platform, national warning communication protocols, telecommunication systems, warning dissemination systems. Warnings are tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups; Information on hazards delivered through multiple</p>	<p>Operational MHEWS for floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, hailstorms and droughts in place covering all major 11 river basins, including: multi-hazard forecasting platform, national warning communication protocols, telecommunication systems, warning dissemination systems. Warnings are tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups; Information on hazards delivered through multiple</p>	<p>In 2021 international advice was provided on enhancing meteorological forecasting through improving local model parametrizations and on the quality of satellite precipitation estimates and on integrating new source data/type into forecasting platform. Redeployment and enhancement of flood forecasting platform are ongoing.</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>The baseline work, although delayed, has begun in order to create the conditions to operationally set up MHEWS and forecasting platforms, etc., to yield results approximately as expected at project end.</p>

²³ Level 0 = Baseline assessment to be conducted within year 1 of implementation; Level 1 = 25% improvement from baseline assessment; Level 2 = 50% improvement from baseline assessment.

SCALING-UP MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND THE USE OF CLIMATE INFORMATION IN GEORGIA
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	<i>Rioni river basin.</i>		<i>methods. Information is clear and not complex. Information is issued in understandable for the population languages.</i>	<i>methods. Information is clear and not complex. Information is issued in understandable for the population languages.</i>			
2.3 % of farmers accessing improved climate forecasting services	0%	<i>0 (No change from baseline)</i>	<i>10% of farmers participate in the piloting of weather/climate advisories and climate information services.</i>	<i>75% of farmers access improved climate forecasting services</i>	<i>Assessment of Capacity in Economic Aspects of Agri-met, CC Risk and Hazard Management in Georgia and related scorecard are developed.</i>	MS	<i>Baseline information including scorecards and capacity assessments developed, therefore a point of departure for inducing farmers to participate in climate advisories and information systems has been set for them to access services.</i>

3. Improved community resilience through the implementation of MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures

<p>3.1 Number and % of coverage for high-risk communities through CBEWS and CBCRM action.</p>	<p>0 ("last-mile" EWS communications not practised in Georgia)</p>	<p>0 (No change from baseline, see a column with remarks)</p>	<p>30 high-risk communities (%TBD)²⁴ are covered with the CBEWS and adopt gender-sensitive CBCRM action. Community consultation groups with at least 30% representation of women; Ratio of women employed in CBDRM employment guarantee schemes at least 30%</p>	<p>100 high-risk communities (%TBD) are covered with the CBEWS and adopt gender-sensitive CBCRM action; Community consultation groups with at least 30% representation of women; Ratio of women employed in CBDRM employment guarantee schemes at least 30%</p>	<p>Due to the delays in the development of risk maps, CBEWS and CBCRM actions have not started yet.</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Since the development of CBCRM and CBEWS have not begun due to the fact that baseline risk maps have not been developed, this activity is in danger of not being accomplished as expected up to project end if measures associated to timely delivery are worked through and if there is no achievements at the expected levels of sequenced outputs/activities.</p>
<p>3.2 % increase of crop yields and household income for targeted communities due to reduced losses and damages from hazards</p>	<p>Baseline values for yields per each crop type and income (mean & median) for potential beneficiaries of structural measures have been set through the baseline survey in 2019</p>	<p>Same as the baseline numbers</p>	<p>0% increase in crop yields and 0% increase in targeted communities' household income</p>	<p>10% increase in crop yields and 5% increase in targeted communities' household income</p>	<p>Baseline survey for the first 3 river basins of non-structural measures will be conducted in 2022</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Since measures' application is delayed, no impact or effect in increased yields can be associated to the Project as of yet. There are expectations however that target indicators would be met once measures will be applied.</p>
<p>3.3 Number of targeted beneficiaries reporting enhanced protection from climate-related natural disasters resulting from Fund investments (disaggregated by gender).</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0 (preparatory activities have been implemented (see a column with remarks)</p>	<p>3,250 beneficiaries in 5 municipalities benefit from improved flood</p>	<p>6,500 beneficiaries in 11 municipalities benefit from improved flood</p>	<p>In 2021 Design for 8 risk reduction measures (5 – government; 3 –</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>The number of beneficiaries cannot be determined since measures have been</p>

SCALING-UP MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND THE USE OF CLIMATE INFORMATION IN GEORGIA
PROJECT - INTERIM EVALUATION

			<i>protection through 6 structural flood protection investments</i>	<i>protection through 13 structural flood protection investments</i>	<i>GCF-funded;) developed. Pre-construction phase is ongoing on Lagodekhi site. Construction works are ongoing on two GCF-funded sites (Kobuleti and Pirveli Maisi) and on the 3 GoG co-financed sites (Gaghma Kodori, Guleikari and Khodashniskhevi). Construction works finalized in one GoG co-financed site (Telaviskhevi)</i>		<i>designed but their implementation is ongoing mostly. However construction has been finalized in some of the sites signalling that the process is ongoing and has potential to be finalized by project end.</i>
3.4 Change in Knowledge, Awareness and Perception (KAP) of beneficiaries on local climate risk management options (including use and impact of the options)	<i>Baseline numbers for the areas of structural measures were defined in 2019</i>	<i>Same as the baseline numbers</i>	<i>Midterm 30% increase over baseline</i>	<i>Final 70% increase over baseline</i>	<i>Baseline numbers for the first 3 river basins in the areas of non-structural measures will be defined in 2022</i>	MS	<i>Activities at local levels carried out to increase perception of CC and DRM. Gender issues incorporated in KM.</i>

The progress towards outcomes analysis follows guidance provided to this interim evaluation (Terms of Reference, inception process, etc.). As indicated in the ToRs, it is based on the directions contained in the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* manual. As such, and following the methodology indicated in this guidance, this is not just a monitoring exercise where the achievements are tallied vis-à-vis indicators at midpoint of implementation, but it is –as pertaining to an evaluation—also an assessment of the potentiality of the achievement of results against end-of-project targets.

Following the mentioned guidance, the first five columns are those in the results framework, while the sixth column is populated with monitoring information provided by the project. The data sources are monitoring reports to GCF –mainly the Annual Performance Report of 2021–, as well as other monitoring and reporting exercises carried out by the Project such as other evaluations and reporting to board and committees. Project staff also updated some of the data to reflect current achievements since the reporting was a few months old by the time this interim evaluation process took place.

Evidently, the information and analysis also finds as a resource the information collected by the evaluators as well as the analysis that evaluators make in these processes. Therefore, this is not a monitoring exercise of achievements in and of itself, as stated above, but an analysis by the evaluation of expectations for the target to be achieved by project end (as stated in the heading of the last column) based on the quantitative data, on stakeholders points of view, and of the inherent analysis of the evaluation. Also, with the understanding that interim evaluations such as this one provide a set of lessons learned and recommendations, the analysis is also based on the expectations that –as a result of the evaluation and other learning exercises—adjustments and changes will be made to further put the intervention on track to achieve results by project end²⁵. The expectations of the targets to be achieved, therefore, are based on analysis of multiple levels of information.

Some specific examples of the above analytical mode (reinforcing and providing support to what is in the last column of the progress towards results chart (i.e. column: *Analysis: status of indicator; justification for rating (triangulated with evidence and data); how realistic it is for target to be achieved*) follow. For instance, for *A1.1 Change in expected losses of lives and economic assets (US\$) due to the impact of extreme climate-related disasters*, the assessment is not only based on what has been achieved thus far as indicated in monitoring reports, but the facts that (a) relevant construction work has greatly speeded up since latest overarching monitoring took place; (b) the valorisation by key stakeholders that the Project and all its partners have now the elements in place (such as nationally-acquired technical knowledge, streamlined procurement, external and internal technical support) to implement the structural works that need to be implemented before the end of the project, and (c) further changes are implemented to the Project to accelerate implementation.

The same is valid for *A7.1 Use by vulnerable households, communities, business and public-sector services of Fund-supported tools, instruments, strategies and activities to respond*

²⁵ As indicated in *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*.

to climate change and variability²⁶. Although the target has not been met vis-à-vis the midpoint expectations, the baseline work has been developed, and the system is expected to be launched in the coming months, which is well before project end. Therefore, the expectations, not only based on the stakeholders' inputs and this evaluation assessments, but also on the fact that the Multi-Hazard Disaster Risk Information System design has been developed and agreed upon with the national partners, its implementation is forthcoming in the few months after this interim assessment.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Effectiveness and efficiency are two different but interlinked analysis. While effectiveness is the extent to which the development intervention's objectives were achieved (or are expected to be achieved) taking into account their relative importance it is also an aggregate measure of (or judgment about) the merit or worth of an activity, i.e. the extent to which an intervention has attained, or is expected to attain, its major relevant objectives efficiently in a sustainable fashion and with a positive institutional development impact. Efficiency, on the other hand, is a measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to results. It is most commonly applied to the input-output link in the causal chain of an intervention.²⁷

The outputs have not, up to date, been achieved in a timely manner since the expected midterm indicators have not been obtained as such. Although the outputs have been sufficiently sequenced conceptually to obtain and deliver expected results in a technically correct method, this has not materialized in an expected manner, as illustrated above the midterm targets (i.e. midterm indicators) have not been achieved at the expected levels. This is not due to a conceptual sequencing issue since that is appropriate in broad terms (i.e. the sequence of information – analysis – implementation of measures is adequate in conceptual/technical manner), rather it has not been appropriate in a realistic way since the assumptions were not realistic and due to other issues such as contracting with a company that could not deliver appropriately, delays due to long overdrawn procurement process from partners, as well as the overall issues that arose out of setting up such a large and complex project.

The effectiveness explained as achievements can be seen in the following broad areas, some are general and some are specific:

²⁶ It should be noted that is one of the cases where there is a discrepancy between what the expected *results* are defined (i.e. *Use by vulnerable households, communities, business and public-sector services of Fund-supported tools, instruments, strategies and activities to respond to climate change and variability*) and what the indicator expresses (*output*). The indicator for end of target is “100% of households, business and public sector services in Georgia with access to EWS services and relevant climate risk information”. The key work is *access* since the end-of-target indicator is expressed as such and not of “*use*”. Following overall guidance for evaluations, this analysis is based on the end-of-target indicator (i.e. *access*).

²⁷ Source: *Guidance For Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*. 2020. Terms sourced UNDP, GEF, UNEG and OECD-DAC.

- *Set up.* The set-up of such a complex, large project (large for Georgia and large for UNDP also) has been an achievement in and of itself. Inception and set up has suffered some issues, such as: delays related to lack of adequate technical backstopping; delays in hiring; lack of technical and managerial robustness in the PMU at the first stages of implementation; as well as COVID-19 restrictions. Notwithstanding these issues, the Project has achieved setting up the project—mainly through adaptative management—which is an achievement in and of itself taking into account the barriers, limitations and challenges faced thus far.
- *Engagement with different partners and institutional stakeholders.* This project has a number of different stakeholders and layered stakeholder engagement approaches (some tacit and some explicit). Engagement for example within Georgia goes from Ministerial levels to school students, from technical government staff to policy-oriented decision makers in the country, from a large UN fund –GCF—to local villages, from UNDP as a large key agency in the climate field in the country to local non-governmental organisations, besides two bilateral donors (SDC and SIDA). The engagement with the different stakeholders attuned to their needs has been one of the achievements and result (perhaps unexpected or unplanned result) of this project thus far in the country.
- *Achievements at the output level.* As evident in the Progress Towards Results Matrix above, a number of achievement at the output level have been achieved or are in the final stages of processes to be attained fully. Procurement of a number of equipment that can provide the basis for multi-hazard early warning system has been achieved and/or is in progress. Baseline analysis to strengthen institutional and regulatory systems through policy adoption and implementation has been carried out and continuing. Mapping exercises leading to spatial planning have begun. Some structural measures for dealing with multi-hazard adaptation is already in place or will be shortly. Activities for training, outreach, awareness raising (at the local level mainly) have begun.

REMAINING BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE

As seen above, and in the Progress Towards Results matrix, and in the narrative in the different sections, there are a number of barriers as well as challenges to achieving the Project objective. The barriers that have hindered achieving the Project’s objective and outcomes are varied, some have been dealt with via adaptive management throughout the Project; some - remain. Several of the barriers and challenges found are implementational and organisational in nature, which implies that with proper adjustments most of these can be attuned and the Project can be channelled to a positive completion. Unfortunately, however, some are externalities that are beyond the horizon of the Project, even beyond the purview of the country/international agencies. Although nothing can be done about the latter, it is positive to present them here as

risks to be attuned to in the near future should they materialise further or to generate contingency plans sooner rather than later.

- *Capacity.* Capacity in several of its manifestations (e.g. personal, technical, institutional) is at the root of the project and is also a challenge, current and future challenge. In the first place, as seen in the section of design, Project planning did not take into account fully and proactively capacity issues, such as the capacity of national partners to implement this project or the abilities to sustain the achievements with current capacity at the national and sub national levels. Although not presented as such, this is after all a capacity building exercise, introducing innovative technologies and tools to provide early warning multi hazard information to plan accordingly and reduce vulnerabilities to climate – induced threats in the country. Although there has been some upgrading in capacity (hiring of new personnel, training, etc.) this still remains a large challenge for the Project in its implementation and as it begins to look for sustainability factors.
- *Design issues.* Design issues have impaired to some degree fluid implementation processes. As stated in several other areas of this report, the sequencing programmed upon project planning –although conceptually and technically correct—has not worked out as well as expected upon implementation due to delays in outputs upon which other outputs are contingent. Although there is nothing that can be done about this issue (i.e. sequencing) this remains a challenge and a barrier for further implementation which can only be resolved by accelerating the implementation of the first component. Other design issues, such as unrealistic target indicators are also a challenge and they should and can be reconstructed as much as possible and as much as donor directives allow.
- *Procurement processes.* Long overdrawn procurement processes have slowed down obtaining the necessary innovative hardware and software needed for implementation.
- *Technical backstopping.* Technical support and overarching backstopping has, in the first place, been hindered by COVID-19 travel restrictions since international experts could not travel to Georgia to provide direct backstopping and support. Although online modalities were implemented these have not proved to be as beneficial as expected from face -to- face interactions. Furthermore, the Project’s Chief Technical Advisor was also affected by these restrictions since that person was not based in Georgia. This was further compounded by the fact that the CTA post has been vacant for over eight months before this intermediate evaluation takes place.
- *Perceived continuity of training at the local level/and local personnel frequent rotations.* At the local level, actors perceive training as unsystematic. For instance, different persons participate in different training and capacity building

activities. It is understood by this evaluation that this is due to the design of training and capacity building for different target groups, yet this generates a level of misunderstanding from local actors. Therefore, local actors should be duly informed on who and why receives different trainings. Communicating better this matter will avoid misunderstandings at the local level and avoid the perceived treatment of local actors as passive receptors of training/capacity building activities. The frequent rotations in personnel, political leaders at the local level, and other variations that occur at the municipal level have resulted in a lack of programmatic understanding of capacity building/awareness raising, which should be avoided by driving awareness raising and technical capacity in a programmatic manner, especially with newcomers to the local field when these rotations occur.

- *Local level wariness.* Although local / municipal level stakeholders are keen to point out the positive aspects of what might arise for them and their communities regarding proactive planning based on information and in implementing structural measures accordingly, there is wariness with some actors. This is firstly due to the national – local governments relations and deficiency in decentralisation processes, and a mistrust of centrally – driven policies and processes. Although this might be contextual and an externality, several stakeholders have indicated that this together with the delays in implementing structural measures and investments at the local level has created a level of uncertainty that can escalate if these activities do not take place within a reasonable timeframe to fulfil local level expectations.²⁸
- *Rotations of stakeholders.* Staff, political and even technical rotations do occur at an eminent pace in Georgia, at the national and at the local/municipal levels. This presents a barrier and a challenge given that individual capacity building might be lost after rotations and this would impact therefore institutional capacity to deal with the issues the Project deals with.
- *Ownership.* Although the relevance of the Project’s objective is very high for the country due to its vulnerability to multiple hazards and ownership by the Implementing Partner (the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture) is very high also, this is not fully perceived in other crucial line ministries. The Project is still perceived as a MEPA project, and the need to engender ownership

²⁸ Although at this point the engineering designs of all thirteen sites within the GCF project are prepared and the construction of four Government of Georgia co-financed sites and three GCF- financed sites are ongoing (as well as having one Government of Georgia co-financed site is finalized, what this evaluation is looking at in this section is the perception of local stakeholders. That is, although the Project reports plans and the beginning of implementation –albeit some of it only at the time of this interim evaluation—the local perception of delays, and the actual delays of course, are causing some trust issues amongst local stakeholders.

by other line ministries not only at present but also after the intervention ends, is key for its sustainability.

