

Final Narrative Report:

Joint Programmes in the Seed Funding Tracks (Strengthening SDG Localization in Georgia - ID140715)



INTRODUCTION

The Joint Programme ‘Strengthening SDG Localization in Georgia’ is funded by the Joint SDG Fund and implemented by UNDP, FAO and UNICEF under the coordination of the UNRCO. Focusing on the Georgian municipalities, JP spans from 25 June 2024 to 25 Jun 2025 aiming to enhance local stakeholder capacities to advance inclusive, resilient and sustainable local development through accelerating progress towards the SDGs by providing support on strategic leadership for SDG monitoring and evidence-based policy making, food systems transformation, digital solutions for quality service delivery and child and family centered social programming.

In Georgia, the Joint Programme activities cover Poti and Khashuri municipalities and are shaped around three key objectives: (1) Improved knowledge of local stakeholders and their active engagement in SDG localization. (2) Advanced innovative public services and digital inclusion practices. (3) Strengthened local governance systems to ensure evidence-based policymaking, implementation and monitoring the SDGs.

The Joint Programme interventions are built on the strategic opportunity to unite efforts in the pursuit of SDG localization in Georgia and is expected to contribute to accelerating SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 12 as well as to UNSDCF Georgia’s “Outcome 1: By 2025, all people in Georgia enjoy improved good governance, more open, resilient and accountable institutions, rule of law, equal access to justice, human rights, and increased representation and participation of women in decision making (output 1.1”); “Outcome 2: By 2025, all people in Georgia have equitable and inclusive access to quality, resilient and gender-sensitive services delivered in accordance with international human rights standards (output 2.3.) and “Outcome 3: By 2025, all people without discrimination benefit from a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy in Georgia (output 3.2).

PROFILE

JOINT PROGRAMME (JP) PROFILE:

UN Country Team	Georgia
JP Title	Strengthening SDG Localization in Georgia
Funding Round	Integrated Policy and Capacity Building
Cross-fertilized SDG Transitions	Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection Food Systems Transformation
Contribution to Cooperation Framework Outcomes	UNSDCF Outcome 1, 2 and 3. https://georgia.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/GEORGIA-UNSDCF-%202021-2025_web_0.pdf .
Actual Start Date	25/06/2024
Duration	12 months
Actual End Date	25/06/2025

Total Approved Funding from the Joint SDG Fund	USD 249,954
Planned Financial Closure Date	25/06/2026
Fund Management Modality: Administrative Agent (Pass-through Only)	Mult-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) - Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, mari.matsumoto@undp.org - Sara Ansari, Finance Manager, sara.ansari@undp.org
JP TEAM:	
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JP's designated communications focal point	Tinatin Kandelaki, UNDP Communications Office tinatin.kandelaki@undp.org

OVERVIEW

1. Overall self-assessment of the JP achievements.

UNDP, FAO and UNICEF JP “Strengthening SDG Localization in Georgia” enabled a collective response to propel the three out of six SDG transitions (digital transformation, food systems, and decent jobs and universal social protection) through the 2 ‘engine room’ actions (shifts across policy and regulatory frameworks and capacity building at scale). The seed funding provided through the Joint Fund has served as a valuable catalyst for integrated local action in support of the 2030 Agenda. Through integrating the SDGs into core municipal functions, services and actions in Georgia, Voluntary Local Reviews have become JP’s flagship initiative to provide support to the Georgian cities and municipalities on assessing SDG progress.

The Joint Programme support focused on food systems transformation, including updating Municipal Waste Management Plans (2023-2027), strengthening SDG localization with an emphasis on embedding food loss and waste (FLW) prevention measures into local governance and integrating the principles of food waste management hierarchy (prevention, redistribution, animal feed, composting, disposal) into local policy planning as per the national Law on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, which placed new responsibilities on municipalities to advance food waste reduction.

JP has empowered over 111 adolescents (70% girls) in target municipalities, supporting leadership skills development and promoting youth-led initiatives demonstrating the true transformative potential of young people as local SDG advocates. JP supported introduction of an integrated, child-centered, and gender-responsive planning and budget analysis framework - enhanced by digital tools, and a comprehensive

methodology of municipal social services mapping based on lifecycle approach. In addition, capacity development workshops and round tables with regards to needs based, child focuses social planning and intermunicipal cooperation for increased availability of social services empowered 82 municipal employees increasing their knowledge and skills for effective delivery of inclusive and consistent social services.

The JP event on SDG Localization at the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, held in Tbilisi, once again highlighted how multilevel governance and cross agency collaboration can drive meaningful local implementation of the SDGs, bringing together national and local government representatives alongside civil and private sector representatives with a collective response of UNDP, UNICEF and FAO, under the leadership of the UN RC, to deliver as one, especially at the local level in Georgia.

