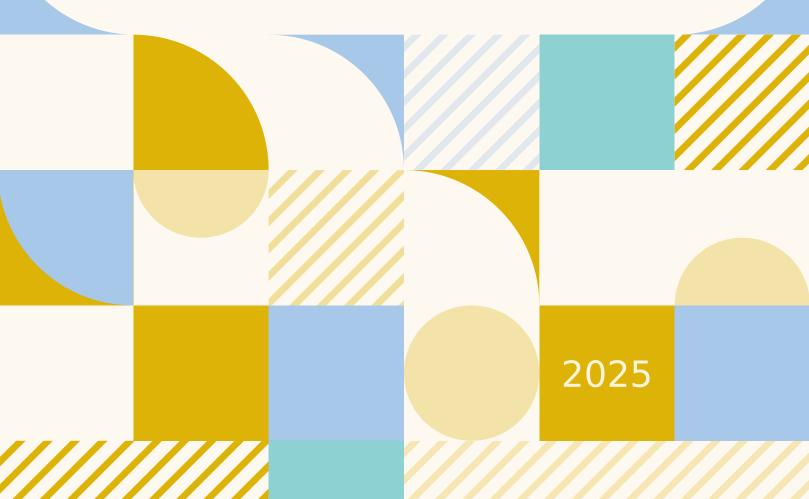






MONITORING REPORT OF THE 2022–2024
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF GEORGIA
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Findings and Recommendations



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CSO Civil society organization

GID Geneva International Discussions

Georgian Intelligence Service

IDP Internally displaced person

IPRM Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism

LEPL Legal Entity of Public Law

MFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

MIA Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

MoD Ministry of Defence of Georgia

NAP National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of the UN Security Council

Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

NNLE Non-entrepreneurial Non-commercial Legal Entity

NSC National Security Council of Georgia

PDO Office of the Public Defender of Georgia

SMR Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality

SSSG State Security Service of Georgia

UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

USAID United States Agency for International Development

WPS Women, Peace and Security

1. INTRODUCTION

The 2022–2024 National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (hereinafter referred to as the NAP) is a key strategic document designed to protect the rights of women and girls affected by conflict and to strengthen their role in peace and security processes. The NAP is based on the principles of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and its subsequent resolutions¹, which reaffirm the international importance of women's meaningful participation and empowerment in conflict prevention and resolution.

To implement these resolutions, Georgia adopted its first National Action Plan in 2011. The fourth NAP² (2022–2024) focuses on strengthening gender equality and enhancing the social and economic empowerment of women and girls in conflict-affected regions. The NAP aims to increase women's meaningful participation in peace negotiations, ensure their involvement in security processes, prevent all forms of violence against women and integrate gender equality principles at all levels of national governance.

This document seeks not only to uphold women's rights but also to ensure their active meaningful participation in such critical areas as conflict resolution, violence prevention, gender sensitivity and social stability in conflict-affected regions.

Within its constitutional mandate, the Public Defender of Georgia monitors the implementation of the NAP-assessing the implementation of the country's commitments, identifying gaps and challenges, and examining the rights of internally displaced and conflict-affected women and girls. The NAP monitoring report evaluates the alignment of implemented initiatives with Georgia's international obligations and highlights existing challenges in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

The monitoring process analyses the effectiveness of NAP implementation, identifying both challenges and opportunities and exploring ways to enhance the achievement of its goals to further promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Monitoring Report of the Public Defender provides an in-depth evaluation of the progress being made and offers recommendations to improve the development and implementation of the future fifth NAP.

¹ UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, available at http://www.peacewomen.org/why-WPS/solutions/resolutions.

² Ordinance No. 510 of the Government of Georgia on the approval of the National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security for 2022–2024, available at https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/5598617?publication=0.

2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation of the NAP implementation process is based on a methodical approach that involves collecting and analysing information³, as well as evaluating the engagement of participating stakeholders. This methodology adopts a comprehensive approach, incorporating both statistical data analysis and the collection of qualitative data through direct consultations and discussions with various stakeholders.

1. DATA COLLECTIONA

• To assess the implementation of the NAP, written requests for information were sent to the State agencies⁴ responsible for each activity, as well as their partner organizations, and to the target municipalities⁵. These requests for written information aimed to gather updates on the status of NAP activities, including the descriptions of the actions taken and challenges encountered during its implementation.

2. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

- To gain comprehensive insights into the experiences of women and youth living in villages adjacent to the occupation line and in IDP settlements, 24 face-to-face meetings were held, attended by a total of 194 women and 4 men⁶. These meetings involved consultations and open discussions with local residents, including women, youth and civil society representatives, to identify their needs and assess their perspectives on the implementation of the NAP. A pre-developed questionnaire was used during the discussions.
- The NAP monitoring report also draws on the PDO 'Report on Meetings Held with Women Living in the Occupied Territories and Villages Located Along the Occupation Line' (2023)⁷. This report serves as an interim monitoring report of the NAP implementation process, based on 35 meetings held in 2023 across 37 occupation line-adjacent villages with the participation of 196 women.

³ The report was drafted between July and October 2024.

⁴ Agencies responsible for the implementation of the NAP: (1) Ministry of Defence of Georgia; (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia; (3) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia; (4) Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality; (5) Prosecutor's Office of Georgia; (6) State Security Service of Georgia; (7) Ministry of Justice of Georgia; (8) Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; (9) Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia; (10) Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia; (11) Civil Service Bureau of Georgia; (12) Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL) – Legal Aid Service of Georgia; (13) Ministry of Finance of Georgia; (14) Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; (15) Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth of Georgia; (16) Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

⁵ Target municipalities in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region: Mestia, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Senaki. In the Imereti region: Kutaisi, Tskaltubo, Sachkhere. In the Shida Kartli region: Gori, Khashuri, Kaspi, Kareli. In the Kvemo Kartli region: Rustavi, Marneuli, Tsalka, Tetritskaro, Dmanisi, Bolnisi.

⁶ See Table 1 and Table 2, respectively

⁷ Public Defender of Georgia, *Report on Meetings Held with Women Living in the Occupied Territories and Villages Located Along the Occupation Line* (2023). Available at https://shorturl.at/JIU7c.

TABLE 1:Meetings held with women and youth in the villages adjacent to the occupation line

Name of village	Perevi	Karzmani	Chorchana	Goraka	Tvaurebi	Ditsi	Arbo	Khurcha	Muzhava	Tchele, Etser Perdi, Potskho Etseri
Number of women and youth attending the meeting	9	4	6	11	5	14	3	15	6	16
									Total	89

TABLE 2:Meetings held in IDP settlements

	a company	Number of mee	ting participants
	Name of IDP settlement	Women	Men
1	Gori, Karaleti	7	
2	Gori, Verkhvebi	4	
3	Gori, Berbuki	7	
4	Gori, Skra	7	
5	Vaziani	7	
6	Tetritskaro	8	
7	Shaumiani	6	
8	Tsilkani	12	4
9	Kutaisi, New Settlement	12	
10	Kutaisi, Former Children's Asylum Settlement	5	
11	Tskaltubo, Collective Centre "Metalurgi"	4	
12	Tskaltubo, New Settlement	13	
13	Khobi, Kheta	7	
14	Zugdidi, Zeda Etseri	6	
	Total women/men	105	
	Total number of participants	109	

3. INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Additionally, meetings were held with civil society organizations⁸ at both the national and local⁹ level to gather their observations and assessments regarding the implementation of various projects in occupation line villages and IDP settlements.
- As part of the assessment process, meetings were also conducted with partner international organizations supporting the NAP's implementation. These organizations contribute by sharing their expertise with responsible agencies in areas such as policy development on gender equality and women's empowerment, education and other relevant aspects.
- During the assessment process, meetings were held with partner international organizations¹⁰ supporting the NAP implementation process, facilitating the exchange of experience among responsible agencies on gender equality and women's empowerment in policy development, education and other areas.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- The data collected to assess NAP implementation were processed and analysed to identify current progress and areas that need improvement. Based on the key findings, recommendations were developed to enhance effectiveness and improve the quality of implementation in subsequent phases of the NAP.
- A multifaceted methodological approach ensures a comprehensive analysis of the NAP implementation process, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that either promote or hinder its implementation.

⁸ Civil society organizations: Women's Information Center; IDP Women's Association "Consent"; Women's Fund "Sokhumi".

⁹ Organizations at the local level: Shida Kartli Office of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association; Mercury; Center for Civic Engagement; Association "Imedi".

¹⁰ International organizations: UN Women; German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

3. SUMMARY

The monitoring results of the 2022–2024 National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security indicate that **41 out of 50 activities were implemented, four were partially implemented and five were not implemented. Notably, the implemented activities were primarily carried out within the framework of internal organizational initiatives, with little direct impact on the quality of life of displaced and conflict-affected women and youth.** The assessment highlights several key findings and challenges:

1. ROLE AND RESULTS OF THE WORK OF RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

- Most State agencies have mostly fulfilled their obligations under the NAP, contributing to the empowerment of women and their increased participation in peace and security issues.
- However, certain challenges were identified, particularly regarding the institutionalization of the NAP¹¹, which is crucial for ensuring its continuity and sustainability. Strengthening the NAP's sustainability will help preserve the progress achieved in women's empowerment and facilitate the broader dissemination of its results.

2. ABSENCE OF GENDER-SENSITIVE EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS

- In the framework of human security, the lack of gender-sensitive early warning mechanisms¹² contributes to a persistent sense of insecurity, particularly in the regions and occupation line villages.
- The absence of these mechanisms both increases the risk of conflict escalation and delays responses to gender-based violence, hindering the preparedness and protection of local communities. As a result, women and girls face a heightened risk of gender-based violence and social isolation, further exacerbating their economic vulnerability.

3. PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mechanisms for preventing and responding to violence against women have become more effective, yet
the need for awareness-raising remains urgent. Many women who experience violence lack sufficient information about available services. Stereotypical views and distrust towards law enforcement agencies
remain a problem, making it difficult to receive support.

¹¹ Institutionalization refers to the formalization of the process for developing and implementing the National Action Plan to ensure its sustainability. This includes, among other aspects, establishing clear rules and procedures for implementing the NAP within institutions, thereby ensuring its execution regardless of institutional changes. It also involves designating specific individuals or structural units responsible for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of various components of the NAP; developing reporting forms and indicators to assess results for data comparison and transparency; and systematically introducing successful initiatives and experiences to reinforce good practices.

¹² Gender-sensitive early warning and response mechanisms are systems designed to identify and address risks of conflict, crisis or violence through a gender-sensitive approach.