- *Lack of awareness of gender issues.* Given that the Project is perceived as a “technical” project and not also a socio-environmental intervention, the need to mainstream and incorporate gender issues is not fully understood by a number of stakeholders. Gender issues are mainly associated to the number of females that take part in project activities. There is very little acknowledgement that for early warning systems to build community resilience to disasters they need to acknowledge gender differential issues and plan accordingly.
- *Ongoing impact of COVID-19.* Although COVID-19 might be perceived as a past problem, it has had socio – economic impacts upon the country which might have direct impact on the Project (for instance, co – financing issues that might arise if there is not sufficient economic recovery in the future for the Project to leverage national co - finance). Furthermore, the ongoing and future waves of COVID-19 experienced world-wide might again be a challenge or barrier if they are –once again–accompanied by lockdown and / or restrictive measures.
- *Political conflicts.* Since the war in Ukraine unfolded and escalated from early 2022, there have been some specific and some broad impacts, regionally and nationally. Specific impacts have been those associated to providers of products who are based in Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has had several economic and political impacts upon Georgia also. It is not only having impacts regionally but also upholding internal political instability in some regions of the country.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to all of the above challenges, COVID-19 has had an inherent negative impact upon the Project (directly and indirectly) in many aspects. First in the overall health emergency and its related socio – economic impacts. Second, and more specifically, on project implementation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had critical economic impact in Georgia. It is estimated that, due to the pandemic, propelled an estimated economic contraction of 6.2 percent in 2020 and that poverty rate increased by an estimated 5.4 percentage points. For this, as well as other previous economic shocks, Georgia’s economic performance is worsening, and there have been a number of budget cuts since this project was planned. This may affect financial sustainability of the Project in the future.

Specifically, the project was negatively affected in operational terms given that travel and gathering were restrained. Due to this there was a migration to online or even hybrid activities, and by this the Project demonstrated adaptive management. Yet, the assimilation of these activities has been dissimilar. Although it is understood that only this sort of modality could take place in much of the implementation period thus far, a number of stakeholders also point out

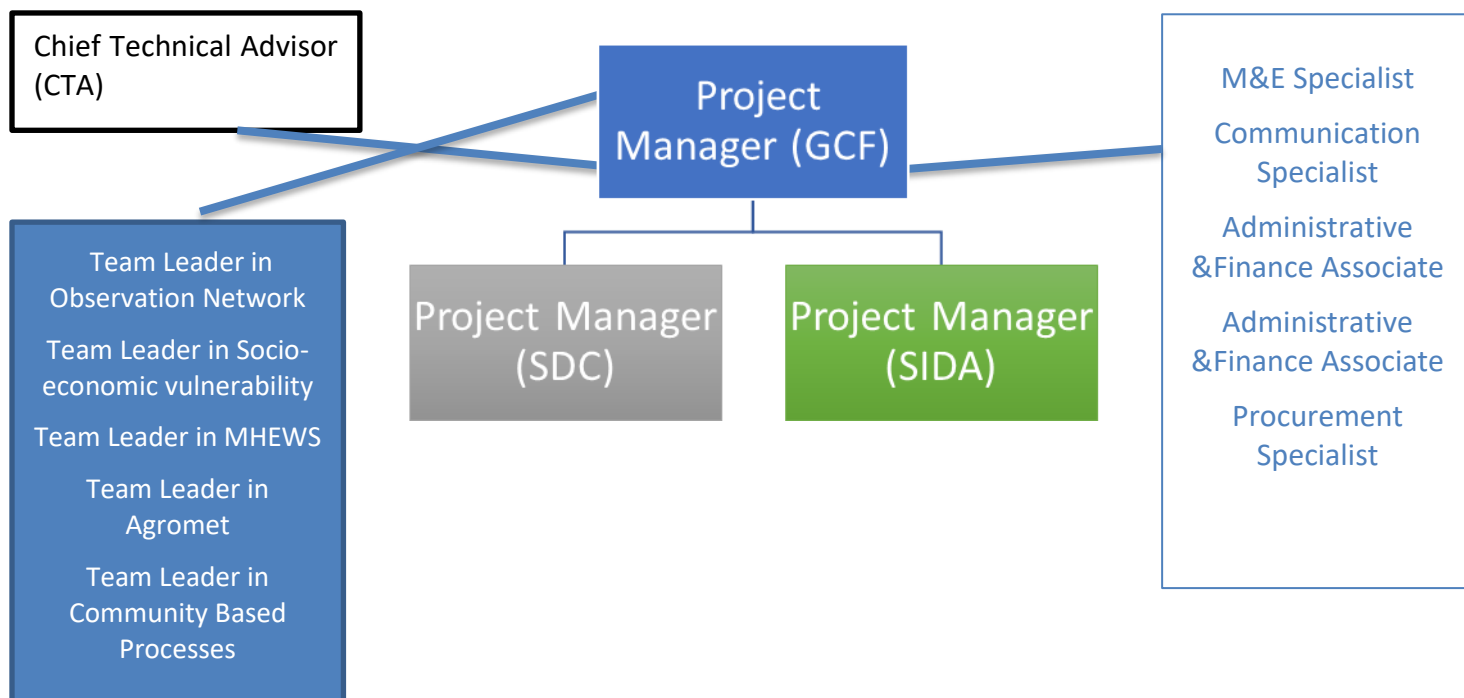
that this modality has not been ideal. In the first place, the aptitude to absorb online training, capacity building, and advisory services by different international experts has been diminished by the online modality. Other types of advisory and technical services could not take place as planned, for instance by technical advisors. Furthermore, lock downs and working at a distance modalities by stakeholders from government has also hindered in many ways the implementation processes. Communication between the Project and local communities was also hindered due to the reduced possibility of travel, which also affected connections between national and local governments within the framework of this project. Pilot and local implementation processes were also hindered to some degree in the target municipalities and communities, as well as did the monitoring processes due to the several restrictions in force in the last two years.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Several management arrangements were established at design. The management arrangements follow UNDP’s National Implementation Modality (NIM). As arranged, a Project Management Unit (PMU) located in Tbilisi manages the Project.

FIGURE 6: PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT ORGANIGRAM



The Project Management Unit started approximately in the way that it was planned. There have been some delays in forming it and hiring personnel as expected, however. The PMU was planned to be small in staffing. Although the quality of execution by PMU and its members' dedication has been very high, this "light" PMU format had proven to be a challenge since the sheer magnitude of the Project and its complexity have proven to be more intricate than expected and needing a more robust management unit in order for it to be efficient and seek effectiveness as well as to be able to meet with expectations regarding delivery. Due to this perceived need PMU staffing was strengthened. Also, the Project has, currently, local coordinators based in different localities dealing with community-based initiatives which are hired by an implementing partner (EIEC).

At the time of the evaluation the Project is without a CTA. The Project has not had a CTA for approximately ten months before this interim evaluation. Also, the post was not full-time and it was a distance (i.e. the CTA was not based in Georgia). The latter was an issue with COVID-19 since the CTA could not travel to the country for about a year and half, and the technical support that this advisor was expected to supply did not materialise at the anticipated level. In addition to the lack of technical support due to these circumstances, the cohesion that the CTA was supposed to provide has not materialised as fully as expected.

The other complexity that stands out is the matter of the holistic approach between the three endeavours that make up the seven-year program dedicated to *Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters*. The GCF-funded project being the lead component of this program that includes the SDC – funded and the SIDA – funded projects, takes a coordination or "umbrella" role. It also has a number of staffing who overlaps among the different components. Although the staffing overlap might result in suitable cost – sharing between the different components, it has also proven challenging in day – to – day implementation.

Management is supported technically by a number of short – term consultants (national and international) that provide expertise. However, harnessing adequate expertise in the multiple areas of work that the Project has was also a challenge for the management team and for UNDP. The three components now share this pool of consultants which makes the use of this technical expertise more efficient, avoids overlaps, and is conducive to cost – sharing. Yet the overall challenges regarding technical support still remain to some degree.

Besides the specifics of management arrangements as they pertain to the Project Management Unit, there are other specific organisational and oversight arrangements. These were specificized in planning documents and have been adapted to the multi – project program that the GCF – funded component leads.

Since this is a NIM project, the Government of Georgia plays a key role in implementation and oversight. The MEPA is the Implementing Partner (IP) and as such assumes overall responsibility for the achievement of Project results. Although MEPA has assumed this role and this is highly indicative of the country's ownership. The Government of Georgia has also signalled this ownership by the level of co – financing that they are providing for implementation. However, there are two aspects that have an impact upon management issues and overall

sustainability of the achievements. MEPA has a limited capacity to implement and absorb/uptake the results from this highly technical and highly complex project. Staffing is frail in number and in capacity, and all stakeholders that are involved in the Project must do so in addition to their regular duties. Furthermore, there is a shortfall in the understanding that although MEPA is rightly the IP for this project, the intervention, the implementation of its results, as well as eventually their sustainability entails a series of agencies and multi-stakeholder architecture that perhaps are not as vested as they should be in the Project itself.

UNDP is the Senior Supplier responsible for transparent practices, appropriate conduct and providing oversight through the Country Office (CO) in Georgia as well as quality assurance. The roles of UNDP as Senior Supplier include specific responsibilities to: assure that progress towards the outputs remains consistent from the supplier perspective; promote and maintain focus of expected project outputs and outcomes from the point of view of supplier management; ensure that the supplier resources required for the project are made available; contribute supplier opinions on Project Board decisions on whether to implement recommendations on proposed changes; arbitrate on, and ensure resolution of, any supplier priority or resource conflict—if they arise—. In practice, this quality assurance has been well developed also through specific quality support. For instance, by drawing in expertise from global UNDP's structures, including specific technical and management rosters the agency maintains in project development and project support. The quality of support received by UNDP is high and is perceived as such by key stakeholders within Georgia. It not only entails technical support as stated above, it also entails support in hiring, in maintaining communications with the donor, and in aiding national implementation partners in procurement.

As seen in the section *Project Implementation Arrangements: Key Implementing Partner Arrangements, Short Description of the Project Board and of Committees* found in the previous section of this report, the Project has a steering committee, and an Informal Technical Advisory Working Groups. This governance mechanisms have functioned properly as management and implementation guidance instruments. They have also helped in having a cohesive approach to governance for the umbrella implementation modality of the three projects that make up *Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters Program*.

WORK PLANNING

To date there have been four consolidated work planning exercises (for 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022). Work planning is results based, and organised with expected deliverables and results. An overarching management tool for work planning is the Project's results framework. As seen in the section on design, the indicators in the results framework are not truly SMART. Project management has been cognisant of this issue even before this interim evaluation and has gone through a review of indicators. These indicators foreseeably will need to be changed in the near future in order to use the results log frame better and more realistically as a planning tool.

As indicated before, the Project has had delays in project start-up where a number of factors have influenced delays in implementing. The causes of factors have been delayed procuring process and even a cancellation of a major procurement due to the inability of the

contracted firm to delivery as well as inception and project set – up delays, as well as delays associated to COVID-19 restrictions. In the latter periods these issues have been resolved to a large extent, and there are expectations that implementation can resume following work planning timelines and expected results, particularly if aided by other tools such as to further make up for delay (tools that allow to follow up performance, strict schedule of implementation of spending level progress, critical paths, road maps, etc.). Nevertheless, it is also considered that the Project will need an extension to duly fulfil implementation and achieve full results.

Adaptive management has taken place to the extent possible. For instance, not only by strengthening PMU, but also to actively seeking technical backstopping for implementation not only of the GCF-funded project but also of the programme as a whole. Market research of providers for hardware is also underway to adapt to some suppliers and purveyors not being able to deliver quality products. Furthermore, the Project adapted by moving towards online delivery when COVID-19 restrictions unfolded world-wide and in-country. Lastly, since the design process took place a few years before implementation begun and technology available for multi – hazard weather systems also underwent upgrading at the time, the Project also adapted its technical specifications for some materials in order for them to be state-of-the art at the time of implementation

FINANCE

Financial management of the project is being carried out as required fulfilling mandatory audits and reporting on finance. That is, project has appropriate financial controls and also plans that allow management to disburse in a timely flow of funds. The interventions have been cost-effective and resources have been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible (considering value for money; absorption rate; commitments versus disbursements and projected commitments; co-financing). The figure below is actual co – financing (based on expenditures) at the time of this intermediate evaluation.

FIGURE 7: CO-FINANCING TABLE (BASED ON EXPENDITURES)

Financing Plan			
	At endorsement	At intermediate evaluation	Percentage at intermediate evaluation
GCF grant	USD 27,053,598	USD 5,640,081 ²⁹	21%
Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 27,053,598	--	--
<i>Parallel co-financing (all other co-financing (cash and in-kind) administered by other entities; non-cash co-financing administered by UNDP)</i>			
Government	USD 38,239,024	USD 15,202,552	40%
Cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP	USD 5,020,270 ³⁰	USD 2,860,770	57%
Total co-financing	USD 43,239,024	USD 18,063,322	42%
Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	USD 70,321,892	USD 23,703,404	34%

Of the initial co – financing of USD 5,000,000, the Project and UNDP succeeded in leveraging four percent more (i.e. USD 20,270) from SDC. Co-financing has materialized in the expected manner. That is, at mid-point co – financing by government is at 40 percent of total commitment and co – financing from donors is of 57 percent. The first item, i.e. co -financing by government is very significant since it also signals the Government of Georgia’s overall commitment to the Project. Co – financing by other donors is as expected in the case of SIDA and slightly higher in the case of SDC.

The low expenditure rate of the GCF grant (i.e. 21 percent of what would be expected at mid-point) is attributable to the delays the Project has had in delivery which are expanded upon in the appropriate sections of this report.

COHERENCE IN CLIMATE FINANCE DELIVERY WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL ENTITIES

Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities needs to be evaluated in two manners. First with the partners in *the Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters Program* in Georgia and then with other non – program endeavours that deal with climate change in the country, and then with other endeavours that deal with climate change (adaptation and mitigation).

²⁹ Only final project components are included. (PPGs and equivalent preparatory projects are not included.)

³⁰ An additional 20,270 USD was added to initial 5 million USD co-financing from SDC and overall budget as it stands now is USD 5,020,270.22.

The donor partners of the GCF – funded project within the program are mainly SDC and SIDA. The work of this program is interdependent and it is coherent as well as strategic in terms of capacities and ultimately commitment. Although the complexities inherent to this approach are evident, and the interdependence of the different components at times has caused some issues associated mainly to delays, there is overarching coherence. Also, the PMU, experts, government partners, local partners, governance structures and –as of late—expert pools are shared, creating further coherence conditions and complementarity between and among the different actors in this programmatic approach.

Outside of the three components mentioned above, there are other linkages or connections between the GCF – funded project and other similar efforts in climate change. Some are other GCF – funded endeavours in Georgia, such as a project designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by enhancing carbon sequestration through the introduction of sustainable forest management in three Georgian regions. Others, non GCF – funded, for example, are a project supported by the Government of Japan (and also implemented by UNDP) in Georgia to fund the implementation of the country's climate action plans. Japan's contribution will support UNDP's work on the transition to sustainable and climate-friendly forest management, aiming to protect forests from degradation and unsustainable logging, and increase their capacity to capture greenhouse gas emissions. Also, Georgia is part of a multi-country EU – funded UNDP – implemented project called EU4Climate with aims to take action against climate change and towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy, with which the Project being evaluated here collaborates. Other endeavours are also either fully or tangentially linked with this project, such as the regional *Sustainable Caucasus* programme to facilitate cooperation and coordination for sustainable development of the Caucasus mountain region.³¹

Besides the programmatic approach and linkages with similar initiatives promoting coherence and avoiding duplication. The GCF – funded project has had linkages of a different nature with key international actors to seek technical coherence. For example, the Project has had technical consultations with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Bank (WB) to ensure that the WMO standards are fully met during the establishment/upgrading of the hydrometeorological observation network.

Overall, therefore, the Project has contributed to a path to increased climate resilient sustainable development in a coherent and cohesive way with multiple partners (globally, nationally, and locally).

PROJECT-LEVEL MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS

Monitoring at design included standard instruments and tools which are characteristic for monitoring and evaluation of UNDP-implemented projects. Project-level monitoring and evaluation is undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. Although these requisites were not delineated specifically in project

³¹ <https://sd-caucasus.com/>

planning documents, they were discussed at inception. Further to the UNDP mandated M&E system, the Project is bound to fulfil additional mandatory GCF-specific M&E requirements in accordance with relevant GCF policies.

Different monitoring and evaluation tools are used aligning monitoring to the result log frame's mean of verification. This interim evaluation is the first overarching assessment that the Project has undertaken. There are other planned tools such as a terminal evaluation and impact assessments.

Given that the Project reports to its Steering Committee, and also to GCF and to UNDP following each institutions guidelines, monitoring at times has been multi layered attending to the directives from each of these systems of M&E. Furthermore, GCF guidance has changed periodically, and the operational procedures and monitoring requisites have also varied throughout the different reporting periods. For instance, standard operating procedures, reporting templates, and APR instructions for monitoring and reporting were changed throughout the reporting periods, changing the focus of analysis and even requisites (such as proof evidence in reporting). This has produced a strain on management to fulfil these at times last minute changes and requisites in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The Gender Action Plan also follows a monitoring process. GAP monitoring is undergoing analysis in order to update its indicators in response to GCF guidance in early 2022. However when this process took place SOP changed and this were not approved awaiting for this intermediate evaluation. It is understood by this evaluation that this hinders and delays needed adjustments which the GCF suggested.

COVID-19 has also impacted upon monitoring proceedings. Visits to field sites have been affected by restrictions enforced with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic as is the lack of an international mission for this interim evaluation.

A further effort is present by the fact that project management also oversees the other partner's components (SDC and SIDA) of the overall *Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters Program*. For instance, the mid-term review for the SDC component took place a few months before this interim evaluation. Therefore, there has been a duplication of efforts by all partners (not only donors, UNDP, etc., but also for national and local partners) by being part of these similar efforts that have taken place within a short window of time.

