

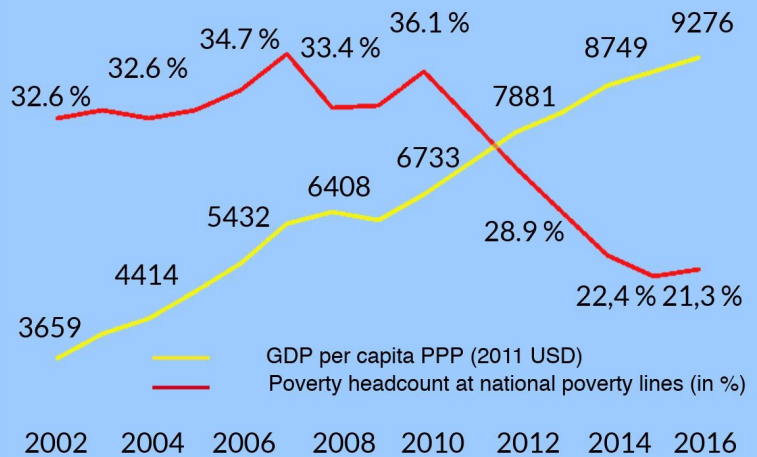
GEORGIA COUNTRY STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME EVALUATION 2004 - 2017



The designations employed in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

Population	+	3.68 million (2015)
Rural population	+	1.71 million
Human development index	+	0.668 (2014)
Life expectancy at birth	+	73.2 (2015)

Over the last two decades, Georgia has seen considerable economic growth and was able to reduce its national poverty headcount by about one third. Georgia has now become a middle income country.



Sources: United Nations Development Programme; World Bank.

IFAD operations

5

projects financed
by IFAD since
1991

1

ongoing project

123.4
million US\$

total project
portfolio cost

50.4
million US\$

total funds lent by
IFAD

Main intervention areas

Rural finance
and market
support



Access to
markets



Economic and
social
infrastructure



CSPE objectives and scope

- Evaluate the results and performance of the IFAD financed strategy and programme in Georgia.
- Produce recommendations for future partnerships between IFAD and Georgia to improve development effectiveness and to eliminate rural poverty.
- The evaluation time-frame is from 2004 - 2016 covering the 2004 and 2014 Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP).

Evaluation storyline

- This is the first CSPE since IFAD operations began in Georgia in 1997.
- Since then, IFAD adapted to various changing contexts and realigned its strategies with changing government priorities.
- IFAD has accommodated government requests by shortening project durations, focusing on infrastructure and adding grant resources to loans.

Highlights - infrastructure & MFIs

- Construction of a road enabling several villages direct access to a local market in Shuakhevi.
- These villages recorded an increase of production due to their increase of market access.
- Micro-finance institutions (MFI) increased smallholder income by 28 percent. MFI loans have increased in value with repayments close to 100 percent.



Main evaluation findings

Areas of strength

Transport



Transport infrastructure improved access to services and local markets for mountain and highland communities. Over 9,816 households now benefit from better transport.

Partnership building

Co-financing partnerships added value beyond their financial contribution and allowed IFAD to increase visibility without a country office.



Microfinance



The successful introduction of micro-finance and of innovative finance products (e.g. electronic remittances, mobile money) are highlights in the portfolio.

Institution-building

Significant improvements have been achieved with regard to strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework through the earlier lending operations.



Areas for improvement

Gender

The gender aspect performed below corporate average. Systemic issues were not recognised and most indicators and results have not been gender disaggregated.



Efficiency



Efficiency was low mainly due to low internal rates of return and disbursements surge at project ends.

Knowledge management

Important knowledge has been generated through the grants and loans, but there was no systematic approach to document and share those experiences.



Targeting



Lack of attention to targeting people at risk of poverty and exclusion in the rural sector, in particular women and youth.

Recommendations

ONE

Establish some form of country presence or cofinance operations led by other development partners

TWO

Establish a strategic focus on rural finance and rural institution building, in line with government priorities

THREE

Radically revise the approach to targeting, to adopt an explicit strategy for targeting those at risk of poverty and social exclusion within the rural population