• Limited access to information further worsens the situation, as victims without timely assistance are at greater risk of repeated violence and long-term psychological and physical harm. Therefore, it is essential to conduct systematic awareness-raising campaigns across various agencies to strengthen women's trust in existing mechanisms and ensure comprehensive and consistent support for their safety.

4. NEEDS OF IDP AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED WOMEN AND YOUTH

- Displaced and conflict-affected women and youth continue to face socioeconomic challenges, including limited or insufficient access to State resources and services.
- The assessment revealed that many displaced women lack sufficient information about available support services, which hinders their social and economic empowerment.

5. INVOLVEMENT AND ASSESSMENTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- Civil society organizations emphasized that gender-balanced participation remains a challenge, particularly in the Geneva International Discussions (GID) and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM).
- Women's participation is often limited to identifying specific needs, while their participation in decision-making processes remains low.

4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1. IMPACT AREA I: PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY PROCESSES

GOAL 1. Increasing the representation and meaningful participation of women (including at the decision-making level) in the processes of strengthening peace and security

Data collection by responsible agencies enables the identification of gender-specific needs and the proper formulation of equality policies. The production of sex-disaggregated data and the analysis of results are essential for enhancing women's participation in peace and security processes.

According to the NAP, four State agencies¹³ are responsible for generating sex-disaggregated data, which provides more comprehensive information on the ratio of women to men. The purpose of sex-disaggregated data is to increase the percentage of women in decision-making positions and promote gender equality, including within the security sector.

As of 1 July 2024, the overall gender distribution of employees in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia is as follows: Women comprise 51.1 per cent, while men make up 48.9 per cent. These shares indicate a relatively balanced gender ratio across different employment categories. However, in the highest diplomatic decision-making positions and the first rank of non-diplomatic roles, men hold a significantly higher share (Table 3).

TABLE 3:Gender-disaggregated data on employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia as of 1 July 2024 (percentage)

Employment category	Factually employed	Diplomatic positions	Non-diplomatic posi- tions	Rank I	Rank II	Rank III	Rank IV	Diplomatic rank – highest	Diplomatic rank – senior	Diplomatic rank – junior	Diplomatic rank – primary	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class VI	Class VIII	Class IX	Class X	Class XI
Share of women	51	49	58	23	53	56	54	20	53	66	58	40	77	100	50	100	0	0	0
Share of men	49	51	42	77	47	44	46	80	47	34	42	60	23	0	50	0	100	100	100

According to the data provided by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the representation of women is high, including in decision-making positions (Table 4). This trend has proved to have a positive impact on the empowerment of women in State structures.

¹³ Activity 1.1.1. Responsible agencies: (1) Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024; (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024; (3) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024; (4) Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.

TABLE 4:Gender-disaggregated data on employees in the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality as of 1 July 2024 (percentage)

Employment actions.	20	22	20	23	2024		
Employment category	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	
Political Official	50	50	50	50	50	50	
Rank I Official	80	20	80	20	80	20	
Deputy Head of Primary Structural Unit	83	17	80	20	80	20	
Head of Secondary Structural Unit	60	40	60	40	60	40	
Senior Specialist: Category I	33	67	60	40	60	40	
Senior Specialist: Category II	80	20	82	18	82	18	
Person employed through the administrative agreement	33	67	33	67	33	67	
Total share employed	63	37	68	32	68	32	

The system for collecting and analysing sex-disaggregated data within the Ministry of Defence of Georgia has been operational for several years. Systematic processing of such data is conducted based on various variables in both the civilian office of the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Forces. As of the second quarter of 2024, the representation of women in decision-making positions within the civilian office has increased by approximately 9.5 per cent, exceeding the required indicator by 2.5 per cent¹⁴. Additionally, a manual for the production of sex-disaggregated data has been developed and is scheduled for approval in the first quarter of 2025.

It should be positively noted that as of the second quarter of 2024, the representation of women in decision-making positions within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has increased by 9.8 per cent. An increase in women's representation was also observed in 2022 and 2023¹⁵.

The agencies responsible for ensuring equal opportunities for women and men and promoting gender equality 16 have developed various internal human resource management documents aimed at strengthening gender equality policies and integrating equality principles into their strategies.

Among these agencies, the Ministry of Defence of Georgia (MoD) plays a particularly significant role in this effort. The MoD has approved its Gender Equality Concept, which serves as the foundation for implementing gender

¹⁴ Objective Outcome Indicator 1.1.1: Percentage of women in decision-making positions in comparison to men. Baseline for 2021: Ministry of Defence of Georgia, 33 per cent. Target: 40 per cent. Status as of 1 July 2024: 42.5 per cent.

¹⁵ Objective Outcome Indicator 1.1.1: Percentage of women in decision-making positions in comparison to men. Baseline for 2021: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, 17.3 per cent. However, within the framework of monitoring, it was revealed that the data mentioned in the Action Plan refer to the percentage of women employed in the agency and not to the decision-making positions. The representation of women in MIA leadership positions fluctuated between 6 and 7 per cent until 2021. Accordingly, as of 1 July 2024, the number has increased from 51 women to 56, which represents a 9.8 per cent increase.

¹⁶ Activity 1.1.2. Responsible agencies: (1) Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024; (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024; (3) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024.

policy within the agency¹⁷. Additionally, in 2022, the Ministry's Gender Equality Action Plan for 2022–2024 was developed and approved, aligning fully with the broader plan.

The Ministry of Defence of Georgia is actively working on the implementation of a centralized career management system to enhance transparency and fairness in the professional development process. In 2023, the Military Personnel Career Management Department was established, where career managers were retrained to play a key role in supporting personnel development. Additionally, concepts for the professional and career development of officers and sergeants have been approved, promoting the professional advancement of military personnel while upholding the principles of gender equality.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia is also actively engaged in this process, having approved its 2024–2027 Human Resources Management Strategy¹⁸ and the corresponding Action Plan for 2024–2025. These documents outline the Ministry's commitments and strategic goals for ensuring gender equality. They include a situational analysis from a gender perspective, enabling more effective planning and implementation of gender policies within the agency.

In 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia developed its Gender Equality Strategy for 2022–2025, aimed at implementing and integrating gender equality policies within the Ministry's system. The strategy focuses on creating conditions that ensure equal rights, freedoms and opportunities for women and men, preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, and combating gender-based violence.

UN Women plays an important role as a partner agency in implementing these important activities. The organization actively collaborates with the MoD, conducting a number of trainings and seminars on gender-related issues. Employees of the Human Resources Department regularly participate in these events, helping to integrate gender considerations into policy documents and regulations. As a result, the MoD introduced a sexual harassment prevention mechanism and developed its own Gender Equality Action Plan.

Additionally, UN Women supported the arrangement of high-level forums attended by generals and senior officials. This collaboration led to significant achievements, including the appointment of two women as Combat Company Commanders for the first time, which is an important milestone in advancing gender equality. Furthermore, a participatory gender audit was conducted at the National Defence Academy (NDA), with its recommendations to be incorporated into training programmes.

UN Women also works closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, including to conduct gender audits. The organization is committed to strengthening the network of female police officers and providing training on security-related topics, which is crucial for promoting gender equality and increasing women's representation in leadership positions.

As part of the production of sex-disaggregated data on employee career development programmes¹⁹, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the State Security Service of Georgia (SSSG), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) regularly compile sex-disaggregated data on professional development programmes for employees. The collection and analysis of these data are essential for ensuring gender balance and equality in career development.

¹⁷ Activity 1.1.4. Responsible agencies: (1) Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024; (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024.

¹⁸ Ministerial Order N1/54 of 29 December 2023.

¹⁹ Activity 1.1.3. Responsible agencies: (1) Ministry of Defence of Georgia No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024; (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024; (3) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024; (4) State Security Service No. SSG 02163605, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024.

TABLE 5:Statistics on professional training and course participants of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, by gender, 2022–2024

'		<u> </u>						
	At the country	level						
Year	Total number of participants	Men participants	Women participants					
2022	3288	2982	306					
2023	3360	2768	592					
2024 (second quarter)	2552	2129	423					
At the international level								
	At the internatio	nal level						
Year	At the internatio Total number of participants	nal level Men participants	Women participants					
Year			Women participants					
Year 2022			Women participants 113					
	Total number of participants	Men participants						
2022	Total number of participants 381	Men participants 268	113					

TABLE 6:

Statistics on professional training and course participants among the employees of the State Security Service of Georgia, by gender, 2022–2024 (percentage)

At the country level							
Gender	Share of participants						
Men	77						
Women	23						
At the intern	national level						
Gender	Share of participants						
Men	82						
Women	18						

TABLE 7:

Statistics on professional training and course participants among the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, by gender, 2022–2024 (percentage)

0,70,7							
At the country level							
Gender	Share of participants						
Men	50						
Women	50						
At the intern	national level						
Gender	Share of participants						
Men	35						
Women	65						

The MoD actively participates in this activity and systematically processes sex-disaggregated data on the participants of the programmes delivered both domestically and abroad. These data include both military and civilian personnel.

Additionally, the MoD is the responsible agency²⁰ for the training and retraining of women for military attaché positions; in recent years, this remains the only activity under the NAP that the MoD has not implemented.

OBJECTIVE 1.2. Increasing women's representation and meaningful participation in peace negotiations

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia²¹, women constitute 36 per cent of the participants in the Geneva International Discussions (GID)²². Among the participants representing the central government in the meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM)²³, women make up 15 per cent.

Additionally, trainings on the Women, Peace and Security²⁴ agenda and peaceful conflict resolution are delivered by the Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training and Research Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, with the support of UN Women²⁵.

OBJECTIVE 1.3. Promoting the development and improvement of the living conditions of women and young people affected by the conflict (including displaced persons and those living in the vicinity of occupied territories) by integrating them into the process of developing, updating and implementing policies relevant to their needs and priorities

During the first stage of developing the State Strategy for Deoccupation and Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts²⁶, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia held several meetings to integrate the needs of women and youth. Based on the feedback received, an initial draft of the strategy was prepared in the beginning of 2022. However, due to new security realities in the region, it became necessary to revise the document and extend the timeline. The MFA continues to hold meetings with women and youth affected by the conflict.

According to the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality (SMR), the process of strategically reviewing the Reconciliation and Engagement Policy²⁷, which began in April 2021, actively engaged women and youth affected by the conflict. An initial draft of the updated strategy was developed in January 2022. However, due to the changing security situation in the region, the document required revision. During this period, the SMR continued to meet with the members of the Women's Consultative Platform, participants of the IPRM meetings and civil society representatives. The SMR also held seminars and meetings with youth to increase their

²⁰ Activity 1.1.5. Responsible agency: Ministry of Defence, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024.

²¹ Activity 1.2.1. Responsible agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024.

²² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024: Two rounds of negotiations were held in the first half of 2024, where the share of women participants in the Georgian delegation was as follows: 4–5 April, 60th round, 3 out of 11 members of the participating delegation were women, which is 27 per cent; 25–26 June, 61st round, 4 out of 11 members of the participating delegation were women, which is 36 per cent.

²³ Activity 1.2.3. Responsible agency: State Security Service of Georgia, Letter No. SSG 0 24 00160145 of 17 July 2024.

²⁴ Activity 1.2.2. Responsible agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024.

²⁵ Meeting with UN Women: A training session was held on the topic 'Inclusive Peace Processes, Negotiations and a Gender Perspective', which was attended by the employees of public agencies working on the issues related to the peaceful resolution of the Russia-Georgia conflict.

²⁶ Activity 1.3.1. Responsible agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024.

²⁷ Activity 1.3.2. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024.

involvement in peace processes. Special attention was given to identifying the needs of the populations in occupation line villages and establishing direct communication with them²⁸.

The Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality prioritizes identifying the needs of women and youth living in villages along the occupation line and improving their socioeconomic conditions²⁹. Several meetings were held in 2022–2023³⁰, as confirmed by the information provided by partner municipalities³¹.

In the process of preparing the action plans for the State Strategy on IDP Housing and Livelihoods, activities related to holding meetings with IDP women and youth and considering the priority issues raised by them are planned to be carried out by the end of 2024³².

OBJECTIVE 1.4. Ensuring that the needs, priorities and recommendations of conflict-affected women (including displaced persons and those living in the vicinity of the occupied territories) are taken into account in peace negotiations; and promoting their participation in the peacebuilding process

To facilitate dialogue on the issues faced by conflict-affected and IDP women³³, the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with other members of the Georgian delegation to the GID and with the support of UN Women, regularly hold meetings with non-governmental organizations and women's rights defenders.

Additionally, in 2022–2023, within the framework of the regular dialogue mechanism³⁴, and in cooperation with the State Security Service and with the support of UN Women, information-sharing meetings were held between

- 28 Based on the Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024 of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the following activities were carried out: Regular meetings (two meetings per year) were held with the members of the Women's Consultative Platform, established in 2021 by the SMR, which brings together 15 leading civil society organizations working on women's issues. Information meetings between IPRM participants and CSO representatives: Within the framework of the regular dialogue mechanism, in cooperation with the State Security Service and with the support of UN Women, regular information-sharing meetings were held between IPRM participants and civil society representatives. They included leaders of women-led CSOs, women's rights defenders, and IDP and conflict-affected women. The aim was to share information with the attending public about the issues discussed and results achieved at the IPRM, to involve women affected by the conflict and to obtain information about their needs. In 2022, the meeting was held in Gori; and in 2023, in Zugdidi and Tbilisi. In May 2022, in Zugdidi, a meeting was held with the SMR and women affected by the conflict, with special attention given to the strategy review process. Meetings with youth: To promote the role of youth in the peace process and raise awareness, the following meetings and seminars were held with young people in various formats between 2022 and 2024: at Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi, with students from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of Caucasus International University, the NATO and EU Information Center, and Samtskhe-Javakheti State University within the framework of a Caucasus International University summer school on the topic 'Peace Policy and Trust Restoration with Occupied Regions', in cooperation with the SMR; in Telavi and Tskaltubo, initiated and organized by the SMR, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (cultural and educational seminars). Additionally, to involve and encourage more young people with peacebuilding ideas, the initiative "Peace Award for Youth", created in 2021, was expanded in 2023. The new thematic nominations included "Best Peace Activity", "Best Peace Idea" and "Best Peace Message". Instead of one winner identified in 2022, several winners (three women, one man) were identified, including two ethnic Abkhaz young people. As a result of close cooperation between the SMR and the Council of Europe, the winners in all three categories participated in the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg, which was focused on peace.
- 29 Activity 1.3.3. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.
- 30 Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024: The SMR held meetings with the local population of 24 villages located in the villages adjacent to the occupation line in 2022–2023, and with the population of four villages as of the second quarter of 2024.
- 31 Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Administration, Letter No. 01/723 of 26 July 2024, meetings held in Zugdidi Municipality: In 2022, informational/consultative meetings were held in the following villages alongside the occupation line: Shamgona and Tkaia. In 2023, a meeting was held in Koki. Shida Kartli Administration, Letter No. 07/4792 of 22 October 2024, in Gori Municipality: Six meetings were held, attended by the residents from the following villages: Zemo Nikozi, Kvemo Nikozi, Pkhvenisi, Zemo Khviti, Tsitelubani, Natsreti, Shavshvebi, Shavshvebi IDP Collective Centre, Khurvaleti, Nadarbazevi, Tirdznisi, Tergvisi, Meghvrekisi, Ergneti, Botsleti, Kveshi, Kvemo Artsevi and Verkhvebi. A total of 117 citizens attended, including 101 women and 16 men. In Khashuri Municipality: meetings were held in the villages of Tsagvli and Chorchana.
- 32 Activity 1.3.4. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.
- 33 Activity 1.4.1. Responsible agency: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. 01/23275 of 22 July 2024.
- 34 Activity 1.4.2. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.

the IPRM participants and civil society representatives. They included the leaders of women's organizations and international organizations, women's rights defenders, and IDP and conflict-affected women³⁵. The aim of these information-sharing meetings is to reflect the needs of displaced and conflict-affected women in the agenda of the IPRM meetings, address the underrepresentation of women at these meetings and integrate a gender perspective into the topics discussed at official meetings.

The Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality regularly holds meetings³⁶ with the representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia, international organizations and non-governmental organizations both in bilateral and multilateral formats. These meetings focus on increasing the participation of women and youth in peacekeeping and confidence-building initiatives. Special attention is given to cooperation with organizations operating in the region of Abkhazia, Georgia within the framework of the Strategic Partnership³⁷.

TABLE 8:Statistics on the approval of the projects of international and non-governmental organizations by the SMR, 2022–2024

Year	Number of approved projects	Number of women- oriented projects	Share of women- oriented projects
2022	60	22	37%
2023	23	9	39%
2024 (second quarter)	34	18	52%

The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality is organizing meetings to promote women's meaningful participation in the peace process³⁸. In 2022–2023, with the support of UN Women, several meetings were held with the members of the Women's Consultative Platform, which included representatives from various international and non-governmental organizations, such as the IDP Women Association "Consent", the Women's Information Center and the Women's Fund "Sukhumi". Additional consultative meetings are planned for 2024³⁹.

³⁵ Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024: On 14 September 2022, a meeting was held in Gori; on 18 May 2023, in Zugdidi; and on 14 November 2023, in Tbilisi. The next meeting is planned to be organized in 2024.

³⁶ Activity 1.4.3. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.

³⁷ Shida Kartli Administration, Letter No. 07/4792 of 22 October 2024: In Gori, in 2022–2024, two public discussions of the draft budget were held, attended by the population invited from the villages, as well as local (including community) and international organizations. In Mestia, the USAID Local Self-Government Programme was discussed at the Mestia Women's Council, with the involvement of international representatives.

³⁸ Activity 1.4.4. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.

³⁹ Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024: On 15 November 2022, a meeting was held with members of the Women's Consultative Platform, aiming to summarize the activities carried out in the area of reconciliation and inclusion policy, including the peace initiative "A Step to a Better Future", assess the achieved results and discuss future plans. On 30 January 2023, a meeting took place between the State Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova, Oleg Serebrian, during his working visit to Georgia, with the members of the Women's Consultative Platform. On 29 June 2023, also at the initiative of the State Minister's Office, a joint meeting was held with the State Minister and the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, who was visiting Georgia, alongside the members of the Women's Consultative Platform. On 28 November 2023, a meeting was organized between the State Minister and the members of the Women's Consultative Platform. The purpose of the meeting was to summarize the activities carried out in 2023 under the reconciliation and engagement policy, including the peace initiative "A Step to a Better Future", and to assess the significant results achieved.

IMPACT AREA I - Results of interviews with civil society organizations

Although a number of activities are being implemented by State agencies with CSOs to promote women's participation, interviews have revealed several issues that remain problematic in terms of women's meaningful engagement in peace and security processes.

As noted, women's meaningful participation remains one of the main challenges in peace processes. The representatives of various CSOs noted that women's involvement in the GID and the IPRM is almost absent. The only existing platforms where there is an opportunity to discuss problems are mainly organized by international organizations. At the local level, the meaningful participation of women in security processes and peace negotiations also remains a challenge. Women participate more in identifying and sharing specific needs, but their participation in decision-making processes, including security at the local level, is rather low.

According to respondents, the absence of gender-sensitive early warning and response mechanisms remains a considerable challenge that significantly hinders the process of working towards human security, leaving a constant feeling of insecurity, especially in communities adjacent to the occupation line.

IMPACT AREA I - Results of interviews with IDP and conflict-affected women

Interviews with women in IDP settlements and villages along the occupation line highlighted a number of issues regarding their participation in peace and security processes, as discussed below.

One of the primary concerns raised by women during these meetings was their exclusion from decision-making processes⁴⁰, as they are not given the opportunity to participate in discussions on local governance. As a result, their needs and priorities are often disregarded.

The lack of women's meaningful participation in decision-making is also linked to limited awareness of and insufficient access to information. Women in rural villages are not well informed about the existing programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting women's empowerment and leadership⁴¹. Consequently, they miss out on opportunities that could improve their security and social conditions.

Security concerns were a recurring topic in these discussions. In particular, women in Tchale and Potskho Etseri spoke of the fear associated with living near the occupied territories. Moreover, in Khurcha and Tchale, special emphasis was placed on the lack of information on security issues and the need for such information.

Despite these threats, gender-sensitive early warning and response mechanisms remain underdeveloped. Women are not included in security processes or systems, further increasing their vulnerability.

In villages within Zugdidi Municipality, women report that their concerns and needs are often overlooked in targeted programmes. Their exclusion from these processes leads to a lack of awareness regarding available resources. Additionally, several settlements, including Zeda Etseri and the Kutaisi IDP settlements, suffer from inadequate infrastructure, severely impacting the social and economic conditions of women.

⁴⁰ This concern was raised by respondents in Karaleti, Skra, Tserovani, Tsilkani, Khurcha, Zeda Etseri, Kheta and Chale.

⁴¹ This concern was raised by respondents in Kheta, Tsilkani and Zeda Etseri.

IMPACT AREA I - SUMMARY

Within the framework of Impact Area I, significant progress has been made at the institutional level in strengthening women's participation in peace and security processes. Efforts to develop policies for women's career advancement and the production of sex-disaggregated data have become key tools in promoting gender equality.