Project management has furthermore created a risk monitoring tool, developed to follow risks and challenges several times in the year. These are discussed internally in order to be aware of the issues that might arise and implement mitigating measures as necessary. The project team has developed this tool to capture not only risks but also the complexity of this intervention and has been indicated by staff to be a good working instrument in addition to the standard risk log.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As seen in the section on design, at the Project formulation stage there was strong, multi stakeholder involvement. Project preparation (including feasibility study) involved a robust

number of individuals and institutions. Given the high rotation of government personnel, it occurs that a number of the persons involved in implementation were not engaged at design and planning stages. However, all of the relevant institutions were engaged in different stages of design. The level of involvement then was from a diverse set of institutions and stakeholders since different agencies in national and local governments took part in the analysis and debates that gave rise to the Project.

As part of the preparation process, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed. This included a stakeholder analysis to main potential stakeholders and to consider their possible roles and responsibilities in the implementation and/or guidance of the Project. Stakeholder engagement in the design phase included consultations on project architecture and co-funding commitments as well as on environmental and social impacts of planned structural measures.

Implementation has been very robust vis-à-vis developing, leveraging and sustaining partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders, mainly at the national level with technical and policy-oriented actors. By all accounts, the possibilities to participate with and in the Project are highly regarded by stakeholders themselves, and these are deemed as highly positive by governments not only vis-à-vis the PMU but also with UNDP in general.

The engagement has been mostly with national level stakeholders directly dealing with environment and DRM, less so with other line ministries or agencies, particularly in the beginning of implementation processes. For instance, the weaker participation of other line ministries was evident when socio – economic data was needed for project planning and outputs since the fluidity of this was curtailed given that the relevant government agencies were not fully involved in the Project. This has been changing in the last periods, with engagement from other line ministries, still engagement from leadership from other line ministries can and should be enhanced.

Engagement at the local level with a number of stakeholders has not unfolded at the rate expected for several reasons. In the first place, due to the implementation delays of the first set of activities (for example the delays with the development of risk maps), the baseline information and analysis to fully implement expected local level activities has been delayed since they are contingent upon each other. This, of course, has caused delays regarding stakeholder engagement by and with the Project at the municipal level. At the local level, likewise, several stakeholders expressed mistrust regarding the hydrometeorological equipment as well as mistrust towards a central government driven implementation (for instance, of the structural measures to be implemented). Also, the impact of COVID-19 related to travel and displacement restrictions has until recently constrained interactions between the Project and local stakeholders.

However, since the Project advanced in several of the expected activities that were not contingent upon other outputs (such as with Activity 3.2: Public awareness and capacity building to effectively deliver climate risk information for communities and local first-responders), in these there has been much stakeholder engagement with non – traditional actors for this sort of highly technical interventions such as with school students and their teachers. At this level the

extent of stakeholder involvement and public awareness has contributed to greater awareness of climate change issues.

National government stakeholders do have a very active role in project decision-making structures. Also, national government is very active in the procurement processes, not only regarding purchasing but also regarding technical analysis of procured materials.

COMMUNICATIONS

Direct communication between project management and implementing partner (that is, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia) has been fluid. Both at the policy/political level and the technical level. Overall internal project communication (which includes other partners) is regular. Programmed communication takes place with most partners at the Steering Committee meetings (which occur as planned twice a year). However, partners (mainly those outside of national government) agree that the overall informing and communicating could be strengthened through other means since they understand that this frequency is not as effective or as constructive in a rapidly evolving intervention.

External project communication has not been intense as of yet (such as with outreach and/or public awareness operations). However, there has been communication and outreach as part of training and educational activities, mainly at the local level pilot and intervention areas. Although some basic project information is found within the UNDP Country Office webpage and UNDP is using its social media channels to disseminate information, there is no full-fledged stand-alone web presence nor stand-alone social media presence.

The challenge with project communication is that much of it needs to percolate through national structures, not necessarily by the Project itself. For instance, communication needs to permeate from national environmental agencies to municipal/local actors. As identified by this evaluation, this does not necessarily take place as expected.

Project communication with GCF is not direct, it is intermediated by communication through UNDP. When the Project reports to GCF it takes a considerable amount of time to obtain feedback (at times even six months for the reception of feedback on monitoring and reporting processes). This, in turn, hinders agile adaptation to whatever issues have been identified.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS (SAFEGUARDS)

Project underwent Social and Environmental Screening upon planning as required. Most risks identified were either moderate or low. There were no revisions made of these standards per se and therefore no revisions were made to the mitigation plans.

The SESP analysis includes a series of potential management responses (as indicated in Question 6 of the SESP: “What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?”). The potential risks mitigation or management measures range from ensuring that there are no tangential impact of project –structural-related interventions

(sediment, for instance), carrying out biodiversity risk assessments for protected areas' potential negative impacts, assuring that contaminants do not enter bodies of water. As far as implementation has allowed, these safeguards have been implemented as planned.

Issues have arisen however given that (outside of this analysis) even structural measures need to get social and environmental clearance from GCF. While the time for clearance from GCF for these sorts of measures was not communicated, it turned out that this sort of clearance took a year. This has caused in turn issues with the Implementing Partner since they were not communicated of this delayed response by GCF through the channels of communication established for this project and has caused further delays in implementing structural measures. Regrettably, this further delay has exacerbated the wariness of local actors at the municipalities regarding the implementation of structural measures in the focal areas.

REPORTING

Reporting for the Project (as stated in other relevant sections of this report) is done following and fulfilling UNDP (following Standard UNDP monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP) and GCF reporting requirements. For GCF the Project produces Annual Project Reports, Quarterly Reports, auditing reports, etc. The Project has produced an Inception Report. The Project is in charge of facilitating this intermediate evaluation; an evaluation which gives rise to the present report. It also is in charge of the final evaluation and its subsequent report. The Project is also bound to produce a Project Completion Report. Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GCF reporting requirements in a timely and thorough manner, and they address adaptive management processes and overall challenges in a well-documented way with efficiency and adequacy.

Nevertheless, further to this multi-layer reporting (as seen in monitoring, and which after all is related because reporting is mostly based on monitoring proceedings), the Project also reports to Steering Committee and to the other donors. This has proven to be a heavy burden.

Besides the above challenges posed by this multiple reporting that takes place throughout different periods in the implementation process, there are other challenges associated to reporting to GCF. Templates, requirements on reporting and other such operating procedures by GCF have changed continually since implementation began. Furthermore, response and communication from GCF to major reports (such as with the Annual Project Reports) have taken up to half a year, which means that feedback is not timely enough to be nimble and fully useful in time.

SUSTAINABILITY

Intermediate evaluations (such as this one) when dealing with sustainability, assess the likelihood of sustainability of outcomes upon project termination. Sustainability is normally considered to be the prospect of continued benefits after a project ends. Consequently, the assessment of sustainability considers the risks that are likely to affect the continuation of project

outcomes and outputs. Several of the risks identified in planning management do relate to sustainability factors.

However, it is key to note that outside of project management and UNDP, there is very little awareness of sustainability matters from most stakeholders. Either the risks are underestimated (for example, financial risks) or most stakeholders are still not mindful of the need to begin planning for sustainability in the multiple ways that a project as this one needs.

Guidelines for this type of project evaluations establish four areas for considering risks to sustainability: financial, socioeconomic, institutional framework, and environmental. That is, at midpoint, evaluations attempt to recognise early identification of risks to sustainability along these four conditions. Each is described below.

FINANCIAL RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Regarding financial issues, an evaluation ascertains if there are financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outcomes as well as the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once granted assistance ends. In the case of this Project, financial risks to sustainability were even identified upon planning, signalling that this a very key issue for furthering the probability that project outputs and outcomes are maintained and sustained after external funding ends. This evaluation finds that there is little acknowledgement from most stakeholders regarding the need to plan for fiscal sustainability as well as to involve government agencies dealing with finance within the Project in order to begin mobilising the mechanisms needed for funding and financial resources in the medium and long term after the Project concludes.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

The socio-political risks to sustainability are mixed. On the positive side, all stakeholders whom this evaluation engaged with are aware that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow. This is not only at the national level, but it is very clear at the sub national and local levels also. The level of ownership is mixed (as will be seen in the specific section dedicated to this subject below). Although key stakeholders at national government are very much attuned to ownership, there is a high degree of relevance of the expected results, and co – financing by government signals a good level of ownership, there are also some issues that are indicative that ownership needs to be strengthened in other areas in order to support sustainability. For instance, through full involvement other areas of government besides those dealing in a strict sense with environmental and DRR issues (such as for instance the areas dealing with finance, productivity, etc., at the national level), and by involving and drawing – in higher levels of decision – making structures. Furthermore, at the local level there is in some areas some misgivings on the results, which of course could be dispelled once structural measures are implemented and their results are seen. But there are other mechanisms that might also further trust in the Project at the local level and impel greater participation to support the Project’s long term objectives at the national level (such as multi – stakeholder platforms at the national level and establishing working groups on DRM at the local level).

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

The Project has imbedded as some of its expected outcomes a number of legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes. This is basically in *Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities*. If and when these effective national regulations mechanisms are adopted and implemented the governance risks to sustainability can be reduced. Technical knowledge transfer and innovation have been a significant feature of the Project in Georgia. Therefore, this factor also has the potential to support sustainability. However, the frail capacity at the national and at the sub national levels to uphold and maintain results is a matter that needs to be addressed in order to promote sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Regarding environmental risks to sustainability, the Project's risk analysis identifies several that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes. For example: "hydrometeorological and/or flood defence infrastructure are destroyed due to various natural hazards". The risks remain, evidently since overall conditions have not changed. However, as in other factors, with proper mitigation measures and monitoring these risks could potentially be reduced to promote sustainability.

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

As seen in the section specifically dedicated to relevance, the Project is fully aligned with national development plans, national plans of action on climate change, and sub-national policy, and priorities of partners. The Project is responsive to the needs of Georgia vis-à-vis climate change adaptation, SDGs, national vulnerabilities to disaster and needs for the country to introduce innovative measures to deal with disaster risk management.

Country ownership has been well reflected through consultation mechanisms (for instance consultations during project development). Furthermore, this ownership is reflected by national participation in governance structures by staff from several government agencies. Another matter that signals ownership is the level of co – funding from government sources that has been leveraged to the expected levels.

On the other hand, it is understood that ownership could be improved with positive effects if there would be further full involvement of decision makers from other areas of government besides the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture that can provide leadership. Conceivably through multi -stakeholders groups that would enhance the insight by stakeholders that they are not merely beneficiaries of a project, but that they are the key players in its implementation and eventually in its sustainability. Although the mode of delivery of outputs has been appropriate in many ways, there is still an opportunity to enhance national ownership and ensure sustainability by promoting different ways to ownership reinforcement with all relevant government agencies and with all levels of government.

GENDER EQUITY

As indicated in the section of design of this report, relevant gender issues were raised upon project design including a number of gender issues such as the impact of the project on gender equality as well as the participation of women in the different activities and processes the Project would promote. Quite specifically, design includes a Gender Analysis and Action Plan. The Gender Analysis is a comprehensive overview of gender-related information in the country. It also focuses on specific gender issues relevant to the project and examines mainstreaming opportunities within it. The Gender Action Plan also accounts for activities and planning for local gender dynamics and provides analyses of how interventions affect women as beneficiaries. The GAP includes a number of expected products and processes that either broadly deal with gender issues or with specific matters related to gender vis-a-vis early warning systems, or for imbedding gender issues in general project-wide activities/products. These include trainings and workshops, evaluations, education and awareness raising activities, production of knowledge management products such as documentaries, publications, brochures, etc. There are earmarked financial resources explicitly allocated for gender mainstreaming within the Project and there are gender advisors assigned within project management arrangements. Although these products are still in the making for the most part, just by including gender issues is indicative that the Project has addressed the gender as a cross-cutting issue.

Stakeholders express that since this is a “technical” project gender mainstreaming is not truly a crucial issue and the intervention is perceived by them as gender neutral. At most they are attuned to the participation of women in project activities, etc. This evaluation understands however that classifying this project as just technical -as some stakeholders do- and not being cognisant that gender mainstreaming is needed is misleading. In the first place, the Project is technical but just in its first component. There is no argument that gender is not an issue in the *harnessing* of climate information. Yet gender plays an important role in multi-hazard early warning systems. How that information is transmitted and how it is used or accessed by different groups, in the first place, is a crucial factor related to several cross – cutting issues such as gender equity. Multi-hazard early warning systems that do not explicitly consider gender, are gender uninformed. A gender uninformed approach, in a context with gender inequality, will likely be gender unequal, increasing the marginalization of women.

Gender mainstreaming (GMA) is and always has been included in the project. Since the project itself covers a number of technical areas where the gender related intervention and actions are not that obvious, or transparent, there has been a pressure on the Project to include more of these activities, where possible. The findings do not imply that GM was not included into the Project's design, nor was it overlooked or limited to only "women's participation." However, a number of stakeholders still perceive it in that manner.

This project was designed as Gender Sensitive and has always focused on needs of women and other vulnerable groups. This is evident in the project planning documents, as well as the previous and in the now revised GAP. However, as the Project itself points out, the delays that the intervention has endured within the context of a large scale endeavour such as this has also

caused delays in the implementation of planned gender – related activities. This has also been a driver to the view that indicators need to be adjusted to reflect this matter.

Therefore, as will be seen in the recommendations section, the Project should continue to strive to promote the concept that EWS needs to recognise that women and men are impacted differently or have different needs regarding hazards and that gender sensitive MHEWS should ensure that structural and contingency planning, use of information, disaster preparedness, response should proactively consider gender. This should be done adapting to respond to the specific needs, concerns, and capabilities of women and/or design approaches, policies, and practices to reduce gender-based inequalities and to meet the needs of all people, men and women.

INNOVATIVENESS IN RESULTS AREAS

Innovation is a significant aspect of the Project. As indicated in planning documents such as the FAA, the overall objective of this intervention is innovative given that it aims to promote what GCF indicates is a paradigm shift in the national climate risk management, climate-proofed disaster risk reduction and early warning approaches

Key stakeholders have indicated that this is one of the major achievements of the Project thus far. That is, introducing this holistic innovative approach to the country that impels the potential for transformative policies and actions for the reduction of vulnerability to climate – induced hazards based on critical information. In addition to this general innovative approach, the Project plans to introduce other more specific innovative approaches such as watershed/floodplain restoration,

Besides these broader innovativeness in expected results, there are also more tangible innovative features. As indicated in the planning documents, Georgia’s hydrometric monitoring network has been outdated and inadequate to face the challenges of weather hazards in the region. Therefore, the introduction of upgraded and advanced hydrometeorological monitoring and climate information equipment that has taken place and that is expected to take place in the near future is ground-breaking for the country. Some of the maps on hazard modelling are furthermore digital innovations in Georgia.

It must be acknowledged however that innovation might also generate mistrust, or uncertainty, particularly at early stages of the introduction of a new endeavour, practice or technology. Local farmers, for example, have expressed that they do not trust the new agrometeorological stations being put in place in the target areas. The trust can only be re-claimed with demonstrative capacity building and awareness raising campaigns.

POSITIVE UNEXPECTED RESULTS

There are some positive or unplanned unexpected results observed as a consequence of the Project’s intervention. Although some were acknowledged as possibilities in planning documentation, these were not part of the Results Framework, and are –therefore– not

capturable with the indicator base presented there. Some of these positive results seen thus far or with a potential to be a result in the near future are as follows:

- *At the local level.* Local stakeholders believe that there is an empowerment process emerging out of their participation in training and awareness raising processes taking place at the local level.
- *At the national level.* The comprehension that early warning systems are part of a holistic approach has been pointed out as a positive consequence of implementation and for the future of adaptation and planning for the country as a whole.
- *At the productive level.* Stakeholders have indicated that the use of weather – related information can have multiple uses, not only to supply information for planning and adaptation. As an example, it has been pointed out that weather information can be useful for providing data to productive sectors, such as agriculture, that can aid in productivity related to weather (for instance, the level of agrochemicals to be used depending on predicted weather conditions) as well as generate historical data that can aid in adaptive agricultural production.
- *At the regional and international levels.* Alignment with relevant EU directives (as stated in project planning documents) for certain products as well as regional cooperation in relevant areas (some even as linked programs being developed in the Southern Caucasus region or Georgia’s participation in South-eastern European for climate issues) will be additional positive results of this project. At the global level, the Project can potentially aid the country in its participation, input, and takeaways in global UNFCCC related events such as Conference of the Parties.

REPLICATION AND SCALABILITY

Replication and scalability is not easily evaluated at an interim stage such as the one the Project is at now.³² Yet, there is a strong potential for these to occur.

First, it must be pointed out that the *Scaling-Up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System And The Use Of Climate Information In Georgia Project* is (as its name indicates) and upscaling exercise. The Project aims to scale up already piloted activities (such as hazard mapping, floodplain modelling, floodplain zoning and early warning systems) of the previous intervention that dealt with the Rioni river basin. It also aimed to use the Rioni’s project achievements, findings, baseline information and learning as a baseline for the GCF – supported project.

³² An exit strategy cannot be analysed vis-à-vis its effectiveness. The Terms of Reference to this evaluation requested that the effectiveness of an exit strategy be analyzed. This cannot be done given that (a) there is no such strategy developed and this will be seen in the recommendations section fully and (b) an effectiveness analysis of an exit strategy can only be carried out ex – post given that the effectiveness is demonstrated after a project concludes and not at its intermediate stage.

Therefore, the conditions and knowledge to replicate and upscale are already in country and part of the institutional memory of the government and agencies involved.

