Program Consortium: World Vision Germany, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and World Vision Georgia Foundation (WVGF)

Socio-Economic and Vulnerability Assessment (SEVA) of target regions in support of the roll out of Ultra-Poor Graduation in Georgia

Terms of Reference

2023

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# Acknowledgments

The present Terms of Reference with the aim to conduct one comprehensive Socio Economic and Vulnerability Assessment in defined regions and specific locations in Georgia in support of the roll out of Ultra-Poor Graduation roll in country have been developed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) program team in Georgia, with close cooperation with World Vision Georgia Foundation (WVGF).

The baseline evaluation ToR described herein consists of our own work, undertaken to secure funding, implement the activities, describe, and advance learning. Primary quantitative and qualitative data collected throughout the evaluation process remains the property of communities and families described in this document. Information and data must be used only with community members’ consent.

# Glossary

DRC Danish Refugee Council

IDP Internally Displaced Person

NEET Not in Education, Employment or Training

SEVA Socio-Economic and Vulnerability Assessment

GoG Government of Georgia

LEPL Legal Entity under Public Law

SIDA Swedish International Development Agency

SSA Social Service Agency

GBV Gender Based Violence

UPG Ultra-Poor Graduation

WVGF World Vision Georgia Foundation

KII Key Informant Interview

HH Household

# Introduction and Background

## Who we are

DRC (Danish Refugee Council), founded in Denmark in 1956, is Denmark’s largest and the world’s leading non-profit, independent, rights-based refugee organization. Organization’s vision is to assist refugees, internally displaced people, and their host communities to a dignified life. DRC protects lives and human rights and empowers beneficiaries throughout conflict displacement by providing shelter, food, and hope in terms of work, education, and integration towards a sustainable future. Since 1998, programmes in the South Caucasus are designed through a “protection lens”, ensuring that all activities integrate protection principles. As such, organization will continue to work on expanding its knowledge and ensure durable solutions are provided to IDPs, returnees and host communities, and as well as make IDPs, returnees, host communities and persons in a refugee-like situation aware of and actively claim their rights, through legal assistance and awareness raising.

World Vision Georgia Foundation is a relief, development, and advocacy organization that has been working with the most vulnerable children, their families, and communities since 2000. The primary objective of WVGF is to tackle the root causes of vulnerability and injustice and by doing so, help the most vulnerable to live life in fullness. Throughout its 25 years of operation in Georgia, World Vision has been working to strengthen the child welfare system and create a healthy and active society for children that is inclusive, tolerant, and provides equal opportunities for all. In its work towards the overarching mission of the organization, WVGF recognizes a holistic approach whereby the improvement of a child’s well-being is inextricably linked to the overall ability of the child’s family and the community to provide welfare for the child. With active grassroots engagement, WVGF builds local capacity and creates an active civil society in the regions of Georgia to achieve sustainability of its developmental efforts.

## Project Overview

In line with its strategic aspirations, from January 1st, 2023, DRC in Georgia together with the implementing partner WVGF and pin partnership with LEPL Social Service Agency, has launched the project “Supporting Poverty Alleviation in Georgia through Ultra Poor Graduation”, with the financial support of SIDA.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to reducing poverty and increase the resilience of ultra-poor households in 5 regions in Georgia, namely Kakheti, Imereti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Adjara and Samegrelo, and the incorporation of ultra-poor graduation principles and measures into national and subnational poverty reduction programs/schemes in support of the poverty reduction efforts of the GoG. The project will be implemented in locations with high IDP concentration, as well in urban and rural settings with non-IDPs across a range of vulnerable groups following a Human Rights Based approach. In this regard, the project will have two main directions - Direct Support to the most vulnerable and Capacity Building/Technical Assistance of duty-bearers - building up a knowledge Pool and integrating the approach already well-tested in other contexts into the Georgian social service system.