Additionally, interviews with civil society organizations revealed that the low level of women's engagement in security processes and peace negotiations remains a challenge. CSO representatives noted that women's participation is often limited to identifying specific needs, while their participation in decision-making processes remains low. The interviews underscored the need to enhance women's participation, particularly in the GID and the IPRM, where their initiatives are largely unrepresented.

Interviews with IDP and conflict-affected women highlighted their strong willingness to engage in peace and security processes. Women noted that their priorities are frequently overlooked in decision-making, and they lack sufficient information about available programmes and resources that could support their empowerment and security.

4.2 IMPACT AREA II: ELIMINATION AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

GOAL 2. Promoting the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (including sexual violence, gender-based violence and other risks related to human security)

OBJECTIVE 2.1. Raising awareness of conflict-affected women and girls on violence and human security issues

The SMR, in cooperation with the Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department of the MIA, the Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking, and the Legal Aid Service, along with the involvement of local self-government, regularly conducted information and consultation meetings with the conflict-affected women and their family members in the occupation line villages⁴². These meetings covered the issues related to violence against women and domestic violence, violence against minors or committed by minors, State services and free legal aid⁴³. Reports from target municipalities confirm the information provided about these meetings.

⁴² Activity 2.1.1. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.

⁴³ Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024; Shida Kartli Administration, Letter No. 07/4792 of 22 October 2024; Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Administration, Letter No. 01/723 of 26 July 2024; Imereti Administration, Letter No. 02/1278 of 31 July 2024. The following meetings were conducted: In 2022, meetings were held in villages along the occupation line: Kodistskaro (Kaspi Municipality), Shamgona (Zugdidi Municipality), Chorchana (Khashuri Municipality), Jariasheni (Gori Municipality) and Tkaia (Zugdidi Municipality). These meetings were attended by 71 women, 13 men, 30 girls and 4 boys from the conflict-affected local communities. In 2023, meetings took place in the villages of Nikozi (Gori Municipality), Tvaurebi (Kaspi Municipality), Perevi (Sachkhere Municipality), and Akhalabastumani and Koki (both Zugdidi Municipality), with a total of 101 women, 9 girls and 36 men participating. In the first half of 2024, meetings were held in Bozhami (Kaspi Municipality) and Karkushaani (Dusheti Municipality), attended by 44 women, 8 men, 7 boys and 7 girls, including 2 persons with disability. Three additional meetings are planned in the occupation line villages by the end of 2024. Additionally, Kaspi Municipality has held at least four meetings annually on: (1) issues related to sexual violence and violence against women; (2) State services available for survivors of sexual violence; and (3) social rehabilitation and State programmes for childcare. Khashuri Municipality has conducted five meetings on violence against women in villages near the occupation line, including two field meetings of the municipal gender equality council, one of which was held as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

In the second quarter of 2022, 2023 and 2024, the Legal Aid Service held a total of 11 meetings⁴⁴ with the target communities on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, as well as legal issues concerning property and entrepreneurship⁴⁵. Additional meetings are scheduled to take place in various locations near the occupation line by the end of 2024.

The Public Defender of Georgia has not received any information from the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia regarding a report on the needs of IDP women and girls⁴⁶. Meetings on this topic have been held in several target municipalities⁴⁷.

Regarding the provision of information about family planning services and contraception methods⁴⁸, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia held an online meeting with IDP women in Tserovani settlement in 2024. To raise awareness about breast cancer and reproductive health, "Pink October" campaigns have been organized in certain target municipalities.

As for the integration of the principles of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in general education⁴⁹, according to the information provided by the responsible agency, these principles are reflected in the national curriculum for civic education at all three levels of general education. The subject 'Citizenship' is taught as part of the social sciences curriculum at the basic and secondary levels, integrating the principles of civil defence, security and resolution 1325 (2000)⁵⁰.

OBJECTIVE 2.2. Capacity-building for security and justice sector personnel to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations

To prevent and effectively respond to sexual violence, gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the security sector, the General Inspection Department operates within the **Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia**⁵¹. Within its mandate, the department identifies violations of ethical and disciplinary norms, improper fulfillment of official duties, and specific illegal actions within the Ministry's system. It takes appropriate measures, including ensuring a response to the cases of sexual violence, gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

- 44 Legal Aid Service, Letter No. LA 3 24 00023911 of 11 July 2024: In 2022, four meetings were held in the following locations: Jariasheni (Gori Municipality), Chorchana (Khashuri Municipality), Kodistskaro (Kaspi Municipality), Tkaia (Zugdidi Municipality). In 2023, four meetings took place in: Nikozi (Gori Municipality), Tvaurebi (Kaspi Municipality), Perevi (Sachkhere Municipality), Akhalabastumani (Zugdidi Municipality). In 2024, three meetings were conducted in: Bozhami (Kaspi Municipality), Jvari (Tsalenjikha Municipality), Karkushaani (Dusheti Municipality).
- 45 Activity 2.1.2. Responsible agency: Legal Aid Service, Letter No. LA 3 24 00023911 of 11 July 2024.
- 46 Activity 2.1.3. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.
- 47 Kvemo Kartli Administration, Letter No. 01/1254 of 6 August 2024: In Dmanisi Municipality, at the initiative of the Dmanisi Municipality Gender Equality Council, a meeting was held with displaced women. During this session, participants were introduced to the programmes available at the Mayor's Office. As a result of their requests, IDP families became beneficiaries of the Agricultural Support Programme in the territory of Dmanisi Municipality. In Tetritskaro Municipality, the official responsible for gender equality at the Mayor's Office regularly organizes meetings with IDP women to assess their needs and connect them to decision makers. In Tsalka Municipality, awareness-raising meetings on violence-related issues are conducted with the participation of IDP women.
- 48 Activity 2.1.4. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.
- 49 Activity 2.1.5. Responsible agency: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Letter No. MES 1 24 0000848299 of 11 July
- 50 Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Letter No. MES 1 24 0000848299 of 11 July 2024: Starting from the 2022/23 academic year, with the support of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the subjects 'Military Affairs' and 'Defence and Security' have been introduced in 56 public schools in the locations with mountain status. The goal of these subjects is to familiarize elementary and secondary school students with the fundamentals of military affairs. In addition, the updated document 'National Goals of General Education' has been approved, further strengthening the integration of peace education and equality in the curriculum.
- 51 Activity 2.2.1. Responsible agencies: (1) Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024; (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024; (3) State Security Service, Letter No. SSG 0 24 00160145 of 17 July 2024.

On 23 October 2023, the **Ministry of Defence of Georgia** approved the Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response Mechanism of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. Additionally, in 2024, the National Defence Academy proactively adopted an internal policy document on sexual harassment, titled 'Policy Document for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the LEPL David Aghmashenebeli National Defence Academy of Georgia'.

To further enhance and effectively implement existing mechanisms for the prevention of sexual violence and sexual harassment within the State Security Service of Georgia, efforts are focused on retraining relevant specialists and sharing international experience. During the reporting period, in cooperation with partner organizations, the representatives of the SSSG participated in several trainings and events on these topics.

According to UN Women, training on sexual harassment prevention and response mechanisms was conducted across all three responsible agencies. This initiative was further supported by the Georgian Intelligence Service (GIS) and the National Security Council (NSC). Among these agencies, the MoD and the GIS established their own sexual harassment prevention and response mechanisms in cooperation with UN Women.

Based on the correspondence of the responsible agencies, the MoD and the GIS have approved an updated training module on the prevention of and response to sexual violence, gender-based violence and sexual harassment, including the topics related to conflict and post-conflict situations⁵². Both agencies have integrated these updated modules into the training curricula on the Women, Peace and Security agenda that are included at various levels and areas of training and retraining courses for police officers and military personnel.

According to the information received from the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, the topics of gender equality and UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and its subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security are integrated into the predeployment training programmes of peacekeeping operations and that, at this stage, there is no need to update the module⁵³. At the bachelor's and master's levels of higher educational institutions of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, the modules are integrated into the curriculum⁵⁴. The module 'Gender and Security'⁵⁵ is integrated into the 'Defence Orientation Course', which is implemented annually at the Defence Institution Building School; training on gender equality and Women, Peace and Security is also integrated into the 'Civil Service Managerial Skills' and 'Personal and Professional Competence Development Programme', which are also regularly implemented at the Defence Institution Building School⁵⁶. A psychological rehabilitation programme has been introduced and implemented for the military personnel participating in international peacekeeping missions⁵⁷. In addition, training on sexual violence, gender-based violence and domestic violence issues has been integrated into the predeployment training curriculum. Currently, these programmes do not require updating. Moreover, with the support of UN Women, 40 gender advisers have been trained⁵⁸.

Activity 2.2.2. Responsible agencies: (1) Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024; (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024.

⁵³ Activity 2.2.3. Responsible agency: Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024.

⁵⁴ Activity 2.2.4. Responsible agency: Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024

⁵⁵ Activity 2.2.5. Responsible agency: Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024.

⁵⁶ The Ministry of Defence of Georgia has integrated UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security into the training programmes conducted under the "Women in Defence: Supporting the Professional Development of Future Female Leaders" initiative. This three-year programme concluded at the end of 2023. In 2024, similar awareness-raising trainings for female military personnel of the MoD are continuing, with support from UN Women and funding from the UK Government. Since January 2024, an introductory programme has been in operation for newly appointed professional civil servants within the MoD, requiring them to complete an electronic course on gender equality.

⁵⁷ Activity 2.2.6. Responsible agency: Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024.

⁵⁸ Activity 2.2.7. Responsible agency: Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Letter No. MOD 6 24 00863649 of 10 July 2024.

During the reporting period, two trainings⁵⁹ were conducted for the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia on the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and on communication with the population in the villages adjacent to the occupation line⁶⁰.

According to UN Women, five security sector institutions—including the heads of departments, middle managers and other employees from the MIA, MoD, SSSG, NSC and GIS—participated in a series of professional development sessions (for 11 months, from June 2022 to April 2023), with 35 participants in total. The trainings covered various thematic issues related to the WPS agenda. A network was established among the participants, who now regularly exchange information and cooperate on the issues related to the activities of their respective agencies.

Regarding the organization of two meetings per year on security issues for women and girls⁶¹, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia reports that such meetings are periodically held in various locations adjacent to the occupation line⁶². This activity is confirmed by the information received from the municipalities and partner agencies.

The Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia has trained its staff on the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security^{63; 64}.