Effective monitoring of JP's implementation was provided by the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) in close coordination with the UN RC Office. All activities envisaged within the programme were implemented successfully, monitored by PSC.

1.a. Rate the overall performance of the JP: Did the JP deliver its key results as planned in the ProDoc?

☐ **Unsatisfactory, Marginal Achievement:** Less than 50% of expected results delivered.

☐ **Satisfactory Achievement:** 50-75% of expected results delivered.

☒ **Very Good, Solid Achievement:** 100% of expected results delivered; implementation completed on schedule.

☐ **Exceptional, Outstanding Achievement:** 100% of expected results delivered ahead of schedule, with additional results or improvements delivered.

1.b. Incubation and validation of solutions/approaches/roadmaps: How much results did the JP reach in incubating innovative approaches/national roadmaps and/or piloting transformative solutions during the 12 months?

☐ **Limited Results:** None of planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilot solutions were rolled out.

☐ **Moderate Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilots began but remain at the early stages or within the limited scope at the time of the JP closure.

☐ **Good Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are fully operational and validated.

☒ **Excellent Results:** All planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are completed and validated ahead of schedule, showing promising potential or early sign of scale-up.

☐ **Not Applicable:** The JP did not plan to incubate ideas, roadmaps or conduct pilots during this phase.

1.c. Sustainability and scalability potential: To what extent did the JP achieve in establishing pathways for future viability and scale-up of the innovations/solutions beyond the 12-month implementation?

☐ **Marginal Achievement:** Concrete sustainability or scale-up plan was developed but not operationalized; only preliminary discussion with potential partners/funders took place.

☐ **Moderate Achievement:** Sustainability and scale-up strategies were rolled out; potential scale-up pathways identified; active engagement with potential partners/funders underway.

☒ **Solid Achievement:** Comprehensive sustainability and scale-up strategies achieved a broad uptake; viable pathways for expansion secured; engagement with potential partners/funders deepened and showing promising outcomes.

☐ **Exceptional Achievement:** Robust sustainability and scale-up plans were implemented ahead of schedule; multiple viable scale-up pathways activated; strong commitments from partners/funders obtained; additional opportunities for expansion identified beyond initial plans.

☐ **Not Applicable:** The JP has not yet reached the stage of planning for sustainability and scalability.

RESULTS OF THE JP

A. Results-Based Narrative

2. Overall results of the JP (600 words / 1.5 pages max)

Output 1. Improved knowledge of local stakeholders on SDGs and their active engagement in SDG localization.



- The Joint Programme ‘Strengthening SDG Localization in Georgia’, implemented by UNDP, FAO, and UNICEF with UNRCO coordination, funded by the Joint SDG Fund, provided support to target municipalities by enhancing local capacities for inclusive, resilient development through strategic leadership, digital solutions, and social programming. The Joint Programme developed action-oriented VLRs through an effective multi-stakeholder, participatory and evidence-based process; as a result of close cooperation with SDG Council Secretariat under the Government of Georgia, the JP successfully promoted VLRs as powerful tools for innovation and local ownership of the SDGs in other municipalities across the country¹.

¹ VLR also to be available in English after translation is completed scheduled in November 2025.

- The JP event on SDG Localization at the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, held in Tbilisi on 5-6 June 2025 brought together national and local government representatives alongside civil and private sector representatives.
- Activities raised awareness of the agenda, clarified stakeholder roles and developed capacity for implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. Efforts focused on data collection, analysis and reporting to guide decisions, while promoting citizen engagement and diverse data sources to ensure inclusivity.

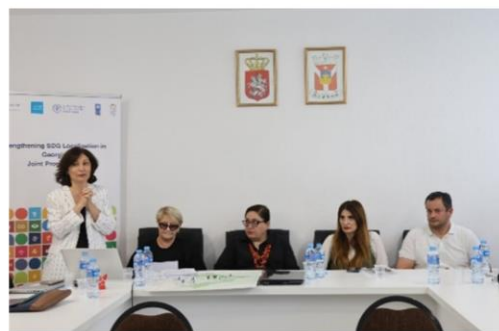


- The JP supported VLR Stakeholder Consultation Forums in target municipalities bringing together governments, civil society and the private sector to shape local sustainable development solutions. Priorities included poverty reduction, green growth, sustainable transport, public spaces, food systems, waste reduction, circular economy and child-centred services.





