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Sida Decentralised Evaluation

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Review of the Swedish Development Cooperation within the Breakaway Region of Abkhazia, Georgia, 2011-2013

Final Report

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May 2013**

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with Jessica Rothman and Ian Christoplos**

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The views and interpretations expressed in this report are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACF	Action Contre La Faim/Accion Contra el Hambre
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
KtK	Kvinna till Kvinna
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MRA	Ministry for Refugees and Accommodation
MSEK	Million Swedish Krona
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SCC	Social Community Centre
SEK	Swedish Krona
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WV	World Vision

Preface

This Review of the Swedish development cooperation within the breakaway region of Abkhazia was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi, Georgia, through Sida's framework agreement for reviews and evaluations with Indevelop AB. The purpose of the review is to provide an independent assessment of the results of the portfolio of projects currently supported by Sida, as well as recommendations on the directions of future support to Abkhazia.

Indevelop AB carried out the review between March and May 2013.

The independent review team included the following key members:

- Vera Devine, Team Leader, member of Indevelop's Core Team of professional evaluators
- Susanna Dellans, Evaluator

Indevelop's management team consisted of Ian Christoplos who provided quality assurance of the methodology and reports, and Jessica Rothman who coordinated and managed the process throughout.

This final report has incorporated feedback from the Embassy of Sweden in Georgia and Sida; the Danish Refugee Council (DRC); UNICEF, World Vision (WV); Accion Contra el Hambre (ACF-Spain); and Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK) on the draft report.

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a review of the Swedish development co-operation within the breakaway region of Abkhazia, Georgia. The review was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi in February 2013; the work was carried out by Indevelop AB in March and April 2013, and finalised in May 2013.

Through the review, the Embassy of Sweden seeks an independent assessment of the relevance of the portfolio overall, as well as for the beneficiaries targeted through the projects; of the results achieved through the projects and the likelihood of these results being sustainable if the current financing by Sweden is discontinued; of the efficiency and effectiveness of the interventions; and of the way in which gender has been addressed across the portfolio. The review was also requested to make recommendations for potential future directions of Swedish support in Abkhazia.

The portfolio under review comprises four ongoing projects, two of which build on previous projects (led by DRC and Kvinna till Kvinna, respectively). Thematically, projects cover a considerable range of areas, including support to livelihoods and food security; to children and youth, including disabled, through working with primary health care providers; and to women's associations.

The review methodology followed a standard combination of desk review and in-country work. Due to the specificity of the Abkhazia context there were more limitations than in similar exercises; most notable among those is the fact that the review team did not select stakeholders and project locations themselves, and the number of non-stakeholder interlocutors that could have helped triangulating findings was limited; while all projects were looked at by the review team, the very tight schedule meant that in-depth background information was not available before field work commenced, and not all aspects of the four projects could be looked at in detail.

The review identifies a number of results:

- Through the project “Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia”, UNICEF has enhanced the local capacities to provide mother and child health care (MCH) in 48 targeted communities. The most successful outcome of this work is the revival and modernisation of the immunisation system for all children (aged 0-17) in Abkhazia including the modernisation of the immunisation calendar, the set-up of an immunisation registry database; procurement of cold-chain supplies; training of medical professionals, and technical assistance to improve the immunisation system. As a side effect of its work on strengthening MCH, including immunisation, the project was able to conduct a census of the child population and thereby closing a significant gap.

- Through the setting up or rehabilitation of “*medpunkty*” (health clinics for low grade general health advice), village nurses are now operating in premises that meet basic medical standards and that have a minimum of technical equipment enabling them to provide low grade primary health care first aid, as well as the administration, in a suitable environment, of medication and vaccinations. Village nurses received, for the first time after the war (i.e. 20 years), professional training on core topics including reproductive, maternal and child health. Furthermore, the training provided to the village nurses enhanced linkages of the “*medpunkty*” and Social Community Centres (SCCs) with key Mother and Child Health care institutions in Abkhazia.
- While there are concerns with regards to the quality of work, physical repair of targeted school premises has contributed to important community services, and in particular pre-school child activities, now being offered in adequate environments.
- As a result of the same project, centers for children living with disabilities have been established in Ochamchire, Tkvarcheli, and Gali districts, providing, for the first time, an opportunity for children living with disabilities and their parents/carers to receive regular, structured, and professional attendance/care in an environment physically adapted to their needs. Children living with disabilities have been involved in youth events and thus, an initial contribution has been made to the acceptance of these children into society.
- Individuals have benefited from support (DRC and ACF)—through grants and vocational training—to setting up or strengthening their small or medium size enterprise. This has led to economic empowerment for the individuals and their families. In a number of cases, new employment has been created as the business was able to expand following the investment funded through the project.
- Through the ACF project, 220 vulnerable families (with an estimated 900 individuals) have, through the integrated home garden scheme, received the agricultural know-how to contribute to meeting their families’ demands for food; the quality of nutrition has demonstrably improved over the support period.
- Three Agricultural Training Centres (ATC) have been established and are providing structured training in sustainable agriculture. In five cases, this has led to employment of graduates in local plantations. At least one ATC is expected to be incorporated into the structure of a major local agricultural enterprise, for the two others, scenarios for the centres’ integration into local structures are currently being explored.
- Work with youth through community social events, trainings, and youth camps (UNICEF/WV and DRC) is conducted against the background of a complete lack of opportunities for young people to make meaningful use of their free time. In particular through the UNICEF/WV project, people-to-people contacts between youth from different ethnic communities have been facilitated. This work contributes, at the level of the individuals concerned, to their experiencing a more normal childhood and adolescence than would otherwise be the case.

The review team identifies a range of internal and external **risks** that threaten projects’ achievement of results. With regards to **internal risks**, for the UNICEF/World Vision project, the initial project design appears to have been overly ambitious to start with,

covering 48 Social Community Centres across Abkhazia with insufficient resources set aside to conduct consistent monitoring and quality control of activities. An initial lack of baseline data resulted in generous estimates of the size of the target group, with some adverse effects on implementation to meet these targets. For parts of the UNICEF project, as well as components of the DRC project, where training and work with young people is concerned, there are questions with regards to the theory of change that underpins these components in the specific context of Abkhazia. A certain lack of clarity of the rationale of the school gardens/school canteen scheme—an effort in partnership between UNICEF/WV and ACF—threatens its implementation. For the latter, ownership by the schools could prove a challenge at a more advanced stage of implementation.

With regards to **external risks**, these are a function of the political environment in which the projects operate, and where organisations have to be resourceful in how to circumnavigate the restrictions in order to continue implementation. Organisations have adopted different approaches to doing so; this challenge is exacerbated by the fact that Sweden (or any other donor) cannot bring their political weight to bear vis-à-vis the *de facto* authorities. Of the international organisations that are Swedish implementing partners, only UNICEF had, at the time of conducting the review, not received a letter from the authorities requesting them to limit their area of operations to Gali district. However, as UNICEF implements a considerable part of its project through World Vision, it, too, is affected. UNICEF/WV, DRC and ACF have had to adjust the remainder of their project activities to comply with the restrictions, and thus, face some challenges to complete the projects, or to monitor progress adequately. Overall, while the situation might change, a continuing threat to ongoing and future projects is the arbitrariness (or rather: randomness) of the *de facto* authorities' approach to international assistance.

The review team finds the projects to be **relevant for the individuals** targeted through the interventions, as well as for most of the partner organisations; this is, to a great extent, a function of the sheer scale of the needs the target groups face across all sectors of activities addressed by projects, and in the face of the *de facto* authorities' inability to address even the most basic needs or deliver core services; and the relative scarcity of donors, respectively.

Currently, projects mainly complement each other in those geographic locations where there is more than one project, with overlaps in activities in several instances observed by the review team. Co-ordination among implementing partners appears, by and large, to happen in those locations, with some room for improvement remaining, for example on the ACF-UNICEF/WV school canteen scheme.

In terms of **overall relevance**, to make an assessment is more challenging, as the objectives pursued in Abkhazia are, compared to other areas covered by the Swedish Co-operation Strategy, less clearly defined. The projects are relevant from the Strategy's pro-poor perspective, and at least potentially, from the cross-cutting priority on gender equality, as well as in part on the human rights priority and its sub-objective on the improvement of living conditions for Georgia's IDP population; the Strategy's emphasis on support to confidence and democracy-building measures in Abkhazia is, at least in

principle, reflected through various components of projects across the portfolio. However, in the current political context of Abkhazia (and the absence of any prospects for substantial change in the foreseeable future), to expect that the projects could bring about a change beyond the level of the individuals targeted seems unrealistic.

In terms of **efficiency**, the review team has a number of concerns. First, the ratio of resources invested into monitoring and selecting the marginally more vulnerable among a target community of very vulnerable people in the DRC project seems to compare unfavourably to the actual amount of assistance available for distribution. A further question is whether the expertise employed by DRC on some of the components matches the difficulty of the tasks at hand. In the UNICEF/World Vision project, there have been instances of poor workmanship in the school canteens, which (in addition to potentially representing a health hazard) clearly does not qualify as efficient use of resources; one could also argue that poor quality of renovation work of buildings does not help in a context where the presence of INGOs is threatened by the *de facto* authorities. With regards to the immunisation component of the UNICEF project, a relatively modest financial input appears to have contributed to a systemic change in the way in which immunisation is now approached in Abkhazia.

With regards to **sustainability** of actions for individuals and of partners, a diverse picture emerges. Sustainability seems high where projects have supported **small and medium size entrepreneurs** (ACF and DRC); this assessment is supported by the track record of similar interventions by implementing partners and the rate of success of these enterprises several years after completion. The primarily extraneous risks (such as significant changes in access to markets for material) these interventions face would seem to concern less the particular entrepreneur, but the entrepreneur's possibilities to expand the business in question. Skills transferred both through the business and agricultural trainings are also likely to be sustained and put to use by the beneficiaries.

Despite the varying quality of works carried out, the review team finds that prospects for sustainability are good where **physical rehabilitation** has taken place, and where the likelihood of the premises to fall into complete disarray seems comparatively low.

The prospects of sustainability of the work done to improve the quality of basic social services, including the **system of vaccination** put in place by one of the projects will need to be further supported by continuous work with, and by further increasing ownership by, the *de facto* health care and other social services providers to maintain this system.

However, there are also a number of concerns about the sustainability of some of the interventions across the portfolio of projects.

Of the 48 **Social Community Centres** (SCC) supported or established by the UNICEF/World Vision project, it is to be expected that not all will survive beyond the project. Factors likely to determine sustainability are the choice of facilitator/prime

person in charge of the SCC, and whether an SCC has, over the duration of the project, become a genuine centre for activities and has thus, maximised outreach to the community beyond the actual school in which it is located. With regards to the pre-school child care activities that are being provided on a regular basis in the SCC's, there appear to be some prospects for sustainability beyond Swedish funding in those locations with a greater percentage of working parents, and where they would be prepared to bear at least part of the costs for the service; the childcare services offered by the SCCs are, however, not a substitute for systematic childcare offered by an official education system. The **day care centers for children living with disabilities** would seem to be threatened should funding discontinue, with the vulnerabilities of the target group (children and their carers) comparatively greater than with the SCCs.

In terms of **training of young people on human rights** and a range of personal and leadership skills (specifically in the DRC project), these are likely to be important for the individuals that participate in the activities. However, the sustainability of these interventions beyond the individual level seems unlikely against the background of a political deadlock to which these individuals are effectively hostage, and the lack of developments/opportunities that would allow them to bring their individually raised capacity to bear. Sustainability is further threatened by the fact that only a very limited number of young people is actually exposed to encounters with representatives of other ethnic groups.

With regards to the **social events** that young people are participating in, particularly in the framework of the UNICEF/WV project, the review team finds that in the main, they are unlikely to continue without outside support, both because of a lack of human as well as material resources.

The team also has questions about the sustainability of the **school garden scheme**, which is a joint effort between ACF and UNICEF/World Vision, which might be affected by fickle ownership in the schools, and the lack of clarity of the rationale of the scheme on the side of UNICEF/World Vision.

The review team is concerned by two of the four projects' **lack of a gender** perspective, in particular as there has been, and still is, ample scope for incorporating gender into project activities.

KtK has started to work with its partners on **organisational changes** that should increase their sustainability should Swedish funding cease (a result of recommendations made by an independent evaluation of KtK's Georgia programme in 2012); however, this seems not be clearly communicated to the organisations.

The review team makes the following recommendations:

- a) **To implementing partners** with a view to improving ongoing project implementation:

- Address gender more consistently, as required by the donor, in three of the four projects. This should include gender training to all staff, as well as incorporating gender into project activities, in particular in the DRC and UNICEF/WV project, to be incorporated into training modules and structured project activities that involve young people. Consider enlisting the expertise/help of Sida partners in Abkhazia itself (e.g. World Without Violence which specialises in gender training).
 - For KtK, involve men in gender trainings in a more structured and strategic way. Most of the currently planned and conducted gender trainings in Abkhazia only target women. The evaluators acknowledge that Kvinna till Kvinna's unchangeable mandate is to support *women* during times of war and conflict to increase women's power and influence. However, in order to improve gender equality, men and women need to have the same understanding of the topic and have access to the same information. Hence involvement of men in gender trainings is essential.
 - For KtK, communicate clearer to partner organisations the implications from the 2012 independent evaluation of the Georgia programme, in particular with regards to the requirements on organisational development and sustainability.
 - For KtK, provide more direct support to the Abkhaz partner organisations in capacity development and thematical focusing. Some of the partner organisations seem to have spread the range of activities too widely and would benefit in efficiency and quality from narrowing and deepening their project objectives and activities.
 - For the UNICEF/World Vision project, ensure closer monitoring of project activities and thus, provide greater stewardship in terms of content of activities (including gender aspects), as well as ensuring acceptable quality of rehabilitation work carried out under the auspices of the project; adjust planning and numbers to reflect the actual size of the target population.
 - Explore how more SCC's could be made accessible to children living with disabilities.
 - For the school canteen scheme, the review team sees a need for ACF and UNICEF/WV to reassess their joint understanding of the scheme and the role of each side in it.
 - For DRC, be less strict in the selection of beneficiaries among the most vulnerable and, if possible, expand the number of grants at the expense of administrative costs for the selection procedure.
 - DRC should also consider expanding the actual people-to-people contacts between ethnic groups in their youth component, which seem at current very limited to a rather small number of selected young people and not frequent enough.
- b) With a view to continued Swedish funding beyond the duration of the current projects and the ongoing strategy:
- There is need for projects addressing all areas that are currently supported by Sweden. The forthcoming Swedish Strategy should more clearly ring-fence the expectations associated with this support, based on the experience from

implementing the current portfolio of projects. Projects are likely to have an impact for individuals involved, without effecting change at a level above that.

- The possibilities to work with INGOs as implementing partners are, at the time of the review, decreasing. This might change, and there is a value, in its own right, to maintain co-operation with the current pool of implementing partners. A change in the political climate might open up geographic space for operation. However, it is probably more difficult to bring back an INGO into Abkhazia that has discontinued working there.
- In terms of implementing partners, there is value in considering cooperation to include UNDP, on the grounds of UNDP's access to the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia. UNDP implements a number of projects there already; two projects are currently subject of an independent evaluation, the results of which could inform a discussion of possible options. As with INGOs, there is a value in itself in trying to retain the number of international actors inside Abkhazia.
- Functions should be handed over, wherever possible, to local partners, for reasons of sustainability, as well as efficiency. A number of partner organisations in particular in the UNICEF/World Vision project would seem to have the capacity (or could develop it) to take over a next phase of activities. In the current political climate, working through local partners might be an increasing necessity, anyway.
- Future support should work towards strengthening structures created through the existing portfolio of projects (in particular the UNICEF/WV project), but geographical coverage and the pursuing of target numbers should be de-emphasised in favour of quality of activities.

1 Background

Sweden's Strategy for Development Co-operation with Georgia 2010 – 2013 places priority, as one of its three sectors, on support to Human Rights, Democracy, and Gender Equality. The Strategy also states that “opportunities to implement contributions in Abkhazia and South Ossetia will be used. Above all, democracy-building contributions – mainly channelled via civil society – and confidence-building measures should be considered within the context of Swedish support.”

Sweden has supported women's groups in Abkhazia since 2002 through a project with Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK). Since early 2011, Sweden has increased its portfolio of contributions to contain one project with an exclusive focus on Abkhazia (UNICEF/World Vision), and four others in which work in Abkhazia constitutes a substantial segment of the overall project.

The review covers the following five projects' Abkhazia-related interventions:

- UNICEF: “Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia” (2011 to 2013), 28.5 MSEK, part of the outputs under the project are sub-contracted to World Vision (WV)
- Accion Contra El Hambre (ACF Spain): “Promoting Self-Reliance and Improving Welfare of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Vulnerable Population in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia region” (2011 to 2013), overall budget (i.e. including non-Abkhazia interventions) 16 MSEK
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC): “Durable Solutions – A Way forward for IDPs in Georgia”, with Abkhazia-related interventions from early 2011 to early 2012, overall budget 37.2 MSEK, of which only a small share was allocated to Abkhazia
- DRC: “Innovative and Applicable Durable Solutions to Displacement in Georgia”, (2012 to 2014), overall budget 30 MSEK, 7MSEK of which are earmarked for Abkhazia
- Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK): Georgia Programme, (2010 to 2012), overall budget 22 MSEK; out of 16 partner organisations, five are based in Abkhazia

The Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi contracted Indvelop AB in March 2013 to conduct a review of the above portfolio of projects. The purpose of the review as specified in the Terms of Reference (ToR; see Annex 1) is two-fold: a) The review should “look at results achieved in relation to the objectives and expected results as expressed in the original project documents. Sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency are other important aspects, as is assessment of relevance of selected partners and activities.” b) The review “should be forward looking and present recommendations and suggestions for how Sida could design its support in the region in the future if there would be a decision to continue working there.”

The following questions are, according to the ToR, to be answered by the review:

- Have the projects achieved – or are likely to achieve – the set goals and expected results? If not – what are the main reasons for that? Have the set goals and expected results been realistic? How did factors within the operating environment affect the projects and results?
- Have the selection of projects been relevant from an overall strategic point of view? Have the projects been complementary to each other and has the coordination between projects been sufficient. How is Sweden's role in the coordination assessed?
- How do beneficiaries perceive the value of the projects? Which were the major changes attained through the projects?
- What is the assessment of the sustainability of the projects? Sustainability of outputs and outcomes as well as sustainability of the partners in the project? Are there sustainable results for the target groups that the projects have contributed to? To what extent will the benefits of the projects continue after Swedish funding ends?
- Analyse the gender aspects of the projects and how they have contributed to increased gender equality.
- What are alternative approaches to continued activities in the region in order to strengthen outcomes and sustainability – partnerships, thematic priorities, etc.?
- Suggest possible improvements in any of the above mentioned areas or other aspects which might emerge during the evaluation.

The report is structured along the above evaluation questions. The final draft has incorporated feedback from Sida/Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi; UNICEF and World Vision; DRC; ACF; and KtK.

2 Methodology

The review was carried out using a combination of desk review and in-country stakeholder interviews. The desk phase comprised two stages. First, general project documents forwarded by the Embassy of Sweden in Tbilisi were screened during the inception phase of the review, and information gaps were mapped. Implementing partners were then asked for documentation that could provide more detailed information on the specific outputs and components each of the projects pursue, so that the review team could understand these better. This information was submitted by organisations during or immediately prior to the field work (i.e., it could effectively not been reviewed before the team's visit to Abkhazia); it was then screened during the report writing phase, i.e. after the field work had finished.

Field work in Georgia took place from 4 April to 11 April 2013; the team travelled to Abkhazia from 5 April 2013 to 9 April 2013. Due to the difficulty of access, the work in Abkhazia, including the setting up of the schedule and the organisation of the various meetings, was greatly facilitated by UNICEF, in close liaison with the implementing partners. Given the geographic scope of the projects, the review team split up in order to cover more locations in the time available. The reviewers talked to more than 200 individuals; meetings were held either with individual stakeholders or with groups of stakeholders, the broad categories of which had been stipulated by the reviewers in advance.

As is common in evaluations of this kind, the quality of the interviews varied, and although the reviewers worked with structured interview questionnaires, in many instances, it was not possible to go through the questionnaire. After the first day of interviews in Abkhazia, it became evident that talking to direct beneficiaries of projects would yield only limited information, because of the poverty bias (lack of material and opportunities for aid). As a result, the review team adjusted its plans and set aside time to speak to frontline project staff that is specifically involved or in the lead on the various projects' components (see Annex 9 for the meeting schedule in Abkhazia) who were able to share information on overall and detailed perspectives on the target audience and the outputs.

Interviews also included meetings with representatives of international organisations both in Abkhazia, as well as in Tbilisi. Although not a specific requirement in the framework of the ToR, UNICEF and UNDP coordinated on the ground so that the review team also had an opportunity to visit UNDP project sites, and had several meetings with UNDP staff.