- Meeting with UN Women: In November 2023, representatives from the Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, supported by UN Women, conducted a training aimed at effectively implementing the commitments outlined in the 2022–2024 National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. This training focused on the agency's responsibilities in this regard. In December 2023, a training of trainers was held on UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. This session was attended by five employees from the MIA Academy and five employees from the Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department. According to the training module, which was developed with support from the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) and UN Women, additional targeted trainings for MIA employees are planned for 2024. The module addresses the principles of the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and issues related to communication with populations living in villages adjacent to the occupation line.
- 60 Activity 2.2.8. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024.
- 61 Activity 2.2.8. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024.
- 62 Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MIA 9 24 02419327 of 8 August 2024: On 28 October 2022, an employee of the Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department participated in an information meeting in the village of Tkaia (occupation line village in Zugdidi Municipality) to discuss violence against women, domestic violence, State services and free legal aid. From January 2023 to December 2023, the employee also participated in similar meetings with the conflict-affected population in the villages of Tvaurebi (occupation line village in Kaspi Municipality), Nikozi (occupation line village in Gori Municipality), Perevi (occupation line village in Sachkhere Municipality), Akhalabastumani (occupation line village in Zugdidi Municipality) and Koki to address violence against women, domestic violence, State services and free legal aid. From January to June 2024, the same employee participated in an information meeting in the village of Bozhami (occupation line village in Kaspi Municipality) to discuss the same issues. Participants were provided with the information on victim protection mechanisms within the framework of a restraining order, including the use of electronic bracelets, as well as guidance on how to contact the Ministry of Internal
- 63 Activity 2.2.10. Responsible Agency Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia, Letter No. 13/45860 of July 12, 2024.
- 64 Activity 2.2.10. Responsible agency: Prosecutor General's Office of Georgia, Letter No. 13/45860 of 12 July 2024. For Prosecutor's Office employees, issues related to UN Security Council resolutions on WPS are integrated into the specialization course for prosecutors and investigators on domestic violence and domestic crime, as well as into the Council of Europe Mentoring Programme and two HELP training courses: 'Violence against Women and Domestic Crime' and 'Women's Access to Justice'. In 2022, 16 Prosecutor's Office employees (14 managers, 2 prosecutors) were retrained through the specialization course on domestic violence and domestic crime. Additionally, a discussion on this topic was held at a workshop in Strasbourg, as part of the project "Women's Access to Justice: Implementation of the Istanbul Convention and Gender Equality and Other European Standards in the Eastern Partner Countries". Two managers from the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia participated in the meeting. In 2023, 22 prosecutors (21 prosecutors, 1 investigator) were retrained through the specialization course on domestic violence and family crime, and 21 prosecutors participated in the Council of Europe HELP training course on violence against women and domestic crime. Furthermore, a mentoring programme, "Women's Access to Justice", was implemented during the reporting period, in which 10 prosecutors participated. In 2024, 21 prosecutors were retrained through the Council of Europe HELP training course on violence against women and family crime. Additionally, the mentoring programme "Women's Access to Justice" is continuing during the reporting period, with 10 prosecutors participating. Within the framework of this programme, among other important issues, prosecutors undergo the Council of Europe HELP training course "Women's Access to Justice", which also incorporates the issues of the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.

According to information provided by UN Women, two training sessions were held for the staff of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and its LEPL—the Internally Displaced Persons, Ecomigrants and Livelihood Agency—on the topic of sexual harassment prevention and response mechanisms⁶⁵. In relation to the WPS agenda, 23 staff members (17 women and 6 men) from the Legal Aid Service in Tbilisi and the regions were trained⁶⁶. Additional training on the same topic is planned for the staff of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia by the end of 2024.

IMPACT AREA II - Results of interviews with civil society organizations

Despite the fact that responsible agencies have conducted numerous information campaigns to prevent all forms of violence against women, representatives of civil society organizations noted that there are still many challenges in this area, especially in regions affected by the conflict. Representatives who are actively involved in these issues emphasized that women often lack sufficient information about services, which significantly complicates women's efforts to seek help to prevent and respond to violence.

Representatives of the Women's Information Center noted that although certain campaigns have improved credibility and women's willingness to report cases of violence, this is not enough. A representative of the organization Merkuri noted that the absence of a law on domestic violence in Abkhazia, alongside the lack of shelters and crisis centres in the region, further complicates the situation.

It is worth noting that the lack of information about services is a problem not only in specific regions but also in general, as awareness of services aimed at protecting women's rights remains low. For example, a representative of the Women's Fund "Sukhumi" noted that women in the regions adjacent to the occupation line are still not well informed about the existing support mechanisms. Although trust in the police has increased and women are ready to contact law enforcement in cases of domestic violence, trust in other criminal cases is still very low.

It can be said that in order to improve violence prevention and response mechanisms, it is necessary to increase women's awareness of referrals and services and to disseminate them widely in order to raise awareness among women and girls.

IMPACT AREA II - Results of interviews with IDP and conflict-affected women

Women respondents noted that there are still many challenges in ensuring the prevention of all forms of violence against women, especially in the conflict-affected regions. As revealed from the meetings with women, they often lack sufficient information about the services that should be provided to them in cases of violence. For example, women living in Tetritskaro and Khurcha noted that they do not have sufficient information about violence prevention and response mechanisms. They state that they have only general information about the existence of shelters and crisis centres in cases of violence and that they do not know how to get real help.

Although some campaigns have been conducted to prevent violence, as evidenced by the meetings held in Khurcha and Vaziani, these services are often not accessible to women. Women living in Vaziani noted that they have information about shelters, but they do not know how effective their services are. Women report that a wide-ranging information campaign has not been conducted on these issues in the past two years.

⁶⁵ Activity 2.2.11. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.

⁶⁶ Activity 2.2.12. Responsible agency: Legal Aid Service, Letter No. LA 3 24 00023911 of 11 July 2024.

These problems are particularly acute in the villages⁶⁷ adjacent to the occupation line, where security issues are constantly on the agenda. Women living in the villages noted that no meetings have been held by the State on violence prevention issues. They lack information about the mechanisms that should help them in terms of violence prevention and security.

Although certain campaigns and informational meetings, such as trainings conducted by NGOs, have led to an increase in trust in the police, problems remain relevant. Women living in Gori Municipality say that due to a lack of informational support, victims of violence do not have sufficient knowledge of how to receive help and how to use existing services. This problem is exacerbated in the regions that lack infrastructure, making access to services more difficult.

In addition to the above, stereotypical views regarding domestic violence issues were again revealed during the meetings with women. According to the information provided, domestic conflicts are resolved with the help of neighbours. They try not to contact law enforcement agencies; in some cases, women's hesitancy is due to stereotypes or distrust towards law enforcement agencies.

IMPACT AREA II - SUMMARY

Progress was achieved under Impact Area II through the implementation of the objectives and activities set out in the NAP, aimed at eliminating and preventing all forms of violence against women and girls. It is noteworthy that within the framework of the implemented activities, special emphasis was placed on raising awareness among women and girls affected by the conflict. Among the activities, consultation meetings were held with the population living in villages adjacent to the occupation line and in IDP settlements. Raising awareness among the target groups and providing information about State services are two of the key steps that contribute to the prevention of violence and provide support to victims. In addition, it is important to increase the geographical coverage of these meetings to ensure the involvement of different villages and the women and girls living there. It is also important to conduct awareness-raising and capacity-building trainings for security sector representatives, aimed at increasing their competence in preventing and responding to gender-based violence and sexual harassment. As a result of these initiatives, relatively highly sensitive mechanisms have been activated in the security and justice sectors, ensuring a more results-oriented response to incidents of violence.

Interviews with civil society organizations revealed that certain challenges remain, including the absence of gender-sensitive early warning mechanisms, which hinders the process of working towards human security and leaves a feeling of insecurity. Respondents also noted that often, not everyone has access to necessary services, which further worsens their situation.

Interviews with internally displaced and conflict-affected women have revealed that female victims of violence often lack sufficient information, making it difficult for them to access the assistance they need. This information was evident in various settlements, especially where the lack of infrastructure and services directly affects their social and economic situation.

⁶⁷ Villages: Perevi, Kardzmani, Tserovani, Tsilkani, Zeda Etseri, Tchale.

4.3 IMPACT AREA III: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION

GOAL 3. Improving access to public services and the socioeconomic empowerment of women and girls affected by conflict (including IDPs and those living adjacent to the occupied territories)

OBJECTIVE 3.1. Ensuring access to health, legal and civil services for conflict-affected women and girls (including IDPs and those living in and adjacent to the occupied territories)

During the reporting period of NAP implementation, the Legal Aid Service conducted 21 free consultation meetings for women and girls affected by the conflict. The provision of these meetings will continue until the end of 2024⁶⁸.

In order to improve the localization process and fulfil the commitments undertaken in the NAP, the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, a member agency of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence⁶⁹, systematically held meetings in the villages adjacent to the occupation line to identify the needs of the conflict-affected population⁷⁰. Moreover, at the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Administration of the Government, informational meetings were held with the women living in the villages adjacent to the occupation line.

The Ministry of Justice of Georgia has launched its "Mobile Public Service Hall" service in the villages adjacent to the occupation line. Currently, there are 123 branches of the House of Justice in Georgia, which ensures the provision of State and private sector services to the population throughout Georgia. In addition, in order to ensure the maximum accessibility of services to the public, especially to the population living in the villages adjacent to the occupation line, and to support the population living in rural areas and high mountainous regions, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia has operated the innovative Mobile Public Service Hall project since its launch in 2021. The project concept is in compliance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and their main principle: to leave no one behind. Currently, 20 Mobile Public Service Halls are operating in all regions of Georgia. In a number of villages adjacent to the occupation line, the populations in the municipalities of Sachkhere, Tsalenjikha, Zugdidi, Kaspi and Gori (village of Ditsi) regularly receive the services of the Mobile Public Service Hall.

⁶⁸ Activity 3.1.1. Responsible agency: Legal Aid Service Letter No. LA 3 24 00023911 of 11 July 2024.

⁶⁹ Activity 3.1.1. Responsible agencies: Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence; Administration of the Government of Georgia, Prime Minister's Adviser on Human Rights, Letter No. GOV 6 24 00019978 of 16 July 2024.

Activity 3.1.2. Responsible agency: Administration of the Government of Georgia, Prime Minister's Adviser on Human Rights, Letter No. GOV 6 24 00019978 of 16 July 2024: Throughout 2023, meetings were held with the local population of 24 villages located adjacent to the occupation line through direct communication with the State Minister and representatives of the Minister's Office. In addition, a number of meetings will be held by other member agencies of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by the end of 2024 to discuss and address the needs of women and girls directly affected by the conflict. Administration of the Government of Georgia, Prime Minister's Adviser on Human Rights, Letter No. GOV 4 24 00021243 of 30 July 2024: In order to fulfil the obligations assumed by the NAP, at the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Administration of the Government of Georgia, with the support of Gori Municipality City Hall, informational meetings were held with the women living in the villages adjacent to the occupation line in Shida Kartli: Bershueti, Kirbali, Zerti, Khurvaleti, Tsitelubani, Shavshvebi, Tirdznisi, Tkviavi, Zemo Nikozi, Mereti and Gugutiantkari. The participants of the meetings were provided with information on the measures taken by the State in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women, human trafficking and crimes committed on the grounds of intolerance. Participants also learned about the legal mechanisms for protection against violence existing in the country, as well as ways to contact the police.