- The JP supported Food System Dialogues to advance SDG implementation and foster multi-stakeholder cooperation, encouraging municipalities to align food system transformation with their sustainable development priorities. Key actions included: a high-level workshop on food waste and safety that informed Georgia's national strategy; public events for the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste; and an Agro Expo panel on food losses, surplus food and food banks with contributions from FAO, NGOs and industry representatives.
- In Khashuri and Poti, the JP raised awareness on food systems and sustainable waste management through inclusive workshops and dialogues. Municipal officers were introduced to Georgia's new Law on 'Food Loss, Food Waste Reduction and Food Donation'. The 'Food Waste Hierarchy' was presented for integration into local waste management plans. Activities also highlighted strong youth participation and women's roles in advancing food systems actions.



- Knowledge Building for Youth and Municipal Staff: The JP supported training programmes on SDG localization to strengthen youth and municipal social workforce engagement in processes that impact local well-being. Following ToT sessions, JP organized youth-led trainings in Khashuri and Poti, using interactive methods (group work, Problem Tree analysis) to ensure meaningful participation. Youth developed local proposals, including advocacy for municipal library modernization in Khashuri and awareness campaigns on environmental protection in Poti.
- Multi-Stakeholder Workshops in Khashuri and Poti brought together municipal staff, young people and CSOs to discuss SDG localization, youth engagement, and municipal social services. Sessions covered local government roles,

social service mapping with a life-cycle approach, and child-centered budget analysis, resulting in joint reflections and agreed next steps.

Output 2. Inclusive local governance systems have greater resilience and capacities to ensure evidence-based and participatory policymaking, adopt, implement, and monitor SDGs, and deliver quality services to all.

- SDG localization has been identified as one of the main pillars in the road map towards implementing the SDGs by the Government of Georgia, which affirms the commitment to support regular monitoring at the local level. Remarkable progress has been made in establishing effective SDG localization processes through SDG mainstreaming into local planning documents. With JP support, Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews highlighted the crucial role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, investing in municipal capacity development, institutional efficiency, and partnerships across various sectors and governance levels proved to be crucial for localizing the SDGs.



- In Khashuri and Poti, the JP supported updates to Municipal Waste Management Plans, introducing the five-level food waste hierarchy in line with Georgia's new Law and mainstreaming gender to ensure equity and inclusion. Khashuri's plan was endorsed by City Council (Decree No. 55, 7 August 2025), while Poti's is set for approval by September 2025. In parallel, SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) were integrated into both municipalities' Voluntary Local Reviews through participatory consultations. To guide implementation, the JP developed practical tools including a rapid analysis of European initiatives, a systems approach guide and a diagnostic tool. These tools provided municipalities with evidence and resources to strengthen participatory governance and position food systems transformation as a lever for SDG progress.
- During the reporting period, multiple enhanced integrated policy solutions were introduced at the municipal level to support SDG acceleration in Georgia. While no national regulatory change has yet occurred, these initiatives lay the groundwork for scaling inclusive, SDG-aligned local governance models, subject to future funding and institutional uptake. These include:
 - JP introduced a needs-based, child-centered social programming methodology and piloted a digital data collection portal for evidence-based planning in Khashuri. Municipal staff were trained on the methodology, its practical

application, and personal data protection, and received the official guideline to support future use.

- A comprehensive mapping of education, health, and social support services was conducted jointly with municipal staff to identify existing services, gaps, and barriers. The finalized reports, supported by a practical data matrix, link municipal and state programs with child rights and SDGs to inform inclusive local planning.
- Inter-Municipal Collaboration: Dialogues were launched among neighboring municipalities to explore joint programming for vulnerable children and families, including shared procurement of school supplies and preventive health screenings. The partner organization will provide ongoing technical and advocacy support to help municipalities design and implement these programs in the next budget cycle.

Output 3: Advanced innovative public services and digital inclusion practices.

- JP supported the development and launch of the digital needs assessment portal (www.social.nala.ge), enabling municipalities to collect, analyze, and compare data on children's needs across regions. The platform, piloted in Khashuri, proved fully functional and is ready for wider use, with follow-up support planned for full-scale operationalization.
- Child-Centered Budget Analysis (CCBA) methodology developed and applied in Khashuri and Poti, to track direct and indirect spending on children across education, health, and social services. Results were presented in briefs and discussed with municipal staff, laying the groundwork for scaling CCBA to all municipalities.
- Trainings strengthened municipal staff capacity for needs-based social programming, with the focus on needs assessment, while youth-focused SDG trainings engaged a majority of female participants, empowering them as local change agents. Inclusive service mapping and budget analysis ensured that the needs of women and girls were systematically considered in local planning.
- As localization is essential for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda, UNDP has made efforts to foster engagement and strengthen capacities of the target local self-governments for the achievement of the SDGs in Georgia. Together with the national coordination mechanism that brings together the major governmental entities this process has gained a remarkable momentum in fostering a sense of even greater ownership of the SDGs at sub-national level. Voluntary Local Reviews has become another flagship initiative of the Joint Programme to provide capacity development support to the Georgian cities and municipalities on accelerating progress towards the SDGs.
- The JP provided support in Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews VLR-design process in Khashuri and Poti. The JP support was centered on identifying solutions for accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda with a focus on scaling-up the capacity of local partners for sustainable development and promoting the potential of SDG delivery in the target municipalities. This involved showcasing the advantages of Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews as a creator of demand for strategic innovation and strengthening capacities of stakeholders, thereby ensuring a more robust buy-