The review team, prior to their departure from Abkhazia, gave project-specific feedback to the implementing partners on strengths and weaknesses that had been identified, and that would be reflected in the report. This feedback session was held in order to provide

an additional opportunity to clarify outstanding issues; it was also to prevent surprises for the projects under review, in particular where the report touches on problematic areas.

Several **limitations** affect the level of certainty on findings presented in this report. The difficulty of access to Abkhazia has meant that the review team has relied on the assistance of UNICEF (in collaboration with other Sida partners and other non-stakeholders, including UNHCR and UNDP) to set up, organise, and facilitate meetings in Abkhazia, which the team gratefully acknowledges.

This has, however, meant that the reviewers themselves had little direct control over the choice of locations and stakeholders. Although the selection of the key informants by the implementing partners was a necessity due to the nature of the situation in Abkhazia, it must be highlighted that it may impact the collected data. This limitation was discussed with the Embassy during the inception phase and it was recognized as a necessary way forward in spite of the limitations it presents to the findings.

Beneficiaries were necessarily biased, and the review team adjusted the field work schedule to allocate more time to discussions with project staff. Beneficiaries' perspectives could not be compared with that of non-stakeholder experts *inside* Abkhazia, who could have allowed for a triangulation of findings. This was primarily due to time limitations, but also because, in agreement with Sida, no representatives of the *de facto* authorities were consulted who could have given their perspective on the interventions. The interventions are conducted in a highly politicised environment, and the reviewers did not want to draw interlocutors into discussions (for example on ethnic reconciliation; or the impact of the political situation on the environment for entrepreneurs) where interlocutors did not want to broach the issue themselves. Another constraint was that timing was very tight overall, limiting the time the review team could spend on each project on the ground, as well as the level of detail of information available to the reviewers to prepare sufficiently for the field work.

For the UNICEF/World Vision project, the review team had the opportunity to visit six out of a total of 48 Social Community Centres (SCC) – this number, the review team argues, is too small to extrapolate on the overall success or failure of the scheme. In retrospect, the small proportion of visited SCCs raises questions given the relatively large proportion of time in the evaluators' schedule devoted to immunisation activities. Likewise, where the review team observed problems with regards to the quality of physical rehabilitation work, it is difficult to conclude that these were exceptional cases, and that similar problems might not affect all other locations where repair has taken place. With regards to the immunisation work carried out by UNICEF, the relative weight of that component inside the overall UNICEF/WV project has become clearer to the review team only after the field work had taken place, and after comments were received from stakeholders. With regards to Kvinna till Kvinna, the reviewers met four of the five partner organisations, which are also project beneficiaries; no meetings took place during which the reviewers would have been able to speak to individuals or groups that had been part of the KtK partner organisations' activities (such as trainees, or women who had received individual legal or business advice).

Four projects are still ongoing, and the results presented and discussed in the report are reflecting the status at the time of the review.

Language was an issue, too, as stakeholders' knowledge of Russian in the predominantly ethnic Georgian areas visited was in many cases limited, and as a result, the level of detail on specificities of the involvement of beneficiaries in the project was not as high as it could have been. Both the members of the review team are fluent Russian speakers.

Organisations operate in a very challenging political environment, and the difficulties of delivering the projects given a hostile political context cannot be overestimated. The review team did not have sufficient time to explore in detail how partners manage, on a day-to-day level, to deal with the restrictions posed on them; it appears that each organisation has defined its own policies on how to deal with the *de facto* authorities. It is also understandable that organisations might not have wanted to share every aspect of this with the reviewers.

3 Findings

The following sections present the findings in accordance with the evaluation questions specified in the Terms of Reference for the assignment (see above).

3.1 RESULTS

ACF PROJECT “PROMOTING SELF-RELIANCE AND WELFARE OF IDPS AND THE VULNERABLE POPULATION IN EASTERN GEORGIA AND ABKHAZIA”

(for ease of reference, see Annex 7 for an overview of the project’s expected results in Abkhazia)

The overall objective of the project is “to promote self-reliance and improve the welfare of returnees and local communities in Abkhazia”

Expected Result 1: Target returnees have improved nutritional intake through mastering new agricultural techniques and through the diversification of food production

This result has been achieved with regards to the beneficiaries of the integrated home garden scheme, the training graduates from the Agricultural Training Centres, but not, yet, with regards to the integrated school garden scheme.

In Abkhazia, the home garden scheme involved 220 vulnerable households, comprising an estimated 900 individuals, selected to participate in the scheme, the delivery of training on agricultural techniques and nutrition, as well as the delivery of plants and seedlings on a variety of crops to start up the home gardens, and the delivery of different agricultural tools. The ongoing expert support by ACF’s agronomist is particularly acknowledged and appreciated by beneficiaries. A baseline survey of families prior to their inclusion in the scheme, and since their involvement shows that the quality of nutrition has consistently improved as a result of their participation. Monitoring also captures the households’ use of techniques taught through the scheme, with uptake/use being very high. Households, according to ACF monitoring reports, use the produce from the gardens mainly for their own consumption, including to preserve food for the winter, while a smaller percentage of beneficiaries is able to sell produce at the local market. The review team visited one integrated home garden location, and presuming other locations are comparable to this, the scheme targets the very vulnerable parts of the population, including elderly and non-parent households. Beneficiaries have pointed out the difference the scheme is making to their families, and the fact that consuming their own produce has freed up scarce disposable income for other purposes. ACF has credibly conveyed that selecting beneficiaries within these communities has been a particular challenge—participation in the scheme is capped at 220, while there are potentially many more beneficiaries that have had to be turned down. A further challenge has been the

resistance of the local authorities to make available communal land, despite this land not currently being used. One of the risks associated with the scheme is that while it makes families less reliant on the purchase of food, families are still very vulnerable to extraneous risks posed, for example, by bad weather resulting in a poor harvest.

With regards to the **integrated school gardens**, which are one part of the outputs to achieve the expected result, the review team is unable to arrive at definite conclusions as only a few of the sites in which the scheme is implemented had undergone a complete cycle of planting, harvesting, processing by the school canteen/kitchen. At the time of the review, the target number of 20 school gardens had been identified, which included securing support/by-in by the senior school management, and the identification and securing of suitable plots of land. Experience with some of the gardens selected early on in the project (in 2011) points to potential challenges ahead, some of which the project has tried to address. Specifically, difficulties had arisen as to who would look after the gardens during the summer holidays, when the first crops were harvested. Caretaker arrangements were found for this first harvest, and where the fresh produce was sold at the market, with most of the proceeds used to purchase non-perishable food items for the school canteen. Adjustments have been made subsequently so that the majority of the crop will be ready for harvesting during the school term period, with less pressure to work the land during the school holidays.

Where feasible, the school gardens aim to work in conjunction with the UNICEF/WV project, where newly refurbished school canteens would either offer vegetables from the school gardens for free, or where school cooks would process produce from the gardens for use in school meals. As mentioned above, there have not been any examples where this has been fully realised. However, the review team sees a need for ACF and UNICEF/WV to reassess their joint understanding of the scheme and the role of each side in it. The review team heard repeatedly from WV staff—in response to the nutritionally inferior menus currently on offer in the school canteens—that “students eat vegetables at home” and that this was not the main point of the school canteens, where WV seemed to attribute the main importance to the fact that there are now premises where there were none previously.

The review team visited one of the three **Agricultural Training Centres (ATC)** (in Kokhora) established to achieve the expected result. Training has reached more than the initially planned 30 participants in this particular centre (a total of 35), responding to demand resulting from the successful first cycle of trainings in 2011. For all ATCs from the first cycle of 30 trainees, 15 were able to set up their own business (5 from each ATC) and 4 (2 from Kokhora and 2 from Beslakhuba) have since been employed in the local agricultural enterprise. Participants from past and ongoing training cycles interviewed as part of the review reported that the skills received through the training made a difference in the way they were able to work land, and that these skills were much needed.

Expected Result 2: Livelihood opportunities increased in target communities

The review team finds that this result has been achieved.

The project has identified 15 groups that have started to be supported through income generating activities (IGA); these groups comprise graduates from the Agricultural Training Centres. The scheme is run through a call for proposals, and the demand for support outweighs what the project is able to provide. ACF reports that 10 out of the 15 groups is generating income, with the five remaining groups expected to have income during the first part of 2013 (this is because they are running seasonal activities). The review team visited one women-led IGA scheme in Tskhiri, where the project had supplied a greenhouse, seeds and seedlings, and where the group of women were planning for a biogas plant (the material for which they had received through the project and which was awaiting assembly) to ensure all-year round use of the greenhouse. While it is difficult to extrapolate from one example onto 14 other initiatives, the review team was impressed by the dedication of the beneficiaries to their business, with the women clearly identifying that the project had given them the prospect of economic empowerment. If this example is generalisable, ACF's selection procedure seems very sound, with implications as to the sustainability of these businesses.

ACF has also supported the establishment of 10 Community Associations (CA), whereby community members of target locations decide jointly on the most pressing needs for their community, and where the project supports the procurement of equipment to address these needs. The review team visited one CA during their work on supplying water to households within their community. Currently, the scheme works through households contributing to the cost of labour and related expenses (fuel/electricity); the equipment (in the example visited a water drilling device) is procured on the condition that the most vulnerable community members will receive help free of charge. In this case, the CA will seek to help beneficiaries of integrated home gardens to have better access to water.

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL (DRC): "DURABLE SOLUTIONS – A WAY FORWARD FOR IDPS IN GEORGIA" AND "INNOVATIVE AND APPLICABLE DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT IN GEORGIA"

(for ease of reference, see Annex 3 and Annex 4 for an overview of the projects' expected results in Abkhazia)

The overall objective of the current project is "Greater reintegration of IDPs and residents in 9 selected locations in Abkhazia"

DRC (active in Abkhazia since 2005) has been an implementing partner for Sweden on the project "Durable Solutions – A Way forward for IDPs in Georgia" since September 2008. Initially, this project did not foresee working in Abkhazia, but only in Georgia proper. In January 2011, the project was amended to include activities in Abkhazia. In the main, the areas of intervention of the current project, where it concerns Abkhazia, are building on that first project. The discussion below is structured along the objectives of the current project, but includes a discussion of the results of the previous project.

Expected Result 1: 9 selected communities have enhanced self-management capacities **At the time of the review, the review team was unable to assess the likelihood of the achievement of this result, as a number of outputs identified to lead to the result had not, yet, been implemented. The review team has questions as to how realistic it is to pursue this result.**

A cluster of four outputs in the current project has been determined to achieve the expected result. The review team visited three sites in two communities (Pirvely Gali and Okumi), where rehabilitation work had been carried out in the local House of Culture and an outbuilding of the local school (Pirvely Gali) and the village kindergarten (Okumi), respectively. The buildings chosen reflect the identified focus on educational institutions.

All three premises were in use at the time of the review team's visit, and work was ongoing in the Okumi kindergarten. DRC expects to complete all nine infrastructure projects by June 2013, and will then work with the communities on capacity building that will contribute to maintenance and self-management of the rehabilitated sites. The sites have been chosen by the communities themselves as part of DRC's community mobilisation work. The review team spoke to representatives of the community group in Pirvely Gali, which was primarily made up of individuals with a background in pedagogy/teaching, and a keen interest in the lives of the younger generation in the village. The Pirvely Gali group did confirm that they had been in the lead on deciding the priorities for the small infrastructure work, and that the rationale for this to go to the House of Culture was the potential this location had for organising events for young people and the wider community. The actual events were mainly organised based on volunteerism by members of the group. It is not possible for the review team to extrapolate from this meeting to the overall success or failure of the community mobilisation process, and whether the process that community groups were involved in in the framework of the DRC project leads to longer-term changes in the way responsibilities are assumed in these communities for issues affecting their day-to-day lives; DRC themselves, in their most recent annual report, are planning, in late 2013, to capture the achievement of this result, although it would seem that the real success of the scheme would need to be assessed at a much later stage, and possibly after the project ends.

With regards to community mobilisation—and this applies to UNICEF/WV and ACF, too—the rationale seems clear, i.e. projects want to avoid handing out resources and wish to link this to the development of social capital in the communities affected. But there is a real sense of detachment of people from their communities, and projects seem to look passed those: all communities visited by the review team seem to have a severe problem with residual waste, with the schools (and the SCCs therein) or the infrastructure projects being often right next to, or in the middle of, considerable rubbish heaps. The question is how much genuinely can and should be expected from community mobilisation components—communities are likely to fulfill donor requirements where there is a prospect of a needed investment. Whether this amounts to community mobilisation is more of a question.

While coordination is mainly good among the Swedish funded projects, there are also instances of duplication, as well as room for improvement on some aspects. In the case of Pirvely Gali, there has been assistance to the House of Culture through DRC, as well as the establishment of a Social Community Centre (SCC) through UNICEF/WV. Given the level of destruction in this location, any infrastructure work is welcome, as in any case, no assistance project will be able to address all needs. The question is whether the assistance might have benefited another community. This is not so much of an issue addressed to DRC as it is to UNICEF/WV: it is not immediately obvious to the reviewers why resources go into offering pre-school child care in a location where there is a functioning kindergarten (rehabilitated by DRC through initially SDC, now Sida funding).

Also in Pirvely Gali, work on the school outbuilding was shared between DRC (which repaired one room that is used, among other, for youth trainings) and World Vision, which renovated the school canteen. There is a noticeable difference in the quality of the work done, with DRC having spent more resources on delivering sound work, while the school canteen, repaired by WV, although completed relatively recently, is already infested with mould.

Expected Result 2: Improved interaction between youth of different ethnic backgrounds

The review team finds that this result has been achieved only to a very limited extent.

Outputs under this results area are the training of potential youth leaders through a training-of-trainers approach; these leaders then train peers in the home communities on a variety of skills and topics, covering human rights, conflict resolution, environmental awareness etc.; inter-ethnic relations are part of the training modules.

This component, too, is a continuation of a set of activities that started under the earlier project in 2011, where it was part of the sub-component to “improve the psycho-social environment for youth”. Other parts in the initial project that would fall under this sub-component were not carried into the current project. For example, the social counselling component was not taken over, as a lessons learned reflection of DRC concluded that to implement this properly, more/different resources were necessary; possibly, part of the considerations here were also that social counselling might not be part of DRC’s core expertise. Also, the first project aimed at addressing some of the language barriers faced by the Mengrelian-speaking community in Abkhazia; children from Georgian families are at a disadvantage in their education as the requirement for the language of education in most of the communities (except for Gali itself) is Russian, which cannot even be considered a second language for the children, but rather a foreign language. This issue is now addressed as part of the low school attendance scheme, where DRC tutors provide training in Russian, but it no longer seems to be an explicit part of the project, possibly because of the political sensitivities of the topic.

Over the lifetime of the project (i.e. from 2011 to 2012), a total of 25 youth leaders from Georgian and Abkhaz communities in the age group of 14-17 were trained who, in turn, delivered education to 100 peers.⁶ Towards the end of the first project, four additional locations were included, and training was delivered to a further 130 youth. As part of the activities, the first group of youth leaders trained submitted project ideas, one for each of the four initial locations; this resulted in the equipment, through the project, of computer labs (two schools) and a puppet theatre and the rehabilitation of the dance hall and delivery of musical instruments, respectively, in the other two locations.

In the ongoing project, there are three planned cohorts of youth leaders of 24 each (i.e. by 2014, a total of 72), from ethnic Abkhaz and Georgian backgrounds. At the time of the review, the first cohort had been trained, and had engaged in peer education in their communities. The peer education—which covers up to 50 young people per group—also serves to identify the next group of potential youth leaders that might then become trainers. While the peer training is conducted within the selected ethnic communities (at the time of the review, trainings had been done in five Georgian and one Abkhaz community), a group of 50 young people from across the locations (and thus, from Abkhaz and Georgian communities) will be brought together for a thematic week during the summer holiday period. The idea is that eventually, the youth leaders will have formed a network across ethnic lines and that through their facilitation, youth will maintain contacts through social media. As part of the project, DRC is providing IT equipment to three participating communities through Sida funding (the computer lab in Pirvely Gali, as well as a lab in Merkula, were part of the previous Sida-project), and is hoping to equip the remaining participating communities with computer labs through funding from other donors.

The theory of change underpinning this result is that youth is a vector of change no matter what the political context is, and that by changing the attitude of youth and equipping them with specific skills, a new generation of decision-makers and community leaders will grow. The interventions are planning to make use of the potential for change offered by social media.

Assessing the achievement of results, or the likelihood of achievement, for this results area is difficult, for a variety of reasons. At the level of the **design** of this cluster of interventions, it could be argued that there is no baseline in terms of numbers of youth to be targeted and that would address considerations such as: what is a critical mass of youth that would need to be trained to bring about change? Although the interventions will reach a substantial amount of young people, it is still not clear what percentage that is of the overall population in this age bracket, and per ethnic group, and what the figures covered by the intervention are based on. A further complication is the fact that the long-term impact cannot be measured within the lifetime of the project – the baseline indicators that DRC will use to measure impact might capture changes in attitudes in the short-term, while a wider time horizon would need to be used to track change in the individuals. It is not clear how DRC is monitoring the medium-term impact that the training had on those youth leaders that had been trained back in the first project, and that could give some insight into the impact of the activities.

Another issue is the complete absence of political developments or a public discourse (for example on inter-ethnic reconciliation) in today's Abkhazia (with some very recent more moderate rhetoric from the Georgian government on the need for reconciliation) that would allow the individual capacity built by these trainings to be used beyond that individual level. Inter-ethnic relations are hardly verbalised in Abkhazia, and the living conditions for the Georgian community, including in Gali district, are such that an inter-ethnic dialogue between the Abkhaz and the Georgian communities is not at eye-level. The question is as to whether the type of youth training the project is conducting can realistically be expected to make a change without being able to tap into a higher level effort to normalise relations between the Abkhaz and the Georgian communities.

Although this is not their prime purpose, the trainings offered by DRC fill a gap in an environment that lacks opportunities for young people to meaningfully spend their free time.

The trainings transfer skills and knowledge that are possibly useful for the individuals involved. For this to come to bear at a higher level, political conditions would need to change to be welcoming such skills and leadership. At current, the proposition, for young Georgians, to build a life in Abkhazia would seem to be in general not attractive, and migration to Georgia proper is probably the more attractive option.

The team notes the **need for** a number of **adjustments**. The scheme's weakness is its lack of interaction of youth of the different ethnic groups at a larger scale – the number of people participating in the summer camps seems very limited. **Conducting inter-ethnic encounters on a greater scale** is certainly a challenge. But to have a project work on improved inter-ethnic relations where these are limited to such a small number of participants seems to merit some re-thinking. The question is whether this type of work falls into the core expertise of DRC and whether DRC has the right human resources to be deployed to them, or whether there might be an argument to have people-to-people contacts facilitated by a different implementing partner.

Expected Result 3: Increased school attendance amongst children from vulnerable families

The review team is unable to assess the achievement of this result.

The outputs under this result links the delivery of a one-off livelihood grant to improved school attendance of children from vulnerable families. DRC has carried out similar interventions in their first project, starting from 2011. During that first project, 245 income generating grants with an average size of Euro 1000 were given to families in 11 target locations; grantees were families that had been identified as very vulnerable, in both ethnic Georgian and Abkhaz communities (with the majority of grants provided for ethnic Georgians as the levels of vulnerability were assessed to be greater in that community), and were there was a proven link between low school attendance and

vulnerability. The provision of the grant is combined with extra training for children, which is hoped to increase school performance, upon which the grant is delivered.

Because of the relatively recent start of outputs (October 2012) in the ongoing project, it is too early for the review team to draw conclusions about the achievement of the result. Drawing on lessons learned from the first project, DRC scaled the activity down to fewer families, and planned to increase monitoring indicators and follow-up mechanisms. At the time of the review, 72 households in three locations had undergone an assessment as to whether they qualified for inclusion into the scheme; of these 72 households, eight households were not eligible, while 45 households were selected, with 19 households eligible, but not selected for inclusion. The review team visited one location where the scheme had started (Achigvara school), and presuming that this location is representative of the entire scheme, it would seem that there is a considerable humanitarian component to it – something that is supported by DRC documents that makes a distinction, within the components of support, between support to the most vulnerable on the one hand, and support to establish SME (see below) for “the most active and capable”.

DRC themselves are reflecting actively on whether this type of scheme does bring about change in the longer term (see for example the “Lessons Learned” part of DRC’s final report on the first project, which raises questions as to the logic of the intervention),⁸ and this is a valid reflection. At the same time, as this is a component of the ongoing project, the review team notes an need for reflection into the quality of the implementation in the current project, and whether additional resources/expertise/skills/experience might be more responsive to the humanitarian nature of this intervention.

The problem might be that the component is not labelled as humanitarian, and more expectations than are realistic are attached to it now, i.e. that the interventions affect longer-lasting changes in the very vulnerable households that are currently covered. The review team finds that there is a need to have more, not less, humanitarian-type projects in Abkhazia, and the choice of the locations (for example in Achigvara) are a vivid illustration of this.