The project is implemented in urban and rural areas of the following regions:

* Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti region: Zugdidi, Senaki and Poti municipalities
* Imereti region: Kutaisi, Tskaltubo, Zestaponi and Khoni municipalities
* Kakheti region: Telavi and Kvareli municipalities
* Samtskhe-Javakheti region: Akhaltsikhe and Adigeni municipalities
* Adjara region: Batumi municipality

The project aims to tackle the challenges of the Government of Georgia in its poverty alleviation efforts by introducing a sustainable multifaceted, and holistic approach named Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) to propel people onto the path out of poverty, going beyond just financial aid, tackling not only their economy but also their social exclusion, building on participation and inclusion. Ultra-Poor Graduation is a leading evidence-based approach of DRC and World Vision work worldwide that contributes to organizational commitment to reduce child vulnerability among the poorest communities. By helping to transform households through inclusive and scalable interventions, Graduation empowers families with the most vulnerable ones to equitably shape their future and that of their children. The approach has a strong gender-transformative power due to its focus on gender-transformative interventions.

The Ultra-Poor Graduation approach has been refined through rigorous application and evaluation, leading to a set of standards, which promote consistency, effectiveness, and scalability, while allowing it to be adapted to different contexts. Four pillar approach, with accompanying minimum standards, strikes this balance by identifying flexible intervention areas, alongside essential standards to ensure quality and rigor within the programme. These four pillars are: social protection, livelihoods promotion, financial inclusion, and social empowerment. The UPG identifies individuals living in extreme poverty and provides them with basic resources, assets to kick start livelihood and/or income-generating activity, financial education, technical training, life-skills coaching, and social support in addition to facilitating their access to social services on multiple levels so that they can “graduate” from the program with sustainable sources of income, be food secure and integrated into community schemes as well as having the sustainable social protection net.

**The program will work under the two major outcomes:**

Outcome 1: Through the implementation of the UPG model, ultra-poor households have improved socio-economic inclusion, resilience and technical skills, knowledge, and capacities to access existing social and financial services and markets and to participate in community structures and networks.

Outcome 2: Governmental duty bearers (agencies) at national and municipal levels have strengthened capacities and structures to promote UPG in Georgia through the establishment of a UPG knowledge poor and adapted UPG model approaches for the Georgian context.

## Gender, Displacement and Poverty

Unequal gender dynamics translate into a disproportionately heavy burden on women and girls, who are likely to have fewer resources, lower access to healthcare and education, experience gender-based violence and are responsible for time-consuming and unpaid domestic tasks.

Women are additionally constrained by lack of widely available childcare services. The majority of young people who are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) are women. Wom­en’s participation in the agriculture sector also remains a challenge. Data shows that women are excluded from many aspects of rural and agricultural development due to their limited access to finances and other important re­sources that are essential for agricultural business. In turn, this lack of access excludes women from decision-making. In fami­ly farming practices, women are mainly involved in manual work; they do not have access to available technologies and machinery, which is considered men’s prerogative.[[1]](#footnote-1) The COVID-19 pandemic and related crisis further exacerbated this gap and put women in an even more unfavorable position in terms of participation in the labor market and the economy.[[2]](#footnote-2)

With regards to IDPs, a World Bank study shows that the unemployment rates are higher for IDP men, compared to women, especially for men in urban areas. The unemployment rates for these groups are 22% and upwards, with the highest unemployment rate at 33.6% among urban male IDPs. This is the highest unemployment rate of all subsets of the population. Many IDP women are self-employed, which is largely how subsistence farmers are classified. These women work in family farms or in family-owned businesses for little to no remuneration. Still, among those who are economically active, unemployment rates are higher for men than women. This is often explained with women’s willingness to take on lower-paid jobs or jobs below their qualification mainly in the service sector[[3]](#footnote-3).

## Assessment Purpose

The Socio-Economic and Vulnerability Assessment (SEVA) aims to better understand the characteristics and specific vulnerabilities that is in place tailored to program target regions. The assessment includes to evaluate the level of poverty, potential for self-reliance and integration into the local community, psychological well-being, and access to social assistance from a regional perspective with possible highlights of municipal trends solely in the targeted municipalities.

The main purpose of the socio-economic assessment is to help define and measure the multi-dimensional characteristics of poverty and extreme poverty in the region, as well as identify potential social and economic barriers to program participation and identify key actors along the value chain to graduation. Key topics can include but is not limited to include food security, social protection, financial and social inclusion of all groups, rights of refugees, relationship dynamics between host and IDP communities, relationship dynamics between different groups of refugees (religious, ethnic, national) and gender and disability dynamics and relationship with input dealers and off-takers (potential employers).