in of the government counterparts for further advancements towards the 2030 Agenda as well as for opting partnerships with local private and civil sectors.



- The Final Event of the Joint Programme took place on 25 June 2025. UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia Didier Trebucq, UNDP Resident Representative Douglas Webb, and UNICEF and FAO representatives visited Khashuri to see how global goals transform into real, local impact. Two Georgian municipalities – Khashuri and Poti – launched their Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews. [UN Georgia](#) has been supporting this vital work as part of the UN Joint Programme for SDG Localisation in Georgia, led by [UNDP Georgia](#), in partnership with [UNICEF Georgia](#), and [FAO Georgia](#).



- The VLR design process was implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat and FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, providing coordination and technical leadership on food systems and SDGs. An online Regional Technical Workshop gathered over 50 participants from Georgian municipalities, Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Serbia and Tajikistan to exchange experiences on VLR development and SDG implementation. A study tour to Mafra, Portugal enabled delegations from all four countries to share lessons on VLRs and sustainable food systems. Technical sessions included a focus on SDG budgeting and monitoring. Participants also learnt about municipal initiatives on biodiversity, water reuse and waste management. The delegation also joined the 2nd SDG Workshop for Lusophone Countries, gaining insights from a broader network of municipalities advancing SDGs at the local level.

3. Constraints, adjustments and lessons (500 words / 1 page max)

1. **Deliver on a larger scale to implement more projects that advance the SDGs** at the local level. SDG implementation at the local level is a convergence point between the challenges and opportunities, national and local governments, businesses and community-based organizations; It is important to address the existing funding gap.
2. **SDG related data constraints at the sub-national level** needs to gain greater attention. Activities envisaged by the Joint programme involves pioneering and showcasing the advantages of Action-Oriented VLRs as a creator of demand for strategic innovation and a powerful tool for strengthening the municipal as well as the national delivery capacities to guide evidence-based planning, financing, and future initiatives at the local level.
3. **Civil unrest** has caused logistical challenges, particularly in communication and organizing activities including visibility of the Joint programme. The JP team has adapted by using virtual platforms for engagement and adjusting work schedules. Monitoring the situation and updating the workplan is essential.
4. **Low participation of women** in municipal leadership roles highlights gender inequities. The JP has been focusing on gender-responsive workshops and collaborating with Gender Specialists to increase women's leadership in food systems governance and other areas.

4. Scale up and pathways for transformative systems change (Select all that apply)

Please select all relevant pathways that the JP applied with the aim of scaling up systematic transformation:

- ☒ **Capacity-building & local ownership:** Strengthening capacity of individuals, local institutions and communities to independently implement and sustain activities; or transferring ownership and management to local organizations for sustained impact.
- ☒ **Cross-sectoral collaboration & partnerships:** Partnering with diverse stakeholder groups to address interconnected issues and amplify impact; engaging with private and public sector to replicate successful programme components; or institutionalize participatory governance mechanisms to ensure inclusivity and intensify effectiveness.
- ☒ **Policy integration & mainstreaming:** Incorporating successful programme elements into national or local policies and regulations to ensure wider adoption and impact; or integrating programme components into existing systems and structures for wider reach, efficiency and sustainability.

☐ **Resource mobilization & financial sustainability:** Developing innovative financing mechanisms and attracting new donors/investors to ensure financial sustainability and expansion; or influencing existing financing mechanisms or diversifying resource streams to support long-term programme viability and growth.

☒ **People-centred technology adoption & innovation:** Leveraging technology and solutions to increase reach, efficiency, impact of activities; or using technology and innovation to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and scale-up of impact.