Some of the Project's components have also a potential for replication given that several of them are specifically being worked out by the Project (for instance, the embedding of multi hazard risk information and planning based on its use through legal frameworks). That is, it is expected that anchoring the outputs in the country's legal framework will aid in replicating these processes across different government agencies, even those not directly involved in the Project.

Systematization of lessons learned, good practices as well as overarching knowledge management products and processes being developed and implement, can promote replication and scalability by other donors, partners, and of course by the relevant government agencies in Georgia. Without doubt the key factor that can promote replication and upscaling will be the positive results that will arise out of this project.

5. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LESSONS LEARNED

CONCLUSIONS

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has recently indicated that early warning alert systems for floods, droughts, heatwaves or storms already used by many developed countries should be made available to the developing world. As stated in UN-wide statements, an integrated Early Warning System alerts people to upcoming hazardous weather and informs governments, communities and individuals, so their impact can be minimized. Yet one-third of the world's people are still not covered by early warning systems.

Early warning systems that allow for the monitoring of real-time atmospheric conditions at sea and on land as a way of predicting upcoming weather events are much more than that –if utilised properly that is. Information generated by these sorts of systems allow for planning, infrastructure upgrading to mitigate negative impacts, and overall prepare for ever increasing the multiple hazards faced and exacerbated by climate change.

Georgia is a country highly vulnerable to extreme weather events and other types of hazards. It is fully understood within the country that without multi-hazard early warning systems to use for planning and mitigating hazardous impacts, the country's ability to minimize these events is weak. The relevance of the *Scaling-Up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System And The Use Of Climate Information In Georgia Project* arises out of this. As GCF indicates, the shared sequence across the expected project results is the integration of enhanced climate risk information and application of best practices in broader planning, thereby ensuring sustainability and introducing a paradigm shift.

The Project is quite important for all partners involved. It is one of the largest projects within the UNDP portfolio in the country as well as one of the largest cooperation supports in the environment field that the Government of Georgia has received. It is the largest investment GCF has made in the country. Its importance as a cooperation endeavour is also evident since the GCF- funded intervention is part of a larger program to deal with climate change and risk supported also by SDC and SIDA.

The design of this project was very well aligned with national relevance, and it was participatory. The resulted design is very well ground on GCF principles for potential funding. For instance, as it relates to underpinning the Project to a strong climate rationale providing the scientific foundation for evidence-based decision making, and fully grounding the Project upon the best available climate data and science. Therefore, the structural measures to deal with climate hazards that need to be applied in Georgia to build resilience as well as the policy and planning instruments that need to be adopted in order to enhance preparedness need to be based on high quality technical data, which is what the Project seeks as its first expected result.

This is the inter linkage between the three expected results³³ that, although proper conceptually and technically, has demonstrated to be problematic in execution. This is where the theory of design has faced challenges vis-à-vis the reality of implementation. Delays (for several reasons) in implementing the first expected output have had as a causal consequence delays in implementing expected outputs two and three.

The assumption of rapid interlinkages was not proper due to a number of external issues this did not occur as planned. While the complexities of many sorts, such technical and policy complexities, tended to be underestimated, several risks/assumptions were not full-fledged at design as they should have been for such a complex and large intervention involving a myriad of partners. Furthermore, the capacity (at the Project level and at the national level) was not present for these processes to unfold as expected.

The Project has generated thus far a set of achievements such as updating an outdated hydrometeorological system, developed baseline studies in policy, began hazard mapping, carried out training/awareness raising and capacity building activities at different levels (including at the local municipal level), it also began implementing some structural measures to deal with weather – related hazards. Although these achievements have taken place already or are in process (albeit at a delivery rate slower than expected) the Project still faces a number of challenges for further agile implementation. These would need to be dealt with swiftly in order to impel implementation that is agile and meets with results expectations.

A crucial element in this Project are its sustainability factors. Besides very few stakeholders, the matter of sustainability has not been properly assumed by key actors and key institutions. Although it might be considered too early by some, this is the time to consider sustainability and develop proper tools (such as an exit strategy) to implement in the next few years and evidently after project closure in order to fully uphold the achievements that the Project has made and that with no doubt will continue to accomplish until finalisation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations presented here reflect suggested corrective actions for the implementation of the Project, proposals for future directions underlining main objectives as well as actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the Project.

Recommendations for the Project:

- 1 *Request an ample no -cost extension.* Considering the impact of COVID-19 upon implementation and delays caused by inception, set up, procurement and fragile

³³ Output 1: Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks; Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities; Output 3: Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures.

technical backstopping during the last two years, an ample no – cost extension should be requested.

- 2 *Speed – up work planning and delivery.* In order to make up for lost time and bottle necks and engender the expected results within the Project’s timeframe, delivery should be sped up and fast tracked based on different tools. For this, it is suggested that the Project should be adjusting as necessary to be effective in implementation and move execution forward at a faster pace, using different tools. Some specific sub recommendations in this aspect are as follows:
 - a. Generate a clear schedule for the time-bound action (roadmap/critical path) regarding the activities that the Project intends to implement in relation to objectives and results-based management (in the remaining period of implementation).
 - b. Establish clear timelines to adhere to, and follow through with a strict schedule of implementation while monitoring spending level progress and correcting quickly whatever bottlenecks may arise. Keeping to and making sure that the agreed activities, consultancies, products, etc., are constructed within an agreed time frame.
 - c. Developed critical path/road map should orchestrate also the concatenation of products and processes, given that they are clearly linked and that some products feed into other products quite closely as do expected outputs.
 - d. If possible and relevant, procurement of tasks and processes should be grouped in order for implementation to be more efficient and time binding.
 - e. Project management and governance system should track implementation in order to substantiate the correct execution in a timely manner according to the tools available.
- 3 *Engage a Chief Technical Advisor.* A Chief Technical Advisor should be hired as soon as possible in order to provide regular technical and managerial guidance to project management and technical teams and experts. This support should not only be for the GCF-funded component but also for the SDC and SIDA supported components in order to foster a programmatic approach and coherence. This post should have different terms of reference than those originally set upon planning, however. It should be a full-time post based in Georgia and not at a distance. Furthermore, contract should be at upper levels to attract appropriate and proficient personnel. If in the future the hired CTA renounces or his/her contract is not renewed, hiring of another CTA should be fast tracked given the importance that such a post has as an overarching guidance factor for the whole of the program.

- 4 *Stream-line reporting.* Multi – layered and duplicate /triplicate reporting for what is after all one program implemented by one agency (i.e. UNDP) needs to be streamlined as much as possible to liberate project staff of this burden and utilise time resources more efficiently (albeit attending to all donor’s requirements within one reporting line). Contemplate also streamlining evaluation processes (at this stage final/terminal evaluation) in order to assess holistically the whole program and not assess individually each component of the program.
- 5 *Improve intra project communications.* Improve and strengthen communication by making this more frequent so that the different partners, staff, donors, governments, and other actors are constructively informed of project’s processes, lessons learned, issues, etc. A stand-alone web presence of the Project might also improve, expedite, and make communications and information sharing clearer. It might also drive the insertion into the project of other key stakeholders that are not fully participating (such as the academic sector) nor showing ownership, such as other key line ministries besides those already involved.
- 6 *Further integration of gender mainstreaming.* Reinforce what the Project has been promoting regarding gender by mainstream the concept that MHEWS need to recognise that women and men are impacted differently or have different needs regarding hazards and that gender sensitive MHEWS should ensure that structural and contingency planning, use of information, disaster preparedness, response should proactively consider gender. This should be done adapting to respond to the specific needs, concerns, and capabilities of women and/or design approaches, policies, and practices to reduce gender-based inequalities and to meet the needs of all people, men and women. Specifically, this could be done by:
 - a. Further integrating and mainstreaming the gender approach in all relevant planning, analysis, tools, and assessments originating out of this project.
 - b. Further mainstreaming gender in processes and tools developed within the Project a such a way that women benefit from the effects of the intervention according to their differential needs and their unequal access to resources, production, and their vulnerabilities facing hazards, etc.
 - c. Work with government stakeholders (at the national, sub national and local levels) so that the MHEWS gender - sensitive mechanisms, assessment tools, and planning instruments are endorsed and used at the appropriate level.
- 7 *Increment capacity building as an overarching objective.* One of the key factors of this project is capacity building (not only to operate the new innovative early warning system tools --hardware and software, mapping, etc.— being implement in-country). Capacity should also be strengthened with regard to the acceptance and application of related policy and institutional frameworks and should be strengthened at all levels and through different approaches in the remaining implementation period. Training

should be fostered to generate the capacities to run and maintain the hardware and other tools that generate hazard information. This should be done with specific technical trainings, continuing and reinforcing the technical trainings that have taken place already. But capacity building should also focus on launching procedures and practices to update and implement policies to sustain early warning systems use and benefits. Considering the need to strengthen institutional capacities in-country at the national as well as the local levels by hiring or attaching new personnel to government structures that will deal with these issues, capacity building activities for future activities should also be considered for these instances. This also concerns the matter that there is frequent rotation of personnel and decision makers involved in these processes. Therefore, for instance, it is suggested that knowledge management products, tool boxes or tool kits, depositories of information and KM products, etc., be developed to share this capacity with other actors after project ends. Involving academic centres, universities or technically - appropriate non – governmental organisations can also enhance and generate lasting capacity.

- 8 *Engender local capacity, sub national ownership, and trust.* To generate local trust, capacity building needs to have a more systematic and strategic approach at the local level than it has so far, making sure that the right stakeholders are receiving training in an integrated in-depth manner or –when that is not feasible— they should be informed as to why a particular approach is employed. Circumstances where individuals are the target of capacity building activities in an irregular or intermittent manner should be avoided, and if this happens because the local actors belong to different target groups and therefore this training is targeted differently due to the plan the Project has developed for training/awareness raising, they should be duly informed as to why this happens, and not considering local actors as passive receptors of activities. At the local level, the successful implementation of this plan requires more focused recruitment of local participants and fostering their participation in the selection of the trainees. Capacity building needs to acknowledge also that at the local level there are frequent personnel rotations and that locally appropriate products should be developed so that when or if rotations occur, the knowledge or capacity-engendering opportunities are there for new personnel. Capacity building should also outreach to non – traditional partners, for instance by training farmers on the use of climate information. This could also engender further trust and awareness raising for local stakeholders dispersing the mistrust at present. Sub national ownership should also be fostered since this is still perceived as a top – down project by and with central government and that due to the scarcity of true decentralisation processes in the country, the municipalities have little leverage on application of many measures driven by the Project. Ownership at the local level could be enhanced by the speedy establishment of locally managed multi-stakeholder working groups on disaster risk management in the most vulnerable target areas where the Project takes place, which not only should include the municipalities per se but also other key

actors, such as farmers and other representatives of the private sector, civil society groups, etc.

- 9 *Generate an exit strategy.* The Project and partners should begin to develop an exit strategy as soon as possible. All further activities and processes need to incorporate at some level awareness of how products, activities, and results will or should be sustained in the medium or long term. If some components of an agreed exit strategy can be applied while the Project is still being implemented, this should be done at once and not wait until project end to execute. An integrated exit strategy should contain the aspects indicated below.
 - a. *Multi-stakeholder platform.* A multi-stakeholder governmental platform should be established in order to set up the institutional requisites for running an integrated early warning system based on climate information. If possible, once agreed as part of the exit strategy, this platform should begin to session even before project closure in order to engender ownership beyond MEPA and drive the notion that MHEWS is an integrated task and not the realm of only one line ministry. This platform should foster cross-agency cooperation and should engage all relevant ministries/agencies within government, properly reflecting the different value-added of each agency in dealing with the issues that the project attempts to confront.
 - b. *Financial sustainability.* An exit strategy should contain indications on the financial resources needed to run the Project results once it ends. Furthermore, it should clearly identify budget necessities for maintenance of early warning system information network, updating of information, as well as for the implementation of policies and institutional needs required for this system to function properly within the country. A plan to mobilize the appropriate level of funding should also be generated and -if possible— begin to leverage commitments from appropriate parties (agencies dealing with finance, parliaments, etc.).
 - c. *Institutional and policy framework.* Although the Project has imbedded a very powerful tool to bolster a policy framework for sustainability (specifically the expected second result expressed as “Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities”) the ability to adopt, implement and generate this result over time needs to be pinned down in an integrated exit strategy. The sustainability strategy needs to be specific as to how the adoption and implementation of these legal and institutional frameworks will be carried out after project end (if they have not by the time project concludes), what specific institutional changes and arrangements need to be adopted and

implemented further and how to update these institutional tools as needed.

- d. *Capacity.* At the risk of being repetitive, capacity is a crucial matter in this project, not only affecting current implementation but very significantly being a key sustainability factor. A capacity needs assessment should be carried out in order to exhaustively determine the level of required imbedded institutional capacity in all relevant agencies. Based on that, this should be linked to financial sustainability factors to guarantee that the needed resources are leveraged in order to have full capacity installed and sustained over time. While the above takes place, relevant partners could begin to create the positions and attract additional staffing within government agencies in order to begin to absorb personnel that can implement the innovative approaches presented by the Project.
- e. *Systematization of lessons learned and good practices.* A systematization of lessons learned, good practices and well as of knowledge management products and processes being developed and implemented should be inserted as part of an exit strategy. These can secure continuing and sustainable accrual of knowledge and good practices in a sustainability plan, while attempting to avoid misjudgements.

Recommendations for GCF for current project cycle

- 1 *Grant a no-cost extension.* Grant a suitably extensive no-cost extension to the Project due to COVID-19 restrictions as well as due to inception and implementation delays associated to set up, underestimation of complexities inherent to this project, misjudged assumptions and other similar design issues.
- 2 *Establish GCF SOP and guidance.* Standard operating procedures and guidance should be firmly set exhaustively for them to be accepted. So that the project does not have changing SOPs, instructions on reporting and monitoring, and other such guidance to attend to, if new procedures/manuals/guidance are developed or implemented by GCF, than it should not be a requisite for the Project to follow the new SOPs. The SOPs that need to be followed are those current at the time of project approval which are after all the umbrella guides for implementation. If new SOPs and guidance are developed in the course of implementation they should be left to be fulfilled for projects approved in future cycles.
- 3 *Approve updated indicators in Gender Action Plan.* Approve the updated indicators originating out of the GAP analysis and updating of its indicators in response to GCF guidance in 2021. However, there is no detailed/clear SOP for endorsement of the revisions and these adjustments were not approved awaiting for this intermediate evaluation. It is understood by this evaluation that this hinders and delays needed adjustments which the GCF suggested and should be approved as quickly as possible in order to improve monitoring and aid in implementation.

- 4 *Improve GCF communication and feedback.* Communication and feedback from GCF must be agile, not delayed, for it to be useful in re – orienting the Project as or if needed.

Lessons Learned

Lessons learned represent knowledge generated by reflecting on the actual results of a project until the time of this evaluation and on the experience that has the potential to improve future programming and actions. The Project gives rise to and motivates a series of lessons learned such as those extended below.

- Importance of design cannot be underestimated. Preparation and inception processes should not be underestimated since they provide the needed support for adjusting design if need be, lay the key groundwork for implementation, and accrue efficiency and effectiveness as soon as project begins.
- Assumptions and risk analysis should be thorough and candid at design. They also should take place throughout the different stages of a project. Risks should be adequately and openly valued, and a mitigation strategy drawn at the planning stages. As soon as a risk is flagged, mitigation and containment measures need to begin to be applied.
- Design should be robust not only in a technical sense but also in a programmatic sense.
- Definitions that support what is truly meant by concepts such as outputs, outcomes, activities, products, etc., should be clear in order to construct a language that is understood by all parties and that it aids in monitoring, evaluation, in effectiveness and in implementation.
- A robust indicator system with accurate metrics needs to be set at design. Indicators need to be SMART. That is, Indicators should undergo a critical SMART analysis before planning documents are finalised. This implies that indicators need to be attuned to the plausibility of events (for example, in this project it is not predictable whether extreme weather events will take place within the implementation time frame and therefore indicators that measure success in facing an event that might not occur is not accurate). Indicators should refer to a project's time frame. Therefore, embedded indicators on a results log frame that deal with potential effects long after a project ends do not have a proper place within an interventions metrics set and are better left for ex – post analysis. That is, the metrics that are part of a results framework should take into account the scope of the Project (not only the capacity to induce change as measurable by indicators, but also the time bound aspect) and the indicators should be expressed as end – of – project values and not an ex post situation (for instance, they should not express effects two decades after a project ends). It is very important to ascertain that results indicators truly capture results attributable to a project (i.e.

change) and are not just measuring attainment of products. For instance, results indicators should reflect how a product has been used, or what change has occurred due to that product/activity.

- Indicators should also be accompanied by tools on how to properly measure effects, outputs, or outcomes. Indicator passports, means of verification and other such tools should also be part of design. A robust indicator system is the means by which proper monitoring can take place to aid in implementation and support adjustments as a project unfolds based on this knowledge. This sort of system is not an end in and of itself, it is a tool to help achieve and accomplish effective and efficient implementation.
- Although a project might be technical in nature for the most part, this should not be considered a hindering factor for other issues. Other matters should also be fully taken into account in any sort of project, such as the ability of a country to absorb planned investments; the capacity needs to implement and sustain a project; the social, institutional and policy architecture that needs to accompany and become an integral part of a project—even one that is deemed as technical.
- Implementation arrangements (such as project management units, local staffing, technical support) should be commensurate to the complexity and the scope of a project. Although it might be worthy to articulate a project with simple or limited implementation arrangements/staffing/technical support to save resources, when a project is complex and broad in scope this might backfire and generate more difficulties and complications than solutions.
- Projects, particularly complex ones, should have embedded certain flexibility aspects to be able to face eventualities, to account for inception period and learning curve, and to be able to adapt to changing circumstances that necessarily do arise when translating design theory to implementation praxis.

6. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION TOR - NATIONAL CONSULTANT (EXCLUDING ANNEXES)

Interim Evaluation Terms of Reference for UNDP-supported GCF-financed projects

Standard Template 1: Formatted for attachment to [UNDP Procurement Website](#)

Type of Contract: Individual Contract

Post Level: Team member

Duty Station: Home based

Languages Required: English, Georgian

Starting Date: 21 March, 2022

Duration of Contract: 16 working days (21 March through 21 August, 2022)

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Interim Evaluation (IE) of the UNDP-supported GCF-financed project titled Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia (PIMS #5846) implemented through the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), which is to be undertaken in 2022. The project started on 12/10/2018 and is in its 4th year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this Interim Evaluation.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Due to the complex mountainous terrain and climate, Georgia is subject to both geological and hydro-meteorological hazards. According to Georgia's 2nd and 3rd National Communications and other studies, under climate change the frequency, intensity and geographical spread of extreme hydrometeorological hazards will increase. Georgia's INDC estimates economic losses from climate-induced hazards without adaptation measures for the period 2021-2030 to be \$US 10-12 billion, while the cost of adaptation measures is estimated to be 1.5-2 billion USD.

To date, hydrometeorological hazard risk management has relied on the limited and expensive hard structural protection measures; emergency response with limited reliance on forecasts and early warning of the population; post event compensation and relocation of victims, resulting in eco-migrants; and post event recovery and risk reduction. In order to adapt to climate change, Georgia needs to adopt a proactive integrated climate risk management (CRM) approach centred around risk reduction, prevention, and preparedness through the establishment of a multi-hazard early warning system and an enhanced use of climate information in planning and decision-making across all sectors.

To address the barriers, with funding from Green Climate Fund (GCF), Swiss and Swedish governments, UNDP Georgia and Government of Georgia are implementing 7-year program dedicated to Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters since 2019. The program includes three inter-related on-going projects, including:

GCF funded, 7-year project entitled: “Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia” (hereafter GCF project). SDC funded 5-year project “Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia” and SIDA funded 4-year project on “Improved Resilience of Communities to Climate Risks”. The program is implemented under National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) playing an executing entity’s/implementing partner’s role for it. In addition, the project will be implemented in collaboration with a multiplicity of stakeholders: the National Environment Agency (NEA), the Environmental Information and Education Center (EIEC), the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), as well as local governments. The project implementation spans a period of seven years (2018-2025).

An overall objective of the project is to reduce exposure of Georgia’s communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action. The GCF project will provide critical climate risk information that would enable the Government of Georgia to implement a number of nation-wide transformative policies and actions for reducing exposure and vulnerability of the population to climate-induced hazards. The project will thus catalyse a paradigm shift in the national climate risk management, climate-proofed disaster risk reduction and early warning approaches. The project innovation and transformative change will also include (a) participatory “Last Mile” communication solutions tailored to the needs of local communities, including Community-based Early Warning Systems (CBEWSs); (b) increasing implementation capacities for carrying out cost-effective risk reduction and community resilience measures through such innovative approaches as watershed/floodplain restoration, agroforestry, etc., and combination of structural and non-structural protection measures aimed at reducing exposure and increasing effectiveness of the early warning; (c) combining best available science and local knowledge for vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping, disaster modelling and forecasting; (d) (e) carrying out a comprehensive community, municipal and national-wide awareness raising, education and capacity development activities on multi-hazard risk reduction, including preparedness, response and Early Warning Systems (EWSs). As a result, the project will directly benefit up to 1.7 Million people (40% of the population) currently at risk from hydrometeorological hazards.

The total amount of the GCF funding constitutes 27 million USD, the project is co-financed by the Government of Georgia (GoG) with 38 million USD and by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) funded project: Strengthening Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia with 5 million USD. Besides, the project is topped up the project Improved Resilience of Communities to Climate Risks (IRCCR) funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) with 3.6 million USD.

Further information about the project can be found here: <https://open.undp.org/projects/00094354>

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION

The IE will assess implementation of the project and progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the UNDP Project Document and GCF Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The Interim Evaluation will also review the project’s strategy and its risks to sustainability.

The IE results will be used by UNDP Georgia to strengthen existing project through improving the performance of the project and making timely changes if necessary. Furthermore, the IE will serve as an accountability tool as it will provide stakeholders and partners with impartial assessment of the project.

The IE will take into consideration assessment of the project in line with the following evaluation criteria from the [GCF IEU TOR](#) (GCF/B.06/06) and [draft GCF Evaluation Policy](#), along with [guidance](#) provided by the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Additional evaluation criteria can be assessed, as applicable. The IE must assess the following

- **Implementation and adaptive management** – seeks to identify challenges and propose additional measures to support more efficient and effective implementation. The following aspects of project implementation and adaptive management will be assessed: management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications.
- **Risks to sustainability** – seeks to assess the likelihood of continued benefits after the project ends. The assessment of sustainability at the Interim Evaluation stage considers the risks that are likely to affect the continuation of project outcomes. The IE should validate the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Reports, and the ATLAS Risk Management Module and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date.
- **Relevance, effectiveness and efficiency** - seeks to assess the appropriateness in terms of selection, implementation and achievement of FAA and project document results framework activities and expected results (outputs, outcomes and impacts).
- **Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities** - looks at how GCF financing is additional and able to amplify other investments or de-risk and crowd-in further climate investment.
- **Gender equity** - ensures integration of understanding on how the impacts of climate change are differentiated by gender, the ways that behavioural changes and gender can play in delivering paradigm shift, and the role that women play in responding to climate change challenges both as agents but also for accountability and decision-making.
- **Country ownership of projects and programmes** - examines the extent of the emphasis on sustainability post project through country ownership; on ensuring the responsiveness of the GCF investment to country needs and priorities including through the roles that countries play in projects and programmes.
- **Innovativeness in results areas** - focuses on identification of innovations (proof of concept, multiplication effects, new models of finance, technologies, etc.) and the extent to which the project interventions may lead to a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.
- **Replication and scalability** – the extent to which the activities can be scaled up in other locations within the country or replicated in other countries (this criterion, which is considered in document GCF/B.05/03 in the context of measuring performance could also be incorporated in independent evaluations).
- **Unexpected results, both positive and negative** - identifies the challenges and the learning, both positive and negative, that can be used by all parties (governments, stakeholders, civil society, AE, GCF, and others) to inform further implementation and future investment decision-making.

3.1 The project outcome/outputs to be evaluated

The project outcomes and outputs to be evaluated as part of independent evaluation are as follows:

Output 1: Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks.

Activity 1.1: Procurement, installation and operationalization of new hydro meteorological monitoring equipment.

Activity 1.2: Climate sensitive hazard and risk maps used in planning and zoning.

Activity 1.3: Identification and application of approach and tools for gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessments.

Activity 1.4: Multi-hazard disaster risk data repository centralizing information management, applying relevant data protocols and with an accessible knowledge portal in place.

Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities.

Activity 2.1: Policy, regulatory and legal frameworks in place and institutional capacities built for enhanced use of climate information and MHEWS.

Activity 2.2: Design and introduction of MHEWS covering all 11 river basins of Georgia (including last-mile coverage).

Activity 2.3: Access and use of tailored climate weather information products and advise to farmers/agricultural enterprises.

Activity 2.4: Climate-informed multi-hazard risk management (MHRM) responsive system in place: including basin-level multi hazard risk management plans and municipal-level multi-hazard response and preparedness plans.

Output 3: Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures.

Activity 3.1: Participatory community-based adaptation planning reinforced through community-based early warning schemes and community-based climate risk management.

Activity 3.2: Public awareness and capacity building to effectively deliver climate risk information for communities and local first-responders.

Activity 3.3: Implementation of project selected from 13 short listed sites for location specific priority risk reduction interventions.

For the Theory of Change and Logical Framework of the project see Annex H.

4. INTERIM EVALUATION APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The IE team must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The IE team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. baseline Funding proposal submitted to the GCF, FAA, the Project Document, project reports including Annual Performance Reports, Quarterly Progress Reports, UNDP Environmental & Social Safeguard Policy, project budget revisions, records of surveys conducted, national strategic and legal documents, stakeholder maps, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based assessment).

The IE team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach³⁴ ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, Implementing Partner, NDA focal point, government counterparts, the UNDP Country Office, Regional Technical Advisers, and other principal stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful IE. Stakeholder involvement should include (where possible) surveys/questionnaires, focus groups, interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Steering Committee, project stakeholders, local government, CSOs, project beneficiaries, etc. Additionally, the Interim Evaluator is expected to conduct field mission to project site in Georgia. Specific locations to be decided in consultation with the project team. Data collection (government data/records, field observation visits, CDM verifications, public expenditure reporting, GIS data, etc.) will be used to validate evidence of results and assessments (including but not limited to: assessment of Theory of Change, activities delivery, and results/changes occurred).

The specific design and methodology for the IE should emerge from consultations between the IE team and the main stakeholders regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the IE purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The IE team must, however, use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the IE report.

The evaluator is expected to apply desk review as well as field data for the purposes of the evaluation. The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits, data to be used and the analysis strategy in the IE must be clearly outlined in the Inception Report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, main stakeholders and the IE team. The preliminary list of potential interview respondents is provided in the Annex I.

The final Interim Evaluation report should describe the full evaluation approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the assessment. The final report must also describe any limitations encountered by the Interim Evaluation team during the evaluation process, including limitations of the methodology, data collection methods, and any potential influence of limitation on how findings may be interpreted, and conclusions drawn. Limitations include, among others: language barriers, inaccessible project sites, issues with access to data or verification of data sources, issues with availability of interviewees, methodological limitations to collecting more extensive or more representative qualitative or quantitative evaluation data, deviations from planned data collection and analysis set out in the ToR and Inception Report, etc. Efforts made to mitigate the limitations should also be included in the Interim Evaluation report.

Considering all the safety measures enforced by the Government of Georgia to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus, most of the activities envisaged by the interim evaluation methodology might have to be conducted remotely. If it is not possible to travel to or within the country by the time of the data collection, workshops and meetings are planned, the international consultant should develop a methodology that takes this into account and conducts the evaluation virtually and remotely, including the use of remote interview methods and extended desk reviews, data analysis, surveys and evaluation questionnaires. This should be detailed in the Inception report and agreed with the UNDP's commissioning unit.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION

³⁴ For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see [UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results](#), 05 Nov 2013.

The Interim Evaluation team will assess the following categories of project progress. The following questions are intended to guide the Interim Evaluation team to deliver credible and trusted evaluations that provide assessment of progress and results achieved in relationship to the GCF investment, can identify learning and areas where restructuring or changes through adaptive management in project implementation are needed, and can make evidence-based clear and focused recommendations that may be required for enhancing project implementation to deliver expected results and to what extent these can be verified and attributed to GCF investment.

i. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.
- If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement.

Results Framework/Logframe and Theory of Change:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary and/or develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance, etc.) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis. Ensure that the indicators (gender-disaggregated) are SMART, aligned with GCF/Results Management Framework (RMF)/Performance Measurement Frameworks (PMFs) and the guidance in the [GCF programming manual](#).
- Evaluate the Theory of Change (ToC) proposed by the project during the inception and design phases in comparison to the approach, relevance, actions, interventions, practicality, and current context. Foresee the way forward and propose necessary adjustments.

ii. Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Were the context, problem, needs and priorities well analysed and reviewed during project initiation?
- Are the planned project objectives and outcomes relevant and realistic to the situation on the ground?
- Do outputs link to intended outcomes which link to broader paradigm shift objectives of the project?
- Are the outputs being achieved in a timely manner? Is this achievement supportive of the ToC and pathways identified?
- How is the project Theory of Change (ToC) used in helping the project achieve results/ How is the ToC applied through the project? Does the ToC and intervention logic hold or does it need to be adjusted? Reconstruct the ToC, if appropriate, aligning it with the [GCF ToC format](#).

- Are the planned inputs and strategies identified realistic, appropriate and adequate to achieve the results? Were they sequenced sufficiently to efficiently deliver the expected results?
- To what extent is the project able to demonstrate changes against the baseline (assessment in approved Funding Proposal) for the GCF investment criteria (including contributing factors and constraints)?
- How realistic are the risks and assumptions of the project?
- How did the project deal with issues and risks in implementation?
- Are the project's governance mechanisms functioning efficiently?
- To what extent did the design of the project help or hinder achieving its own goals?
- What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project objectives?

iii. Progress Towards Results

Progress Towards Outcomes and Outputs Analysis:

- Assess the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and colour code progress in a “traffic light system” based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each indicator; make recommendations from the areas marked as “Not on target to be achieved” (red).

Table. Progress Towards Results Matrix (Achievement of indicators against End-of-project Targets)

Project Strategy	Indicator ³⁵	Baseline Level ³⁶	Level in 1 st APR (self-reported)	Midterm Target ³⁷	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment ³⁸	Achievement Rating ³⁹	Analysis: status of indicator; justification for rating (triangulated with evidence and data); how realistic it is for target to be achieved
Fund Level Impact:	Indicator:							
Outcome 1:	Indicator:							
	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Outcome 2:	Indicator:							
	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Etc.								

Indicator Assessment Key

³⁵ Populate with data from the Logframe and scorecards

³⁶ Populate with data from the Project Document

³⁷ If available

³⁸ Colour code this column only

³⁹ Use the 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU

Green= Achieved

Yellow= On target to be achieved

Red= Not on target to be achieved

In addition to the progress towards outcomes and outputs analysis:

- Assess whether the total number of beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries of the project has been properly calculated.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By assessing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.
- Include a comprehensive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on different aspects of project implementation. Assess the impact on results delivery, overall funded activity performance along with a plan of action to address these.

iv. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements:

- Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the FAA/Funding proposal. Have changes been made and have these been approved by GCF? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by UNDP and recommend areas for improvement.

Work Planning:

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.
- Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.

Financing and Co-financing:

- Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.
- Have project resources been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible (considering value for money; absorption rate; commitments versus disbursements and projected commitments; co-financing; etc.)?
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?
- Assess factors that contributed to low/high expenditure rate and impact on the project.
- Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out, provide commentary on co-financing: Is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Comment on the use of different financial streams (parallel, leveraged, mobilized finance), as applicable in the context of the

project – see GCF policy on co-finance⁴⁰. Discuss whether co-finance related conditions and covenants, as listed in the FAA, have been fulfilled, as applicable.

- Conduct an analysis of materialized co-financing and implications for project scope and results. If co-finance is not materialising as planned (timing and/or amount), assess mitigation measures, and discuss the impact of that on the project and results on the ground.

Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities

- Who are the partners of the project and how strategic are they in terms of capacities and commitment?
- Is there coherence and complementarity by the project with other actors for local other climate change interventions?
- To what extent has the project complimented other on-going local level initiatives (by stakeholders, donors, governments) on climate change adaptation or mitigation efforts?
- How has the project contributed to achieving stronger and more coherent integration of shift to low emission sustainable development pathways and/or increased climate resilient sustainable development (GCF RMF/PMF Paradigm Shift objectives)? Please provide concrete examples and make specific suggestions on how to enhance these roles going forward.

Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- Discuss any quality assuring mechanisms being used (e.g. ISO standard, government accreditations, international certificates, etc.)
- Is project reporting and information generated by the project linked to national SDGs, NDC and other national reporting systems?
- Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively?

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?
- Is a grievance mechanism in place? If so, assess its effectiveness

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the project's most current SESP/ESIA, and those risks' ratings; are any revisions needed?
- Summarize and assess the revisions made since Board Approval (if any) to:
 - The project's overall safeguards risk categorization.

⁴⁰ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/policy-cofinancing.pdf>

- The identified types of risks⁴¹ (in the SESP).
- The individual risk ratings (in the SESP).
- Describe and assess progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP submitted at the Funding Proposal stage (and prepared during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. Such management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other management plans, though can also include aspects of a project's design; refer to Question 6 in the SESP template for a summary of the identified management measures.

A given project should be assessed against the version of UNDP's safeguards policy that was in effect at the time of the project's approval.

Reporting:

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Steering Committee .
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GCF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated APRs, if applicable?)
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.
- Assess the efficiency, timeliness, and adequacy of reporting requirements.

Communications:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)
- For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits.

v. Sustainability

- Validate whether the risks identified in the FAA and Funding proposal, APRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.
- In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

- What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GCF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors,

⁴¹ Risks are to be labeled with both the UNDP SES Principles and Standards, and the GEF's "types of risks and potential impacts": Climate Change and Disaster; Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; Disability Inclusion; Adverse Gender-Related impact, including Gender-based Violence and Sexual Exploitation; Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement; Indigenous Peoples; Cultural Heritage; Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; Labor and Working Conditions; Community Health, Safety and Security.

income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?

Socio-economic risks to sustainability:

- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?

Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:

- Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/ mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?

vi. Country Ownership

- To what extent is the project aligned with national development plans, national plans of action on climate change, or sub-national policy as well as projects and priorities of the national partners?
- How well is country ownership reflected in the project governance, coordination and consultation mechanisms or other consultations?
- Is the project, as implemented, responsive to local challenges and relevant/appropriate/strategic in relation to SDG indicators, National indicators, GCF RMF/PMF indicators, AE indicators, or other goals?
- Were the modes of deliveries of the outputs appropriate to build essential/necessary capacities, promote national ownership and ensure sustainability of the result achieved?

vii. Gender equity

- Are financial resources/project activities explicitly allocated to enable women to benefit from project interventions?
- Does the project account in activities and planning for local gender dynamics and how project interventions affect women as beneficiaries?
- How do the results for women compare to those for men?
- Is the decision-making process transparent and inclusive of both women and men?
- To what extent are female stakeholders or beneficiaries satisfied with the project gender equality results?
- Did the project sufficiently address cross cutting issues including gender?
- How does the project incorporate gender in its governance or staffing?

viii. Innovativeness in results areas

- What are the lessons learned to enrich learning and knowledge generation in terms of how the project played in the provision of "thought leadership," "innovation," or "unlocked additional climate finance" for climate change adaptation/mitigation in the project and country context? Please provide concrete examples and make specific suggestions on how to enhance these roles going forward.

ix. Unexpected results, both positive and negative

- What has been the project's ability to adapt and evolve based on continuous lessons learned and the changing development landscape? Please account for factors both within the AE/EE and external.
- Can any unintended or unexpected positive or negative effects be observed as a consequence of the project's interventions? What factors have contributed to the unintended outcomes, outputs, activities, results?

- Do any of the unintended results constitute a major change?⁴²

x. Replication and Scalability

- Assess the effectiveness of exit strategies and approaches to phase out assistance provided by the project including contributing factors and constraints? Is there a need for recalibration?
- What factors of the project achievements are contingent on specific local context or enabling environment factors?
- Are the actions and results from project interventions likely to be sustained, ideally through ownership by the local partners and stakeholders?
- What are the key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of sustainability, scalability or replication of project outcomes/outputs/results?

Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

The Interim Evaluation team will include a section of the report setting out the evaluation’s evidence-based conclusions, in light of the findings. Explain whether the project will be able to achieve planned development objective and outcomes by the end of implementation.

Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report’s executive summary.

The Interim Evaluation team should make no more than 10 recommendations total.

The Interim Evaluation will also include a separate section with a concise and logically articulated set of lessons learned (new knowledge gained from the project, context, outcomes, even evaluation methods; failures/lost opportunities to date, what might have been done better or differently, etc.). Lessons should be based on specific evidence presented in the report and can be used to inform design, adapt and change plans and actions, as appropriate, and plan for scaling up.

The Interim Evaluation report’s findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned need to consider gender equality and women’s empowerment and other cross-cutting issues.

Ratings

The Interim Evaluation team will include its ratings of the project’s results and brief descriptions of the associated achievements in an *Interim Evaluation Ratings & Achievement Summary Table* in the Executive Summary of the Interim Evaluation report. See Annex E for ratings scales. No rating on Project Strategy and no overall project rating is required.

Table. Interim Evaluation Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for (Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia)

Measure	Interim Evaluation Rating ⁴³	Achievement Description
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43 Ratings for Objective/Outcome Achievement and Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: 6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings; 5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings; 4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings; 3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings; 2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below

Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 3 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Etc.	
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	(rate 6 pt. scale)	
Sustainability	(rate 4 pt. scale)	

6. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the Interim Evaluation will be approximately (16) working days over a time period of 5 months. The tentative Interim Evaluation timeframe is as follows:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS	COMPLETION DATE
Desk review and Inception Report		
Document review and preparation of Interim Evaluation (IE) Inception Report; Submission of IE Inception Report (Inception Report due no later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission)	2 days	March 30, 2022
Mission and Data Collection		
IE mission: stakeholder meetings, interviews, field visits	8 days	April 27, 2022
Presentation of initial findings- last day of the Interim Evaluation mission	1 day	April 28, 2022
Report Writing		
Preparation and submission of Draft IE Report #1	3 days	May 15, 2022
Incorporation of comments on Draft IE Report #1; Preparation and submission of Draft IE Report #2	2 days	May 31, 2022
Incorporation of comments from Draft IE Report #2 and Finalization of IE report + completed audit trail from feedback on draft report	1 days	July 8, 2022
Concluding Stakeholder Workshop	1 day	July 26, 2022

expectations and/or major shortcomings; 1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings, Unable to Assess (U/A): available information does not allow an assessment

Ratings for Sustainability: 4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability; 3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability; 2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability; 1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability; Unable to Assess (U/A): Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability

The timeline of the activities will be detailed in the inception report including flexibility and delays in the timeframe for the evaluation, with additional time for implementing evaluation virtually recognising possible delays in accessing stakeholder groups due to COVID-19.

7. MIDTERM REVIEW DELIVERABLES

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing & Due Date	Responsibilities
1	Interim Evaluation (IE) Inception Report	Proposed evaluation methodology, work plan and structure of the Interim Evaluation report, and options for site visits	No later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission: March 30, 2022	Interim Evaluation team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2	Presentation	Initial Findings	End of evaluation mission: April 28, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
3	Draft IE Report #1	Full report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of the evaluation mission: May 15, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team sends draft to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, NDA focal point
4	Draft IE Report #2	Full report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	May 31, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team sends draft to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, NDA focal point
5	Final Interim Evaluation Report* + Audit Trail	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft July 8, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team sends final report Commissioning Unit
6	Concluding Stakeholder Workshop (optional; strongly encouraged)	Meeting to present and discuss key findings and recommendations of the evaluation report, and key actions in response to the report.	Within 1-2 weeks of completion of final Interim Evaluation report July 26, 2022	Led by Interim Evaluation team or Project Team and Commissioning Unit

*The final Interim Evaluation report must be in English. If applicable, the Commissioning Unit may choose to arrange for a translation of the report into a language more widely shared by national stakeholders.

In line with the UNDP's financial regulations, when determined by the Country Office and/or the consultant that a deliverable or service cannot be satisfactorily completed due to the impact of COVID-19 and limitations to the evaluation, that deliverable or service will not be paid.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and its implications, a partial payment may be considered if the consultant invested time towards the deliverable but was unable to complete due to circumstances beyond his/her control.

8. INTERIM EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this IE resides with the Monitoring & Evaluation Focal Point of the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's IE is UNDP Georgia Country Office. During this assignment, the Interim Evaluation team will report to the Commissioning Unit who will provide guidance and ensure satisfactory completion of deliverables.

The Commissioning Unit will contract the IE team and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the Interim Evaluation team to provide all relevant documents, set up stakeholder interviews, and arrange field visits.

9. TEAM COMPOSITION

Interim Evaluation will be undertaken by a team consisting of "Team Leader" (international), and a national support team member. International evaluator will lead evaluation process, while the local evaluator will provide the Team leader with a). National level contextual understanding and insights that contribute to effective review of the project progress and challenges, b) practical translation, logistical and organizational support particularly during the field mission.

More specifically the activities to be performed by the national support team member are as follows:

- Liaison with Project representatives and other stakeholders and the collection of background materials and data upon request of the IE Team Leader;
- Provision of inputs and support to IE Team Leader in developing the inception plan and field mission plans, and content of IE report;
- Working with the EI Team Leader and project team to ensure a realistic timetable of meetings and to agree on the relevant stakeholders that the EI team should meet;
- Desk review of materials and verifying quality of outputs in Georgian;
- Assistance to the EI Team Leader in arranging and conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders (including translation if needed) and debriefing the EI Team Leader following interviews to provide contextual information as necessary;
- Field visit and assistance to the EI Team Leader in interviewing local stakeholders at project sites, with debriefing the EI Team Leader as previously stated;
- Participation in debriefing with UNDP CO and project implementing partners;
- Assistance to the IE Team Leader in developing the first and second drafts of the EI report. The draft will be shared with the UNDP CO, GCF and key project stakeholders for review and commenting.
- Assistance to the IE Team Leader in finalization of the Final IE report;
- Participate in concluding workshop and provide support to the IE Team leader in preparing respective materials (presentation) if needed.

The required qualifications and competencies the local evaluator are as follows:

Education

- Master's degree or equivalent in Climate related fields and/or Sociology, Development Evaluation and Management.

Work Experience

- At least 2 years of experience in providing consultancy or management services to the environmental projects preferably in climate change related projects.
- Experience in monitoring and evaluating UNDP or other international development agencies' projects, preferably in climate change in the region/country.
- experience with result-based management evaluation methodologies and applying of SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios is an asset;
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to climate adaptation is an asset;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Demonstrable analytical skills.

Language

- Fluency in Georgian and English both written and spoken and technical writing skills in English;

10. EVALUATOR ETHICS

The evaluation team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct (see ToR Annex D) upon acceptance of the assignment. This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG [Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation](#). The evaluation team must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The evaluation team must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

11. PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

30% upon satisfactory delivery and approval of the final Interim Evaluation Inception Report

70% upon satisfactory delivery and approval of the final Interim Evaluation report by the Commissioning Unit, UNDP Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Regional Technical Advisor and UNDP NCE Principal Technical Advisor +submission of completed Audit Trail

Criteria for issuing the final payment of 70%⁴⁴:

- i) The final IE report includes all requirements outlined in the IE TOR and is in accordance with the IE guidance.

⁴⁴ The Commissioning Unit is obligated to issue payments to the IE team as soon as the terms under the ToR are fulfilled. If there is an ongoing discussion regarding the quality and completeness of the final deliverables that cannot be resolved between the Commissioning Unit and the IE team, the Regional M&E Advisor and Vertical Fund Directorate will be consulted. If needed, the Commissioning Unit's senior management, Procurement Services Unit and Legal Support Office will be notified as well so that a decision can be made about whether or not to withhold payment of any amounts that may be due to the evaluator(s), suspend or terminate the contract and/or remove the individual contractor from any applicable rosters. See the UNDP Individual Contract Policy for further details:

https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Individual%20Contract_Individual%20Contract%20Policy.docx&action=default

- ii) The final IE report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other IE reports).
- iii) The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment listed.
- iv) RTA approvals are via signatures on the TE Report Clearance Form)

ANNEX 2: INTERMEDIATE EVALUATION TOR-INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT (EXCLUDING ANNEXES)

Interim Evaluation Terms of Reference for UNDP-supported GCF-financed projects

Standard Template 1: Formatted for attachment to [UNDP Procurement Website](#)

Type of Contract: Individual Contract

Post Level: International Consultant

Duty Station: Home based

Languages Required: English

Starting Date: 21 March, 2022

Duration of Contract: 30 working days (21 March through 21 August, 2022)

2. INTRODUCTION

This is the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Interim Evaluation (IE) of the UNDP-supported GCF-financed project titled Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia (PIMS #5846) implemented through the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), which is to be undertaken in 2022. The project started on 12/10/2018 and is in its 4th year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this Interim Evaluation.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Due to the complex mountainous terrain and climate, Georgia is subject to both geological and hydro-meteorological hazards. According to Georgia's 2nd and 3rd National Communications and other studies, under climate change the frequency, intensity and geographical spread of extreme hydrometeorological hazards will increase. Georgia's INDC estimates economic losses from climate-induced hazards without adaptation measures for the period 2021-2030 to be \$US 10-12 billion, while the cost of adaptation measures is estimated to be 1.5-2 billion USD.

To date, hydrometeorological hazard risk management has relied on the limited and expensive hard structural protection measures; emergency response with limited reliance on forecasts and early warning of the population; post event compensation and relocation of victims, resulting in eco-migrants; and post event recovery and risk reduction. In order to adapt to climate change, Georgia needs to adopt a proactive integrated climate risk management (CRM) approach centred around risk reduction, prevention, and preparedness through the establishment of a multi-hazard early warning system and an enhanced use of climate information in planning and decision-making across all sectors.

To address the barriers, with funding from Green Climate Fund (GCF), Swiss and Swedish governments, UNDP Georgia and Government of Georgia are implementing 7-year program dedicated to Reducing the Risk of Climate-Driven Disasters since 2019. The program includes three inter-related on-going projects, including: GCF funded, 7-year project entitled: "Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate

Information in Georgia” (hereafter GCF project). SDC funded 5-year project “Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia” and SIDA funded 4-year project on “Improved Resilience of Communities to Climate Risks”. The program is implemented under National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) playing an executing entity’s/implementing partner’s role for it. In addition, the project will be implemented in collaboration with a multiplicity of stakeholders: the National Environment Agency (NEA), the Environmental Information and Education Center (EIEC), the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), as well as local governments. The project implementation spans a period of seven years (2018-2025).

An overall objective of the project is to reduce exposure of Georgia’s communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action. The GCF project will provide critical climate risk information that would enable the Government of Georgia to implement a number of nation-wide transformative policies and actions for reducing exposure and vulnerability of the population to climate-induced hazards. The project will thus catalyse a paradigm shift in the national climate risk management, climate-proofed disaster risk reduction and early warning approaches. The project innovation and transformative change will also include (a) participatory “Last Mile” communication solutions tailored to the needs of local communities, including Community-based Early Warning Systems (CBEWSs); (b) increasing implementation capacities for carrying out cost-effective risk reduction and community resilience measures through such innovative approaches as watershed/floodplain restoration, agroforestry, etc., and combination of structural and non-structural protection measures aimed at reducing exposure and increasing effectiveness of the early warning; (c) combining best available science and local knowledge for vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping, disaster modelling and forecasting; (d) (e) carrying out a comprehensive community, municipal and national-wide awareness raising, education and capacity development activities on multi-hazard risk reduction, including preparedness, response and Early Warning Systems (EWSs). As a result, the project will directly benefit up to 1.7 Million people (40% of the population) currently at risk from hydrometeorological hazards.

The total amount of the GCF funding constitutes 27 million USD, the project is co-financed by the Government of Georgia (GoG) with 38 million USD and by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) funded project: Strengthening Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia with 5 million USD. Besides, the project is topped up the project Improved Resilience of Communities to Climate Risks (IRCCR) funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) with 3.6 million USD.

Further information about the project can be found here: <https://open.undp.org/projects/00094354>

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION

The IE will assess implementation of the project and progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the UNDP Project Document and GCF Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The Interim Evaluation will also review the project’s strategy and its risks to sustainability.

The IE results will be used by UNDP Georgia to strengthen existing project through improving the performance of the project and making timely changes if necessary. Furthermore, the IE will serve as an accountability tool as it will provide stakeholders and partners with impartial assessment of the project.

The IE will take into consideration assessment of the project in line with the following evaluation criteria from the [GCF IEU TOR](#) (GCF/B.06/06) and [draft GCF Evaluation Policy](#), along with [guidance](#) provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Additional evaluation criteria can be assessed, as applicable. The IE must assess the following

- **Implementation and adaptive management** – seeks to identify challenges and propose additional measures to support more efficient and effective implementation. The following aspects of project implementation and adaptive management will be assessed: management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications.
- **Risks to sustainability** – seeks to assess the likelihood of continued benefits after the project ends. The assessment of sustainability at the Interim Evaluation stage considers the risks that are likely to affect the continuation of project outcomes. The IE should validate the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Reports, and the ATLAS Risk Management Module and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date.
- **Relevance, effectiveness and efficiency** - seeks to assess the appropriateness in terms of selection, implementation and achievement of FAA and project document results framework activities and expected results (outputs, outcomes and impacts).
- **Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities** - looks at how GCF financing is additional and able to amplify other investments or de-risk and crowd-in further climate investment.
- **Gender equity** - ensures integration of understanding on how the impacts of climate change are differentiated by gender, the ways that behavioural changes and gender can play in delivering paradigm shift, and the role that women play in responding to climate change challenges both as agents but also for accountability and decision-making.
- **Country ownership of projects and programmes** - examines the extent of the emphasis on sustainability post project through country ownership; on ensuring the responsiveness of the GCF investment to country needs and priorities including through the roles that countries play in projects and programmes.
- **Innovativeness in results areas** - focuses on identification of innovations (proof of concept, multiplication effects, new models of finance, technologies, etc.) and the extent to which the project interventions may lead to a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.
- **Replication and scalability** – the extent to which the activities can be scaled up in other locations within the country or replicated in other countries (this criterion, which is considered in document GCF/B.05/03 in the context of measuring performance could also be incorporated in independent evaluations).
- **Unexpected results, both positive and negative** - identifies the challenges and the learning, both positive and negative, that can be used by all parties (governments, stakeholders, civil society, AE, GCF, and others) to inform further implementation and future investment decision-making.

3.1 The project outcome/outputs to be evaluated

The project outcomes and outputs to be evaluated as part of independent evaluation are as follows:

Output 1: Expanded hydro-meteorological observation network and modelling capacities secure reliable information on climate-induced hazards, vulnerability and risks.

Activity 1.1: Procurement, installation and operationalization of new hydro meteorological monitoring equipment.

Activity 1.2: Climate sensitive hazard and risk maps used in planning and zoning.

Activity 1.3: Identification and application of approach and tools for gender-sensitive socio-economic vulnerability assessments.

Activity 1.4: Multi-hazard disaster risk data repository centralizing information management, applying relevant data protocols and with an accessible knowledge portal in place.

Output 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and new climate information products supported with effective national regulations, coordination mechanism and institutional capacities.

Activity 2.1: Policy, regulatory and legal frameworks in place and institutional capacities built for enhanced use of climate information and MHEWS.