 This multi-step socioeconomic assessment process highlighting gender sensitive issues and, shall:

* Identify the key socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the extreme poor in target regions and specifically target municipalities, including any key differences within regions among IDPs and host communities.
* Include a Livelihood Zone Mapping in the targeted municipalities only to understand the most vulnerable geographical areas depending on the sources of income, employability, access to the market, etc.
* Understand the coping mechanisms for the "typical households", including the female headed households of each wealth class (main sources of income, opportunity / crisis response capacity, main items of expenditure, etc.) in the targeted municipalities.
* Identify barriers and areas of concern surrounding livelihood activities and wage employment relevant to communities living in extreme poverty in the targeted municipalities and regions.
* Identify opportunities to gauge where households in extreme poverty may access assets and markets to possibly diversify incomes.
* Identify potential risks related to climate and environment protection in relation to poverty and vulnerability in the targeted municipalities.
* Identify potential target groups for livelihoods programming, along with potential barriers and risks.

## Methodology

The data collection and analysis methodology to be applied will be proposed and further defined by the consultant (in the inception report) and revised at the outset of the consultancy with support from the programme team. It is envisioned that socioeconomic and value chain/market systems development analysis approaches will be relevant in this assessment, with a focus on **gender,** **climate resilience**, and **social inclusion**.

The methodological steps during the assessment shall include, but not be limited to:

* *Preparation phase*: On-boarding meetings with the programme team, writing an inception report elaboration stating secondary information sources, assessment objectives and key analytical questions, refining suggested market assessment methodology market (including both qualitative and quantitative methods) and tools for collecting and analyzing data, key stakeholders and final report format.
* *Desk review:* Conduct secondary desk research according to the assessment purpose and scope.
* *Data collection/field phase*: Data collection using secondary quantitative and qualitative methodologies including key informant interviews (KIIs) (3-5 per region) /focus group discussions (3 per municipality) (FGDs) with main private and public sector representative stakeholders who play a key role in these markets including relevant government stakeholders, NGOs etc.; direct market observation secondary desk research. DRC data protection policies, gender and other ethical considerations shall be adhered to.
* *Analysis and report writing* data analysis by target regions; report writing, including the key findings, main conclusions and recommendations per target regions.

## Deliverables

1. Inception report to be submitted before or during the field visit, work programme and timetable for the assessment, clearly outlining the proposed methodology and tools (to be approved by the programme team before starting data collection).
2. Assessment Report on findings answering the questions detailed in the relevant section of “Assessment Purpose”. The report needs to be comprised of Executive summary followed by separate 20 pager reports per target regions (5) focusing on the assessment findings towards socio-economic conditions and poverty context, highlighting the gender-sensitive specificities. Assessment findings with associated data should be structured around methods and evaluation questions.
3. Appendices (including ToR, Inception report, data collection tools, databases with the assessment data)
4. A presentation on the findings and recommendations of the assessment.

Report has to be developed and submitted in Georgian and English languages.

Estimated duration of the assessment: 2 months from: April 2023 To: June 2023 (subject to negotiation). Final report delivered by 1st of June 2023.

## Ethical considerations

The information received from all interviews should be analysed by using all the confidentiality standards. No names, addresses and contact details will be mentioned in the evaluation report.

All consultants and/or staff members of the selected company involved in the evaluation process will sign WV Child and Adult Safeguarding document, which includes safeguarding assurances and behaviour protocols. WV Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy will be provided by WVGF.

## Required Expertise and Qualifications

An international/local company or a university accredited in Georgia with the following expertise and qualifications:

* Substantial experience in carrying out quantitative research with recognized national and international organizations/institutions especially in similar thematic areas.
* Ability to analyse data using up to date statistical tools.
* Demonstrated ability to meet the deadlines.

## Application package to be submitted by applying organization

* CVs of key evaluation team members
* List of evaluations/surveys/assessments conducted within the last 3 years with the mentioned scope of the field stage.
* Recommendation letters (at least 2 letters) from previous donors/contractors
* Technical proposal with detailed timeline, involved human resources, and estimated budget (with a detailed breakdown of costs per unit)
* Budget should be presented without VAT.
1. UN Women 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UN Women 2021, Country Gender Equality Profile of Georgia [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. World Bank, Poverty and Social Impact Analysis, 2016 - <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/493981468030331770/pdf/IDP-PSIA-Georgia-revised-Feb-2016.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)