⁷¹ Activity 3.1.3. Responsible agency: Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Letter No. 8206 of 19 July 2024.

⁷² Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Letter No. 8206 of 19 July 2024: In 2023–2024, the Ministry of Justice's LEPL "House of Justice" provided services to the following administrative units (villages adjacent to the occupation line) through Mobile Public Service Hall vehicles: Lia, Kvemo Chala, Tsagvli, Dvani, Takhtisdziri, Tserovani, Shindisi, Perevi, Mereti, Ganmukhuri and Pakhulani. The population of the villages located in the mentioned administrative units had the opportunity to receive full-fledged services on certain days at up to 500 services available in the House of Justice.

Information on the preventive measures of the COVID-19 pandemic and access to State services in Georgian, Abkhazian and Ossetian languages are being disseminated by the responsible agency, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia⁷³ through posts on its website.

In terms of adding and equipping outpatient clinics in the villages adjacent to the occupation line, according to the information provided, the construction of outpatient clinics in the villages of Ganmukhuri, Anaklia, Koki, Shamgona, Darcheli, Ditsi, Ergneti, Kodistskaro and Plavi has been completed, while the rehabilitation of outpatient clinics in Mereti and Tirdznisi is under way. All outpatient clinics have been equipped with appropriate equipment⁷⁴. Moreover, according to the information received from the target municipalities, the number of medical outpatient clinics is being expanded in the villages alongside the occupation line⁷⁵. According to the Ministry, the provision of healthcare services to the population living in the occupied territories in the territory controlled by the Government of Georgia is ensured within the framework of State programmes⁷⁶.

OBJECTIVE 3.2. Increasing involvement in educational, cultural, sports and entrepreneurship programmes for the economic empowerment of conflict-affected women and girls (including IDPs and those living in and adjacent to the occupied territories)

Similar to previous years, during an academic year, the tuition of students living in the villages adjacent to the occupation line and in occupied territories is being financed on a semester basis in 10 municipalities⁷⁷.

Regarding the provision of transportation for the internally displaced women and youth enrolled in State educational institutions, according to the LEPL Internally Displaced Persons, Ecomigrants and Livelihood Agency⁷⁸ report

territory before the 2008 war and completed their studies in another territory of Georgia. Municipalities: Sachkhere, Zugdidi,

Tsalenjikha, Mestia, Kaspi, Khashuri, Gori, Kareli, Dusheti and Oni.

⁷³ Activity 3.1.4. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.

⁷⁴ Activity 3.1.5. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.

⁷⁵ Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Administration, Letter No. 01/723 of 26 July 2024; Shida Kartli Administration, Letter No. 07/4792 of 22 October 2024: Construction of an outpatient clinic building is under way in the village of Kodistskaro (Kaspi Municipality). During the reporting period, no medical outpatient clinics were added to the villages alongside the occupation line of Tsalenjikha Municipality. A medical outpatient clinic has been established in the village of Perevi (Sachkhere Municipality), with appropriate medical equipment and medical personnel. The following is a list of medical outpatient clinics in the villages adjacent to the occupation line in Zugdidi Municipality: Ganmukhuri- construction under way; Orsantia- rehabilitated in 2023; Koki- construction under way; Khurcha- a new clinic was built in 2019; Shamgona- construction under way; Akhalabastumani- a new clinic was built in 2019; Rike- rehabilitated in 2023; Tkaia- rehabilitated in 2023. In order to facilitate the establishment of medical outpatient clinics in the villages adjacent to the occupation line of Gori Municipality, the City Hall has allocated space for the clinics. At least five clinics with appropriate medical equipment and medical personnel are operating in the villages adjacent to the occupation line of Kaspi Municipality. This year, the construction of a clinic building in the village of Kodistskaro is under way by the order of a medical holding.

⁷⁶ Activity 3.1.6. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and 77 Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.

Activity 3.2.1. Responsible agencies: (1) Interim Governmental Commission to respond to the needs of the affected population in the villages adjacent to the dividing line; (2) Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Letter MES 1 24 0000848299 of 11 July 2024: Within the framework of the programme to support higher education for students living in the occupied territories, 781 students were funded with State educational grants in the second semester of the 2023/24 academic year. Based on the decision of the aforementioned Interim Governmental Commission, 2,041 students (1,140 women and 901 men) were funded in the second semester of the 2021/22 academic year within the framework of the programme to support students in the villages adjacent to the dividing line; in the 2022/23 academic year, 1,871 students were funded (1,140 women and 731 men); and in the 2023/24 academic year, 1,520 students (900 women and 620 men) were funded. Within the framework of the social programme in the 2023/24 academic year, State educational grants were given to the following: 50 students who studied for the last three years and graduated from schools in the villages adjacent to the occupation line; 230 students who studied for the last two years and completed their studies in the occupied territories; those who studied in an occupied territory for the last year before the 2008 war and completed their studies in another territory of Georgia; or those who permanently lived with their families in an occupied

⁷⁸ Activity 3.2.2. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024. Partner agency: LEPL Internally Displaced Persons, Ecomigrants and Livelihood Agency, Letter No. IDP 2 24 00901120 of 26 August 2024.

"Covering the cost of transportation for the internally displaced women and youth enrolled in state educational institutions", during the reporting period (January–June 2024), 218 beneficiaries were funded, 95 of whom were women. Moreover, a number of partner agencies will ensure that transportation costs for displaced women and youth from target municipalities, those who are enrolled in educational institutions are covered⁷⁹.

In addition, it is important to note the issues of financing and creating a source of income for returned IDP migrant women⁸⁰. According to the information provided by the LEPL Internally Displaced Persons, Ecomigrants and Livelihood Agency, during the reporting period (January–June 2024), 1,304 beneficiaries applied to the agency, 722 of whom are women. The winners will be announced in the fourth quarter of 2024.

During the reporting period of the NAP implementation process, the Extension and Counselling Centres of the Rural Development Agency held 101 outreach meetings in the villages adjacent to the occupation line, within the framework of which 301 women received consultations⁸¹. Moreover, a number of partner agencies will provide informational or consultation meetings with women and youth from target municipalities for the purpose of their accessing preferential agricultural and small business grants⁸².

In addition, 2,454 female entrepreneurs have been trained within the framework of the Micro and Small Entrepreneurship Programme, including 170 IDPs, 71 persons with disabilities and 276 socially vulnerable people⁸³. The trainings covered general entrepreneurship and environmental and social issues. Unfortunately, a new round of micro grants was not announced in 2024.

Moreover, in 2022–2024, 67 Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian business initiatives were funded within the framework of three grant competitions held under the "A Step to a Better Future" initiative and the "Peace Fund for a Better Future" financial mechanism, which exceeds the activity indicator by 4.5 times⁸⁴. In total, 38 per cent of the funded beneficiaries were women.

⁷⁹ Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Administration, Letter No. 01/723 of 26 July 2024; Imereti Administration, Letter No. 02/1278 of 31 July 2024; Shida Kartli Administration, Letter No. 07/4792 of 22 October 2024: In Kaspi Municipality, transportation for the needy displaced women and youth enrolled in State educational institutions is provided both to University and to Kaspi City Vocational College. Sachkhere Municipality City Hall provides free transportation for the citizens living near the occupation line in the Sachkhere-Perevi, Perevi-Sachkhere directions (four trips per week). In Zugdidi Municipality, students can use municipal transport at a discounted rate. Outside the borders of Zugdidi Municipality, the City Hall issues one-time financial assistance.

⁸⁰ Activity 3.2.3. Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024. Partner agency: LEPL Internally Displaced Persons, Ecomigrants and Livelihood Agency, Letter No. IDP 2 24 00901120 of 26 August 2024.

⁸¹ Activity 3.2.4. Responsible agency: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Letter No. 5994/01 of 1 August 2024.

⁸² Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Administration, Letter No. 01/723 of 26 July 2024; Imereti Administration, Letter No. 02/1278 of 31 July 2024; Kvemo Kartli Administration, Letter No. 01/1254 of 6 August 2024; Shida Kartli Administration, Letter No. 07/4792 of 22 October 2024: Kaspi Municipality City Hall is intensively conducting information/consultation meetings with women and youth affected by the conflict to facilitate access to preferential agricultural and small business grants. During the reporting period, an information/consultation meeting was held in Sachkhere Municipality with representatives of the NNLE Sachkhere Information/ Consultation Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. In Zugdidi Municipality, the Rural Development Agency systematically goes out into the field and provides information to citizens living in rural areas, including the villages located alongside the occupation line, which is organized by the City Hall. An annual competition is held for the women living alongside the occupation line, affected by the conflict and representing ethnic minorities (https://shorturl.at/VZgtB). Besides that, at the municipal level, the Zugdidi Municipality "Women's Room" provides systematic consultations on employment. In Tsalenjikha Municipality, consultation meetings are held periodically. Meetings are being held in Mestia Municipality regarding "Produce in Georgia" grants and USAID grant projects. In Tetritskaro Municipality, periodic meetings are held with the population to provide information on preferential agricultural and small business grants. At the initiative of the Tsalka Municipality City Hall, three meetings were held to provide information on preferential agricultural and small business grants to women and youth. In Gori Municipality, meetings were held to provide information to women and youth affected by the conflict and to provide them with information about small grants.

⁸³ Activity 3.2.5. Responsible agency: Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Letter No. KA020170872217724 of 15 July 2024.

⁸⁴ Activity 3.2.6. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.

In order to strengthen their skills in technical fields⁸⁵, conflict-affected women living in the villages adjacent to the occupation line underwent several trainings on various topics during the reporting period⁸⁶. Meetings and trainings on a variety of topics were also held in target municipalities to provide information and retraining on economic, financial and business issues⁸⁷.

Regarding the development of social scholarship mechanisms⁸⁸, according to the information provided by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and its Non-entrepreneurial Non-commercial Legal Entity (NNLE)—the Vocational Skills Agency of Georgia—the concept of a social scholarship will be prepared by the end of 2024, and the piloting and implementation of the scholarship is planned for 2025.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia was actively working on retraining primary schoolteachers⁸⁹ from October 2022 to July 2024—with the participation of women and youth in the IDP settlements and villages adjacent to the occupation line—on environmental issues, including climate change mitigation processes⁹⁰.