Activity 2.2: Design and introduction of MHEWS covering all 11 river basins of Georgia (including last-mile coverage).

Activity 2.3: Access and use of tailored climate weather information products and advise to farmers/agricultural enterprises.

Activity 2.4: Climate-informed multi-hazard risk management (MHRM) responsive system in place: including basin-level multi hazard risk management plans and municipal-level multi-hazard response and preparedness plans.

Output 3: Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHEWS and priority risk reduction measures.

Activity 3.1: Participatory community-based adaptation planning reinforced through community-based early warning schemes and community-based climate risk management.

Activity 3.2: Public awareness and capacity building to effectively deliver climate risk information for communities and local first-responders.

Activity 3.3: Implementation of project selected from 13 short listed sites for location specific priority risk reduction interventions.

For the Theory of Change and Logical Framework of the project see Annex H.

4. INTERIM EVALUATION APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The IE team must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The IE team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. baseline Funding proposal submitted to the GCF, FAA, the Project Document, project reports including Annual Performance Reports, Quarterly Progress Reports, UNDP Environmental & Social Safeguard Policy, project budget revisions, records of surveys conducted, national strategic and legal documents, stakeholder maps, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based assessment).

The IE team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach⁴⁵ ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, Implementing Partner, NDA focal point, government counterparts, the UNDP Country Office, Regional Technical Advisers, and other principal stakeholders and beneficiaries.

⁴⁵ For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see [UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results](#), 05 Nov 2013.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful IE. Stakeholder involvement should include (where possible) surveys/questionnaires, focus groups, interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Steering Committee, project stakeholders, local government, CSOs, project beneficiaries, etc. Additionally, the Interim Evaluator is expected to conduct field mission to project site in Georgia. Specific locations to be decided in consultation with the project team. Data collection (government data/records, field observation visits, CDM verifications, public expenditure reporting, GIS data, etc.) will be used to validate evidence of results and assessments (including but not limited to: assessment of Theory of Change, activities delivery, and results/changes occurred).

The specific design and methodology for the IE should emerge from consultations between the IE team and the main stakeholders regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the IE purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The IE team must, however, use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the IE report.

The evaluator is expected to apply desk review as well as field data for the purposes of the evaluation. The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits, data to be used and the analysis strategy in the IE must be clearly outlined in the Inception Report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, main stakeholders and the IE team. The preliminary list of potential interview respondents is provided in the Annex I.

The final Interim Evaluation report should describe the full evaluation approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the assessment. The final report must also describe any limitations encountered by the Interim Evaluation team during the evaluation process, including limitations of the methodology, data collection methods, and any potential influence of limitation on how findings may be interpreted, and conclusions drawn. Limitations include, among others: language barriers, inaccessible project sites, issues with access to data or verification of data sources, issues with availability of interviewees, methodological limitations to collecting more extensive or more representative qualitative or quantitative evaluation data, deviations from planned data collection and analysis set out in the ToR and Inception Report, etc. Efforts made to mitigate the limitations should also be included in the Interim Evaluation report.

Considering all the safety measures enforced by the Government of Georgia to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus, most of the activities envisaged by the interim evaluation methodology might have to be conducted remotely. If it is not possible to travel to or within the country by the time of the data collection, workshops and meetings are planned, the international consultant should develop a methodology that takes this into account and conducts the evaluation virtually and remotely, including the use of remote interview methods and extended desk reviews, data analysis, surveys and evaluation questionnaires. This should be detailed in the Inception report and agreed with the UNDP's commissioning unit.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION

The Interim Evaluation team will assess the following categories of project progress. The following questions are intended to guide the Interim Evaluation team to deliver credible and trusted evaluations that provide assessment of progress and results achieved in relationship to the GCF investment, can identify learning and areas where restructuring or changes through adaptive management in project implementation are needed, and can make evidence-based clear and focused recommendations that may be required for enhancing project implementation to deliver expected results and to what extent these can be verified and attributed to GCF investment.

i. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.
- If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement.

Results Framework/Logframe and Theory of Change:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary and/or develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance, etc.) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis. Ensure that the indicators (gender-disaggregated) are SMART, aligned with GCF/Results Management Framework (RMF)/Performance Measurement Frameworks (PMFs) and the guidance in the [GCF programming manual](#).
- Evaluate the Theory of Change (ToC) proposed by the project during the inception and design phases in comparison to the approach, relevance, actions, interventions, practicality, and current context. Foresee the way forward and propose necessary adjustments.

ii. Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Were the context, problem, needs and priorities well analysed and reviewed during project initiation?
- Are the planned project objectives and outcomes relevant and realistic to the situation on the ground?
- Do outputs link to intended outcomes which link to broader paradigm shift objectives of the project?
- Are the outputs being achieved in a timely manner? Is this achievement supportive of the ToC and pathways identified?
- How is the project Theory of Change (ToC) used in helping the project achieve results/ How is the ToC applied through the project? Does the ToC and intervention logic hold or does it need to be adjusted? Reconstruct the ToC, if appropriate, aligning it with the [GCF ToC format](#).
- Are the planned inputs and strategies identified realistic, appropriate and adequate to achieve the results? Were they sequenced sufficiently to efficiently deliver the expected results?
- To what extent is the project able to demonstrate changes against the baseline (assessment in approved Funding Proposal) for the GCF investment criteria (including contributing factors and constraints)?
- How realistic are the risks and assumptions of the project?
- How did the project deal with issues and risks in implementation?
- Are the project's governance mechanisms functioning efficiently?
- To what extent did the design of the project help or hinder achieving its own goals?

- What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project objectives?

iii. Progress Towards Results

Progress Towards Outcomes and Outputs Analysis:

- Assess the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and colour code progress in a “traffic light system” based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each indicator; make recommendations from the areas marked as “Not on target to be achieved” (red).

Table. Progress Towards Results Matrix (Achievement of indicators against End-of-project Targets)

Project Strategy	Indicator ⁴⁶	Baseline Level ⁴⁷	Level in 1 st APR (self-reported)	Midterm Target ⁴⁸	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment ⁴⁹	Achievement Rating ⁵⁰	Analysis: status of indicator; justification for rating (triangulated with evidence and data); how realistic it is for target to be achieved
Fund Level Impact:	Indicator:							
Outcome 1:	Indicator:							
	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Outcome 2:	Indicator:							
	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Output	Indicator:							
Etc.								

Indicator Assessment Key

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved
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In addition to the progress towards outcomes and outputs analysis:

- Assess whether the total number of beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries of the project has been properly calculated.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By assessing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

⁴⁶ Populate with data from the Logframe and scorecards

⁴⁷ Populate with data from the Project Document

⁴⁸ If available

⁴⁹ Colour code this column only

⁵⁰ Use the 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU

- Include a comprehensive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on different aspects of project implementation. Assess the impact on results delivery, overall funded activity performance along with a plan of action to address these.

iv. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements:

- Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the FAA/Funding proposal. Have changes been made and have these been approved by GCF? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by UNDP and recommend areas for improvement.

Work Planning:

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.
- Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.

Financing and Co-financing:

- Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.
- Have project resources been utilized in the most economical, effective and equitable ways possible (considering value for money; absorption rate; commitments versus disbursements and projected commitments; co-financing; etc.)?
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?
- Assess factors that contributed to low/high expenditure rate and impact on the project.
- Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out, provide commentary on co-financing: Is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Comment on the use of different financial streams (parallel, leveraged, mobilized finance), as applicable in the context of the project – see GCF policy on co-finance⁵¹. Discuss whether co-finance related conditions and covenants, as listed in the FAA, have been fulfilled, as applicable.
- Conduct an analysis of materialized co-financing and implications for project scope and results. If co-finance is not materialising as planned (timing and/or amount), assess mitigation measures, and discuss the impact of that on the project and results on the ground.

Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities

- Who are the partners of the project and how strategic are they in terms of capacities and commitment?

⁵¹ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/policy-cofinancing.pdf>

- Is there coherence and complementarity by the project with other actors for local other climate change interventions?
- To what extent has the project complimented other on-going local level initiatives (by stakeholders, donors, governments) on climate change adaptation or mitigation efforts?
- How has the project contributed to achieving stronger and more coherent integration of shift to low emission sustainable development pathways and/or increased climate resilient sustainable development (GCF RMF/PMF Paradigm Shift objectives)? Please provide concrete examples and make specific suggestions on how to enhance these roles going forward.

Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- Discuss any quality assuring mechanisms being used (e.g. ISO standard, government accreditations, international certificates, etc.)
-
- Is project reporting and information generated by the project linked to national SDGs, NDC and other national reporting systems?
- Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively?

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?
- Is a grievance mechanism in place? If so, assess its effectiveness

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the project's most current SESP/ESIA, and those risks' ratings; are any revisions needed?
- Summarize and assess the revisions made since Board Approval (if any) to:
 - The project's overall safeguards risk categorization.
 - The identified types of risks⁵² (in the SESP).
 - The individual risk ratings (in the SESP).
- Describe and assess progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP submitted at the Funding Proposal stage (and prepared during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. Such management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other management plans,

⁵² Risks are to be labeled with both the UNDP SES Principles and Standards, and the GEF's "types of risks and potential impacts": Climate Change and Disaster; Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; Disability Inclusion; Adverse Gender-Related impact, including Gender-based Violence and Sexual Exploitation; Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement; Indigenous Peoples; Cultural Heritage; Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; Labor and Working Conditions; Community Health, Safety and Security.

though can also include aspects of a project's design; refer to Question 6 in the SESP template for a summary of the identified management measures.

A given project should be assessed against the version of UNDP's safeguards policy that was in effect at the time of the project's approval.

Reporting:

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Steering Committee .
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GCF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated APRs, if applicable?)
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.
- Assess the efficiency, timeliness, and adequacy of reporting requirements.

Communications:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)
- For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits.

v. Sustainability

- Validate whether the risks identified in the FAA and Funding proposal, APRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.
- In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

- What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GCF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?

Socio-economic risks to sustainability:

- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?

Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:

- Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?

vi. Country Ownership

- To what extent is the project aligned with national development plans, national plans of action on climate change, or sub-national policy as well as projects and priorities of the national partners?
- How well is country ownership reflected in the project governance, coordination and consultation mechanisms or other consultations?
- Is the project, as implemented, responsive to local challenges and relevant/appropriate/strategic in relation to SDG indicators, National indicators, GCF RMF/PMF indicators, AE indicators, or other goals?
- Were the modes of deliveries of the outputs appropriate to build essential/necessary capacities, promote national ownership and ensure sustainability of the result achieved?

vii. Gender equity

- Are financial resources/project activities explicitly allocated to enable women to benefit from project interventions?
- Does the project account in activities and planning for local gender dynamics and how project interventions affect women as beneficiaries?
- How do the results for women compare to those for men?
- Is the decision-making process transparent and inclusive of both women and men?
- To what extent are female stakeholders or beneficiaries satisfied with the project gender equality results?
- Did the project sufficiently address cross cutting issues including gender?
- How does the project incorporate gender in its governance or staffing?

viii. Innovativeness in results areas

- What are the lessons learned to enrich learning and knowledge generation in terms of how the project played in the provision of "thought leadership," "innovation," or "unlocked additional climate finance" for climate change adaptation/mitigation in the project and country context? Please provide concrete examples and make specific suggestions on how to enhance these roles going forward.

ix. Unexpected results, both positive and negative

- What has been the project's ability to adapt and evolve based on continuous lessons learned and the changing development landscape? Please account for factors both within the AE/EE and external.
- Can any unintended or unexpected positive or negative effects be observed as a consequence of the project's interventions? What factors have contributed to the unintended outcomes, outputs, activities, results?
- Do any of the unintended results constitute a major change?⁵³

x. Replication and Scalability

- Assess the effectiveness of exit strategies and approaches to phase out assistance provided by the project including contributing factors and constraints? Is there a need for recalibration?

- What factors of the project achievements are contingent on specific local context or enabling environment factors?
- Are the actions and results from project interventions likely to be sustained, ideally through ownership by the local partners and stakeholders?
- What are the key factors that will require attention in order to improve prospects of sustainability, scalability or replication of project outcomes/outputs/results?

Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

The Interim Evaluation team will include a section of the report setting out the evaluation’s evidence-based conclusions, in light of the findings. Explain whether the project will be able to achieve planned development objective and outcomes by the end of implementation.

Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report’s executive summary.

The Interim Evaluation team should make no more than 10 recommendations total.

The Interim Evaluation will also include a separate section with a concise and logically articulated set of lessons learned (new knowledge gained from the project, context, outcomes, even evaluation methods; failures/lost opportunities to date, what might have been done better or differently, etc.). Lessons should be based on specific evidence presented in the report and can be used to inform design, adapt and change plans and actions, as appropriate, and plan for scaling up.

The Interim Evaluation report’s findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned need to consider gender equality and women’s empowerment and other cross-cutting issues.

Ratings

The Interim Evaluation team will include its ratings of the project’s results and brief descriptions of the associated achievements in an *Interim Evaluation Ratings & Achievement Summary Table* in the Executive Summary of the Interim Evaluation report. See Annex E for ratings scales. No rating on Project Strategy and no overall project rating is required.

Table. Interim Evaluation Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for (Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia)

Measure	Interim Evaluation Rating ⁵⁴	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	

54 Ratings for Objective/Outcome Achievement and Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: 6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings; 5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings; 4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings; 3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings; 2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below expectations and/or major shortcomings; 1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings, Unable to Assess (U/A): available information does not allow an assessment

Ratings for Sustainability: 4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability; 3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability; 2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability; 1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability; Unable to Assess (U/A): Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability

	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 3 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Etc.	
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	(rate 6 pt. scale)	
Sustainability	(rate 4 pt. scale)	

12. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the Interim Evaluation will be approximately (30) working days over a time period of 5 months. The tentative Interim Evaluation timeframe is as follows:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS	COMPLETION DATE
Desk review and Inception Report		
Document review and preparation of Interim Evaluation (IE) Inception Report; Submission of IE Inception Report (Inception Report due no later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission)	5 days	March 30, 2022
Mission and Data Collection		
IE mission: stakeholder meetings, interviews, field visits	8 days	April 27, 2022
Presentation of initial findings- last day of the Interim Evaluation mission	1 day	April 28, 2022
Report Writing		
Preparation and submission of Draft IE Report #1	7 days	May 15, 2022
Incorporation of comments on Draft IE Report #1; Preparation and submission of Draft IE Report #2	5 days	May 31, 2022
Incorporation of comments from Draft IE Report #2 and Finalization of IE report + completed audit trail from feedback on draft report	3 days	July 8, 2022
Concluding Stakeholder Workshop	1 day	July 26, 2022

The timeline of the activities will be detailed in the inception report including flexibility and delays in the timeframe for the evaluation, with additional time for implementing evaluation virtually recognising possible delays in accessing stakeholder groups due to COVID-19.

13. MIDTERM REVIEW DELIVERABLES

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing & Due Date	Responsibilities
1	Interim Evaluation (IE) Inception Report	Proposed evaluation methodology, work plan and structure of the Interim Evaluation report, and options for site visits	No later than 2 weeks before the evaluation mission: March 30, 2022	Interim Evaluation team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2	Presentation	Initial Findings	End of evaluation mission: April 28, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
3	Draft IE Report #1	Full report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of the evaluation mission: May 15, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team sends draft to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, NDA focal point
4	Draft IE Report #2	Full report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	May 31, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team sends draft to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, NDA focal point
5	Final Interim Evaluation Report* + Audit Trail	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft July 8, 2022	Interim Evaluation Team sends final report Commissioning Unit
6	Concluding Stakeholder Workshop (optional; strongly encouraged)	Meeting to present and discuss key findings and recommendations of the evaluation report, and key actions in response to the report.	Within 1-2 weeks of completion of final Interim Evaluation report July 26, 2022	Led by Interim Evaluation team or Project Team and Commissioning Unit

*The final Interim Evaluation report must be in English. If applicable, the Commissioning Unit may choose to arrange for a translation of the report into a language more widely shared by national stakeholders.

In line with the UNDP's financial regulations, when determined by the Country Office and/or the consultant that a deliverable or service cannot be satisfactorily completed due to the impact of COVID-19 and limitations to the evaluation, that deliverable or service will not be paid.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and its implications, a partial payment may be considered if the consultant invested time towards the deliverable but was unable to complete due to circumstances beyond his/her control.

14. INTERIM EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this IE resides with the Monitoring & Evaluation Focal Point of the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's IE is UNDP Georgia Country Office. During this assignment, the Interim Evaluation team will report to the Commissioning Unit who will provide guidance and ensure satisfactory completion of deliverables.

The Commissioning Unit will contract the IE team and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the Interim Evaluation team to provide all relevant documents, set up stakeholder interviews, and arrange field visits.

15. TEAM COMPOSITION

Interim Evaluation will be undertaken by a team consisting of “Team Leader” (international), and a national support team member. International evaluator will lead evaluation process, while the local evaluator will provide the Team leader with a). National level contextual understanding and insights that contribute to effective review of the project progress and challenges, b) practical translation, logistical and organizational support particularly during the field mission.

The required qualifications and competencies of international evaluator are as follows:

Education

- At least Master's degree in social sciences, public administration, environmental and climate change fields or other closely related field. (Max. 10 points)

Work Experience

- At least 5 years of demonstrated relevant work experience with evaluation of development interventions at national and/or international level, including experience with result-based management evaluation methodologies and applying of SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios (**minimum requirement**) (Max. 20 points);
- At least 5 years of experience in conducting evaluations for climate change related projects (**minimum requirement**) (Max. 20 points);
- Project evaluation/review experiences within United Nations system will be considered an asset;
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to climate adaptation is an asset;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Demonstrable analytical skills.