Expected Result 4: Increased economic opportunities to 50 selected entrepreneurs

The review team finds that this result has been achieved.

The package of outputs in the ongoing project—a combination of a very thorough selection process of potential grantees; the provision of high quality training on business skills; and the provision of a grant in an environment that lacks access to credits for business—has been included in the ongoing project based on experience from previous DRC projects in Abkhazia (although these were not funded by Sweden). The results, as far as can be judged at this junction (i.e. midway through the current project), have been very convincing. The theory of change underpinning the support to SME’s is that they “can generate substantial income, increase job opportunities, provide new services to the community and have a spill-over effect on community at large.”⁹

The review team visited three SME's that had received assistance through the package; in all three locations, jobs had been created as a result. The team also sought feedback from selected beneficiaries that had undergone training and who had either recently received a grant, or who were about to receive it. Beneficiaries convincingly conveyed that the relevance and quality of the training had been high and that as a result, they were better able to plan and organise their businesses. Overwhelmingly, beneficiaries stated that their skills, mainly acquired through "learning-by-doing", had been put on a sound theoretical footing. DRC has developed baseline indicators to measure the impact of the outputs on achieving the result, a first stock-taking is anticipated for mid-2013.

As with the income generating activities of ACF, the DRC SME component faces a number of external threats, caused by the fact that the project operates in a very unpredictable environment, which has knock-on effects on whether SMEs can realise their business plans. For beneficiaries consulted in the framework of the review, the effective loss of access to the Georgian market to purchase supply material, as well as difficulties in sourcing material because of the very limited market in Abkhazia, were frequently cited as factors for why the business plan's realisation was under threat - these businesses now have to resort to buying significantly more expensive material, with an obvious impact on the profit margin that can be achieved. This does not mean that the design of the package of outputs to achieve the expected result is flawed; it is rather to say that the unstable political environment has a significant bearing on how the businesses that are supported can grow and expand. DRC's careful selection process of potential beneficiaries means that relatively few businesses are likely to fail completely. Businesses might not grow, however, as quickly as set out in business plans, and/or have an impact on a much wider community through the creation of jobs. At the minimum, the impact is at the level of the individual entrepreneur, in that he/she has been able, through the project, to consolidate their existing business.

UNICEF/WORLD VISION PROJECT "COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ABKHAZIA"

(for ease of reference, see Annex 6 for an overview of the project's expected results in Abkhazia)

The overall objectives of the project are: 1. Improved health, education and social outcomes for vulnerable and under-served children in Abkhazia, with special focus on poor, returnee children and children living with disabilities 2. Strengthened community based capacity for provision of basic services

Expected Result 1.1: Community based social services provided by a network of Social Community Centres (SCCs). Approximately 12 100 children in 48 communities in Abkhazia have better education, play and learning outcomes.

The review team finds that this result has been achieved in part.

The overarching output for this project result is to support or establish SCCs in 48 communities in six of Abkhazia's seven districts (*rayons*). UNICEF and World Vision had, prior to the current project, established Social Community Centres in 22 communities; within the framework of the current project, another 26 centres were established. Three functions should ideally be established by a Social Community Centre:

First, a facility in the community school that should be refurbished and equipped to house activities for pre-school children, school children, meetings and training events. Special facilitators are selected and trained to work with the children and youth in the community and, in addition, also with the community members as a whole. The facilitators are not paid salaries, but receive so-called monthly "incentives" through the first 12 months of the project.

Second, a facility for primary health care services is refurbished to serve as a "medpunkt", where, for example a medical nurse could have day surgery for school children and provide medical consultations to the village population (see also result 2.1 below).

Third, a school canteen should be refurbished and equipped.

Within the project, UNICEF/WV has supported **22 already existing SCCs** (developed in previous projects by UNICEF/WV), and **established SCCs in 26 newly targeted communities**. At the time of the review, all 48 of those SCCs have a refurbished room for various community activities in the village school, **48 of the targeted communities** have received a refurbished and equipped facility for primary health care, "*medpunkt*", and **16 of the targeted communities have school canteens** refurbished and equipped. The review team visited six SCCs and interviewed selected facilitators and children and parents from ten SCCs, which only gives a limited impressions of the extensive project activities.

As a result of the project, **pre-school activities** for children are now offered in **47 communities**. In many cases, the SCCs are filling a void of activities foremost for children of pre-school age. Not only does the project offer the pre-school activities in adequate environments, but in many locations, the project is also re-introducing a service that has not been available since the conflict 1992-93. The establishment of a pre-school service within the project has therefore meant a substantial improvement for the younger children. According to teachers and parents, the children, apart from having something proper to do are now **much better prepared for their school start, both emotionally and academically**. It should, however, be pointed out that the activities for children of pre-school age do not fill the function of a "traditional" kindergarten or pre-school day care offered by an official, functioning education system. The scheme of work is somewhat erratic, and pre-school classes are only held two or three times per week for a couple of hours at a time.

Some SCCs have succeeded better than others with the task to provide a **natural gathering point for older children** (where they can get together after school, to do homework, to play games, use the computer and so on). **The degree of success in this task seems to depend on the personal qualifications and suitability of the facilitator.**

From what the review team has seen (six out of 48 centres, both newly established ones and older), pre-school activities seem to have been emphasised more.

Small-scale social projects is a component that seems to well have met the expectations and needs of the communities. Project applications were submitted by communities to the Community Initiatives Fund, and approximately half of them were approved and funded. The small-scale social projects approved in 2012 were targeting road repairs, provision of school transport and renovation of water supply systems, or electric system repairs.

The review team attended one of World Vision's Joint Community Events. Children and their parents from five communities (four ethnically Mengrelian communities, and one ethnically Abkhaz community) gathered on a Sunday in Chuburkhinji village school in Gali Rayon. The joint event included a number of games and competitions for the school children in music and sports and cooking, which were all seemingly very appreciated by the participants. One programme event is, however, seriously questioned by the review team and that is **the beauty pageant** that was arranged for girls of pre-school age. Such events are not appropriate and not in line with any of Sweden's values and should not take place in an event funded by the Swedish government. The fact that the project implementer could agree to include such an event in the programme shows a profound lack of gender sensitivity on the part of World Vision, as well as a lack of stewardship on gender by UNICEF, who is the prime implementing agency. (See also below.)

The joint community events are described by World Vision as "critically important factors for increasing the social mobilisation of communities targeted by this project as well as for increasing confidence-building amongst people gathering in SCCs. These events also promote increased people-to-people contacts between communities in Abkhazia". From what the review team could observe and discuss with beneficiaries, **the events do indeed facilitate regular contacts between communities, including between communities with different ethnic backgrounds, with the latter being clearly identified as important by parents and teachers.** Anecdotal evidence heard by the review team suggests that facilitating in particular those events with participation from the different ethnic groups has been a challenge, where initial resistance from the children's parents had to be overcome for the first events.

A concern that the review team has regards the **poor quality of workmanship that was observed in some sites.** Three out of six canteens, newly refurbished and equipped by UNICEF/World Vision, that were visited by the review team, were severely infested with mould. Due to the very humid climate, mould is a known and common problem in buildings in Abkhazia. However, there are ways to avoid mould when constructing or refurbishing even in a very humid climate (this information was confirmed by two consulted independent engineers with work experience from Abkhazia). The methods for avoiding mould are, however, more costly and time-consuming. One example of how one can avoid mould is the school canteen in Pirvely Gali that is under the same roof as a training centre room that DRC has refurbished during the same period. The two rooms are right next to each other, but the school canteen is infested with mould and the training

centre room is not. This was explained to the reviewers as a result simply of World Vision not giving the workmen enough time to let the walls dry before it was covered with paint. When the reviewers pointed out the problem to World Vision in order to understand the reasons for the poor workmanship, the response of World Vision staff was that “it is better to do something poorly than to do nothing”. The review team disagrees that it is acceptable to knowingly deliver poor quality work. What is also very important - in the current climate of increasingly difficult working conditions for INGOs - delivering sub-standard work is also doing a disservice to other international organisations, as it provides additional reasons for the *de facto* authorities not to trust them (because they deliver poor quality).

A key concern that the review team has regarding the SCCs is that they **in some cases seem limited to just engage activities for children of pre-school** age and no or limited activities for school children. This appears to be determined by the experience and expectations of individual facilitators. The reviewers see a risk that limited physical access to the SCC facilities (i.e. that the community members are not trusted to use the key without the presence of the facilitator) will lead to a low level of ownership and low level of engagement in the idea of a SCC among the community members.

At a point when more than two thirds of the project period has passed, both World Vision and UNICEF staff make a conclusion that the review team wants to highlight: the scope of targeted communities in the project was too extensive, reflecting the expansion of the SCC model to the districts in Western Abkhazia, and the current set-up has forced the implementers to rush some of the outputs. This has affected the quality of work, in the sense that the implementers have not had the possibility to work as much in-depth with the community as they would have wished for. The possibilities for mentorship and monitoring would have been better had the project focused on a smaller number of communities. This may also have affected timings of activities and the procurement processes for rehabilitation work.

Expected Result 1.2: Social inclusion of children living with disabilities in Abkhazia. 300 children living with disabilities have improved educational and health outcomes and life cycle opportunities.

The review team finds that this result has been achieved partly.

Within the project, day care centres for children living with disabilities were established in three locations: Gali, Ochamchire and Tkvarcheli, while co-operation with a fourth centre (in Sukhumi) was discontinued in 2012, as the local partner organisation decided to focus on work with adults living with disability, only. **In these centres, children and their parents/cares are, for the first time, receiving regular structured and professional attendance and care related to their physical rehabilitation in an environment physically adapted to their needs.** The children are provided with a **range of psychosocial support and educational activities including literacy and numeracy classes.** They are also **taught basic IT-skills, and are offered other occupational and skills development activities.** The centres serve as a place for socialising opportunities

with other children, as well as for parents to meet with each other, and meet the staff for support and counselling purposes.

Children living with disabilities attending the day care centres have been involved in youth events and thus, an initial contribution has been made to acceptance of these children into society. One could, where possible (for example, where SCCs are at ground level) discuss how to make SCCs accessible to children living with disabilities, and so facilitate greater integration into the communities.

Expected Result 2.1: Strengthening capacities of primary healthcare (PHC) facilities within targeted communities. Women and children in targeted 48 communities have improved health outcomes.

The review team finds that this result has been achieved. PHC facilities are strengthened and thereby also the conditions for improvement of women's and children's health outcomes.

As described above, one of the three main physical components of a SCC is to establish or refurbish and equip a primary health care facility - a “*medpunkt*”, or a low grade (“low grade” as in “not attended by a doctor”) general health care clinic. Within the project, a total of 48 “*medpunkts*” received support in terms of equipment and supplies (three deliveries of medical supply is foreseen in the lifetime of the project) or refurbishment, including 26 in the newly established SCCs. The “*medpunkt*” facility is often located in the premises of a school, and the nurse attending the “*medpunkt*” often is the school nurse for the school children. The school nurse also takes active participation in the immunisation of children. However, the clinic actually serves the low grade general health care needs of the whole population in the community.

The key result ascertained by the review team is that **through the setting up or rehabilitation of “*medpunkty*”, village nurses are now operating in premises that meet basic medical standards and that have a minimum of technical equipment enabling them to provide basic general health care, as well as the administration, in a suitable environment, of medication and vaccinations.**

The “*medpunkts*” are, however, not fully-fledged primary health care centres and are not connected to or coordinated with the general *de facto* health care system, but they serve a need of the population, and they fill a gap of basic services that is not otherwise provided.

Expected Result 2.2: Strengthening the service provision capacity of healthcare and education professionals in Abkhazia. Healthcare, social protection and education service providers in Abkhazia are equipped to provide basic services to vulnerable children and women.

The review team finds that this result has been achieved.

All village nurses (nurses working in rural primary health care facilities), throughout Abkhazia (107 nurses from 106 villages) have undergone a training cycle including seven modules. The training has included reproductive, maternal and child health and a separate module on immunisation. This is the first training provided to nurses after the war (i.e. for the first time in 20 years). The nurses also themselves deliver basic training to parents on child health, reproductive and maternal health, and this is where the “*medpunkt*” and the SCCs “meet” – the rationale is that because parents bring their children to the SCCs for pre-school activities, this provides opportunities to the nurse to reach out to, and facilitate such training. The nurse, in co-operation with the SCC facilitator, also organises children to attend training on specific subjects. The review team observed the margins of a training delivered by the Sukhumi-based HIV/AIDS Center’s Mobile Team, which is one of the UNICEF’s local partners in the project. The training of nurses has been an essential contribution to improving the quality of Mother and Child Care (MCH).

Thanks to the trainings mentioned above, the nurses in the “*medpunkty*” are now prepared to conduct public health promotion and educational activities targeting children, young people and mothers with newborn children. One aspect of this promotion is the promotion of routine immunisation of children. The nurses have also been responsible for supplementary immunisation activities in communities where the immunisation coverage rates are low. Interviewed health care workers said that they now have overcome resilience and suspicion towards immunisation thanks to widespread public information campaigns and individual counselling to concerned parents.

One of the planned outputs under the objective 2.2 in the UNICEF/WV project proposal was that “[r]egular immunisation of children in targeted communities in Abkhazia is strengthened and improved.” The reviewers assume that “targeted” initially referred to the 48 SCC locations, and if that is the case, the project has reached its objective and beyond, given that the **immunisation activities target the entire child population in Abkhazia.**

When the project started the system for targeted immunisation of children in Abkhazia had been virtually inactive for nearly twenty years and the need for a functioning immunisation system became even more obvious in 2010, when an outbreak of polio occurred in the post-Soviet Republic of Tajikistan. In 2010, no exact information available on how many children are living on the territory of Abkhazia. UNICEF set up **an immunisation registry database of children, which today holds information on about 42.000 children**, including the child’s address, parents’ contact details, and all the immunisation information. The database is a valuable instrument for doctors and nurses conducting immunisations, as they can, for instance, receive lists of children based on villages, on schools, and so on. At the time of the review, 70 medical specialists and medical administrative staff were trained to use the data-base and had log-in access to the database, and more people will be trained. The database that is accessible on-line to those who have log-in access, has its main server located in a polyclinic in Sukhumi.

Today, less than three years after the project started, **Abkhazia has full immunisation coverage of new-born babies and the cohort of children aged 0-5 years are targeted**

to be fully immunised according to the immunisation calendar. The immunisation calendar has been modernised and synchronised with contemporary WHO standards. Catch-up immunisations of older children are carried out continuously, and the Abkhazia region is moving towards full immunisation coverage among the child population. In order to achieve these results, the project has procured and provided emergency cold-chain equipment (refrigerators, vaccine carriers and temperature indicators), and assisted the *de facto* health authorities to procure vaccines; trained a core group of medical professionals in effective immunisation in practice (EPI); procured IT equipment to enable the registry data base. It is important to note that the vaccines used in Abkhazia are procured by the Georgian Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs, with technical and financial support from UNICEF and the Global Fund. The vaccines are not funded with Swedish project means. UNICEF - through the Sida project, by providing technical assistance to the *de facto* health authorities in order to correct an inaccurate procurement of vaccines, adjusted to authentic cohorts and for supplementary immunisation of children older than 5 years of age.

KVINNA TILL KVINNA GEORGIA PROGRAMME 2010-2012

(for ease of reference, see Annex 5 for an overview of projects' expected results in Abkhazia)

The overall objective of the project is "to contribute to the strengthening of women's position and the respect for women's rights in a society that has been affected by several conflicts"

Sweden has supported women's groups in Abkhazia since 2002 through partnership with Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK). During the period covered by this review, Kvinna till Kvinna has supported women's NGOs through its 2010 to 2012 Georgia programme, and through the successive programme covering two years from the beginning of 2013 to the end of 2014. This review primarily looks into the 2010-2012 programme.

KtK has five partner organisations in Abkhazia: Avangard (Gali-based); the Association of Women of Abkhazia (AWA; Sukhumi-based); World without Violence (WWV; Sukhumi-based); the Union of Business Women of Abkhazia (UBA; Gagra-based branch) and the Union of Business Women of Abkhazia (UBA Sukhumi-based mother organisation for UBA).

For the current review, the team met with four of the five partner organisations during the fieldtrip to Abkhazia (all but UBA Sukhumi). In addition, upon return from Georgia, the review team also met with KtK field representative for Georgia in Stockholm. The team has also read partner organisations' progress reports and KtK's own progress reports. As mentioned in the above section on limitations, the team did not meet with or interview any of the KtK programme's end-beneficiaries.

In spring 2012, Kvinna till Kvinna's Georgia programme was evaluated by a team of independent consultants. The consultants did not have the possibility to travel to

Abkhazia, hence the 2012 evaluation did not yield any specific insights or conclusions for the five organisations that Kvinna till Kvinna co-operates with in Abkhazia. The evaluation did look, however, at the KtK partner organisations based in Georgia proper, and the current review has found that some of the findings apply to the Abkhaz partner organisations too. The 2012 evaluation findings primarily concerned the way in which KtK structures its support and how it sets the development goals for its partner organisations; related to this, the question was what the results were that partners were expected to report on. KtK was recommended to more strictly follow a results based management (RBM) methodology and also to ensure that the partner organisations do the same. Kvinna till Kvinna acknowledges these concerns and the concerns are beginning to be addressed in KtK's new Georgia programme for 2013-14. Nevertheless, the partner organisations' project reports for the reviewed period have focused mainly on activities and therefore, it has been difficult to understand and describe goal achievement and the results of the work of KtK partner organisations other than on an activity level.

Another concern of the 2012 evaluation of KtK Georgia programme regarded the organisations' sustainability strategies in case of Sweden ceasing to fund the organisations. The evaluators share this concern for the partner organisations in Abkhazia, but have found that KtK is now also beginning to address this issue in their cooperation with Abkhaz partner organisations, providing training in fundraising and similar activities.

The partner organisations have different spheres of interest and each of them have addressed different project objectives, which are outlined below in relation to the KtK project objectives/expected results.

Part A of the Kvinna till Kvinna Georgia programme for 2010 – 2012 targets six problem areas for improving women's living situation and strengthening women's rights and participation and includes six expected results that are all relevant for the partner organisations in Abkhazia

Expected result A1: Improved access to sheltered accommodation and strong legal and psychological support through society and KtK's partners to women subjected to gender based violence.

The review team finds that the project has contributed to achieving parts of the expected results in Gali and neighbouring districts.

Avangard targets result **A1** by offering psychological support to victims of gender-based violence. There are no *de facto* laws/*de facto* referral mechanisms on domestic violence in Abkhazia and hence many women in the Gali area subjected to violence seek support from Avangard. Awareness raising activities among girls and women on gender-based violence (GBV) is another example of what Avangard addresses, though Avangard was not able to suggest whether their work had brought about lasting change beyond providing initial support to the individual victim through their psychological support.

AWA has also targeted result **A1** by setting up a reception centre that provides legal and informational support to private persons, both men and women, but mainly women. People turn to this centre for legal advice in cases of domestic violence and in need of counselling on property or documentary matters. The centre employs two lawyers that receive individuals in walk-in clinics, but no data is available on trends in cases.

Expected result A2: Improved awareness of, and access to, information on sexual health and rights among rural women and access to women's health care in Abkhazia.

The review team finds that the project has contributed to the achievement of this result in Gali and neighbouring districts (i.e. in parts of Abkhazia).

Avangard is currently the only organisation that targets result **A2**. Avangard's role is, in the main, that of a service provider. The organisation fills a real gap in the provision of gynaecological health care in Eastern Abkhazia, which it offers through its mobile teams to women that do not have the means to travel to Gali hospital (often because of the lack of funds to pay for the travel on public transport). The Avangard professional medical mobile team provides ultra-sound examination and diagnosing, gynecological and psychological counselling. Avangard also provides training on sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) for teenage and adolescent girls, and they are now looking into training an already identified male member of the team to offer similar trainings to teenage and adolescent boys. The trainings are provided in villages across Eastern Abkhazia. Avangard has also been conducting a series of information meetings in the villages of Eastern Abkhazia for women on women's health.

Expected Result A3: Improved conditions for women to demand their rights privately and publicly and to play an active part in society in Abkhazia.

The review team has found no evidence that the project has achieved this result.

This expected result is targeted by four of the five organisations that cover a wide array of activities:

UBA Sukhumi and UBA Gagra have since the beginning of their cooperation with Kvinna till Kvinna (in 2003) supported women who run small businesses and women who start up their own businesses. In addition, the two organisations provide legal counseling and accounting courses for women. The interviewed UBA staff in Gagra says that the trainings and counseling activities have contributed to raise the "business literacy" among the targeted women, who now run their businesses with greater confidence.

UBA in Gagra has more recently (in 2011) started cycles of gender trainings for women students (14-17 years old) in order to influence the young generation in the sphere of gender equality. The trainings have included women's rights and tools to combat gender stereotypes. In order to improve the impact of the trainings for

students, training sessions for teachers were also added to the programme. Each training cycle is concluded with a round table discussion, involving students and teachers and, in some cases, representatives of the school administration or even local public administration. The response to these trainings has, according to the UBA staff, been very positive. The young women have taken great interest in learning more about their rights and have expressed that they are feeling more confident in themselves.