☐ **Others.** Please specify: _____

5. Measures taken with a focus on sustainability (500 words / 1 page max)

- To enhance the delivery of quality services in all municipalities of Georgia and mitigate the gap created by the uneven presence of service providers in municipalities actions agreed on a joint procurement of school supplies and development of preventive health check-up programmes for children within the next budget cycle. The partner organization, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) has committed to support municipalities further in service design, coordination, and overcoming legal/administrative barriers beyond the JP's lifespan.
- Digital Needs Assessment Portal (www.social.nala.ge): The platform for child-centered needs assessment, with three user types (administrator, municipality, interviewers), was launched on the basis of our implementing partner National Association of local authorities of Georgia and is fully operational. Accessible via desktop and mobile, it enables data collection, analysis, and comparison across regions. Project staff and 30 municipal representatives were trained on its use. In pilot mode, the portal was successfully tested, minor technical issues resolved, and 10 household questionnaires completed. NALAG continues to promote the tool and will support its wider use throughout the year.
- Both municipalities have started planning awareness-raising initiatives to reduce food waste addressing the first tier of the waste management hierarchy. Khashuri is also preparing to map food flows and coordinate surplus food redistribution. Municipal staff involved in these processes have built capacity to design and implement food waste reduction measures. The updated plans from Poti and Khashuri will be shared with Tskaltubo, which recently established Georgia's first Food Bank. This creates an opportunity to integrate food waste prevention and donation measures and continue building on the progress made under the JP.
- The progress has been made in establishing effective SDG localization processes through SDG mainstreaming into local planning documents. SDG localization has been identified as one of the main pillars in the road map towards implementing the SDGs by the Government of Georgia, which affirms the commitment of the Government to support regular monitoring of SDG

achievements at the local level. With JP support, Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews highlighted the crucial role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, investing in municipal capacity development, institutional efficiency, and partnerships across various sectors and governance levels proved to be crucial for localizing the SDGs. To secure sustainability of JP results, Inter-agency Municipal SDG Councils will continue to monitor SDG achievements at the local level.

- The project support centered on identifying solutions for accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda with a focus on scaling-up the capacity of local partners for sustainable development and promoting the potential of SDG delivery. The project activities involved showcasing the advantages of Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) as a creator of demand for strategic innovation and strengthening capacities of stakeholders, thereby ensuring a more robust buy-in of the government counterparts for further advancements towards the 2030 Agenda as well as for opting partnerships with local private and civil sectors.

B. Indicator-Based Performance Update

This section is based upon the JP results framework and workplan.

6. The JP results framework (Upload Excel)

Please assess the JP performance against the indicators identified in the ProDoc's Annex 1: Integrated results framework, namely 1) JP outputs and 2) JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators.

7. Key documents produced by the JP (Upload max. 10 files if available)

Please feel free to share up to 10 key documents, including, but not limited to, policy briefs, strategy papers, guidance notes, knowledge products and training materials that the JP would like to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level. File types can be Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, image, video and audio, but each file size must be below 1GB.

ATTACHED>

8. Number of people directly benefited by the JP

Direct beneficiaries are individuals, groups or organizations who actively participate in JP activities and directly benefit from its interventions, such as civil servants attending workshops, small business owners receiving training, or households accessing services provided by the JP. It is important to disaggregate the primary beneficiaries by sex and age as per table below when possible.

Type of engagement	Total Number of People	Number of Women and Girls*	Number of Children (ages of 0-14) *	Number of Youth (ages 15 –24) *
Training/workshops for targeted groups	81 (UNDP)	32	0	0
	111 (UNICEF)	79	0	100
Awareness raising campaign for broad audience	78 (UNICEF)	78	0	0
	129 (FAO)	61	43	9
Dialogues/consultations with relevant stakeholders	73 (UNDP)	30	0	12
	84 (FAO)	57	0	15
	82 (UNICEF)	49	0	0
Coordination meetings with key partners	7 FAO Regional Coordination meetings with participation of FAO, UNDP, UNICEF and UN Habitat			
Total:	638	386	43	135
Access to expanded services	Overall population of around 63,000.	24.300	12.500	
Others (Please specify): _____				

** Note that it is allowed to have overlaps in the reporting of women/girls and children/youth columns.*

9. Contributions to marginalized and vulnerable groups (250 words / 0.5 page max)

In bullet points, please provide a summary of how the JP benefited the marginalized and vulnerable groups identified in the ProDoc. Include results achieved at both institutional/policy and local/human levels. Please find the 20 standard LNOB groups in footnote 28 on page 17 of the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework's [Implementation Guide](#).

JP supported the target municipalities to strengthen their policies, programmes and services to ensure the well-being of different socially vulnerable groups. Improved services for vulnerable groups especially children, women and youth - and the promotion of sustainable food systems transformation, remained as one of the main focuses of the Joint Programme.