- 85 Activity 3.2.7. Responsible agency: Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024.
- 86 Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Letter GOV No. 1252 of 16 July 2024: In close cooperation with the Academy of the Ministry of Finance, the training course 'How to Start a Business' was implemented. The course aims to increase theoretical knowledge about entrepreneurship among women living adjacent to the occupation line and strengthen practical business skills, including business project development skills. Two training courses were held in 2022, with a total of 22 participants (15 conflict-affected, 7 women from ethnic minorities). In 2023, one cycle of the training course was implemented in which 12 women participated. In 2024, in order to further support the strengthening and development of the training course, in cooperation with UN Women and the Ministry of Finance, another competition was announced on 4 July 2024, within the framework of which 32 women completed the training course in the fall of 2024; and in 2025, they will have the opportunity to participate in a grant competition and receive funding to implement business projects.
- 87 Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Administration, Letter No. 01/723 of 26 July 2024; Imereti Administration, Letter No. 02/1278 of 31 July 2024; Kvemo Kartli Administration, Letter No. 01/1254 of 6 August 2024; Shida Kartli Administration, Letter No. 07/4792 of 22 October 2024: "Produce in Georgia" programme meetings are held periodically in target municipalities. In Gori Municipality, information was provided about free training courses at vocational schools. A round-table meeting was organized where the leadership of various vocational schools, vocational centres, and the Education, Development and Employment Centre met with the invited conflict-affected women and girls. The meeting was held online and was attended by approximately 100 girls and women from different villages. There is a vocational college, Innovation and Technology Agency of Kaspi Technopark, and the DVV International Kaspi Adult Education Centre in Kaspi Municipality, Education is funded by the State, as is transportation for vulnerable groups. The municipality has provided for co-financing of both tuition fees and scholarships for excellent pupils and students. In Sachkhere Municipality, in order to facilitate access to preferential agricultural and small business grants, an information/consultation meeting was held in 2022–2024 with representatives of the NNLE Sachkhere Information/Consultation Center of the Rural Development Agency of Georgia. The City Hall cooperates with the "Academy of Business and Technology" and the "Spectrum" College in the municipality. In Zugdidi Municipality, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and women's organizations, female farmers were trained in various cheesemaking technologies. The NNLE Vocational Skills Agency conducted information meetings and introduced the web platform to locals in 2022–2023. The LEPL College "Tetnuldi" operates in Mestia Municipality where it is possible to receive free certified vocational education within the framework of the State employment promotion programme. Projects in the field of vocational education are being implemented in the municipality.
- Activity 3.2.8. Responsible agencies: (1) Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Letter No. MES 1 24 0000848299 of 11 July 2024; (2) NNLE Vocational Skills Agency, Letter No. MES 4 24 0000830345 of 8 July 2024; (3) Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Letter No. MOH 1 24 01235211 of 21 November 2024.
- 89 Activity 3.2.9. Responsible Agency: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Letter No. 5994/01 of August 01, 2024.
- 90 Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Letter No. 5994/01 of 1 August 2024: A total of 6,456 teachers have been trained so far, and 137 primary schoolteachers from settlements adjacent to the occupation line have been trained within 27 cohorts. Within the framework of the 20-hour training, teachers are introduced to eight issues related to environmental and agricultural topics, including climate change and natural hazard reduction. Within the framework of the project "Reducing the Risk of Disasters Caused by Climate Change in Georgia", trainings on reducing the risk of disasters caused by climate change were held with students in grades 7–11 at Kvemo Sobisi Public School and Bershueti Public School in Gori Municipality in 2023. The trainings were attended by 65 students. The LEPL Environmental Information and Education Center conducted a face-to-face training on "Preschool Environmental Education" for kindergarten teachers and methodologists in Gori and Kareli municipalities from 1 January to 1 July 2024. The teachers studied the following issues: biodiversity around us, water and energy saving, waste management and climate change. A total of 145 people were trained within the framework of four trainings held in the mentioned municipalities; of the training participants, 23 were from villages adjacent to the occupation line. Accordingly, during the reporting period, 27 training courses and six trainings were held in the IDP settlements and villages adjacent to the occupation line with the participation of women and youth, with 225 people involved.

It is unknown to the Public Defender of Georgia whether cultural/creative⁹¹ and sports⁹² events have been held by the responsible agency. According to information provided by the municipalities of Kaspi, Gori and Khashuri, various events, festive and trade fairs, sports tournaments, theatrical performances, and folklore and pop concerts are periodically held for the population living in the compact IDP settlements and adjacent to the occupation line.

In addition, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia⁹³, a film was prepared with the participation of the population living near the occupation line. The film talks about the difficulties in their lives, as well as the importance of their preserved traditions, cultural values, culinary traits and sports activities. Sports activities were also held, in which more than 260 girls living near the occupation line were engaged⁹⁴.

IMPACT AREA III - Results of interviews with civil society organizations

Representatives of civil society organizations identified several key challenges in terms of women's empowerment:

- Access to social and economic services: In terms of women's empowerment and protection, representatives of civil society organizations focused on the challenges of access to social and economic services. In particular, the lack of information regarding access to services remains a significant challenge. Although some municipalities are trying to improve the social situation of women, women living in rural areas are often left behind⁹⁵. Two exceptions are observed in the municipalities of Zugdidi and Khoni, where women have greater access to economic programmes, which contributes to the development of their businesses. In addition, despite taking various criteria into account, women continue to be registered in the database of socially vulnerable people and receive subsistence allowances.
- **Employment:** Low levels of awareness about employment and social programmes remain a significant challenge. Representatives of organizations noted that women living in the regions often lack information on how to access social programmes or have misinformation about these services. Due to the low access to social support services, many families rely primarily on pensions and other small incomes, further increasing their economic vulnerability. For example, in Skra and Verkhvebi, it was noted that problems related to agriculture and the lack of water complicate women's self-employment opportunities.
- Access to higher and vocational education: In the field of education, organizations are focused on improving women's access to higher and vocational education. Many women in the regions are still unable to get an education, which is due to the lack of courses and the presence of informational, infrastructural and social barriers. In the village of Knolevi, there was a case where girls had to suspend their education in order to care for elderly family members. Unfortunately, such cases often occur due to caregiving responsibilities, as there are insufficient services in the conflict-affected regions, including kindergartens.

Among partner agencies, Tskaltubo Municipality is involved in the Smart and Innovative Solutions for Green and Clean Rural Communities programme in the Black Sea countries. Accordingly, informational meetings on environmental protection issues are being held with both displaced and local populations, and cleaning campaigns are being organized using civil assets. In Sachkhere Municipality, meetings on the popularization of the environmental protection and ecology issues, including climate change mitigation, were held in 2022–2024.

⁹¹ Activity 3.2.10. Responsible agency: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth of Georgia. The Ministry has not provided the information.

⁹² Activity 3.2.11. Responsible agency: Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth of Georgia. The Ministry has not provided the information.

⁹³ Ministry of Culture of Georgia, Letter No. 00010099 of 7 March 2025.

⁹⁴ Sports activities carried out: "School Sports Olympiad Games", "Fun Starts" and "Freedom Games". These activities were organized by the Children's and School Sports Federation and funded by the Ministry in more than 40 villages adjacent to the occupation line in western and eastern Georgia.

⁹⁵ The problem is still relevant in other municipalities, such as the settlements of Khurcha and Skra, where access to services is still inadequate.

- Health care and reproductive health: In the healthcare sector, there are some challenges related to the access to primary healthcare services. Although outpatient services have been improved in some municipalities, such as Tsalenjikha, a shortage of doctors is still common in Khurcha and Chorchana, as well as other settlements. Doctors are available on a predetermined schedule a few times a week⁹⁶, which is not enough to meet the healthcare needs of the population. Respondents highlighted the lack of mental health services. Psychological problems resulting from post-traumatic stress are particularly common and are often a trigger for women and girls living alongside the occupation line. Women highlighted the need for a psychologist. Despite efforts, awareness of reproductive health in conflict-affected regions remains low, and women often do not take advantage of free screening programmes. This is due to both a lack of information and the fear that some disease may be detected during screening.
- Infrastructure: Representatives of civil society organizations noted that infrastructural problems are particularly acute in the regions affected by the conflict. Representatives of non-governmental organizations drew attention to the malfunctioning of clean drinking water, drainage channels and sewage systems. They noted that there are serious problems with the supply of drinking water in Tsalenjikha and Senaki. In some villages, such as the Verkhvebi IDP settlement, the water supply has partially been improved, although the problem has not been completely eliminated. In addition, there are electrical wiring problems in the Shaumiani settlement, which sometimes causes fires. The apartments are also dilapidated and damp. Moreover, it has been noted that in villages adjacent to the occupation line, such as Khurcha, the population, including women and children, is particularly concerned about the security issues and is demanding the creation of security systems. Additionally, electricity outages are frequently observed in the villages, which hinders both educational processes and the provision of vitally important services.
- Accessibility to transportation: The issue of transport is one of the main challenges in the regions. The organizations have highlighted that many villages are not connected to the municipal transport system and regional centres. For example, in Ergneti, the population often cannot use municipal transport, which does not fully serve the village and does not operate at all in the later hours. Access to transportation is also limited in Khurcha and Skra, which makes it especially difficult for children and youth to travel to school and university. A representative of the Women Fund "Sokhumi" noted that the lack of transportation in the regions completely hinders access to education for women, girls and youth. Some villages are completely deprived of municipal transport, which exacerbates the problem of social isolation. In addition, residents are often unable to meet their daily needs due to the lack of transport, which further complicates the socioeconomic development of the village.

IMPACT AREA III - Results of interviews with IDP and conflict-affected women

In terms of women's empowerment and protection and their access to social and economic services, employment, higher and vocational education, and health care and reproductive health, women and girls still face many challenges that require a more complex and multifaceted approach. During meetings and interviews, women highlighted the existing difficulties in these areas, which is especially noticeable in the case of women and girls living in villages adjacent to the occupation line.

• Access to social and economic services: Women often report about the lack of social and economic services, especially in villages alongside the occupation line and in IDP settlements. Their basic needs include better access to health services, food security, childcare services and education. Women living in Kutaisi and Tskaltubo highlighted that the local governments do not have sufficient resources to improve social services, which limits women's ability to meet their needs. Women in Tserovani, Tsilkani, Kheta and Tchale lack information about women's economic empowerment services.

⁹⁶ In the village of Khurcha, medical staff were available twice a week in 2024, while in Chorchana, they were available once a week.