World without Violence (WWV) has specialised in gender awareness trainings, which it has run for several years, and which, for example, targets younger women that have just enrolled at university. It was not possible to get, during the stakeholder interview, a clear idea of the impact that these trainings have on the women that participated. More recently, teachers, too, have become a target group for WWV's training programme. The training programmes cover a wide spectre of topics: basic human rights, sexual rights of women, legal defense of women, civil law, property rights, gender and culture, gender and conflict, gender in the republic of Abkhazia, gender roles and stereotypes and more. Trainings were held for young female college-students, and in some cases also for teachers. Unfortunately, the consulted reports tell nothing about enrolment to the trainings and whether or not it was the same people attending a series of training or if the participants were different on each occasion. The reviewers asked WWV about the impact of the trainings on the participants. The assessment was rather bleak, with participants reporting on raised awareness and sensitivity on the issue, but also their stating to be unable to put this awareness into practice in their day-to-day lives.

In order to raise young women's awareness of their situation and to equip them with tools to play a more active role in Abkhaz society, **Avangard** arranges special young women's club events in the villages of Eastern Abkhazia, where they present films and books that reflect on the lives of women. Avangard also arranges free-of-charge computer literacy and English language courses; course days are arranged so as to coincide with market days in Gali, so that participants can combine both. Avangard also reports running a three-day women's summer school, which was attended by 25 women, although no further analysis on achievements of the summer school or the educational activities is available.

Expected Result A4: Increased cooperation and strengthened capacity among women's organisations that opens the way to bringing women's political issues further into the spotlight.

The review team has found no conclusive evidence of the project achieving this result.

This result occurs to the review team as being the least targeted result among partner organisations in Abkhazia.

AWA is advocating for women's equal rights at the political level, and is also linked with other organisations, including across the administrative border line (ABL) with organisations in Georgia proper.

Expected result A5: Women participate in conflict prevention work, are acknowledged as actors and women and women's interests are represented in official peace talks.

The review team finds that the project has made a contribution towards the achievement of this result.

Of the five organisations, **AWA** is the one clearest identified with participation in conflict prevention work, and has considerable international exposure. At least one project activity clearly addresses A5 for the period of 2010-2012 - the selection and preparation of a group of young women to be specialists on the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, and for them to participate in future peace talks. The trainings covered elements like the roots, nature and consequences of the conflicts and possible peaceful solutions out of the conflict. The 15 trained young women then also carried out a survey on women's views on the conflict and attitudes towards various solutions (unfortunately the results of this survey were presented in a report that the evaluators have not received because they did not know about its existence). The project report does not describe or even discuss the ethnic constitution of the group of 15 women. The project also does not set a clear end-date as to when the objective is expected to be achieved.

Just like WWV, AWA is partner organisation to other international donors (for example through the EU in partnership with Care International), making it difficult for the reviewers to attribute which of the activities is part of the Sida-support, and what is being funded by other donors.

Expected Result A6: Increased women's participation in political decision-making bodies and processes and increased focus on gender equality and women's rights at the political level as a result of KtK work.

The review team has found no conclusive evidence that this result has been achieved through the project.

One can say that all five organisations indirectly, through training and awareness raising empower women to be more active in society, and to participate in the political sphere. **AWA** is the one organisation that, through Swedish-funded project activities, most explicitly promotes women's participation in politics. This is made mainly through the project component described under expected result A5 above.

Part B of the Kvinna till Kvinna Georgia Programme for 2010 – 2012 targets KtK's own work and is expected to contribute to the development of women's organisations' internal and external capacity and includes three expected results that actually involves the partner organisations in Abkhazia.

Expected Result B1: Increased cooperation between women's organisations, nationally and internationally, to move forward the positions for women's and peace political issues.

The review team finds that the project has made some contribution towards the achievement of this result.

The political situation of course puts restraints on cooperation between women's organisations in Abkhazia and Georgia proper. Even within Abkhazia, little, if any, cooperation between the partner organisations was observed by the evaluators. However networking was reported in most cases. For instance Avangard, that is based in Gali, and UBA-Sukhumi talk about networking with the Association of Women of Abkhazia (AWA), and UBA-Gagra reports about sharing experiences with World Without Violence (WWV). The organisations also network with women's organisations that KtK support in other countries. For instance, there was a chairperson meeting in Istanbul in 2011, which was much appreciated. UBA Sukhumi reports about participation in a businesswomen meeting in Yerevan, which it refers to as a peace building action as this was a point where women from Abkhazia and Georgia proper could meet and talk about, and in some cases agree on, cooperation in the trade sphere.

Expected Result B2: Strengthened capacity within partner organisations to move forward the positions for women's rights and peace policy issues.

The review team has found no evidence that this result has been achieved through the project.

Kvinna till Kvinna has long-term relations with all five partner organisations in Abkhazia, all stable since 2003 or 2004. In Georgia, proper there has been a more active turn-over and partner organisations have changed over time. All five Abkhaz partner organisations describe the cooperation with KtK positively both in interviews and in project reports. KtK is described as "attentive, cooperative and helpful" by the partner organisations. Long-term investments in partnership can enhance sustainable positive changes but the long-term relation also raises the need of being alert to new development needs and not letting the cooperation slip into a convenient routine. The 2012 evaluation of the KtK Georgia Programme describes that the capacity of the organisations has increased over the period 2007-2011, both in terms of internal capacity and thematically. However, the evaluators have found less evidence of the capacity building among the Abkhaz partners. For instance, the quality of the organisations' project reports and the ability to present work toward target achievements is uneven. In the given context of a society that is very isolated from the rest of the world, the evaluators find that the Abkhaz partners need more direct support both in terms of thematic development and in terms of internal organisational capacity development. The Abkhaz partners would benefit from more concretely directed guidance of KtK staff. For instance, a few of the partner organisations would need support in focusing their activities and be more specialised, given the limited number of organisation members and limited staff.

Expected Result B3: Women's organisations in Georgia are the harbingers of democracy in the region, strengthened internal democracy in women's organisations in the region.

The review team is not in a position to conclude that this result has been achieved.

The evaluators cannot, in the framework of this review, assess whether or not women's organisations in Abkhazia are the harbingers of democracy in the region. That assessment would require a separate in-depth analysis and interviews with stakeholders that were not included in this review.

When it comes to strengthening internal democracy in KtK partner organisations, the review team made a number of observations. Internal and external evaluations are approaches that partners apply for organisational learning. UBA Gagra and Avangard have conducted internal evaluations. AWA requested an external evaluation, which was conducted by Sukhumi Youth House. The organisations report that they have regular internal meetings, and at least three of the five organisations have external boards.

As mentioned above, the 2012 evaluation did not include a visit to Abkhazia and none of Abkhaz partners were interviewed. But the results of the evaluation and the recommendations that came out of it are hardly known among the Abkhaz partner organisations. As a result of the 2012 evaluation, there have been changes to how the organisations are asked to report. However, the partner organisations were not clearly explained what caused the changes of routines. The evaluators see a risk that this lack of information and feedback from Kvinna till Kvinna undermines the capacity building activities with partner organisations and hence also the democratic mechanisms and the transparency in the cooperation. More information would increase their understanding and might motivate them to better comply with the new requirements.

3.2 RELEVANCE FROM STRATEGIC POINT OF VIEW

In terms of relevance from a strategic point of view, to make an assessment is challenging, as the objectives pursued in Abkhazia are, compared to other areas covered by the Swedish Co-operation Strategy, considerably less clearly defined.

The projects are relevant from the Strategy's pro-poor perspective, and at least potentially, **from the cross-cutting priority on gender equality, as well as in part on the human rights priority**; the Strategy's emphasis on support to confidence and democracy-building measures in Abkhazia is, at least in principle, reflected through various components of projects across the portfolio. If looked at through the prism of the three sector objectives that Sweden pursues in Georgia, it becomes more difficult to determine how, for example the ACF project, fits into this, as well as parts of the DRC project.

Projects are relevant in terms of the needs they address at the level of the target groups and individual beneficiaries. To see how they fit into an overall strategy would mean to clearly spell out what Swedish policy, and policy objectives are with regards to the engagement in Abkhazia; this is, at current, missing.

This challenge extends to recommendations that can be made about future directions of Swedish support within Abkhazia—without knowing what strategically Sweden aims to pursue it is difficult to make suggestions on *how* those yet-to-be-defined strategic objectives can be supported.

3.3 IMPACT

With regards to the **ACF project**, beneficiaries, in particular the individuals affected by the integrated home garden scheme, the agricultural training courses, and the income generation activities report an impact on the individual level. This includes being more self-reliant (through production of food in the home garden) and having more disposable income; having the previously non-existent skills to do home farming and animal husbandry; being economically empowered (income generation activities; individuals who found paid employment as a result of their graduating from the agricultural training courses). The ACF baseline survey has confirmed that the quality of nutrition has improved among the target population.

With regards to the **DRC project**, the impact that can be ascertained at the point of the review is in the area of private sector support. Businesses have received mini-grants that enabled entrepreneurs to consolidate, and in some case to expand, their businesses. Jobs have been created, and thus, provided an income to these households.

With regards to the **UNICEF project**, impact has to be considered very high on those parts that one could describe as core UNICEF business. This concerns the activities on development of maternal and child healthcare services provision, including the immunisation part, as well as the work with the health care providers on all junctions that the project deals with. The review team would even go to suggest that in particular this part of the project has contributed to a change in the way an important part of Abkhaz society (doctors, health officials, health care providers) perceives the international community, and might explain why the request, by the Abkhaz authorities, to international organisations to withdraw to Gali district did not extend to UNICEF – it is clear that the UNICEF staff in charge of this component is highly respected and trusted by colleagues, and that that has been fed back to the *de facto* government. Impact has been high at the level of the individuals and families of the children attending the day care centres for children living with disabilities – the provision of premises adapted to the needs of these children, along with a structured set of activities to stimulate the children physically and developmentally provided by professionals is a first, and its importance cannot be overestimated.

Impact is also high for physical renovation work done through the projects (including the work that has been done at sub-standard quality) – for the communities and individuals affected, it has meant an oasis of normality in an otherwise desolate and bleak surrounding.

This has gone hand in hand with opportunities, for a considerable number of young people, to participate in meaningful events (including trainings and social gatherings) in circumstances that would normally be void of any age-appropriate activities. For the individuals concerned, the impact of these outputs has been high, though the review team considers the impact at the societal level marginal, given the specificities of the Abkhaz context.

With regards to the **Kvinna till Kvinna** projects, impact at the individual level would seem to be greatest of the activities on access to information on sexual health of girls and women in rural areas, access to women's health care, and on gender based violence issues in Gali and neighbouring districts. This is an essential function in an environment with complete absence of other service providers dealing with these issues. Furthermore the KtK partner organisations have improved the skills and know-how of business women on an individual level through training and individual counselling. The review team has been unable to find conclusive evidence on impact of the two KtK projects beyond this.

3.4 SUSTAINABILITY

With regards to the **ACF** project, prospects for the sustainability of the existing Agricultural Training Centres appear to be good. Scenarios for the future are at various stages; the ATC in Kokhora, visited during the field work, is likely to be incorporated into the local agricultural enterprise.

A number of external factors are likely to have a bearing on the sustainability of the interventions. Initially, the project had planned around seeds and livestock to be purchased in Georgia proper – over the course of the project, this possibility was reduced with the establishment of a restrictive regime of movement across the ABL. This has meant that the project had to source products inside Abkhazia at higher prices, and where the full variety of seeds was not necessarily available, or the seeds were of inferior quality. Animals, purchased within Abkhazia, provided to one of the beneficiaries were not vaccinated—a result of the lack of a system of veterinary controls—and perished as a result of illness. These factors are likely to have a bearing on the future of the income-generating initiatives supported.

With regards to the Community Associations (CA), this scheme appears to be well designed, although there is some uncertainty as to what happens to the equipment (and the CA) beyond the duration of the project, and without monitoring from ACF. The prospect of the SME's supported in the framework of the **DRC** project being sustainable are also high – this statement is in part informed by looking at the high “survival” rate of previous, similar interventions supported by DRC (according to DRC

data, 80% of the businesses). Both DRC and ACF appear to have developed very sound selection processes for businesses-to-be-supported, and in conjunction with the training offered to entrepreneurs, the likelihood of survival of these SMEs seems high. A number of external risks affect the scheme to run according to the initial rationale, which is that through an initial investment, supported SME's will be able to expand their business, increase their profit margins, and then be able to make necessary future investments themselves. There is no flaw in the design of this component itself—the problem is rather that the operating environment on which the business plans are being designed has changed considerably over the lifetime of the project: restrictions on border movements and the loss of access to more competitive markets in Georgia have meant that raw material has now to be purchased at higher prices in Abkhazia, threatening the entire business model in many cases.

A further risk—shared by ACF and by DRC's SME support programme—is the fact that while running a successful business can mean leading the community by example, it can also attract jealousy and result in extortion or other types of criminal behaviour by other members of the community. This, then, is a real disincentive to expanding one's business.

No authoritative conclusions can be drawn on three of the four DRC results areas overall—community mobilisation; low school attendance; and improved inter-ethnic relations through youth training. For the former two, the timing of the review does not allow to assess whether the expected result have been achieved; in terms of individual outputs, the likelihood of the small infrastructure rehabilitation being sustainable are relatively high, as it is unlikely that the premises renovated through the project would fall into complete disarray. For the youth training, sustainability would have to be assessed in the medium and long-term; from the review perspective, the team assesses that although the capacity built at the individual level is important, sustainability prospects are very modest in absence of an overall framework for inter-ethnic reconciliation and dialogue.

The 48 communities that World Vision is cooperating with face various living conditions and have various prospects for livelihoods and other conditions that may impact the sustainability of the SCCs. The 48 communities are also in different phases. As mentioned above, almost half of the SCCs were created prior to the current project with a different funding source and have therefore been running under World Vision monitoring and support for a longer period of time than those created in the current project. Based on those experiences, World Vision has learnt that SCCs that function in communities with more vital premises for livelihood development are more likely to survive than SCCs in communities with weaker economic development, as the sustainability of social services and community activities depend on the population's ability to make financial contributes to salaries and maintenance and refurbishment of facilities. In some of the communities, the locals have started contributing to the salary of the facilitators for instance in order to maintain the pre-school services. The review team has asked for estimates of how large percentage of the SCCs UNICEF/World Vision regard as viable, i.e. likely to live on and continue maintaining the established social services. after the project financing stops, and their estimate is that approximately 70 % of the 48 SCCs will do. In the remaining 30% of the Centres World Vision anticipates that SCCs will still remain "alive" as at least

parts of the established services will continue to run (for example the school canteen, or the pre-school group). The reviewers have found that one factor likely to determine sustainability is the choice of facilitator/prime person in charge of the SCC. Another important factor is whether an SCC has, over the duration of the project, become a genuine centre for activities and has thus, maximised outreach to the community beyond the actual school in which it is located. With regards to the pre-school child care that is being provided on a regular basis in the SCC's, there appear to be prospects for sustainability beyond Swedish funding in particular in those locations with a greater percentage of working parents, and where they would be prepared to bear at least part of the costs for the service.

The primary health clinics, the “*medpunkts*”, have all the perspectives to last beyond Swedish funding and continued project support. The physical rehabilitation of the facility is made, basic equipment is procured and the nurses already, in many cases work on voluntary grounds, when not sustained by local *de facto* authorities.

Facilitators of the SCCs as well as the nurses attending the “*medpunkt*” are initially titled as “facilitators” and receive a monthly “incentive” payment of 50 USD throughout the first 12 months of the project. This is not a large amount of money, however, taking into account the small wages nurses earn, and the fact that many of the nurses are not even employed by the *de facto* health authorities, but serve as volunteers, the small-scale incentive does make a difference for those individuals. The incentive payments have been important for the activities during a start-up period but it is essential that they are limited in time. This should hopefully encourage community members to start contributing to “salaries” themselves, which in turn is likely to increase the feeling of ownership among community members.

The immunisation programme has all the preconditions for sustainability beyond Swedish funding. The investment in infrastructure has provided a solid fundament, medical staff is trained and a functioning system for procurement of vaccines with assistance of MoH in Georgia, proper, is in place.

With regards to KtK, one major concern the of 2012 evaluation of the KtK Georgia programme 2010-2012 regarded the organisations' sustainability strategies in case of Sweden ceasing to fund the organisations. The evaluators have the same concern for the partner organisations in Abkhazia, but have convincingly been conveyed by KtK that they are now also addressing this issue in their cooperation with Abkhaz partner organisations.

3.5 GENDER

The **ACF** project has made a credible effort to improve the way in which it addresses gender in its interventions. For example, the project analysed the reasons for the low uptake of the ATC training offer by women in the first round (with a ratio of 9 male to 1 female participant in Kokhora), and as a result, adjusted the timing of the trainings to make it more suitable for women to participate.

Gender aspects are a concern in the **DRC** project and particularly, as the project's youth training component offers a framework in which gender could be accommodated—a potential that has been completely untapped so far. As a result of a debriefing the reviewers had with the DRC team at the end of their mission to Abkhazia, gender has now been included to be part of an upcoming training module, which is encouraging. In fact, the trainings provide an ideal opportunity to discuss gender, and one that has not been tapped into. For this to be done in a competent way, thorough preparatory work would need to take place, in particular with staff in charge of designing the module. Evidence from an ongoing training that the review team visited seems to suggest that gender stereotypes are being reinforced (“It is my task and responsibility as a boy to protect girls.”), which raises questions about the stewardship by the DRC staff, trainers and coordinators on that issue. The review team notes that there is a need for capacity building for the wider DRC team involved in delivering trainings on gender, before delivering the training module.

The **UNICEF/WV** project, similar to the DRC project, also offers a framework within which gender equality could be promoted. For instance the project conducts numerous trainings for different target groups: youth, nurses, SCC facilitators. Some of the trainings include modules on gender equality but the impression the review team has, based on interviews with only a small part of the training participants, is that these parts of trainings could be further developed and more emphasised. For example some of the interviewed SCC facilitators that had undergone the special training for the SCC component were not even aware that gender equality was part of the training programme (although the evaluators were informed that this was an obligatory part of the trainings).

In the case with **UNICEF** and **World Vision**, lacking gender awareness seems to be an issue even for project implementing staff. One example of that is the incident at the Joint Community Event for school from five different villages that the review team attended in Chuburkhinji. One of the programme events was a beauty pageant for girls of pre-school age. This kind of activities would seem contrary to Sweden's values and should not be encouraged. It reinforces gender stereotypes in a harmful way firstly within the children who participate, not to mention what it is also likely to do with their feeling of self-esteem; and among those who attend It is the responsibility of the project implementers to control and make sure that such things do not happen.

The **KtK** project is a project that addresses gender equality issues exclusively and, indisputably, it fills a very important role in a post-conflict/frozen conflict society like Abkhazia. The main concern of the reviewers is, however, that the activities of the KtK partner organisations almost exclusively address women. The evaluators acknowledge and respect that Kvinna till Kvinna's unchangeable mandate is to support *women* during times of war and conflict to increase *women's* power and influence. However, in order to achieve sustainable change in attitudes towards gender equality, both men and women need to be involved. Women and men need to have access to the same information, as change in attitudes is required from both sides. Gender equality is about questioning and understanding traditional prejudices and expectations on the sexes. It is possible to achieve strengthening of women's position and a respect for women's rights in a society,

only if both women and men understand the mutual benefits of it. Hence it is essential to also include men, not necessarily in all types of project activities, but definitely in the gender trainings. The topic of gender equality is addressed by few actors in Abkhazia and the KtK partner organisations play an essential role. If KtK do not target men it is unlikely that someone else will. When raising this issue with KtK staff in interviews, the evaluators were assured that KtK is not against working with men in principle. However, this does not seem to be the case with KtK partner organisations. Three of the four organisations that were interviewed for the current review believe that KtK do not allow project activities that involve men. Hence it is important that Kvinna till Kvinna clarifies its standpoints to the partner organisations.

3.6 EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

In terms of **efficiency**, the review team has a number of concerns.

The ratio of resources invested into monitoring and selecting the marginally more vulnerable among a target community of very vulnerable people in the **DRC** project seems to compare unfavourably to the actual amount of assistance available for distribution. The selection is thorough, but, in the view of the reviewers excessively documented. Concerns have been raised by beneficiaries about the heavy-handedness of the process. In particular considering the humanitarian nature of this component, the review team feels that the administrative effort should be downscaled in favour of more resources becoming available to be actually distributed (although the reviewers understand that the budget does not work as simply as that). With regards to the youth component of the DRC project, the review team is concerned with the expertise deployed to coordinate this cluster of interventions; overall, **DRC**'s core expertise as an organisation might be in other areas, including those that are part of this project, such as the rehabilitation of physical infrastructure, and the support to SME development.

In the **UNICEF/WV** project, there have been instances of poor workmanship in the school canteens, which (in addition to potentially representing a health hazard) clearly does not qualify as efficient use of resources; one could also argue that poor quality of renovation work of buildings does not help in a context where the presence of INGOs is threatened by the *de facto* authorities. With regards to the immunisation component of the UNICEF project, a relatively modest financial input appears to have contributed to a systemic change in the way in which immunisation is now approached in Abkhazia. The UNICEF/WV project is a considerably complex project, with at least two layers of sub-contracting (from UNICEF to WV, and from WV to a number of local organisations). This way of implementation followed a rationale in the beginning of the project, informed by the experience of World Vision's previous work with the SCCs established as part of other donors' efforts. There is, however, some urgency now to hand over, where possible, functions to the local partner organisations; the review team understands that this is an increased area of activity for the project at the moment. As highlighted elsewhere in the report, WV and local partners have reflected on what they perceived as "chasing numbers" to comply with contractual requirements. This has been to the detriment of quality of the interventions, and should be a clear lesson learned, including

for UNICEF as the main contractual partner for Sida. Given the sensitivity of the Abkhaz context, and the values UNICEF represents, more resources need to be deployed for monitoring of the quality of work, both physical, as well as on the content of activities.

ACF seems to work with a comparatively small team of core staff on the project in Abkhazia, and the review team does not have any specific concerns with regards to efficiency and effectiveness. The ACF project did serve as an illustration of the importance of individuals making a difference, and specifically, the agronomist seems to have been one of the strongest and most effective resources of the project.

With regards to **KtK**, the reviewers only received information on the overall amounts spent by each partner organisation — between 15.000 and 39.000 Euro per project and year, and can therefore not analyse the level of efficiency in spending.

4 Conclusions

Projects are mainly on track to achieve the intended outputs, and the team was able to confirm the achievement of a number of results (for example for the ACF project's result on improvement of nutrition; the DRC private sector support and physical repair of community infrastructure; or UNICEF's support to immunisation and its work with health care providers). Where results were difficult to verify, this was mainly either due to the stage of implementation, or where the project outputs were such that the achievement of results can only be verified in a few years, if at all.

The portfolio of Swedish projects is relevant for the needs in Abkhazia, but overall strategic relevance is difficult to determine given the lack of a clearly defined strategy objective of Swedish engagement in Abkhazia, the parameters of which are very different to that of Georgia proper, and where the sector objectives cannot be transferred to the Abkhaz context.

At the individual level, impact has been strong with regards to the integrated home gardens, the agricultural training provided, and support to income generating activities (ACF); SME support (DRC); immunisation and the day care centres for children living with disabilities (UNICEF), as well as for pre-school activities. While it is impossible to measure the impact of training and social events youth has participated in the framework of the DRC and the UNICEF projects, these activities have been important for the individuals involved in an environment otherwise lacking in opportunities to meaningfully spend after school hours.

At the level of the communities targeted, physical rehabilitation work has been important as it created small pockets of normality in otherwise desolate environments. The repair of medical points and the work with health care providers has had a direct impact on the availability of basic services to district nurses, and a system of immunisation, including the establishment and maintenance of a databank, has significant impact for the children and youth as a whole in Abkhazia.

In terms of sustainability, those interventions that deal with support to the private sector, the provision of training and transferral of business and agricultural skills have a good prospect of sustainability. Sustainability is less certain for the SCCs, as it depends on the role of the individual facilitators as well as on whether the respective centre has been able to genuinely establish itself as a hub of community activities. The sustainability of the child-care activities offered in the framework of the SCCs is uncertain and seems to depend on the livelihoods in the affected communities which determine whether parents might be able to pay for this service. Work needs to continue on the immunisation system to ensure sustainability.

The disability day care centres' sustainability would be under threat should funding discontinue. This would affect a very vulnerable target group (children and their carers). Sustainability is also questionable for large swathes of youth that have participated in training. There is little likelihood of their individually raised capacity to be sustained in an environment where there is no prospect of putting it to use. Sustainability is a concern for partner organisations of KtK, with at least a couple of organisations heavily relying on Swedish core funding for their existence, without any alternative scenarios in place. Coordination has been good among projects, with exceptions.

There are quality differences between projects on physical rehabilitation work, and in the case of the UNICEF project, there have been clear examples of sub-standard work submitted, which cannot be considered a good use of resources. The review team has concerns with regards to efficiency in DRC's work with vulnerable families, as well as seeing a need to clarify allocation of resources with UNICEF. No information that would allow statement on efficiency is available at the time of the draft report for KtK and its partners.

Sweden is working with implementing partners with a considerable track record in Abkhazia. In addition to maintaining this pool of partners, there is also scope for projects to be implemented using a stronger local component.

5 Recommendations

The review team makes the following recommendations:

With a view to improving **ongoing project implementation**:

- Address gender equality more consistently, as required by the donor, in three of the four projects. This should include gender training to all staff, as well as incorporating gender into project activities, in particular in the DRC and UNICEF/WV project, to be incorporated into training modules and structured activities with young people. Consider enlisting the expertise/help of Sweden's partners in Abkhazia itself (e.g. World without Violence which specialises in gender training).
- For the UNICEF/World Vision project, explore possibilities of closer monitoring of project activities and thus, provide greater stewardship in terms of content of activities, as well as to ensure acceptable quality of rehabilitation work carried out under the auspices of the project.
- For the school canteen scheme, the review team sees a need for ACF and UNICEF/WV to reassess their joint understanding of the scheme and the role of each side in it. ACF has signalled their readiness to discuss how to take this joint effort forward.
- For DRC, be less strict in the selection of beneficiaries among the most vulnerable and, if possible, expand the number of grants at the expense of administrative costs for the selection procedure. Explore alternative ways to support families with low school attendance of children, for example by trying to provide transport services for children to the bigger schools in the area.
- For KtK, involve men in gender trainings in a more structured and strategic way. Most of the currently planned and conducted gender trainings in Abkhazia only target women. The evaluators acknowledge that Kvinna till Kvinna's unchangeable mandate is to support *women* during times of war and conflict to increase women's power and influence. However, in order to improve gender equality, men and women need to have the same understanding of the topic and have access to the same information. Hence involvement of men in gender trainings is essential.
- For KtK, communicate clearer to partner organisations the implications from the 2012 independent evaluation of the Georgia programme, in particular with regards to the requirements on organisational development and sustainability.
- For KtK, provide more direct support to the Abkhaz partner organisations in capacity development and thematical focusing. Some of the partner organisations seem to have spread the range of activities too widely and would benefit in efficiency and quality from narrowing and deepening their project objectives and activities.

- Functions should be handed over, wherever possible, to local partners, for reasons of sustainability, as well as efficiency. A number of partner organisations in particular in the UNICEF/World Vision project would seem to have the capacity (or could develop it) to take over a next phase of activities. In the current political climate, working through local partners might be an increasing necessity, anyway.
- Future support should work towards strengthening structures created through the existing portfolio of projects (in particular the UNICEF/WV project), but geographical coverage and the pursuing of target numbers should be de-emphasised in favour of quality of activities

With a view to continued Swedish funding **beyond the duration of the current projects and the ongoing strategy**:

The Terms of Reference for this review requests forward-looking suggestions on future directions of Swedish support within Abkhazia. Correspondingly, stakeholders and non-stakeholder experts have been asked for input into recommendations for potential areas of future Swedish support. It has been a challenge to solicit meaningful ideas,¹ as there is considerable diversity in the way key experts assess what the role of the international community in Abkhazia should be (and following from this, what donors should fund). An additional obstacle is, of course, the Abkhaz authorities' stance towards international assistance, which it insists should, if anything, have a *developmental* character. The review team assumes that the current parameters ring-fencing Swedish funding will remain the same (specifically the non-engagement with the *de facto* authorities as a result of non-recognition), and this keeps limiting the space in which projects can operate; it certainly rules out development cooperation in the conventional sense.

Looking ahead to the next strategy period from 2014 onwards, it would be useful to have a clearer spelled out vision of what the rationale is in Abkhazia; as quoted elsewhere in this report, the current strategy opens the possibility for co-operation, but remains broadly silent about the strategic vision underpinning Swedish engagement (while all current projects can possibly be “accomodated”² to fit the current strategy objectives, it is also clear that the same objectives that apply to Georgia proper cannot apply to Abkhazia, if only for the fact that in terms of their

¹ Some experts suggested Swedish support to include “soft” areas such as culture and sport – something that the review team rejects on the grounds of these areas becoming easily co-opted for nationalist purposes, and therefore potentially counterproductive.

² Though it is not necessarily obvious to the review team how the mainly agricultural training-focused ACF project and the SME development component of the DRC project fit under the Strategy objectives at current.

developmental stage, they are at very different levels, and because the terms of engagement are different). Forward looking recommendations include the following:

- Maintaining a presence is in the case of Abkhazia an objective in itself. Engagement from the inside is preferable to observing developments from outside without a possibility to react should windows of opportunity become available.
- The core argument for continued assistance is, from the point of view of the reviewers, a pro-poor perspective – the projects in the existing portfolio address some of the (vast) needs of the vulnerable and the very poor.
- While at present, support does contain elements of capacity building for individual households, the team thinks that there is a rationale for considering options for more humanitarian-type projects. Stakeholders have confirmed the continued need for shelter, and the community “*medpunkty*”, as well as relevant local partner organisations, continue to suffer from shortages of basic medicines.
- From the pro-poor point of view, there is a continued need for livelihood support projects, including projects similar to the ones carried out by ACF, and, in part, by DRC in the current portfolio.
- There is also a need to include a greater disaster resilience and relief components into projects, in particular in those projects that deal with agricultural training; the region is vulnerable to draughts as well as flooding, which has a potentially dramatic bearing on food security.
- Vulnerabilities are high with regards to the day care centres for children living with disabilities, and the target groups they serve. There is no prospect, as far as the review team could make out, that any official structures will take over this type of support, nor that other funding sources could be found. From a humanitarian perspective again, Sweden should support the continuation of the work of these centres, and accept that this is potentially open-ended support.
- While community mobilisation components within projects are important, expectations should be ring-fenced to be more realistic, including on what implementing agencies should be expected to deliver in the context of Abkhazia which does not lend itself, in absence of fundamental political changes, to communities taking on self-management functions in the same way as in maybe more favourable environments.
- Where people in communities *can* make a difference to their day-to-day lives, implementing partners should not shy away from addressing the obvious. The review team specifically thinks of the need for projects to address what appears to be the taboo of residual waste in the communities, and which would urgently need to be addressed – and could be dealt with relatively effectively in a community building project.
- Anecdotal evidence from stakeholders suggest that there is a link between residual waste and the quality of drinking water in the communities, which, too, should be targeted. Both waste and water would fit well within the importance that Sweden attaches to environmental issues inside its international policy priorities.
- Facilitation of people-to-people contacts, and in particular the facilitation of contacts among youth, remains an important area worthy of support, both in terms

of inter-ethnic contacts/exposure, as well as from a humanitarian point of view: there is nothing on offer for young people in Abkhazia, making them vulnerable to substance and alcohol abuse, as well as potentially feeding into political radicalisation.

- As indicated in the core part report, the specific forms of this need to be re-thought based on the mixed record from the current portfolio; this concerns the partners currently implementing such interventions and their suitability for the task at hand. Events such as meetings of schools from different ethnic communities such as those facilitated by World Vision, are important for the young people, professionals working in the schools, as well as the parents. The scale of support for young people participating in holiday camps should be much greater, on the basis that these are experiences that make for a more normal childhood than they would otherwise experience.
- Any intervention that can contribute to lessening the isolation of Abkhazia from the world (even if this is self-inflicted isolation, and might enjoy widespread support) appears worthy of support. This could include support to computer-literacy and provision of IT equipment and internet access in remote/rural locations, in coordination with projects with ongoing efforts of this kind.
- Sweden should continue working with the pool of partners that there are now – organisations have a considerable track record and experience in Abkhazia, which is a valuable asset. Recent experience with one INGO has also illustrated that once they left Abkhazia, it was impossible for them to return to the region.
- Sweden should also explore strengthening the role of those international organisations that do have access, and possibly a degree of influence, on the *de facto* government – this concerns specifically UNDP. However, such options should be informed by the outcome of the independent evaluations currently being undertaken on two UNDP projects. INGOs should, however, continue to work independently (and it is unlikely that they would want to work as sub-contractors to UNDP anyway).

Annex 1 – Terms of Reference

Review of the Swedish development cooperation within the breakaway region Abkhazia, Georgia, 2011-2013

Evaluation Purpose: Sida wishes to procure a team of consultants for the review of Sida supported activities in the breakaway region of Abkhazia during the period 2011-2013. The purpose of the review is twofold: Firstly, the review should look at results achieved in relation to the objectives and expected results as expressed in the original project documents. Sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency are other important aspects, as is assessment of relevance of selected partners and activities. Secondly, the review should be forward looking and present recommendations and suggestions for how Sida could design its support in the region in the future if there would be a decision to continue working there. The findings of the review will serve as an important input in the development of the new development cooperation strategy for Eastern Europe.

Intervention Background: Sida has been active in the South Caucasus since the end of the 1990s and opened an office in Georgia in 2006. Up until 2011, the only Sida-supported activities within the breakaway regions Abkhazia and South Ossetia were through Kvinna till Kvinna. Since 2010 Sweden has a development cooperation strategy for Georgia, covering the period 2010-2013.³ One of the three prioritised sectors for the Swedish development cooperation with Georgia is democracy, human rights and gender equality. The strategy outlines that “Opportunities to implement contributions in Abkhazia and South Ossetia will be used. Above all, democracy-building contributions – mainly channelled via civil society – and confidence-building measures should be considered within the context of Swedish support. Within the framework of democracy-building contributions, support to the populations of these areas will be considered and there will be preparedness to support larger and more complex initiatives. As regards confidence-building measures, the possibility will be examined of providing support, above all, to international contacts, education initiatives and media.” With the new strategy in place, Sida started exploring different possibilities for increasing its support to activities within the breakaway regions. Due to the fact that it is not possible to enter South Ossetia from Georgia, the focus was upon Abkhazia. Three new projects were started in January 2011 and the already ongoing support to Kvinna till Kvinna included five partner organisations in Abkhazia.

³ Prior to that, Sweden had a regional strategy for South Caucasus.

The following projects should be included in the review:

1. UNICEF: “Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia”. Budget: 28,5 MSEK, activity period from January 2011 to December 2013. The project aims at improving health, education and social outcomes for vulnerable and under-served children in the Abkhazia region, with a special focus on poor returnee children and children living with disabilities. The work is carried out on community level in order to strengthen community based capacity for the provision of basic services. By working with different ethnic groups in the region the project is also expected to have a positive effect with regards to confidence building between the different ethnic communities. World Vision is the implementing partner of the project.
2. Action Contre La Faim: “Promoting self-reliance and improving the welfare of IDPs and vulnerable population in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia region”. Budget: 16 MSEK (only part of activities in Abkhazia), activity period from January 2011 to December 2013. The project objective is to improve the nutritional status of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable population through increased food availability at household level and to create employment and livelihood opportunities in the target regions. The project is working with introduction and establishment of home and school gardens, establishment of community associations, grants for income generating activities and plant nursery trainings centres among other areas of work.
3. Danish Refugee Council: “Durable Solutions – A way forward for IDPs in Georgia”. Budget: 37,2 MSEK (small component for Abkhazia), activity period October 2008 to February 2012 (activities in Abkhazia started in February 2011). Activities in Abkhazia aimed at assisting vulnerable families with income generating activities in order to prevent school drop-outs.
4. Danish Refugee Council: “Innovative and Applicable Durable Solutions to Displacement in Georgia”. Budget: 30 MSEK (only part of activities in Abkhazia), activity period from May 2012 to December 2014. The programme aims at supporting the Government in implementing the State Strategy and Action Plan on IDPs for 2012-2014. The programme includes capacity building support to the Ministry and its regional offices, housing for privately accommodated IDPs, livelihood options and provision of legal aid. About 7 MSEK is ear-marked for Abkhazia, focusing on vulnerable families and children.
5. Kvinna till Kvinna in Georgia, 2010-2012. Budget: 22 MSEK (with five out of sixteen partner organisations in Abkhazia). The majority of the women's organisations that KtK co-operates with are active in the more conflict affected zones and are implementing projects directly targeting IDPs and ethnic groups on both sides of the conflict. Activities focus upon the areas of peace building, gender based violence, women's participation and organisational sustainability of the partner organisations. The project was evaluated during spring 2012 by Orgut. The consultants did however not visit Abkhazia.

Projects 2-5 above are covering different parts of Georgia. This review should however only focus on project components carried out in Abkhazia.

The working environment in Abkhazia is very different from the rest of Georgia and politically sensitive. The Georgian Government has a law and a state strategy on “Occupied Territories”. In addition, the government has introduced specific modalities, governing the work of international organisations within the breakaway region. The new government, which has been in place since October 2012, has expressed its continued support to international actors being active in Abkhazia. Due to the unresolved conflict and non-recognition of the *de facto* regime⁴ in Sukhumi, international assistance is limited to mainly activities of humanitarian and peace-building character, with civil society actors as partners. No institution-building is possible and thus the issue of sustainability is a challenge. The *de facto* authorities in Sukhumi have recently become more negative to the presence and work of international organisations in Abkhazia and during fall 2012 the international organisations present on the ground received the message that their work should be limited to the south east of Abkhazia – the area mainly inhabited by ethnic Georgians. By end of January this was confirmed with letters sent from *de facto* authorities to these organisations, “advising” them to withdraw to the Gali District by the first of May this year. The diplomatic community in Tbilisi has also received the message that diplomats from Tbilisi will no longer be welcome in Abkhazia unless entering from the Russian side in the north. The future possibilities for work of international organisations in Abkhazia is thus at the moment very uncertain.

Review questions: the consultancy team is expected to answer the following questions:

- 1) Project achievements 2011-2013 in Abkhazia
 - Have the projects achieved – or are likely to achieve – the set goals and expected results? If not – what are the main reasons for that? Have the set goals and expected results been realistic? How did factors within the operating environment affect the projects and results?
 - Have the selection of projects been relevant from an overall strategic point of view? Have the projects been complimentary to each other and has the coordination between projects been sufficient. How is Sweden’s role in the coordination assessed?
 - How do beneficiaries perceive the value of the projects? Which were the major changes attained through the projects?
 - What is the assessment of the sustainability of the projects? Sustainability of outputs and outcomes as well as sustainability of the partners in the project? Are there sustainable results for the target groups that the projects have

⁴ Only six countries have recognized Abkhazia as an independent state – Russia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Nauru, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

contributed to? To what extent will the benefits of the projects continue after Sida funding ends?

- Analyse the gender aspects of the projects and how they have contributed to increased gender equality.

2) Recommendations for the future

- Alternative approaches to continued activities in the region in order to strengthen outcomes and sustainability – partnerships, thematic priorities, etc.
- Suggest possible improvements in any of the above mentioned areas or other aspects which might emerge during the evaluation.

Methodology: The team will need to conduct a desk study of relevant documentation including project documents, reports, Sida assessments and comments, country analysis, information about other donor supported initiatives within the region etc. This will be complemented by a visit to Georgia, including Abkhazia, in order to conduct interviews with project partners and relevant stakeholders. Meetings shall be held with the responsible officer at the Embassy in Tbilisi, as well as with partner organisations in Tbilisi and Abkhazia. More details on methodology should be presented by the consultant.

Work Plan and Budget: The consultancy team should be able to start working in April 2013. The review is expected to take maximum twenty-five working days, including minimum seven working days in Georgia (including Abkhazia) for conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders. The budget ceiling for the assignment is 400 000 SEK. The team should plan for an initial meeting with the Embassy in Tbilisi when arriving in Georgia as well as a debriefing before leaving Georgia.

The consultancy team should present a draft report by April 26 and a final report should be submitted one week after having received comments from Sida and project partners on the draft.

Reporting: The team of consultants shall write a report of maximum 25 pages, (excluding appendices) including an executive summary and be structured mainly in accordance with Annex B in Sida's evaluation manual "Looking Back, Moving Forward". The draft as well as the final report shall be produced in electronic versions, the final report in PDF format.

Required skills and qualification:

- experience from conducting similar evaluations
- documented experience of international development cooperation, preferably from Eastern Europe
- at least five years experience of evaluating/reviewing projects
- knowledge of conflict/post-conflict/frozen conflict context
- fluency in English
- knowledge of Russian is an asset

Annex 2 – Inception Report

1 Introduction

Sweden's strategy for development co-operation with Georgia 2010 – 2013⁵ prioritises, as one of its three sectors, support to Human Rights, Democracy, and Gender Equality.⁶ The Sida-supported interventions in Abkhazia fall under two of the three specific sector objectives – “strengthened democratic structures and systems, with a focus on human rights and gender equality” and “better living conditions for the country's internally displaced persons”. The Strategy states that “Opportunities to implement contributions in Abkhazia and South Ossetia⁷ will be used. Above all, democracy-building contributions – mainly channelled via civil society – and confidence-building measures should be considered within the context of Swedish support.”

Sida has supported women's groups in Abkhazia since 2002 through a project with Kvinna till Kvinna. Since early 2011, Sida has increased its portfolio of contributions to contain one project with an exclusive focus on Abkhazia (implemented by UNICEF, with World Vision and local NGOs as partners), and four others, where work in Abkhazia constitutes a substantial segment of the project, in addition to working with IDPs in Georgia proper or on institutional capacity building of the Ministry for Refugees and Accommodation (MRA).

The review will cover the following projects' Abkhazia-related interventions:⁸

- UNICEF: “Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia” (2011 to 2013), 28.5 MSEK, part of the outputs under the project are sub-contracted to World Vision (WV)
- Action Contre La Faim (ACF): “Promoting Self-Reliance and Improving Welfare of IDPs and Vulnerable Population in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia region” (2011 to 2013), overall budget (i.e. including non-Abkhazia interventions) 16 MSEK
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC): “Durable Solutions – A Way forward for IDPs in Georgia”, with Abkhazia-related interventions from early 2011 to early 2012, overall budget 37.2 MSEK, of which only a small share is allocated to Abkhazia

⁵ <http://www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/14/56/28/f361b6af.pdf>.

⁶ Gender equality is also one of the cross-cutting objectives of the Swedish Strategy.

⁷ There is no access to South Ossetia, and thus, no projects are being pursued there.

⁸ In accordance with the ToR.

- DRC: “Innovative and Applicable Durable Solutions to Displacement in Georgia”, (2012 to 2014), overall budget 30 MSEK, 7MSEK of which are earmarked for Abkhazia
- Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK): Georgia Programme, (2010 to 2012), overall budget 22 MSEK; out of 16 partner organisations, five are based in Abkhazia

The review team will visit Georgia from 3 to 12 April 2013 to conduct field visits and stakeholder and non-stakeholder expert interviews in Abkhazia and Tbilisi, respectively. Given the relative complexity of the field work (due to the number of projects to be covered, and the challenges associated with setting up meetings with stakeholders in Abkhazia), it will be important that the partners are given the opportunity to comment on this inception report. The report lists specific requests for additional project documentation that would help the review team to prepare in more detail for the field visit. It also suggests which stakeholders the review team would like to meet, with a request to implementing partners to make suitable suggestions for stakeholders and appropriate locations for the team’s meetings in Abkhazia. From the project reports, it seems clear that co-ordination between the organisations is a strong feature of the overall portfolio; the review team would therefore appreciate if organisations could extend this co-ordination to this review and liaise about locations and key stakeholders that the team should meet.

2 Assessment of scope of the review

2.1 Elements of the Review

The Terms of Reference (ToR) specify two main purposes of this review:

Purpose 1: A presentation and discussion of **results** of the projects against the stated objectives, with specific focus on **sustainability**, **effectiveness**, and **efficiency**, as well as **relevance** of the portfolio; the review should also explore how **gender aspects** have been addressed across the portfolio of projects.

Purpose 2: A discussion of options for Sida-support in the framework of the new development co-operation strategy for Eastern Europe.

Purpose 1

Applying the definitions as set out by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), we define **results** as the “outcome, output or impact (intended or unintended, positive and/or negative) of a development intervention.”⁹ The review will seek to verify, test, and map the results reported by implementing partners through stakeholder and, where possible, non-stakeholder expert interviews during the in-country phase.

⁹ See OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management at <http://www.oecd.org/development/peer-reviews/2754804.pdf>.

Sustainability (“The continuation of benefits from a development intervention after major development assistance has been completed. The probability of continued long-term benefits. The resilience to risk of the net benefit flows over time.”)¹⁰ has been a key concern of Sida as it built up the portfolio of interventions, and as put on record in Sida’s assessment memos preceding project approval. To assess sustainability is a challenge in that most of the projects are in the midst of implementation and that therefore, it is difficult to make predictions. The team would want to discuss with implementing partners as to whether they are currently, with Sida funding, implementing activities that have been tried and tested previously in Abkhazia, and whether a look at those previous locations might be useful in extrapolating for the ongoing review. Sustainability is even more of a concern as the operating environment for INGOs in Abkhazia has been deteriorating since the end of 2012, and organisations are being forced, by the *de facto* Abkhaz government to limit their operations to Gali. This presumably means that many of the activities planned in other geographic (Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli in the case of ACF and DRC, and additional locations for WV) areas might have to be discontinued early, which has implications for the prospect of sustainability. As mentioned in the introduction, sustainability will have different implications depending on whether one is looking at humanitarian relief or “classical” development co-operation interventions. We would appreciate Sida’s guidance on this issue.

The evaluation questions that will be answered are:

- What is the assessment of the sustainability of the projects?
- Sustainability of outputs and outcomes as well as sustainability of the partners in the project?
- Are there sustainable results for the target groups that the projects have contributed to?
- To what extent will the benefits of the projects continue after Sida funding ends?

Effectiveness – defined as “[a] measure of the extent to which an aid activity attains its objectives.”¹¹ The criterion of effectiveness will look at the likelihood of achievement of the objectives as stated in the projects’ logical frameworks (see Annex 2, which provides the logframes that form the basis for this review). This will also contain a discussion about the risks that might threaten the achievement of objectives.

The evaluation questions that will be answered are:

- Have the projects achieved – or are likely to achieve – the set goals and expected results? If not – what are the main reasons for that?
- Have the set goals and expected results been realistic?

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

- How did factors within the operating environment affect the projects and results?
- How do beneficiaries perceive the value of the projects?
- Which were the major changes attained through the projects?
- How is Sweden's role in the coordination assessed?

An extensive discussion of **efficiency** ("A measure of how economically resources/input (funds, expertise, time etc.) are converted into results.")¹² depends on the readiness of the implementing organisations to share financial information with the review team. The efficiency criterion aims at assessing the extent to which the human and financial resources have been used in an optimal manner. Financial data and data collected through interviews (questionnaire) will be assessed to answer these questions.

The evaluation question that will be answered is:

- Has the organisational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the programmes?

Relevance is defined as "the extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient and donor."¹³ From the initial desk review, relevance for the target group(s) of all projects in the portfolio is coming out relatively clearly (although the review team will test this assumption during the field phase). The team will test the theories of change underpinning the projects and their objectives and outputs against this emphasis. Special emphasis will be given to assess the results of the specific confidence-building and democracy-building outputs across the portfolio (youth camps, trainings etc.) In the main, it seems that the projects are addressing immediate needs of the target groups rather than having a strong democracy focus, which may take precedence over strategic aims in the country strategy, consider the conflict area.

The evaluation questions that will be answered are:

- Have the selection of projects been relevant from an overall strategic point of view?
- Have the projects been complimentary to each other and has the coordination between projects been sufficient.

Gender aspects: Gender is both a cross-cutting aspect as well as one of the sectors that is being pursued by the Strategy (see above). All projects address gender both in the project design, as well as in the follow up reporting to Sida. Sida, in turn, has made gender one of the ongoing dialogue issues with partners throughout implementation (as pointed out in the assessment memos the review team has on file for some of the projects, as well as in various reactions to projects' regular reports). The review will test

¹² Ibid.

¹³ See <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

how gender has been addressed in the four (i.e. all but Kvinna till Kvinna) non-gender specific projects, as well as what influence the dialogue with Sida has had on incorporating gender concerns. Are gender issues a genuine core concern? What influence have the agencies had in generating ownership of gender issues among their local partners? The team will be helped by Indevlop in-house expertise to incorporate relevant questions in the survey instruments.

The evaluation question that will be answered is:

- How have the projects contributed to increased gender equality?

Purpose 2

The team plans to map possible options for Sida-support through non-stakeholder experts meetings in Tbilisi as well as telephone and face-to-face interviews, where possible, with think tanks and organisations involved in the region (see below for initial thinking around these – the review team is grateful for any additional suggestions from stakeholders).

The evaluation issues that will be answered are:

- Alternative approaches to continued activities in the region in order to strengthen outcomes and sustainability – partnerships, thematic priorities, etc.
- Suggest possible improvements in any of the above mentioned areas or other aspects which might emerge during the evaluation.

2.2 Do-ability of the Review: Key Concerns

There are two key concerns at the time of writing the Inception Report.

First, given the complexity of the review—five projects involving five implementing partners; the challenges of access to Abkhazia and thus, to stakeholders—there is real time pressure to set up the review team’s field mission. The team therefore appreciates the willingness of all implementing partners to cooperate on this. If implementing partners assess that specific parts of this exercise might put any of the stakeholders at risk of repercussions, the team would not want to pursue those interviews/meetings. Below, there is a list of stakeholder groups that the team would like to meet during the field work in Abkhazia from 5 April to 9 April 2013. The team would also appreciate if organisations could provide further information that would allow understanding, in detail, the specific outputs and activities pursued under the various objectives (see below).

Second, purpose 2 remains (as specified in a first reaction to the Terms of Reference) a challenge to address, given that the political situation that determines the possibility of engagement in Abkhazia, is difficult to predict with any degree of certainty.

2.3 Limitations

Due to the time limits and the complexity of the review, the review team will not have an opportunity to independently choose sites to visit and there will also only be a limited opportunity to choose which stakeholders to meet. For the same reasons (time constraints) the team will not be able to meet many non-stakeholders, which would otherwise be ideal to understand how these interventions are perceived within the broader

processes underway.

3 Methodology and Approach

3.1 Data collection and review

The team has, thus far, reviewed the available documentation for each project (see Annex 1 for details). The review covers only the Abkhazia-related part of projects, and the team has compiled the logical framework for each project's Abkhazia interventions; in the case of UNICEF, the team is using the project's own logical framework, given that the project is exclusively focusing on Abkhazia. The team would appreciate if implementing organisations could early on point out any errors or mistakes that might have occurred during the compilation.

The biggest data gap so far concerns the **Kvinna till Kvinna** project, as information is not specifically provided for Abkhazia, but for the project overall. The team would therefore appreciate more specific information on KtK's Abkhazia-related partner organisations (two of which appear to also be local implementing partners for UNICEF), as well as any information that had a specific Abkhazia focus, so that this could be included in the field mission.

The review team would like to receive in addition to the project reports that are submitted to Sida (already received), the following documents/data:

DRC:

- Any documentation available on community development groups – what is determining whether communities are being selected, what is the “usual community mobilisation process” etc.
- Training Module on Children Rights' Education
- Baseline Indicators that have been developed to measure performance and attendance of school children under Expected Result 2.3
- Business Development Training Package (Expected Result 2.4) and a select number of applications for the income generation grants, as well as the baseline data selected to monitor progress
- Any information that pertains to the monitoring of gender aspects (baseline data; qualitative information) in the project activities
- Financial information, if possible, broken down by result

ACF:

- Baseline survey under Expected Result 1
- Syllabus, handbook, and select material for training course
- Agendas for select community workshops
- Any information available on Result 2 (parameters by which communities are selected; select business idea proposals); concept note or similar for Community Associations
- Any information that pertains to the monitoring of gender aspects (baseline data; qualitative information) in the project activities

- Financial information, if possible, broken down by result

UNICEF:

- Selected records and reports of Social Community Centres' (SCC's)
- Examples of extracurricular activities initiated by teachers
- Selected records and reports from social institutions (schools, social welfare units) on activities regarding inclusion of children with disabilities
- A description of the inclusive education model piloted in collaboration with elementary schools
- Examples of reports from training and supervisory activities for medical professionals maternal and child healthcare
- Household Baseline Survey
- Financial information, if possible, broken down by result

3.2 Stakeholder interviews

The two evaluators will carry out field work from 4 April to 12 April 2013, with a suggested briefing with Sida and the implementing organisations DRC, ACF, KtK, WV separately suggested for 4 April 2013; work in Abkhazia, will be carried out from 5 April (a briefing with UNICEF in Sukhumi is suggested for the afternoon of that day) to 9 April 2013. The proposed schedule includes a weekend and the team hopes for the possibility to meet with project stakeholders also on the Saturday and Sunday. In Abkhazia, the review team will split up in order to cover as many locations as possible between them. It is planned that Susanna Dellans covers the UNICEF and KtK locations outside of South Eastern Abkhazia, while Vera Devine covers locations in Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Gali district. The team understands that all projects work in these districts; therefore, it is suggested that field work be organised by location, not by project. The team will work, between the submission of the Inception Report and the start of the in-country mission on the development of specific questionnaires to guide the interview process. The review team will interview non-stakeholder experts on 10 and 11 April 2013 upon return from Abkhazia, and is also planning for a de-briefing with Sida. Initial discussions have been held with UNICEF, who has kindly offered to assist the review team with logistics during the Abkhazia field mission. UNICEF has also offered to help establishing what would be the most sensible itinerary in South Eastern Abkhazia; this support is very much appreciated. We are suggesting the following categories of stakeholders, along with the format of the meeting:

Team Members working on specific Result areas in the locations	individual or focus group interviews, depending on advice from implementing partners
Community Board Members/Leaders	individual or focus group interviews,
Local NGOs	individual interviews
Teachers and Tutors	individual interviews
Beneficiaries having received grants	individual interviews

through the projects (SME's; vulnerable families etc.)	
Training participants	individual interviews
Youth/children that have been part of Training/youth camps	individual interviews

In addition, the team appreciates a list with contacts of any short-term and/or international experts that might have been involved delivering activities such as trainings, assessments and surveys.

For Purpose 2, the team will interview conduct interviews with experts and organisations with a history of engagement in Abkhazia. A detailed selection, as well as initial contacts, will be made after the submission of the Inception Report. A first list of organisations includes Conciliation Resources, the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berghof Foundation, Chatham House, the Institute for War and Peace Reporting; as mentioned above, the team will seek to accommodate any other suggestions for meetings.

3.3 Report drafting

The review team will have an outline of the report ready at the beginning of the in-country mission, and will have decided on the division of tasks between the team members.

4 Workplan Status

a) Desk Review

The team has done a desk review of available project documents (see Annex 1). Desk review will continue after the submission of the Inception Report, and depending on the implementing partners' forwarding of documents as requested above.

b) In-country work

In-country work will take place from 4 April to 12 April 2013. We propose to have a briefing with Sida followed by a briefing meeting with the implementing organisations (and Sida) on the 4th, followed by travel to Abkhazia for interviews and field work. Upon return, a validation workshop to present the findings to Sida and the implementing organisations will be held in Tbilisi on the 10th. Interviews will be conducted in Tbilisi on the 11-12th, and finally a debriefing will be held with Sida. See section 5 below for an overview of the itinerary.

c) Analysis and report-drafting

Submission of draft report – 26 April 2013, Submission of final report – 13 May 2013

5 Preliminary work plan for in-country

A detailed agenda and itinerary will be available before the field trip, and will be shared with the implementing organisations.

April 4	1. Briefing with Sida 2. Briefing meeting with the implementing organisations DRC, ACF, KtK, WV (to be confirmed)
April 5	Travel to Abkhazia – briefing with UNICEF in Sukhumi
April 6	Interviews in Abkhazia
April 7	Interviews in Abkhazia
April 8	Interviews in Abkhazia
April 9	Interviews in Abkhazia - Travel to Tbilisi
April 10	1. Presentation of preliminary findings to Sida and organisations 2. Debriefing with Sida
April 11	Interviews in Tbilisi
April 12	Interviews in Tbilisi

Annex 3 – Project LFA: Danish Refugee Council (DRC): “Innovative and Applicable Durable Solutions to Displacement in Georgia”

Danish Refugee Council (DRC): “Innovative and applicable durable solutions to displacement in Georgia”		
Overall Objective: To provide durable solutions to displaced and conflict affected populations in Georgia.		
Programme Objectives: 1) A clear contribution is made to the durable local integration of IDPs in Georgia in line with the Georgian Government’s IDP Action Plan; and 2) Greater reintegration of IDPs and residents in 9 selected locations in Abkhazia.		
Expected outcomes for Abkhazia by December 31, 2014	Expected outputs in Abkhazia (according to project proposal 2012)	Reported outputs in Abkhazia (according to DRC progress report January 2013)
Expected Result 2.1: 9 selected communities have enhanced self-management capacities	After several years of community mobilisation work, DRC will expand this project into nine communities in Abkhazia, targeting three communities per year. The project will activate the community to engage in the design of a necessary intervention through the collaborative development of Community Action Plans. DRC will then provide funding for a small infrastructure project identified in the planning process, alongside basic training in project management to ensure that the community is directly involved in project design and implementation. To complement the activities under results 2.2 – 2.4, the community mobilisation process will prioritise educational institutions. One example is the Sukhumi Youth House, which will also have a role in the activities under Result 2.2.	A mix of community mobilisation, training and infrastructure projects, primarily in the field of education, to improve social life in selected war-affected areas. The project initially selected 9 locations. - In Tkvarcheli district, Pirvely Gali community opted for the renovation of the annex building to the school to hold music and recreational events. The renovation process has been coordinated closely with World Vision. DRC was in charge of the roof repair, the rehabilitation of one room and façade while World Vision took care of the renovation of one room to serve as a canteen. The rehabilitation process was almost finalised by the end of the year 2012. - In Tkvarcheli district, DRC targeted the Okumi

	The mobilisation process is as follows. First, the community appoints a Community Initiative Group of up to ten people, which identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the community. Next, focus groups explore the community’s needs. Selected representatives then form a selection board to filter the possible projects to two or three main ones, which the community can then vote on. This board then oversees project implementation, which is carried out by DRC.	kindergarten as a follow up of a previous SDC-funded project. The community leadership organised in a community development group opted for the full inside renovation of the 2 buildings used for the pre-school education in the village (2,400 inhabitants). Given the extent of works to be conducted and the fact that two separate buildings are being renovated, DRC considers the Okumi site as two community projects. After lengthy negotiations with the <i>de facto</i> local district administration, permission was granted to DRC in November 2012 to start renovation works in the selected premises with the support of one mobile team. The works are expected to last till the end of April 2012 -200 m² per building. - In Saberio village (Gali region), DRC initiated a Youth Leadership project with the support of Sida in 2012 and decided to further engage in the local kindergarten to improve the quality of services rendered to the local population. The local community opted for the construction of an extension of the existing building to have a proper play room for the children. The Saberio community did not go through the usual community mobilisation process as the community had already established a board during a previous SDC-funded project, which was re-activated. The construction works were half finished by the end of December 2012. - In Gali district, DRC was approached on several
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		occasions by the local district administration to support the renovation and re-opening of the Mziuri kindergarten at the outskirts of Gali town. The 60 children enrolled yearly in the facility have been transferred in May 2011 to a private house as a temporary solution, since the original pre-school premises was in danger of collapse and too risky for children. The community mobilisation process held in Mziuri selected the renovation of the existing building as one project and the provision of drainage systems and arrangement to the garden as a second project. All materials have been ordered by the end of December 2012 but works are expected to start in February 2013. The rehabilitation process is expected to last for a minimum 3 months.
Expected Result 2.2: Improved interaction between youth of different ethnic backgrounds	The project will train 40 youth leaders from the different ethnic groups in life skills such as: conflict management; non-violent communication; team-building and networking across ethnic lines; and tolerance exercises. DRC will engage in Training of Trainer techniques as well as peer education to multiply the effects among youth. DRC will foster networking among different schools and hold summer youth camps that bring children from different parts of Abkhazia together. To strengthen other project components (such as output 2.3 below), the project will involve young community leaders in community work and / or assistance to families whose children have dropped out of school or are only able to	As of May 2012, DRC staff started adjusting the contents of a second and new training module on Children Rights education with the slogan ‘I am a child I have a right!’ In order to put its curriculum into practice and improve interaction between youth of different ethnic background, DRC carried out a one week Youth Leadership Workshop from 23rd – 30th August 2012 in Novi Afon and Sukhumi on Children Rights education. A total of 24 youth leaders in the age from 14 to 18 years participated in the workshop. The youth comprised of Abkhaz, Russian and Georgian ethnicity from 8 targeted locations (4 districts) in Abkhazia. In addition to the 15 hours of training on Children Rights,

	attend occasionally. In year 1 of the project these activities will take place in four of the communities highlighted above (to be selected). In the following two years of the project, DRC will target the remaining communities (except Lashkindar, given its relatively small size), and pursue the same range of activities. In the first round, 20 selected youth leaders will engage in: • peer education and training at school level in the field of non-violent communication, conflict resolution, peace-building and project proposal management • organisation of one youth gathering each year of the project to promote linkages between communities across ethnic lines (Abkhaz/Georgian) • study visit to see the results of inter-ethnic cooperation between youth (location to be decided, but one possible destination is the FYROM) The youth leaders will also be involved in the monitoring of the grants delivered for families facing low school attendance (see result 2.3 below).	DRC integrated exercises from a previous Youth Leader training module on ‘Conflict Resolution’ and ‘Trust and Team building’. As an immediate result of the workshop participants initiated a social media network group on <u>Odnoklassniki</u> website still active until present. From November 2012 until the end of December 2012, DRC launched a new phase of its youth leadership training package at community level by facilitating in close cooperation with a pool of well-trained youth leaders a series of replication trainings on Children Rights in 3 communities in Gali and Tkvarcheli district. A total of 60 youth aged 13-18 have been trained. Training sessions will continue all through 2013.
Expected Result 2.3: Increased school attendance amongst children from vulnerable families	The project will provide targeted assistance to 160 such families, resulting in a significant increase of school attendance for their children. DRC will target 10 communities over a period of 2 years, providing an average of 80 grants per year. The grants will be disbursed over the summers before the following two school years: September 2012 – June 2013, and September 2013 – June 2014.	To ensure that these root causes are properly addressed and only families with primary school children facing low school attendance and/ or poor school performance are targeted, DRC formulated in August 2012 a set of 5 selection criteria. DRC then liaised closely with local school administrations to obtain referral list for primary school children in 3 locations in Abkhazia. An additional 6 locations will be targeted in 2013 and 2014 till the end of

		the SIDA project. From September till end of October 2012 a total of 72 Households (HHs) comprising 99 children (C) in primary school age were assessed in three targeted locations: Achigvara (18 HHs; 30 children), Okumi (33 HHs; 43 children) and Pirveli Gali (21 HHs; 26 children). As a result of such assessment, a total of 45 HHs for 57 grants (58 children) have been pre-selected as beneficiaries for the primary education/ livelihood intervention DRC will systematically link the disbursement of future grants with attendance to school and general school performance. To support this process, DRC started providing tutorial classes in Achigvara in November 2012 as a pilot location. Tutorial classes are offered 3 times a week to minimum 12 children. As of January 2013, DRC will expand its assistance to at least one more school, preferably Pirvely Gali in agreement with the local district education department. Baseline indicators have been developed to measure both performance and attendance.
Expected Results 2.4: Increased economic opportunities to 50 selected entrepreneurs	This project component will support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro-businesses (MBs) in Abkhazia. <i>The proposed project will consist of three sets of activities in support of the business sector in Abkhazia:</i> 1) <i>Delivery of 50 investment grants to SMEs and MBs in expanding or traditional economic sectors;</i> 2) <i>Delivery of 50 training sessions in the field of business development to selected grantees;</i>	This component combines direct assistance to SMEs in three districts of Abkhazia with a comprehensive capacity-building scheme to selected entrepreneurs. The latter business development training package is meant to increase competitiveness, productivity and possibly lead to job creation. By December 2012, DRC has selected the first group of potential entrepreneurs, in line with the following process:

	3) <i>Part rehabilitation of public market areas in two urban or semi-urban settlements to improve the access and quality of services (see result 2.1 above)</i> <i>DRC will use multiple channels to increase outreach to potential entrepreneurs. Public media, DRC’s own comprehensive database and social links will ensure outreach to remote areas. DRC will target 10 of the communities mentioned above¹⁴ and link up with active Community Developments Groups (CDGs) that have been established by DRC under Result 2.1.</i> <i>Grants will only be disbursed to selected beneficiaries after they have attended the first three training sessions delivered by DRC officers. Grants shall be disbursed irrespective of ethnic background but special effort will be made to target areas with higher rates of economic vulnerability. Grantees should contribute to at least 20% of the total value of the equipment and items purchased by DRC, either through an in-kind contribution or in cash. The procurement will be conducted by DRC.</i>	- Step 1: invitations have been disseminated at community level (through community gatherings, village information boards...) to 34 potential entrepreneurs; - Step 2: All potential businesses have gone through a preliminary screening by DRC Livelihood Officers in order to assess entrepreneurs’ capacity and ability to expand their existing businesses. A tailor-made questionnaire has been shared with potential candidates and filled in. It served the function of a Concept Note that outlined the main grant purpose and rationale and included elements pertaining to feasibility and sustainability of the planned business activity. - Step 3: Each Concept Note received by DRC has been analysed by a Steering Committee with the aim to shortlist up to 20 micro-businesses or SMEs. - Step 4: Only 17 shortlisted entrepreneurs have been invited to attend a comprehensive capacity-building scheme comprising of 7 training modules on business development to be facilitated by DRC Livelihood
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¹⁴ Sukhumi town will not be targeted under the income generation activities

	<i>1. The training shall be performed by DRC Livelihood Officers, based on existing DRC training modules. It will follow a two-stage process:</i> <i>a) 50 in-door training sessions shall be held in Abkhazia for the selected grantees</i> <i>b) Each grantee shall receive technical assistance and on-the-job training from DRC to ensure that theoretical lessons are applied in practice.</i> <i>The 50 entrepreneurs will be divided into three groups of 15 – 18 participants. Each sub-group shall receive 10 training sessions of 3 days each. The topics will be adjusted to fit the individuals selected, but experience suggests they will include:</i> - <i>Business planning & risk analysis</i> - <i>Marketing</i> - <i>Selling & communication techniques</i> - <i>Basic accounting and financial management</i> - <i>Market analysis</i> - <i>Administration and management</i>	Officers. The entrepreneurs have had the obligation to complete all training sessions before taking full ownership of the grant items to be received. - Step 5: Upon completion of the 3rd training module, each shortlisted entrepreneur has been solicited to submit a full application to DRC with all details relevant to the planned income generation grant. DRC has provided application guidelines and a standard application form. - Step 6: All applicants have been interviewed by a DRC panel in order to select 14 micro-businesses or SMEs (17 entrepreneurs in total as some are joint grants). Only selected businesses have entered into agreement with DRC and placed Order Requests to initiate the procurement of the chosen grant items. - Step 7: The remaining 4 training sessions have been delivered after the launch of the procurement process. A second and third group of SMEs will be identified as of January 2013. Before selecting SME grantees, during the pre-selection and the application phase, DRC collects data on each of the above parameters to have a point of comparison before and after grant delivery and training. In 2012, such data have been collected among 17 selected SMEs. Similar info will be collected among additional 33 SMEs to be selected in 2013 and 2014.
Locations for project activities: Gali (Okumi, Chuburkhinji), Tkvarcheli (Prively Gali, Kokhora), Sukhumi (Sukhumi Youth House NGO, Eshera), Ochamchire (Adzhubija, Merkula, Lashkindar)		

Annex 4 – Project LFA: Danish Refugee Council (DRC): “Durable Solutions – A Way Forward for IDPs in Georgia”

Danish Refugee Council (DRC): “Durable solutions – a way forward for IDPs in Georgia”	
Overall Objective: The development objective of the project is identical to the second objective of the National IDP Strategy: ‘Reintegration of the displaced population, i.e., local integration of IDPs currently residing in Georgia, [is achieved].’ The impact of this would be that all IDPs who have opted for local integration and the most vulnerable families among the local population enjoy sustainable livelihoods in safety and dignity.	
Programme Objectives:	
1) The government of Georgia has access to viable models of durable housing and livelihood solutions for the IDP population that can be replicated 2) Enabling environment for IDP integration achieved through capacity building and awareness raising of government structures, individual IDP and civil society.	
Specific programme objectives for the Abkhazia component:	
(a) To strengthen community and local partner capacities for community-based protection. DRC will increase its efforts working with partners in Abkhazia. The work over past years has provided DRC with a very good understanding of local actors and relevant factors and different modalities for addressing these modalities have been identified. However, there is a need to synthesise these efforts into a more comprehensive protection focus. The expected worsening political situation in Abkhazia imposes both a threat to these efforts as well as a strong demand for such focus. Therefore, DRCs work in Abkhazia is expected to become more controversial but also more needed.	
(b) To improve access for vulnerable communities and families to shelter, livelihoods, education and social support mechanisms. The core components of DRCs concrete work in Abkhazia (shelter, livelihoods and community mobilisation) are expected to remain unchanged, though declining funding will pose a challenge to the scope of DRC interventions. At the same time it is hoped that concrete social protection work (i.e. education/school attendance, psycho-social support) can be established as an additional pillar of DRC operations	
(c) To raise awareness of the de facto authorities in Gali and Sukhumi on community and individual vulnerabilities, advocate for services and support and build confidence between communities and de facto authorities. In line with its increased protection efforts, DRC will enhance expand its informal work with different de-facto local authorities in Abkhazia and explore approaches and modalities of a constructive dialogue and cooperation.	

Expected outcomes for Abkhazia by August 2011	Planned outputs in Abkhazia
Output 1.8 Income generation activities for vulnerable IDPs/returnees/migrants in Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli district are implemented. This component consists of three sub-objectives: 1) Increase income and improve living conditions 2) Improve the psycho-social environment for children 3) To reduce language barriers in schools The component was added to the project in January 2011, and was further extended in June 2011.	1) Increase income and improve living conditions Due to the lack of regular data or reliable social welfare mechanisms, low or no school attendance has proven to be a reliable instrument for targeting vulnerable households. Targeting family income has also shown to have a positive effect on the parents or carers’ ability to support the child to attend school. DRC will consult with schools and conduct focus groups with children (following a gender-age-diversity approach) to identify families where children are not attending school and to determine the causes. DRC will then perform individual assessments with targeted vulnerable families and identify capacities and potential income generation activities. Besides the needs of these households close attention will be paid to potential sources for income, partially used in the past or identified gaps and niches at local markets. DRC does not expect to reach the average success rate of small business grants of about 80% active and functioning one year after completion, but will strike for the best scenario possible. 2) Improve the psycho-social environment for children <u>Recreational Mobile Youth Club:</u> In coordination with schools DRC will use local NGO partners to provide after school activities. DRC identified 3 LNG’s who show a broad portfolio for after school activities and therefore can provide experienced and qualified trainers and teachers in diverse activities such as computer classes and creative and sport activities. However these activities had only been held in the town-centres and therefore were mostly not accessible for children from rural areas. As DRC found out in the current education project that the most vulnerable children and families live in rural areas DRC aims to mobilise these trainers and teachers and to bring them to the village schools to hold afternoon recreational activities. In addition, DRC will facilitate joint meetings and events of the five selected communities to strengthen inter-community links and, to the extent possible, include beneficiaries of all ethnicities into these meetings. To some extent some cautious psychological support through games and team-building may be offered. The main element is simply that schools become an attractive place to go to and that children associate the school with fun and entertainment, both for children as well as teachers and parents. <u>Social counselling:</u> DRC does not have any expertise in social work or counselling, but does have links with some

psychologists and social workers in Abkhazia. DRC will therefore refer such cases to known social workers/counsellors and support family visits through transportation and contacts with the family. The number of social workers and counsellors in these communities is very limited, so DRC will also support some training and capacity building activities to be conducted by appropriate individuals and organisations that have such expertise.

3) To reduce language barriers in schools

DRC will in total target 100 vulnerable families in five locations. These locations will be within the returns area of Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli and shall be identified by the percentage of low or non-school attendance. DRC will collect relevant data with the school directors and head of administrations of the targeted districts and then select the locations accordingly. An additional element that needs to be considered is the outreach to Abkhaz families. DRC will pay special attention that this intervention does not target only returnees but is open to any household within the community, irrespective of ethnicity. By this DRC wants to prevent the creation of any jealousy what could be rise up by leaving out the also vulnerable host community.

Location of project activities: Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli

Annex 5 – Project LFA: Kvinna till Kvinna in Georgia 2010-2012

Kvinna till Kvinna in Georgia 2010-2012	
Overall Objective: To contribute to the strengthening of women's position and the respect for women's rights in a society that has been affected by several conflicts	
Programme Objective: Women are strengthen and take more active part in development of a democratic and equal society on all levels and contribute to conflict resilience in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia	
Expected outcomes for Abkhazia by December 2012	Planned outputs in Abkhazia
Expected Result 1: Improved access to sheltered accommodation and strong legal and psychological support through society and KtK:s partners to women subjected to gender based violence.	1. Provide financial support, knowledge and advice to organisations working to raise awareness on gender based violence, lobbying for state support and providing psychological, medical and legal assistance to women victims of violence in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia 2. Support women's organisations that act to change attitudes on violence against women and bride kidnapping the possibility to meet in order to get new knowledge and experiences in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia
Expected Result 2: Improved awareness of, and access to, information on sexual health and rights among rural women and access to women's health care in Georgia/Abkhazia	1. Provide funding to organisations carrying out awareness raising activities and advocacy related to SRHR 2. Support organisations working to improve women's access to health care and psychological treatment/psychological support 3. Provide opportunities for capacity building and experience exchange on the subject of SRHR for POs
Expected Result 3: Improved conditions for women to demand their rights privately and publicly and to play an active part in society in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia	1. Support women's organisations that work, educate and inform about HR, CEDAW and other conventions against different targets groups and in different levels of society in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia 2. Support women's organisations that educate and inform about gender equality, feminism and gender knowledge to student, teaches employees at institutions and organisations in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia 3. Support women's organisations that actively work to influence authorities, parliament, media and other organisations on issues regarding gender equality and women's' rights in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia

	4. Support women's organisations that work with education, information, seminars in order to strengthen women's conditions to start enterprise or get better employments in Georgia/Abkhazia
Expected Result 4: Increased cooperation and strengthened capacity among women's organisations that opened the way to bringing women's political issues further into the spotlight	1. By enhancing coalitions, network meetings and co-operational projects the women's organisations get to know each other within different areas of activities and know what organisations that are engaged in different topics
Expected result 5: Women participate in conflict prevention work, are acknowledged as actors and women and women's interests are represented in official peace talks	1. Give attention to work with UN resolution 1325 in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia 2. Enhance women's organisations to co-operation and experience exchange around women's organising, peace and security in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia 3. Support to women's organisations providing meeting places for women of different ethnic/national background in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia. 4. Facilitate meetings between women's organisations from the conflict areas in the region. 5. Support women's organisations that want to work with regional projects cross conflict borders 6. Support women's organisations from both sides of conflicts that provide for women's interests in question of returning
Expected Result 6: Increased women's participation in political decision-making bodies and processes and increased focus on gender equality and women's rights at the political level as a result of KtK work	1. Support to women's organisations active in training women politicians, political candidates and potential candidates in Georgia/Abkhazia. 2. Support to women's organisations providing meeting places for women politicians across party borders in Georgia/Abkhazia. 3. Support to organisations working to increase the number of women voters in Georgia/Abkhazia. 4. Support to organisations working with journalists on less gender stereotypes in political reporting in Georgia/Abkhazia/South Ossetia. 5. Support network building between different women's organisations and women politicians that work on the theme women in politics in Georgia/Abkhazia/
Locations for project activities: Gagra, Gali and Sukhumi – <i>most probably more locations - needs to be confirmed!!</i>	
KtK strategies for the programme • Financial support through core funding and project support to 16-20 local women's organisations pursuing their own projects.	

- Capacity development through discussion and a close dialogue with partners on the project, organisation, education/further education.
- Create meeting places for encouraging the exchange of knowledge and experience within women's organisations nationally, regionally and internationally.
- Strengthen the capacity at the women's organisations to increase the number of women in women's decision-making and public participation.
- Focus on young women and their situation within all theme areas.
- Support to short, temporary initiatives outside the organisations' current projects.
- Support the partners' work on evaluations, planning through LFA and monitoring according to RBM, as well as financial diversification.
- Support contacts with international women's movements, particularly within the EU vicinity.
- Outreach and lobbying, particularly towards the EU, as one of the potentially strongest external forces for peace, but also within Sweden and international bodies, and therewith pursue women's participation in peace work in compliance with UN Resolution 1325.

Annex 6 – Project LFA: UNICEF/World Vision: Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia

UNICEF/World Vision: Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia	
Programme Objectives: 1. Improved health, education and social outcomes for vulnerable and under-served children in Abkhazia, with special focus on poor, returnee children and children living with disabilities. 2. Strengthened community based capacity for provision of basic services.	
Expected outcomes for Abkhazia by December 2013	Planned outputs in Abkhazia
Outcome for Component 1.1 Community based social services provided by the network of SCCs Approximately 12,100 children in 48 communities in Abkhazia have better education, play and learning outcomes	1.1 Network of 48 Social Community Centers establishes and develops range of psycho-social, medical and education services 1.2 The network of 48 Social Community Centers are equipped and capable to provide a range of alternative social services to women, children and youth 1.3 The network of 30 new Social Community Centers in Abkhazia is established in accordance with defined selection criteria within the period of 18 months 1.4 The network of 48 Social Community Centers is self-sustained within the period of 36 months. 1.5 A network of social services providers in SCCs able to advocate for covering gaps in basic social service provision and is effectively making referrals 1.6 48 community projects are selected and implemented 1.7 At least 10,000 children and youth have access to community-based social services 1.8 At least 1,300 children of pre-school age have increased opportunities for cognitive and creative development by accessing support pre-school activities organised in 48 SCCs. 1.9 At least 800 young people profit from SCC based peer-education groups and vocational training activities provided in the SCCs.

	1.10 At least 300 teachers from all targeted communities have improved their teaching skills and increased their knowledge on healthy lifestyles. 1.11 School performance and learning outcomes strengthened at 38 schools serviced by canteens.
Outcome for Component 1.2 Social inclusion of children living with disabilities in Abkhazia 3 300 children living with disabilities have improved educational and health outcomes and life cycle opportunities	2.1 300 children with disabilities receive an improved range of services and care, including targeted and adapted information on life skills 2.2 Three existing and one new specialised centres equipped and able to provide special services to disabled children 2.3 20 caregivers and other professionals of the 4 specialised centres have increased their skills and knowledge in provision of social and rehabilitation services 2.4. At least 600 parents of children with disability have improved knowledge and awareness of physical and psychosocial needs of their children 2.5 Improved awareness of childhood disability in Abkhazia achieved through campaigns and other advocacy and lobbying initiatives 2.6 An inclusive education model piloted in collaboration with elementary schools in 48 targeted communities (SCCs) as well as in communities with specialised centres for disabled
Outcome for Component 2.1 Strengthening capacities of primary healthcare facilities within targeted communities. Women and children in targeted 48 communities have improved health outcomes	3.1 The network of Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) equipped and with supplies to effectively implement primary healthcare activities 3.2 50 Medical professionals in the community based (PHCs) increase their knowledge and have improved skills in maternal and child healthcare, reproductive health and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS. 3.3 3,000 pregnant women/expectant couples provided with pre-natal counseling and support services 3.4 8,000 parents demonstrate improved knowledge and awareness of nutritional issues and child care 3.5 All families with HIV infected members receive professional assistance through operations of the (VTC) network and HIV/AIDS Centre 3.6 VTC network and HIV/AIDS Centre equipped and with supplies to carry out rapid testing and

	basic professional assistance. 3.7 Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities serving 48 SCCs and 4 specialised centres for disabled children is providing minimum standards of water supply, sanitation and hygiene. 3.8 SCC beneficiaries and PHC medical professionals have developed knowledge and positive behaviour on hygiene practices and protect public and environmental health connected to WASH.
Outcome for Component 2.2 Strengthening the service provision capacity of healthcare and education professionals in Abkhazia. Healthcare, social protection and education service providers in Abkhazia are equipped to provide basic services to vulnerable children and women	4.1 Basic indicators of status and outcomes for children in health, education and social services in Abkhazia established through a rapid household survey. 4.2 120 medical professionals in maternal and child healthcare demonstrate improved skills and knowledge in childcare, reproductive health and family planning 4.3 120 medical professionals maternal and child healthcare received training sessions on breastfeeding, Child Healthy Nutrition and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiatives, as well as Effective Perinatal Care (EPC) cascade training for health professionals 4.4 300 teachers from elementary schools in Abkhazia improved skills and knowledge in interactive teaching methodologies and addressing and preventing violence in schools. 4.4 100 pre-school teachers in Abkhazia have improved skills and knowledge in interactive teaching and creative methodologies for pre-school children 4.5 Regular immunisation of children in targeted communities in Abkhazia is strengthened and improved 4.6 Public awareness on preventable diseases of children is increased through advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns
Locations for project activities: Gali District (Pechori, Gagida, Otobaya II, Upper Barghebi, Ganakhleba, Repi, Shashikvara, Chuburkhindj), Ochamchira District (Rel Tkhina, Merkula, Mokva 1, Mokva 2, Pakuash, Adzubzha, Kingi), Sukhumi District (Upper Eshera, Yashtukha 1, Yashtukha 2), Tkvarcheli District (Mukhur, Pervy Ga Okum, Chkhortol, Achigvara), Gudauta District (Aaty, Mgudzyrkhva, Otkhara, Abgarkhuk), Gulripsh District (Merkheul, Dranda, Pshap/Tsanbekuara, Upper Pshap, Miasnikova, Agudzera, Shaumianovka, Varcha)	

Annex 7 – Project LFA: Action Contre la Faim (ACF): “Promoting Self-Reliance and Improving the Welfare of IDPS and Vulnerable Population in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia Region”

Action Contre la Faim (ACF): “Promoting self-reliance and improving the welfare of IDPs and vulnerable population in eastern Georgia and Abkhazia Region”	
Overall Objective: To promote self reliance and improve the welfare of vulnerable IDPs, returnees and local communities in Abkhazia and Eastern Georgia	
Programme Objective: To improve the nutritional status of the programme beneficiaries through increased food availability at household level and to create employment and livelihood opportunities in the target regions	
Expected outcomes for Abkhazia by December 2013	Planned outputs in Abkhazia
Expected Result 1: Target returnees and IDPs have improved nutritional intake through mastering new agricultural techniques and through the diversification of food production	1. Preparation: Baseline survey, Training of mission staff, Interim survey 2. Development and delivery of trainings: Expert on integrated home gardening will produce syllabus, handbook and materials for comprehensive training course. In Abkhazia 10 communities will be identified, within which at least 220 beneficiaries will receive a multi-session training course on integrated home gardening. 3. Establish and support integrated home gardens: At least 220 households in Abkhazia will receive the necessary inputs and support to implement their own integrated home gardens. Pilot phase in three communities in Year 1. In Years 2 and 3 the remaining seven communities will be included. 4. Facilitate workshops in Abkhazia: Following the integrated home garden trainings at least 30 community-led workshops, facilitated by mobilisers, will address topics important to the wider community. Subjects under discussion will include family health and nutrition, cooking techniques and means to improve nutrition in schools, community disaster risk reduction, local and global environmental issues, and sharing integrated gardening experiences, in addition to issues identified by the participants and exploring possible community-based solutions.

