



United Nations Development Programme  
UNDP Georgia

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Development Programme

#### Budget Summary

**Total Budget** USD \$855,000

**Funds Spent to date:** USD 3,605.07

**Available Funds:** USD 851,394.93

**Execution Modality:** NEX

#### Brief Description

The overall goal of the Programme is to improve the socio-economic conditions of population in Samtskhe-Javakheti, create the basis for the accelerated economic development through active participation of private sector, and fully integrate the Regional Development Programme (RDP) in broader National Development Agenda. UNDP programme will also address the issues of the Gender inequalities in the Region, particularly by empowering women and creating the social environment where women have equal opportunities to participate in social life. To better utilize resources from both Central Government and Donor Community, programme will support the capacity building on the Regional and Local Government level, through introduction and implementation of the coordination mechanisms in order to avoid duplication and overlapping. To face the challenges created by the Regions isolation UNDP will strongly support the creation and development of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in the Region. Additionally, the ICTs will serve as a strong tool to facilitate public participation in the decision making process and to improve the coordination mechanism on the local and regional level. Finally, UNDP will provide Regional Government and Donor community with the flexible mechanism to address the social economic problems of the region by supporting the formulation and the implementation of the RDP.

**Project Objectives:** The Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Development Programme aims to contribute to achieving the overall goal of improving socio-economic conditions in the region, reducing the isolation of the region and creating the basis for the accelerated economic development in the Region. Towards this goal the programme will achieve the following objectives:

**Objective 1:** The capacity of Government offices (at district, regional, and central levels) is built to coordinate foreign aid to provide coherent support to the development and implementation of the Regional Development Programme. The Government-led regional development and aid coordination process should become fully operational.

**Objective 2:** The basis for the private sector accelerated development is created. Private sector actively participates in the solution of the socio-economic problems of the region through the Creation of Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP). Different economic approaches including cross-border cooperation activities are the organic part of the Region Development Plan.

**Objective 3:** Small-scale rehabilitation activities are supported in the all districts of Samtskhe-Javakheti to improve the access of population to basic social services, safe drinking water and transport infrastructure.

**Objective 4:** Improvement of local governance by promoting development opportunities via ICT tools to decrease the isolation of S-J from the rest of the country. ICTs to be used as a strong tool for socio-economic development actively involving population in the decision making process.

**Objective 5:** Community Development targeted on the support to civil society institutions and addressing Gender Inequalities in the Region.

**Achievements to Date:** Programme based on the grass-root experience from the “Samtskhe-Javakheti Integrated Development Programme” implementation. Both offices of the Programme in Akhalkalaki and Axaltsikhe are fully operational and new Programme will extend the contracts with the existing staff.

**Challenges:** Programme aimed to assist Regional Government in the coordination of the external aid and to establish Regional Development Plan, which should organically feed into the broader National Development Agenda. Unfortunately on this stage of the discussion regional Authorities are trying to have the overall control on the programme implementation and decision making process. Regional Governor insists to include his deputy into the project staff at the position of the Deputy Project Manager. Two meetings with the Governor do not bring to any results on that topic. Next meeting will take place in the beginning of the December and this issue should be finally resolved.

**Next Steps (attach work plan):** By the end of the year programme should develop the solid basis for the implementation of the activities proposed by Programme and finalize all Agreements with Regional Government and other active in the Region donors.