Language

- Fluency in written and spoken English

16. EVALUATOR ETHICS

The evaluation team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct (see ToR Annex D) upon acceptance of the assignment. This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG [Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation](#). The evaluation team must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The evaluation team must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

17. PAYMENT MODALITIES AND SPECIFICATIONS

30% upon satisfactory delivery and approval of the final Interim Evaluation Inception Report

70% upon satisfactory delivery and approval of the final Interim Evaluation report by the Commissioning Unit, UNDP Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Regional Technical Advisor and UNDP NCE Principal Technical Advisor +submission of completed Audit Trail

Criteria for issuing the final payment of 70%⁵⁵:

- v) The final IE report includes all requirements outlined in the IE TOR and is in accordance with the IE guidance.
- vi) The final IE report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other IE reports).
- vii) The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment listed.
- viii) RTA approvals are via signatures on the TE Report Clearance Form)

⁵⁵ The Commissioning Unit is obligated to issue payments to the IE team as soon as the terms under the ToR are fulfilled. If there is an ongoing discussion regarding the quality and completeness of the final deliverables that cannot be resolved between the Commissioning Unit and the IE team, the Regional M&E Advisor and Vertical Fund Directorate will be consulted. If needed, the Commissioning Unit's senior management, Procurement Services Unit and Legal Support Office will be notified as well so that a decision can be made about whether or not to withhold payment of any amounts that may be due to the evaluator(s), suspend or terminate the contract and/or remove the individual contractor from any applicable rosters. See the UNDP Individual Contract Policy for further details:

https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Individual%20Contract_Individual%20Contract%20Policy.docx&action=default

ANNEX 3: IE EVALUATIVE MATRIX

SCALING-UP MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AND THE USE OF CLIMATE INFORMATION IN GEORGIA
PROJECT - INTERIM EVALUATION

<i>Evaluative Questions</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Sources</i>	<i>Methodology</i>
Project Strategy: To what extent is the project strategy relevant to country priorities, country ownership, and the best route towards expected results?			
Is the project strategy relevant vis-à-vis country priorities?	Coherence with national policies. Level of coherence between project expected results and project design internal logic	Project planning documents FAA Project Document - UNDP Relevant governmental policies/strategies	Document analysis
Is the project strategy relevant vis-à-vis national partners priorities (UNDP, GCF, etc.)?	Coherence with corporate policies of UNDP and GCF	Project planning documents FAA Project Document - UNDP Other relevant documents	Document analysis Interviews
What is the relevance of the project?	Coherence with national policies and national needs regarding CC	Project planning documents National policy documents	Document analysis
What is the country ownership of the Project? Is it related to its relevance?	Coherence with national policies and national needs regarding CC Expressed ownership, uptake of outputs	Project planning and reporting documents Stakeholders' inputs	Document analysis Interviews
Has the relevance changed at all at the national/local levels since project design?	Coherence with national and local policies	Governmental stakeholders	Interviews Document analysis
Does the Project Strategy include cross-cutting issues, such as gender, SDGs, poverty alleviation, indigenous people's rights?	Coherence with national and local policies/UNDP – GCF corporate mandates	Governmental stakeholders UNDP/GCF stakeholders	Document analysis
Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted upon strategy and project relevance?	Changes in national relevance due to pandemic impact.	Governmental stakeholders	Interviews

Progress Towards Results: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far?

<p>What has been the efficiency and effectiveness of the project? What expected outputs have been achieved thus far?</p> <p>To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved thus far? Unexpected or unplanned results?</p>	<p>Degree of achievement vis a vis expected outcome indicators</p>	<p>Monitoring Reports Annual / semi-annual/ quarterly reports Project stakeholders</p>	<p>Document analyses Interviews Group Interviews</p>
<p>What is the programmatic coherence of the Project?</p> <p>How does it relate to other similar projects in Georgia dealing with the same or similar subjects (i.e. climate change)?</p> <p>Is there coherence with this other projects?</p> <p>Does it avoid duplication and enhance synergies?</p>	<p>Evidence of synergies between the Project and other similar interventions.</p> <p>Coherence between the Project and other similar interventions' expected outcomes.</p>	<p>Project outputs and outcomes reports Stakeholder analysis</p>	<p>Document analysis Interviews</p>
<p>How well has the project involved and empowered communities to implement outputs?</p>	<p>Involvement of beneficiaries in project development and implementation</p> <p>Analysis of participation by stakeholders (communities, municipalities, civil society, etc.).</p> <p>Effect of project aspects implemented at sites</p>	<p>Project outputs and outcomes reports Project stakeholders Community Representatives</p>	<p>Document analysis Interviews Group Interviews</p>
<p>Are some outcomes more advanced than others in their implementation?</p> <p>What is causing delays in implementation in particular outputs for the project?</p> <p>Where are the implementation 'bottlenecks'?</p> <p>Are the products being developed according to schedule? How does this relate to effectiveness and efficiency?</p> <p>How can these issues be solved?</p> <p>What changes need to be implemented?</p>	<p>Discrepancies between expected outputs/outcome by the time of mid-term and actual achievements</p>	<p>Findings in project documents, achievement indicators Annual / semi-annual/ quarterly reports Minutes of meetings (board, back to the office reports, etc.) Steering Committee meetings</p>	<p>Document analysis (minutes of meetings specially) Stakeholder interviews</p>

Partnerships for implementation Implementation modality Adaptive management	Working relationship between PMU, UNDP, GCF, and other strategic partners Board functioning Adaptive managements strategies	Findings in project documents (quarterly reports, minutes of meetings, board meetings) Indications in interviews	Document analysis Stakeholder interviews
Were the relevant representatives from government and civil society involved in project implementation, including as part of the project?	Level of coherence between project design and project implementation approach Role of committees in guidance Harness effectiveness by analysing how project's results were met vis-à-vis intended outcomes or objectives Draw lessons learned/good practices from the implementation and achievement of results Unexpected results both positive and negative addressed	Planning documents Project Stakeholders	Document analysis Project interviews
Has there been innovation in results/outputs/ outcomes? Have there been unexpected results, both positive and negative?			
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far? To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation? Gender Mainstreaming.			
Has the project been implemented efficiently, cost-effectively, and been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far?	Budgetary / financial means to implement outputs products.	Policy documents contain sustainability factors (policy adopted, implemented) Budget arrangements (allocations, etc.) made to sustain project outputs and outcomes	Documentation analysis Stakeholder interviews
To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation?	Has the project been able to adapt to any changing conditions thus far? To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting, and project communications supporting the project's implementation?	Quality of existing information systems in place to identify emerging risks and other issues	Project documents

<p>What have been the social and environmental impact issues identified and / or manifested?</p> <p>To what extent has progress been made in the implementation of social and environmental management or mitigation measures?</p>	<p>Risk analysis in planning documents.</p> <p>Risk management measures in planning documents.</p>	<p>SESP</p>	<p>Project documents</p>
<p>Have there been changes to the overall project risk rating and/or the identified types of risks as outlined at the CEO Endorsement stage?</p>	<p>Risk management measures in planning documents.</p>	<p>SESP</p> <p>Stakeholders</p>	<p>Project documents</p> <p>Interviews</p>
<p>How did institutional arrangements influence the project's achievement of results?</p>	<p>How have institutional arrangements affected the efficiency?</p>	<p>Quality of risk mitigations strategies developed and followed</p>	<p>Governments (national, state local), Project team, UNDP</p>
<p>Has the project mainstreamed gender in its design?</p> <p>Has the project mainstreamed gender in its implementation?</p> <p>How does it capture overarching gender mainstreaming issues in its monitoring and reporting?</p>	<p>Inclusion of gender analysis in project planning documents.</p> <p>Cross cutting implementation of gender issues as relevant.</p> <p>Gender differentiated indicators (participation, social and economic change gender differentiated indicators) as relevant included in monitoring and reporting.</p>	<p>Gender plan.</p> <p>Gender – related professional inputs</p>	<p>Document review.</p> <p>Interviews.</p>
<p>How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted upon implementation?</p> <p>Can a comprehensive assessment of impact of COVID-19 on project implementation be assessed at this stage?</p>	<p>Changes implemented in implementation modality due to pandemic.</p> <p>Impact of COVID-19 related restrictions upon implementation.</p>	<p>Government stakeholders</p> <p>UNDP / GCF stakeholders</p>	<p>Interviews</p> <p>Documents review</p>



ANNEX 4: INTERIM EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

- (1) Were the relevant country representatives, from government and civil society, as well as the private sector, NGOs, CBOs, Associations, etc., involved in the project preparation and execution? If yes, How?
- (2) What have been the project's achievements (at the output, outcome, results levels) thus far? Are achievements clearer or more advanced for some outcomes than others? If, yes, Why? (Evaluator will ask for each output/outcome separately)
- (3) Have there been changes (governmental, policy, etc.) that have hindered or aided project implementation? What kind of changes occurred? Which project outcome/outputs were influenced by such changes?
- (4) To what extent other projects of the programme (SDC, SIDA) contribute to the GCF project objective achievements? Are there any overlaps? How does the management of these projects ensure the synergy of the overall goals of the Programme? What issues have arisen that hinder the achievement of results? Are the human resources dedicated for the project implementation efficient? Are there any necessity to increase of project staff?
- (5) Are there the project budgetary planning in line with the project activities? Is there any significant adjustment required?
- (6) What has been the effective role of guidance of the project's committees, etc.?
- (7) How did the partnership and management arrangements between different institutions work and when it did not? How can this be supported for better implementation? How does the Project work with other endeavours in the country dealing with CC? Is there coherence, programmatic approach, etc.?
- (8) What have been the projects weaknesses, if any?
- (9) How is the work with the communities carried out? With local level stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, municipalities, etc.?)
- (10) What are the probabilities that results would be sustained over the medium/long term? If project outputs/outcomes are achieved, what variables can help with sustainability (institutional, social, financial, etc.)?
- (11) Has the project promoted gender equality and women's empowerment? If yes, how?
- (12) Are any of the tools that are applied by the Project (such as indicators) in need to be adjusted?
- (13) What are the technology or inputs challenges (for example, capacity, access to early warning technical inputs)? Are they available in country?
- (14) What are the challenges for the Project and the potential solutions to these challenges? What have been the challenges associated with COVID-19 and how have they been solved (adaptive management)? What other challenges and externalities (war in Ukraine?) has the Project faced?
- (15) If something could have been done different, in hindsight what could this have been (lesson learned)?
- (16) What are your recommendations for the remaining implementation period? How can these be achieved?

ANNEX 5: FIELD OBSERVATION GUIDE

OBSERVATION DETAILS

place: _____ date: _____ Actors _____

▪ OBSERVATION OF PARTICIPATION/APPROPRIATION/INTERACTION

participation: Active participation in the Project?

Yes - No

participation: There is a perceived appropriation of objectives, results, etc. of the Project?

Yes - No

participation: Is there a perceived improvement in capacities?

Yes-No

▪ INTERACTION BETWEEN ACTORS

interaction: Is there any perceived collaboration between actors?

Yes-No

▪ FACILITIES

facilities Were field facilities deployed, investments, practical demonstration implementation? How appropriate have they been? Sustainability?

Yes-No

ANNEX 6: RATINGS SCALES

Ratings for Progress Towards Results: (one rating for each outcome and for the objective)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. The progress towards the objective/outcome can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets, and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.
Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management: (one overall rating)		
6	Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The Project can be presented as “good practice”.
5	Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
4	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with some components requiring remedial action.
3	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive, with most components requiring remedial action.
2	Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
1	Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
Ratings for Sustainability: (one overall rating)		
4	Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the Project’s closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
3	Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review
2	Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on
1	Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

ANNEX 7: LIST OF CONSULTED PERSONS

1	Anna Chernyshova	UNDP Country Office - Georgia	F
2	Nino Antadze	UNDP Country Office - Georgia	F
3	Khatuna Chanukvadze	UNDP Country Office - Georgia	F
4	Ketevan Skhireli	Project Management Unit	F
5	Tornike Phulariani	Project Management Unit	M
6	Salome Lomadze	Project Management Unit	F
7	Nino Gvazava	Project Management Unit	F
8	Eliso Barnovi	Project Management Unit	M
9	Edvard Shermadin	Project Management Unit	M
10	Nana Chabukiani	Project Management Unit	F
11	Irina Zhvania	Project Management Unit	F
12	Nikola Bradacova	Project Management Unit	F
13	Eka Tsetskhladze	Environmental information and education Center (EIEC)	F
14	Levan Buksianidze	Environmental information and education Center (EIEC)	M
15	Mark Tadross	UNDP	M
16	Nataly Olofinskaya	UNDP	F
17	Tamar Tsivtsivadze	Swiss Development Cooperation	F
18	Davit Chichinadze	Swiss Development Cooperation	M
19	Khatuna Zaldastanishvili	Embassy of Sweden	F
20	Nino Tandilashvili	MEPA	F
21	Giorgi Ghibradze	Crisis Management Coordination Center	M

22	Rusudan Kakhishvili	Crisis Management Coordination Center	F
23	Davit Getsadze	Deputy Chairman of Roads Department	M
24	Murman Melia	Khobi Municipality	M
25	Nana Gvinjilia	Khobi Municipality	F
26	Mariam Rukhadze	Khobi Municipality	F
27	Gvantsa Kikaleishvili	Toliskuri for Education and Development	F
28	Nikoloz Meskhi	National Food Agency	M
29	Shorena Chapurishvili	NNLE Kakheti	F
30	Lazare Chikovani	Ministry of Internal Affairs	M
31	Jemal Kolashvili	EMS	M
32	Tamar Aladashvili	Environmental information and education Center (EIEC)	F
33	Tamar Shervashidze	Environmental information and education Center (EIEC)	F
34	David Verulidze	Kobuleti Mayor Office	M
35	Temur Mtivlishvili	NEA	M
36	Irakli Jeiranashvili	NEA, Department of International Relations	M
37	Ioseb Kinkladze	NEA, Hydrometeorological Department	M
38	Irakli Megrelidze	NEA, Hydrometeorological Department	M
39	Giorgi Gaprindashvili	NEA, Geology Department	M
40	Nino Barkaia	EMS, Head of International Relations Department	F

ANNEX 8: LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Energy Community. *Report on gap analysis of the current legislation in Georgia and development of a roadmap outlining EU4Climate support to Georgia in alignment with EU acquis included in Bilateral Agreements on Climate Action and/or Energy Community Treaty (Lot 1). Part I: Review of relevant climate acquis (EU and Energy Community) applicable to Georgia.* December 2019.
- Financial and Administration guidelines used by Project Team Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures. <https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPRoot.aspx>
- Funded Activity Agreement (FAA)
- GCF 2020 December. Overall Risk Register
- GCF 2021 December. Overall Risk Register
- GCF 2021 June. Overall Risk Register
- GCF Evaluation Policy
- Gender Action Plan (GAP)
- Green Climate Fund. *Funding Proposal: Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia.* June 2017.
- <https://apnews.com/hub/climate>
- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114462>
- <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/western-asia/georgia>
- <https://www.ge.undp.org/content/georgia/en/home/about-us/legal-framework.html>
- <https://www.ge.undp.org/content/georgia/en/home/projects/gcf.html>
- Independent Evaluation Office. United Nations Development Programme *UNDP Evaluation Guidelines. Revised Edition June 2021*
- Micro assessment report, financial spot-check reports and audit report of RPs according to HACT framework
- Minutes of the Project Steering Committee Meetings and other meetings (i.e. Project Appraisal Committee meetings)
- Progress reports (Annual Performance Reports (APRs), Annual and semi-annual progress reports) and workplans. 2019 to 2022.
- Project Document
- Project Inception Report
- *Steering Committees Meeting Minutes:* Steering Committee Meeting of 19 February 2019; TWG Meeting 23 April 2019; Steering Committee Meeting of July 2020; GCF-SDC-SIDA Steering Committee Meeting February 2021; GCF-SDC-SIDA Steering Committee Meeting July 2021; Steering Committee Meeting of January 2022.
- Technical Advisory Working Group Documents (Meeting Minutes, Agendas, ToRs)
- UNDP – GEF. *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects.* 2014.
- UNDP CPD Georgia (2021 – 2025)
- UNDP Environmental and Social Screening – SESP

- UNDP GEF. *Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*. 2014.
- UNDP. Mid Term Evaluation. Project “Strengthening the Climate Adaptation Capacities in Georgia. 2021.
- UNDP. Evaluation Guidelines. *The Gender Results Effectiveness Scale (GRES): A Methodology Guidance Note*.
- UNDP. Independent Evaluation Office, 2015. *How to Manage Gender Responsive Evaluation*. UN Women.

ANNEX 9 SIGNED UNEG CODE OF CONDUCT FORM

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

IE Consultant Agreement Form

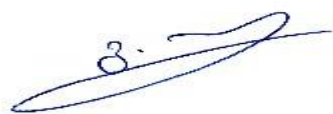
I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: Giorgi SHUBITIDZE

Signed at *Tbilisi, Georgia* on 15 May 2022

Signature:



Name of Consultant: Maria ONESTINI

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at *Buenos Aires, Argentina* on 15 May 2022

Signature:

