



PROJECT SUMMARY
**Support to the State Department for Statistics of Georgia in
Conducting of Integrated Household Survey**

Total budget: US\$ 466,253

UNDP Sector: Poverty Reduction

Partner Organizations: State Department for Statistics of Georgia

Donor: Government of Netherlands, Government of Georgia.

Background:

Integrated Household Survey (IHS), which combines Household Budget Survey, Labour Force Survey and Health & Education component, is a nationwide quarterly survey providing main source of data for weights of consumer price index, domestic consumption in the national accounts, measuring the likely impacts of tax and benefit policies; for labour market analysis; GDP estimation, as well as assessing range of shadow economy. IHS is the only available instrument for conducting poverty monitoring of the country, for tracking progress in implementation of poverty reduction policies and namely Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Program (EDPRP) - country's strategy of economic and social development in the short, medium and long term adopted by the Government of Georgia in 2003. The survey covers whole territory of Georgia (city of Tbilisi and 9 regions) excluding autonomous republic of Abkhazia and former South Ossetia and also IDPs living in the centers of collective residence. The sample comprises 3,351 private (i.e. excluding institutions) households.

Financial shortfall threatened to suspend the survey from 2004, while even half a year interval in the survey would result in the dismantling of a 7-year old survey database, the dissolution of a well developed network of interviewers, teams of data processing specialists and analysts and would make it much more expensive to build the human capacity from scratch. The discontinuation would have serious policy implications by creating a gap in socio-economic data, which at the moment cannot be replaced by any other existing survey.

Objective:

State Department of Statistics has the technical and human resource capacity to carry out Integrated Household Survey, but lacks necessary financial inputs to fully conduct it in 2004-2005. The objective of the project is to support the State Department for Statistics in implementing the IHS by providing financial support for continuation of the IHS and timely dissemination of its results. The SDS website (www.statistics.ge) will be updated with the final data 8 weeks after completion of each quarterly round.

Sustainability:

The Government has acknowledged the importance of the IHS for economic and social policy planning/monitoring, which is demonstrated by the fact that the Government of Georgia committed itself to provide 50% of funding (estimated at \$113,460) in 2004, 75% in 2005 and take 100% responsibility from 2006 onwards. The financial gap in 2004 and 2005 will be covered by the Government of the Netherlands.

Target Beneficiaries The direct users of the data generated by IHS are central government, other public and commercial organizations, donor community and researchers in universities and independent institutions.