	5. Establish and support school gardens in Abkhazia: a) Nutrition and diet trainings to schools; b) Implementation of school integrated gardens – 20 schools will be identified. 10 school garden groups will be piloted in Year 1 in the same communities as home gardens. c) Provide supplementary food portions for children. Produce grown in the integrated school gardens described above will supplement school canteen menus where such facilities exist. d) Awareness raising events in schools. Outreach events will be carried out in at least 20 schools, jointly organised by mobilisers, school garden groups, and community members. The exact format will depend on each community’s wishes, but is foreseen to include information workshops, school fairs, exhibitions, and games. 6. Establish Agricultural Training Centres (ATC) in Abkhazia: three locations for establishment of agricultural training will be identified. On average 30 applicants per centre will be selected to receive vocational training (targeted are approximately 10 per year). Within each training programme will be theoretical training and on the job training to gain hands on relevant practical experience. Additionally, after each of the first two teaching phases, the best apprentice in each ATC (selected through a transparent process by a joint ACF/community panel) of the phase will be selected and offered the possibility to remain in the ATC and to continue working as assistants of the instructors. By the end of the programme, at least 72 trainees will graduate from the newly established ATCs. It is anticipated that at least 12 jobs will be created within the ATCs (two ATC assistants minimum per VTC and one manager and one instructor per ATC). A business plan will be developed for each centre including marketing strategy. In the longer term the centres will be supported to become social enterprises to ensure sustainability after the end of the programme.
Expected Result 2: Livelihood opportunities increased in target communities	1. Implement IGA grants programme in Abkhazia: ACF will identify up to 10 further communities in the target districts, which are suitable for income generating activities and market support interventions. Preliminary trainings on business plan development will be offered in each community followed by a call for business idea proposals. At least 15 groups will be awarded inputs in accordance with their business plans, and receive ongoing organisational and technical support and monitoring. Groups will be comprised of 5 to 8 individuals who are expected to invest some initial financial or in kind resources to the business and share profits equally. ACF will facilitate networking meetings and exchange visits between the IGA groups to identify market linkages and potential areas for cooperation, while building confidence between different communities. 2. Establish and support Community Associations in Abkhazia: Following the business trainings, ACF will also hold a tender for Community Association (CA) proposals. At least 10 CAs will be selected on the basis of business viability,

	group skills and commitment, and relevance to community economy. CA members will receive further business and management training, networking opportunities, and exchange visits with counterparts in other communities.
Locations for project activities: Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli,	
ACF strategies to meet the objectives: • Improving nutrition: Includes facilitating improved diets through establishing integrated home and school gardens as well as awareness and education in better utilisation of agricultural techniques and food at the household level and in schools. • Service provision: Includes the promotion of plant nursery training centres and supplementary food portions for children in school canteens from school garden produce. • Development of agricultural infrastructure: Includes the development of irrigation systems for home gardens in a new IDP settlement and creation of Community Associations, which will deliver agricultural services and technology. • Support Capacity Building: Includes the development and creation of LNGOs in the frame of the programme. • Creating Income/Employment Opportunities: Includes the establishing of community associations, IGA grants and an internship programme to gain work experience.	

Annex 8 – List of People Interviewed

Meetings and interviews in Tbilisi and Stockholm regarding the Review of the Swedish development cooperation with the breakaway region Abkhazia, Georgia, 2011-2013

Tbilisi, April 4th	
Sida/Swedish Embassy	Eva Gibson Smedberg , counsellor Head of Development cooperation and Peeter Kaaman , first secretary Development cooperation
Georgian Ministry of Reintegration	Tamar Kochoradze , Head of Unit for Relations with International Organisations and Project Management
UNDP	Inita Paulovica , Deputy Resident Representative Stan Veitsman , Specialist Peace and Development Programme Nils Christensen , Team Leader Crisis Prevention and Recovery
Tbilisi, April 10th	
UNDP	Jamie McGoldrick , Resident Representative Nils Christensen , <i>Title?</i>
Sida/Swedish Embassy	Eva Gibson Smedberg , counsellor Head of Development cooperation and Peeter Kaaman , first secretary Development cooperation and
CARE International in the Caucasus	Anthony Foreman , Project Director
Tbilisi, April 11th	
Embassy of Great Britain in Tbilisi Foreign & Commonwealth Office	Charlotte Hunter , Political Officer (Conflict)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC Humanitarian Aid Office in Tbilisi	Tamuna Tsivtsivadze , Senior Programme Officer
Saferworld	Tabib Huseynov , Programme Manager Caucasus
Norwegian Refugee Council NRC Caucasus	Petry Kostohryz , Regional Director
Stockholm, April 17th	
Kvinna till Kvinna	Sara Laginder , Field Representative Tbilisi
London, May 3rd	
European Council of Foreign Relations	Jana Kobzova , Policy Fellow/Eastern Europe and Russia Programme Coordinator
Chatham House	James Nixey , Head Russia and Eurasia Programme
London, May 7th (via skype)	Celine Carre , ACF Regional Director South Caucasus

Annex 9 – Schedule of Abkhazia Visit

Sida Evaluation Mission in Abkhazia – 5 – 9 April, 2013 Confirmed Agenda

Attached agenda has been developed based on inputs from all Sida partner organisations with UNICEF providing the logistics support (including vehicle/s with driver/s for **all** identified project locations).

Friday, April 5, 2013

Location	Activity	Time	Responsible
Tbilisi – Gali (pick-up from the hotel in Tbilisi)	Travel of Evaluation Team (Vera and Susanna) from Tbilisi to Gali via Inguri bridge	8:00 – 12:45	UNICEF, including pick-up in Zugdidi
Gali (Venue to be confirmed)	Joint meeting – including working lunch - with Sida implementing partners (DRC, ACF, UNICEF, World Vision)	12:45 – 14:00	All
Achigvara school and Pirvely Gali / Pervy Gal	Tutorial classes and individual interviews with key actors, teachers, director of school, pupils and parents (beneficiaries of DRC “low school attendance component”) Visit to the Pirvely Gali ‘House of Culture’ Attend a concert organised by community and engage with beneficiaries (individual interviews with key actors) Visit to Gali I school (youth leadership training – DRC; school garden, short visit – ACF; canteen – WV/UNICEF)	14:15 – 16:15	DRC DRC
Gali	Meeting with UNHCR Office in Gali (Davit Makhmuryan and Manuchehr Kholov)	16:30 – 17:30	UNHCR, UNICEF
Gali – Sukhumi	Departure to Sukhumi and arrival in the hotel	17:30 – 18:30	UNICEF
Sukhumi	Working Dinner with UNICEF and UNDP	20:30 – 22:00	UNICEF (Dragan Markovic, Andrey Tulisov), UNDP (Victor Munteanu)

Saturday, April 6, 2013

Location	Activity – Eastern Abkhazia	Time	Responsible
Sukhumi – Gali	Travel of Vera Devine to Gali	08:30 – 09:30	UNICEF (vehicle)
Gali	Visit to 3 DRC SMEs in Gali town; participation in training for SMEs (business simulations) – in DRC office	09:30 – 12:00	DRC
DRC office in Gali	Lunch	12:00 – 12:45	DRC
Pirvely Gali / Pervy Gal	Public health promotion session with young women – SCC / PHC medical nurse Visit to HIV / AIDS Centre Mobile Team awareness raising campaign (interview with stakeholders)	13:00 - 14:30	UNICEF, World Vision UNICEF, World Vision, HIV / AIDS Center Mobile Team
Kokhora	Visit to Agricultural Training Centre, discussions with graduates and visit to greenhouse income generation	14:45 – 15:45	ACF
Gali	Meeting with Avangard, KtK partner organisation	16:15 – 17:15	Avangard (UNICEF transport)
Location	Activity – Western Abkhazia	Time	Who
Sukhumi – Agudzera	Travel of Susanna Dellans to Agudzera	09:30 – 10:00	UNICEF. World Vision
Agudzera	Visit to Social Community Center and medpunkt Interviews with SCC facilitators and SCC participants (including teachers), nurse	10:00 – 11:00	UNICEF. World Vision
Pshap	Visit to Social Community Centre and medpunkt Interviews with SCC facilitators and SCC participants (including teachers), nurse, and the head of local de facto administration	11:30 – 12:30	UNICEF, World Vision
Varcha	Visit to Social Community Center Interviews with SCC facilitators and SCC participants (including teachers)	13:00 – 14:00	UNICEF, World Vision
Place, venue to be confirmed	Lunch on the way to Gali	14:00 – 15:00	UNICEF (vehicle)
Gali	Meeting with DRC project staff, three components	15:30 – 18:45	DRC (UNICEF transport)
Gali	Working dinner in Gali with all partners. Overnight stay in B&B in Gali	19:00 – 20:30	All

Sunday, April 7, 2013

Location	Activity	Time	Responsible
Sukhumi – Tskhiri village (Gali district)	Travel of Vera Devine and Susanna Dellans to the project location	08:00 – 09:00 Departure time based on estimate for overnight in Sukhumi (Later departure if Gali overnight possible)	UNICEF (vehicle)
Tskhiri	Visit women-led IGA project by ACF	09:00 – 10:00	ACF
Makhunjia village	Visit to the Integrated Home Garden, interviews with beneficiaries Separate interviews with ACF project staff (the evaluators divided themselves between interviewees)	10:15 – 11:00	ACF
Makhunjia village	Community Association (borehole service) Separate interviews with ACF project staff (the evaluators divided themselves between interviewees)	11:10 – 11:40	ACF
Village in Gali reyon	Visit to school in Gali rayon that was rehabilitated by UNDP project. The school also had an integrated school garden. Interviews with teachers and students. Interviews with UNDP staff	11:50 – 12:45	ACF, UNDP
Chuburkhinji - restaurant	Lunch Interviews with ACF project staff.	12:50 – 13:30	ACF, UNICEF pick-up
Chuburkhinji village	Attending the Joint Community Event of 5 Social Community Centers Interviews with SCC facilitators Focus groups with participants (youth, teachers, directors of schools, parents)	13:40 – 16:15	UNICEF, World Vision
Gali	Visit to Gali Hospital Interviews with doctors Demonstration of Immunisation registry database and MCH assessment related activities	16:30 – 17:30	UNICEF
Gali - Sukhumi	Return to Sukhumi and overnight	18:30	UNICEF vehicle

Monday, April 8, 2013

Location	Activity – Eastern Abkhazia	Time	Responsible
Sukhumi – Okumi village (Tkvarcheli District)	Travel of Vera Devine to Okumi	08:30 – 10:00	UNICEF (vehicle)
Okumi	Visit to Social Community Centre Interview with SCC facilitators, beneficiaries	10:00 – 11:00	UNICEF, World Vision
Okumi	Visit to the DRC sponsored kindergarten	11:00 – 12:00	DRC
Okumi	Visit to Medical Health Point Immunisation Registry Data-base, public health promotion activities	12:00 – 12:45	UNICEF, World Vision
Venue to be confirmed	Lunch on the way to Tkvarcheli		
Tkvarcheli	Visit to the Tkvarcheli Day-care centre for disabled children	14:30 – 16:00	UNICEF, WV, local NGO ‘Patriot’
Sukhumi	Meeting with UNDP, Victor Munteanu, UNDP project manager	16:00 – 16:45	
Sukhumi	Meetings with Kvinna till Kvinna partners (Association of Women of Abkhazia and World Without Violence)	16:45 – 18:45	KtK, local NGO partners (to confirm the timing and availability)
Location	Activity – Western Abkhazia	Time	Responsible
Sukhumi – Gagra	Travel of Susanna Dellans to Gagra	08:30 – 10:00	UNICEF (vehicle)
Gagra	Meeting with KtK partner (UBA Gagra branch) Interview with project implementers and members and founder of NGO	10:00 – 11:00	KtK, local NGO partner UBA Gagra TBC
Gudauta – Sanitary Epidemiological station (SES)	Immunisation Registry Data-base and Immunisation outreach activities Interview with SES staff including doctors and nurses	11:15 – 12:30	UNICEF
Aatsi village (Gudauta District)	Visit to Aatsi Social Community Centre Interviews with teachers, parents of pre-school children, children (aged 14-16), the facilitator, nurses with medpunkt and the director of school	14:00 – 15:00	UNICEF, Word Vision
Sukhumi	Meeting with UNDP, Victor Munteanu, UNDP project	16:00 – 16:45	

	manager and Galiya Kalimova, Community Participation Coordinator		
Sukhumi	Meetings with KtK partners (Association of Women of Abkhazia and World Without Violence)	16:45 – 18:45	KtK, local NGO partners
Sukhumi	Overnight for both consultants		

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Location	Activity	Time	Responsible
Sukhumi	Meeting with Sukhumi Youth House (implementing local NGO that cooperates with UNICEF/WV)	09:30 – 10:30	UNICEF, World Vision, SYH
Sukhumi (UNICEF office)	Debriefing session with UNICEF and World Vision		
Gali local offices of project implementers	Debriefing session with ACF and DRC	11:30 – 13:00	All
Gali – Tbilisi	Departure to Tbilisi	13:00 – 18:00 (ETA)	UNICEF

Annex 10 – List of Documents Reviewed

Sida:

- ✓ Sweden's Strategy for Development Cooperation with Georgia 2010-2013

ACF:

- ✓ ACF, Promoting self-reliance and improving the welfare of IDPs and Returnees in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia, 19 November 2010
- ✓ Sida Assessment Memo, ACF Promoting Self Reliance and Improving the Welfare of IDPs and Returnees in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia, Georgia, 2011-2013, 29 November 2010
- ✓ Second Semi-annual Progress Report 01 January 2012 – 30 June 2012 Promoting Self Reliance and Improving the Welfare of IDPs and Returnees in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia
- ✓ Second Annual Progress Report 01 January 2012 – 31 December 2012
- ✓ Second Annual Financial Report 01 January 2012 – 31 December 2012
- ✓ Results-Based Monitoring Plan: Promoting Self Reliance and Improving the Welfare of IDPs & Returnees in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia, LogFrame
- ✓ First Annual Progress Report, 01 January 2011 – 31 December 2011, Promoting Self Reliance and Improving the Welfare of IDPs and Returnees in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia, no date
- ✓ Sida comments to ACF Annual Report 2011 on the project "Promoting Self Reliance and Improving the Welfare of IDPs and Returnees in Eastern Georgia and Abkhazia"
- ✓ ACF training manuals for Agricultural Training Centres (ATC)
- ✓ List of References used in ATC
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Community Association Grants
- ✓ A presentation for training on Community Associations (ppt-format)
- ✓ A training manual and agenda for Business Plan Development for small scale entrepreneurs (ppt-format)

DRC:

- ✓ Sida Assessment Memo: Durable Solutions – A Way Forward for IDPs in Georgia October 2008 to 2012.
- ✓ Monitoring and Evaluation Report on the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency funded 'Durable Solutions a Way Forward **for** IDPs in Georgia' Programme, Implemented by the Danish Refugee Council and the Norwegian Refugee Council; Guy Hovey.
- ✓ DRC Durable Solutions: A Way Forward for IDPs in Georgia. Final Report 2008 to 2012. August 2012.
- ✓ DRC Project Document Durable Solutions – A way forward for IDPs in Georgia, September 2008 – August 2011

- ✓ Sida comments to DRC Annual Report 2011 on the project "Durable Solutions – A way forward for IDPs in Georgia", 29 February 2012
- ✓ DRC Updated PROJECT DOCUMENT Revision November 2010 Durable Solutions – A way forward for IDPs in Georgia 01 September 2008 – 28 February 2012, submitted to Sida
- ✓ Updated PROJECT DOCUMENT Revision January 2011 Durable Solutions – A way forward for IDPs in Georgia September 2008 – August 2011, 1 September 2008, submitted to Sida
- ✓ Innovative and Applicable Durable Solutions (IADS), First Annual Report, 01 May – 31 December 2012
- ✓ Project Document Innovative and Applicable Durable Solutions to Displacement (IADS) 2012 – 2014
- ✓ Audit Report: Innovative and Applicable Durable Solutions to Displacement in Georgia, 1 May 2012 – 31 December 2012. Ernst and Young.

KtK:

- ✓ Sida Assessment Memo, Kvinna till Kvinna's Georgia Programme 2012-2012; December 2009
- ✓ Review of Kvinna till Kvinna's Georgia Programme 2007-2011 Final report; Orgut June 2012
- ✓ Kvinna till Kvinna Application to Sida Georgia Programme 2010 – 2012; not dated
 - appendix B. LFA matrix summary of the programme in Georgia 2010-2012
 - appendix C: Summary on the reports from all partner organisations 2008
 - Revised version of application; November 2012
- ✓ Kvinna till Kvinna's South Caucasus Program 2010 – 2012 Annual report 2010; not dated
 - appendix A: Summary on the reports from all partner organisations 2010
- ✓ Kvinna till Kvinna's South Caucasus Program 2010 – 2012 Annual report 2011
 - appendix A: Summary on the reports from all partner organisations 2011
- ✓ Kvinna till Kvinna South Caucasus programme 2010- 2012 Semi Annual Report 2012; June 2012
- ✓ Kvinna till Kvinna LFA matrix summary of the programme in Georgia 2010 – 2012; revised December 2012
- ✓ Sida comments to Kvinna till Kvinna's Annual Report Georgia 2010; June 2011
- ✓ Sida comments to Kvinna till Kvinna's Annual Report Georgia 2011; May 2012
- ✓ List of Kvinna till Kvinna partner organisations 2013
- ✓ LFA Georgia 2010-2012 - revised December 2012
- ✓ Draft Final Programme Report Kvinna till Kvinna Georgia Programme 2010-2012
 - appendix B to Progress report of Summary of results achieved by POs
- ✓ Overview annual project funding to Kvinna till Kvinna's partner organisations in Abkhazia, financed by Sida - spreadsheet
- ✓ Abkhaz Partner organisations' narrative reports 2010
- ✓ Abkhaz Partner organisations' narrative reports 2011
- ✓ Abkhaz Partner organisations' narrative reports 2012
- ✓ Kvinna till Kvinna's Vision, Mission and Work Method (not dated)

- ✓ Making Achievements Last – Learning from Exit Experiences; Kvinna till Kvinna 2011

UNICEF:

- ✓ Sida Assessment Memo: UNICEF Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia, Georgia, 2011-2013; November 2010
- ✓ Logical Framework – UNICEF Project in Abkhazia; not dated
- ✓ Sida budget vs total approved UNICEF Project in Abkhazia: not dated
- ✓ Sida comments to UNICEF Annual Report 2011 on the project "Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia"; March 2012
- ✓ The second progress and funds utilisation report to Sida – Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia, February 2013
- ✓ UNICEF proposal to Sida "Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia"; November 2010
- ✓ UNICEF First Annual Report to Sida "Community Support to Children and Youth in Abkhazia"; February 2012



Review of the Swedish Development Cooperation within the Breakaway Region of Abkhazia, Georgia, 2011-2013

This report presents the findings of a review of six Swedish-funded projects implemented from 2010 to 2013, within the breakaway region of Abkhazia, Georgia. The review was commissioned by the Embassy of Sweden in Georgia, and carried out in spring 2013.

The specific context of Abkhazia ring-fences projects' possibilities for engagement. The review finds that results have been achieved at the level of the individuals targeted by the projects, and that prospects for sustainability are good for those projects that facilitate economic empowerment. There is both a need, and potential, to strengthen gender aspects across the entire portfolio of projects. Decisions on the directions of future engagement within the breakaway region should be based on more clarity of the long-term objectives Sweden is pursuing with regards to Abkhazia.

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