- **Employment:** The lack of employment services is also a major problem. Women living in Zugdidi and Tetrits-karo report that employment opportunities are limited, and although there have been attempts in some municipalities to organize vocational trainings for women, these initiatives have not been stable and long-term.
- Access to higher and vocational education: Access to higher and vocational education remains a major
 challenge, especially in conflict-affected regions. Women living in the Chala and Karzmani administrative units
 report that access to educational services is limited due to the lack of sufficient funding and learning opportunities for young women and girls.
- Health care and reproductive health: The issue of access to health care, including reproductive health, is one of the most important problems. Women have noted that access to quality health care and reproductive health services is limited in many places. In the villages of Perevi and Karzmani, women emphasized that local healthcare services are often not adequately equipped and that the lack of qualified specialists causes difficulties. The outpatient clinic in Tsilkani is almost completely closed, and a doctor is rarely available, while the outpatient clinic in Kheta is in poor condition and is not equipped. In addition, the lack of psychological⁹⁷ and psychiatric services significantly hinders women's opportunities to improve their mental health.
- Support for the elderly: Issues of supporting the elderly remain a challenge. Women living in Tetritskaro and Tvaurebi noted that the existing State programmes addressing the needs of the elderly are limited or not adapted to the population living in the villages. "Our elderly population does not receive enough assistance, pensions are low, and there are no programmes designed to support them," the women said. It was noted in Tserovani that there is no home-care programme for the elderly. There are single elderly people in the area who have health problems. According to the information provided by the women, work was under way to open a shelter for the elderly, the building of which was constructed with USAID support; and the municipality was supposed to equip the building, but this has not been implemented to date.
- Infrastructure: During meetings with women, infrastructural challenges were highlighted that are particularly concerning for the population living in the villages⁹⁸. Women noted that the lack of clean water and drainage systems remains one of the main problems. For example, in Skra, drinking water is polluted and there is often no water supply in the village, which further complicates the daily lives of the locals. Infrastructure problems also include limited electricity consumption and the poor condition of public institutions. Women noted that electricity outages are frequent in the villages, which complicates the delivery of healthcare services as well as the effective functioning of other public services. Women living in a number of municipalities also noted that kindergartens and schools are insufficiently equipped and require repair work. Moreover, there is no drainage system in the villages. In Tserovani and Tsilkani, water enters into the houses when it rains, and this issue has remained unresolved for years. The malfunctioning and/or non-existence of the sewage system is also problematic.
- Accessibility to transportation: The issue of transportation is particularly acute in the villages, where the population experiences the lack or absence of municipal transportation. Women living in Eredvi and Potskho Etseri noted that public transport does not work sufficiently and that there are frequent cases when transport does not serve the locals in the evening hours. The problem of public transport is also acute in Tsilkani. The aforementioned problem complicates population movement and leads to social isolation, which is especially harmful for women, who are the sole caregivers for children, the elderly and the sick. In Knolevi, Potskho Etseri and Tsalenjikha, transportation problems create additional difficulties for children in attending school and kindergarten. Teenagers are often unable to continue their studies due to the lack of transportation, which negatively affects their education and future development.

⁹⁷ The need for a psychologist was named in Zeda Etseri.

⁹⁸ These concerns were raised in the villages of Skra, Khurcha, Tserovani, Tsilkani and Kheta.

IMPACT AREA III - SUMMARY

Within the framework of Impact Area III, which aims to ensure the socioeconomic empowerment of women and girls affected by the conflict, according to information received from responsible agencies, some steps have been taken to improve women's access to public services, strengthen their capacities and ensure their economic independence. Special emphasis was placed on social and economic assistance programmes aimed at strengthening women's employment, higher and vocational education, and health services.

However, interviews with civil society organizations have revealed that a lack of access to services and information remains a significant challenge. It has been emphasized that the available assistance is usually not adequate enough to improve women's living conditions, especially in issues such as their economic empowerment, reproductive health, childcare and education. Women human rights defenders and local organizations have noted the need for broader awareness-raising and easier provision of information about services.

Interviews conducted with the displaced and conflict-affected women have revealed that economic hardship and a lack of access to healthcare services continue to be observed in many settlements. For example, women living in the target regions say that infrastructure problems often make it difficult for children to attend school and kindergarten, which negatively impacts the quality of their education and future. Strengthening social and economic assistance programmes could have a positive impact on both women and their family members.

Overall, Impact Area III of the NAP has shown progress in terms of women's socioeconomic empowerment, although there is still a need to strengthen services and ensure their accessibility for women living in rural areas.

5. PRIMARY FINDINGS

5.1 THE NEEDS OF IDP AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED WOMEN AND YOUTH

- Ensuring the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes.
- Increasing the meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes at both the local and national level.
- Increasing information accessibility on peace negotiation processes for women living adjacent to the occupation line.
- Establishing gender-sensitive early warning and response mechanisms and increasing the public's awareness of said mechanisms.
- Organizing trust-building campaigns towards the security sector representatives.
- Increasing the accessibility to maternity hospitals and gynaecological consultations in villages adjacent to the occupation line.
- Providing access to medicines in occupation line villages.
- · Raising awareness among women about free antenatal services and screening programmes.
- Ensuring access to family planning services and contraceptives.
- Increasing access to information about abortion services.
- Providing mental health services in villages and IDP settlements alongside the occupation line.
- Increasing access to care services at the local level, including access to kindergarten services in villages adjacent to the occupation line.
- Raising awareness about gender roles and stereotypes in villages along the occupation line and in IDP settlements.
- Improving and promoting mechanisms to support women's return to the labour market.
- Providing information about social and economic services in villages and IDP settlements adjacent to the occupation line.
- Providing information about professional development programmes in villages and IDP settlements adjacent to the occupation line.
- Continuing to raise awareness about agricultural and small business support programmes and expanding projects to strengthen the economic well-being of small entrepreneurs.
- Providing the villages alongside the occupation line with drinking and irrigation water, drainage and sewage systems, reliable public transport, and well-maintained internal roads and outdoor lighting.

5.2 RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

- Programmes supporting the implementation of gender equality principles and women's empowerment have been implemented, and active work is under way to develop them. The production and analysis of gender-disaggregated data, the development of gender-sensitive policy documents, and the introduction of mechanisms for responding to sexual harassment are important support for creating a discrimination-free working environment for women and increasing their representation at the decision-making level.
- The rate of involvement of women and youth in security and peace processes has increased. However, ensuring meaningful participation of women and youth at the local level, including in decision-making processes, remains a challenge.
- Based on the needs of women and youth, it is necessary to introduce gender-sensitive early warning mechanisms, which will ensure the effectiveness of preventive actions and a results-oriented response in terms of human security.
- Access to health services has greatly increased, but due to the growing needs of women and youth, access to mental and reproductive health services remains a challenge.
- Significant measures have been taken to prevent gender-based violence, aimed at improving the protection of women and girls who are victims of violence and providing them with appropriate assistance. However, the existing services and resources are not sufficient for displaced and conflict-affected women and youth.
- Economic and professional development programmes have been developed to support women and youth. However, due to the increased demand, awareness and access to the programmes remain a challenge.
- Information meetings and campaigns have been held for the prevention of various forms of gender-based violence, as well as the provision of existing public services and resources, for displaced and conflict-affected women and youth in IDP settlements and villages adjacent to the occupation line. Unfortunately, access to necessary information for women and youth with wide geographical coverage remains a major challenge.
- Civil society organizations are actively involved in gender equality issues and promote the participation of displaced and conflict-affected women and youth in security and peacebuilding processes; however, it is essential for agencies to enhance cooperation with them.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the NAP Implementation Assessment Report, the recommendations below have been developed to manage and ensure effective implementation of the next NAP, taking into account the needs and priorities of displaced and conflict-affected women and youth.

General recommendations to the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the responsible agencies:

- Ensure that the responsible agencies institutionalize the development and implementation of the NAP in order to ensure continuity and sustainability.
- Conduct consultations with displaced and conflict-affected women and youth, civil society organizations, target municipalities, State agencies and other stakeholders to identify needs and priorities when developing the NAP.
- Ensure cooperation with various stakeholders in the implementation of the NAP, including local self-government units, representatives of civil society and international organizations, and women and youth living in IDP settlements and villages adjacent to the occupation line.
- Increase the effectiveness of the impact of the NAP's implementation by ensuring the maximum involvement
 of women and youth from IDP settlements and villages alongside the occupation line during NAP implementation.
- Increase the number and diversity of activities in the NAP aimed at meeting the specific needs of women in such areas as economic empowerment and access to public services and resources.
- Increase access to information on government services and resources by conducting awareness-raising and information campaigns in target municipalities, including through the use of various media.

Thematic recommendations for responsible agencies:

1) PROMOTE THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING PROCESSES

Responsible agencies: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality

Recommendations:

- Increase women's representation in peace negotiations and local peace initiatives.
- Deepen cooperation with civil society organizations in peace negotiations and local peace initiatives.
- Increase the number of awareness-raising campaigns and trainings conducted for women and youth in peace processes.
- Compile statistics on the resolution of issues raised by women in peace processes.

2) INCREASE WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS

Responsible agencies: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Defence, State Security Service, National Security Council

Recommendations:

- Support the recruitment and career advancement of women in the decision-making positions in the security sector and retrain them by setting appropriate targets.
- Ensure that the Georgian Ministry of Defence will retrain female military personnel for the attaché position in diplomatic missions and help them plan their careers accordingly.

3) INTRODUCE GENDER-SENSITIVE EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS

Responsible agencies: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Defence, State Security Service, National Security Council

Recommendation:

• Retrain security sector personnel on identifying and responding to gender-sensitive threats.

4) EXPAND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS ABOUT AVAILABLE SUPPORT SERVICES

Responsible agencies: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, local self-governing units

Recommendation:

• Increase the number and geographical coverage of campaigns on social and health services and resources for displaced and conflict-affected women and youth.

5) PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Responsible agencies: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Social Service Agency, Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Ministry of Internal Affairs, LEPL Legal Aid Service, local self-government units (within their scope of competence)

Recommendations:

- Increase the number and geographical coverage of specific support programmes for victims of gender-based violence.
- Increase the number and geographical coverage of information sessions held about services and resources.

6) EXPAND PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN VILLAGES ADJACENT TO THE OCCUPATION LINE

Responsible agency: Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

Recommendations:

Increase the number of adequately equipped medical clinics in villages adjacent to the occupation line.

- Create and increase access to reproductive and psychological support programmes for villages adjacent to the occupation line.
- Retrain medical personnel on gender-sensitive issues and the specific needs of victims of gender-based vio-

7) ENCOURAGE THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DISPLACED AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED WOMEN AND YOUTH

Responsible agencies: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, local self-governing units

Recommendation:

• Increase the number of participants in economic empowerment and professional development programmes for the displaced and conflict-affected women and youth.

8) ENCOURAGE THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF DISPLACED AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED WOMEN AND YOUTH

Responsible agency: Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

Recommendation:

• Continue to hold cultural and sports events with the involvement of women and girls in villages and settlements adjacent to the occupation line.