- By building the knowledge of young people, especially from the remote villages across the Administrative Boarder lines and municipal social workforce on SDG localization, the project has fostered youth participation in local decision-making and encouraged initiatives addressing community needs, such as library modernization and environmental protection.
- At the same time, targeted capacity-building for municipal staff through needs assessment trainings, the development of a digital portal, child-centered budget analysis and child-centered social services mapping has equipped local governments with tools to identify gaps in education, health, and social services

and to plan more inclusive, evidence-based programs ensuring that the specific needs of children across different life stages are better reflected in data driven local social services and programmes planning and public finance decisions.

- Inter-municipal dialogues have further strengthened the potential to address inequalities, as municipalities jointly explore cost-effective solutions—such as pooled procurement of school supplies and preventive medical screenings—that expand access for children from vulnerable families.

Together, these interventions establish the foundations for inclusive, SDG-aligned governance models that address barriers to social service access and expand opportunities for marginalized children and families at both municipal and inter-municipal levels.

10. Financial resources mobilized/leveraged

Please indicate the financial resources (in USD) mobilized or leveraged through the JP. Please clarify the source of funding/financing and the source type, such as PUNOs and Government contributions, public-private partnerships, private sector investments, and financial commitments from IFIs, DFIs and other donors.

Source of Funding/Financing	Type of Source (e.g. PUNO, PPP, DFI, donor, etc.)	Expected amount planned in the ProDoc	Actual amount mobilized as initially planned in the ProDoc	Additional amount newly mobilized beyond the ProDoc expectation
		\$	\$	\$

11. Cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB)

For each question, select the relevant response. If yes, please list 1-2 examples of actions taken/results delivered, and if no, please provide a brief 1-2 sentence explanation in the table.

Question	Yes	No	Comment
The JP has adequately implemented environmental and social standards/safeguards to avoid and address adverse impacts on people and the planet.	X		The JP is implemented with due consideration of environmental and social standards.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address human rights issues, undertaking and drawing upon relevant human rights analysis.	X		The JP addresses key issues and integrates rights-based approaches into its activities.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing women and girls.	X		JP work plan addresses structural inequalities affecting women and girls and is focusing on gender-sensitive programming and empowerment.

The JP has demonstrated positive results / effects for youth in accordance with the principles in Youth 2030.	X		The JP prioritizes inclusive participation, skills development, and access to opportunities for youth.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing marginalized and vulnerable persons in any other LNOB groups. Please specify which groups: _____	X		The JP addresses structural inequalities affecting marginalized and vulnerable groups, including PwDs, through tailored interventions.

C. Strategic Communications and Partnership Update

12. Strategic communications

Please provide the links to written articles published by the JP, or the draft outline of a written article to be finalized in the coming weeks. Examples of human-interest stories, practical guidance on storytelling, other useful tools to produce impactful written articles can be found in the Joint SDG Fund's [Communications Guideline for Seed Funding Tracks](#) on [UNSDG Knowledge Portal](#) (NB: PUNOs may need to request access first).

List of links to written articles of human-interest stories:

- [UNDP Georgia https://www.undp.org/georgia/projects/sdg-localization](https://www.undp.org/georgia/projects/sdg-localization)
- [VLR Launching events](#)
- [VLR Stakeholder Consultation Forums](#)
- [Peer-to-Peer learning, Mafra](#)
- [FAO Georgia: Leading Transformation of Sustainable Food Systems in Georgia through Joint Journey](#)
- **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste covered in the FAO newsletter that is regularly shared with the stakeholders.**

 FAO Georgia
 Newsletter 2nd sem
- [UNICEF Georgia: To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential that children and young people take a central place](#)
- Using SDG Localization to elevate municipal food systems

 FAO_Newsletter_20
 25_Issue1.pdf
- Khashuri Municipality – Presentation of VLR <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19iYnAkYsx/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ERKzHakRi/>
- Khashuri workshop for women entrepreneurs and farmers - <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CYuALg93j/>
- Awareness raising events and policy dialogue on food systems transformation in Khashuri: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Cc1hCUz6g/>
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/177V3Gt3Dp/>
 Awareness raising events with school children: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15G23wZ9Asc/>
[Peer-to-peer learning helps municipalities to localize the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Empowering local communities in Georgia through Food Systems transformation](#)

Draft outline of a written article of a human-interest story (500 words / 1 page max)

Youth Voice from Poti: Inspiring Change Through SDG Training, Mariam 16 years old from Poti Municipality.

Mariam Sajaya, a 10th-grade student from Public School №1 in Poti, describes how the youth-led SDG training became a turning point in her perspective on community engagement.

“The training on Sustainable Development Goals gave me the chance to see the importance of youth initiatives from a completely new perspective. It was not just about learning theory — it inspired and motivated me to become more active in public life and to share this knowledge with my peers. I now feel a responsibility to help my city and my friends understand why sustainable development matters for building a better future.”

Mariam’s story reflects the transformative impact of these trainings, showing how they motivate young people to take ownership of local challenges and become advocates for positive change in their communities.

Youth Perspective: Small Actions, Big Impact Mariam 15 Years Old from Khashuri

One of the young participants reflected on how the training changed their mindset about making a difference:

“Before this training, I thought making a difference as a young person was really hard. But now, I realize it can be much easier than we imagined — small changes in our daily behavior can have a big impact. And when we teach others about the SDGs, it becomes even more powerful. When young people teach young people, the learning sticks better, and the understanding runs deeper.”

This story highlights how the training not only built knowledge but also empowered participants to take action and inspire their peers, multiplying the impact of the initiative within their communities.

13. Strategic partnerships (Select all that apply)

What type of partnerships established during the JP made important contribution to the JP objectives?

- ☒ National Government Institutions (Please specify): **Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), SDG Council, Administration of the Government.**
- ☒ Sub-national Government Institutions (Please specify): **City Halls and Municipal Assemblies of Poti and Khashuri municipalities.**
- ☐ International Financial Institutions & Development Finance Institutions (Please specify): **X**
- ☐ Private Sector Companies or Industry Associations (Please specify): **Poti Free Industrial Zone (FIZ); LLC Poti Transport Company; Black Sea Group (Construction).**
- ☒ Civil Society Organizations, Philanthropic Organizations and Foundation (Please specify): **The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus)**
- ☒ Academic/Research Institutions (Please specify): **VET Colleges in Khashuri and University branches in Poti, Maritime Academy.**
- ☐ Bilateral Development Partners (Please specify): **X**
- ☐ Labour Unions or Organizations (Please specify): **X**
- ☒ Others (Please specify): **Public schools in Poti and Khashuri.**

ANNEX: SDG Localization Marker Survey

ONLY for the JPs with SDG Localization's Marker 3 to respond.

- 1) Please report on the SDG Localization monitoring indicators below. If an indicator is not applicable to your joint programme kindly state NA and briefly justify in the “Means of Verification” column.

Indicator	Baseline (2024)	Target (2025)	Evidence or means of verification
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders actively engaged in the programme design.	2 (Ministry of Regional Development representing the government authority for coordination local governments and decision-making processes that contribute towards SDG localization agenda, and Administration of the Government of Georgia/SDG Council Secretariat).	5 (Line ministry representing the government authority for coordination local governments and decision-making processes that contribute towards SDG localization agenda, and Administration of the Government of Georgia/SDG Council Secretariat; National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG); Local government representatives of the JP target municipalities: Poti and Khashuri).	Focus Group Meeting record and report on the involvement in the JP design process.
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities within the programme.	2 (Government Administration, NALAG)	5 (Targeted local authorities (2), NALAG, National SDG Council Secretariat, MRDI)	JP deliverables, Steering Committee Meetings.
Number and type of persons or representative organizations involved in activities developed with the primary aim of enhancing local populations' ownership and inclusion in sustainable development processes at the subnational level, led by local development stakeholders.	0	638 (59% women, 27% youth)	Attendance records.
Number and type of specific events, publications, or training materials aimed primarily at building capacity for local sustainable development/SDG localization in local development stakeholders.	0	23 (VLR task-force meetings, capacity workshops and trainings)	Attendance records, social media posts and training materials.
Number and type/description of specific coherent policies, regulations, and/or tools developed to enhance SDG localization	0	10 (1. diagnostic tool for food systems)	Annexes.

(Disaggregated on policies, regulations, or tools focused on cross-sectoral or cross-level policy coherence).		assessment; 2. concept of a multi-stakeholder cooperation framework to enhance social service planning for vulnerable children and families; stakeholder mapping and stakeholder engagement plans for VLR development; 4. A needs-based, child-centered social programming methodology included gender-sensitive assessment tools that capture the specific needs and satisfaction levels of women and girls through disaggregated data; 5. VLR Poti; 6. VLR Khashuri; 7. Decree on SDG Local Council of Poti; 8. Decree on SDG Local Council of Khashuri; 9. Updated Waste Management Plans; 10. digital needs assessment portal (www.social.nala.ge).	
Number and type/description of mechanisms or activities developed to improve the transparent and accountable financing of SDG localization.	0	1 (Municipal assessment on the status of SDG localization and alignment with local development plans and budgets)	Annex.
Number and type of relevant initiatives/processes that the projects contribute to reach large scale, transformative impact.	0	3 (1. launch of the digital needs assessment portal (www.social.nala.ge); inter-municipal cooperation for increased availability of social services; 2. Municipal	Annexes.

		Waste Management Plans (2023-2027), strengthening SDG localization with an emphasis on embedding food loss and waste (FLW) prevention measures; 3. Institutionalization of SDG implementation monitoring and reporting at the local level, increased capability in data-driven, evidence-based local planning).	
Percentage of programmatic expenditures allocated explicitly to activities that directly impact local sustainable development processes and systems (e.g. food systems value chains, local health or education systems, energy and water management, local economic development, local climate action, multilevel governance) embedded in local SDG-related priorities which are expressed in local strategies.	N/A%	77.5%	Local budgets (allocation is highly project-specific).
Number and type of local financial tools/instruments developed or strengthened to support SDG implementation at local level.	0	2	Local budgets. Programme budget methodology (capacity to integrate SDGs in budget classifications strengthened).
Total amount (in USD) of additional public and private sector resources mobilized for local SDG implementation at the local level.	N/A\$	\$	Local budgets.
Percentage of results contributing to SDG localization that have met their preplanned target/milestones.	0%	100%	
Number of local and regional governments and/or local service providers integrating aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development into their monitoring and reporting processes.	0 (Local authority)	2 (Local authorities)	Local Councils for SDG implementation and monitoring.

2) What action areas has your JP prioritized since launch to advance the SDGs at the local level? (Select all that apply)

- ☒ Empowering local authorities and communities (e.g. capacity building, leadership development, technical support)
- ☒ Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. participatory planning processes, community consultations)
- ☒ Strengthening multi-level governance (e.g. vertical coordination, central-local policy alignment)

- ☐ Localizing SDG financing (e.g. municipal finance mechanisms, local resource mobilization, local SDG budgeting)
- ☒ Enhancing local data systems (e.g. disaggregated data collection, community-based monitoring)
- ☒ Expanding social service access (e.g. last-mile delivery, integrated service provision)
- ☐ Others (please specify): _____

3) To what extent has funding from the joint programme budget be directly channelled or mobilized to local-level actors (e.g. local governments, local community organizations, local service providers) to support SDG Localization efforts in the reporting period?

- ☐ 0% i.e. no resource has been directed to local-level actors.
- ☐ 1-24% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- ☐ 25-49% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- ☒ 50-74% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- ☐ 75-100% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.

4) Please describe how the territorial or localization approach is applied in your joint programme. Include the following key aspects into your response.

- Alignment between joint programme and local development plans and integration of results in local processes, frameworks and SDG monitoring system.
- Role of subnational-level (local and regional) governments and other key local institutions/stakeholders in the implementation of the joint programme.
- Description on how capacities and innovation of local stakeholders for integrating SDG and multi-actor collaboration are identified and reinforced.

(250 words / 0.5 page max)

- Together with the national coordination mechanism that brings together the major governmental entities this process has gained considerable momentum in fostering a sense of even greater ownership of the SDGs at sub-national level.
- The JP ensured the inclusion of relevant national and local authorities; regional/local academia and/or research institutions, as well as private sector and local civil society offering insights to data, research and community engagement including youth. Their connections to local communities and interest groups supported the VLR process through public involvement, which is important especially, for planning purposes of Stakeholder Consultation Forums as part of the VLR, social programming and food systems transformation.
- Municipal-level assessments identified the absence of food waste policies and provided evidence-based recommendations to guide awareness-raising, planning and future policy development at the subnational level.
- Existing municipal waste management frameworks were reviewed to identify opportunities for integrating food waste issues into updated plans.

- Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions were conducted and multi-stakeholder workshops, empowering local youth, municipal staff, and CSOs with the skills to localize SDGs, align policies with local contexts, and address barriers to youth participation in decision-making processes.
- A multi-stakeholder cooperation framework was created to facilitate collaboration among municipalities, CSOs, and youth representatives to enhance social service planning, ensuring alignment with local needs and priorities while promoting inclusive governance practices.
- Child-friendly budget analysis methodologies developed enabling municipalities to assess spending on children and identify areas for resource allocation, ensuring sustainable financing for programmes benefiting vulnerable children and families.
- Remarkable progress has been made in establishing effective SDG localization processes through SDG mainstreaming into local planning documents in Georgia. SDG localization has been identified as one of the main pillars in the road map towards implementing the SDGs by the Government of Georgia, which affirms the commitment of the Government to support regular monitoring of SDG achievements at the local level. **With JP support**, Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews highlighted the crucial role of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To secure sustainability of JP results, Local Inter-agency SDG Councils will continue to monitor SDG achievements at the local level.

– END –