



**საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა გაერთიანებული ერების
ორგანიზაციაში**

PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

№ 19/19859

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and in reference to the Note Verbale (reference: UNW/2019/002), dated 15 April 2019, has the honour to transmit herewith information prepared by the Government of Georgia regarding the implementation of the UN Resolution (A/RES/72/148) on “Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas”.

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 4 pages



**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and
the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
New York**

**Information provided by the Government of Georgia regarding the implementation of the UN Resolution
“Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas” A/RES/72/148**

- **Integrating gender equality considerations in national laws, policies and programmes on climate change, and in national contributions to international conventions and frameworks (operative paragraph 2ee);**

In June, 2017 with the establishment of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in the executive branch, the institutional framework for gender equality has changed. An inter-ministerial body located in the executive branch, the Commission was created in order to meet the requirements of Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention. The mechanism is responsible for the adoption, implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plans on Gender Equality, Violence against Women/Domestic Violence and UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.

The National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia 2014-2020 is a key policy document that promotes a human rights-based approach in all policy development and implementation, including considering the different needs of women and men in any given situation. Objective 14 (of 23) is dedicated to the “Promotion of gender equality, protection of women’s rights and prevention of domestic violence, as well as the consequences resulting from such violence”. With a view to achieving the long-term goals, the strategy envisages implementation of effective measures across all spheres to ensure and promote the concept of gender equality; In particular, encourage greater involvement of women in political life, as well as decision-making process; ensure prompt and effective response to all reported cases of gender discrimination; ensure the full compliance of existing mechanisms with international standards for the protection and assistance of victims of domestic violence; conduct awareness-raising campaigns, especially for civil servants, on issues of gender equality and domestic violence; ensure access to legal protection, psycho/social rehabilitative facilities and shelters for victims of domestic violence.

In 2017, two stand-alone National Action Plans and one chapter of the Human Rights Action Plan: Gender Equality Women’s Empowerment for supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment approved by the government include: **National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, and the National Action Plan on the Measures to be Implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors covering period from 2018 to 2020**. The Government formed the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Issues represents an accountability mechanism for the advanced implementation, monitoring and coordination of drafting the National Action Plans on Gender Equality, Violence against Women/Domestic Violence and the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Thus, the development of both action plans and mentioned chapter has been coordinated by the Commission, which comprises deputy ministers and gender focal points from line ministries as well as the Thematic Consultative Working Group with representatives from municipalities, civil society and international organizations.

The future plans and main direction of the state policy with regard to supporting gender equality and women empowerment by the Government of Georgia and the Parliament are well established in the National Human Rights Action Plan of the Government of Georgia for 2018-2020 and the Action Plan of the Gender Equality Council of Parliament of Georgia.

- **Adopting and funding gender- and climate-responsive agricultural and rural development strategies for the economic empowerment of rural women (operative paragraph 7);**

Georgia's Rural Development Strategy 2017-2020 lists its three priorities: Economy and competitiveness, Social conditions and living standards and Environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources. It references women in one priority area: social conditions and living standards. Objective 1 reads: "Raising awareness in innovation and entrepreneurship as well as promotion of cooperation through contributing to the skills development and employment issues (especially for young people and women)". Objective 3 reads: "Local population engagement. Increase the involvement of rural population (especially youth and women) in the identification of local needs and the determination of solutions to these needs".

There are no legal barriers for women to be registered as landowners, restricted access to productive resources, such as agricultural land, is identified as one of the causes of financial difficulties for rural women.¹ Compared to men, women's agricultural participation occurs on a smaller scale, often as contributing family members.² Georgia's women are legally entitled to own and inherit land and property, but customary practices sometimes give men privilege in property inheritance, ownership, and administration. According to Article 19, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, "the right to property and inheritance shall be recognized and guaranteed". The Civil Code of Georgia regulating private property, family and personal relations is based on the principle of equality.³

• Supporting the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, including gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change (operative paragraph 2aa);

Georgia has developed "The first gender-sensitive Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action" (NAMA) proposal. The project aims to improve living conditions, reduce energy poverty and environmental degradation in a rural community in Georgia. Access to affordable low-cost solar water heating solutions as a basis for the first gender sensitive Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) it is planned to Install 20 000 SWH and 15 000 energy efficient stoves and 15 000 thermal insulations. The project proposal and case study is completed; NAMA is waiting for funding. Within case study 500 SWH installed in rural regions in Georgia. Another 100 houses installed insulation of windows and roofs and 100 obtained efficient wood stoves. SWH were constructed in Georgia by locally trained specialists using local materials. The efficiency and the benefits of solar applications have been monitored and tested by WECF and partners. In Georgia, in total 69 women and 88 men have been trained in eight community trainings, each lasting 4 days.

Georgia is implementing the project - "**Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia**" funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project objective is to reduce exposure of Georgia's communities, livelihoods and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through a well-functioning nation-wide multi-hazard early warning system and risk-informed local action. Overall project has strong gender benefits:

Gender mainstreaming will be a key aspect of the GCF project and in particular of the CBCRM process to be developed. In engaging with the communities, the project will pay particular attention to inclusion of vulnerable groups and particularly women to ensure that gender issues are taken into account. As outlined in the Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan, there are considerable differences in vulnerability to disasters between the genders in Georgia, in line with traditional gender roles. Men are 25% more likely than women to be employed, self-employed or engaged in contract work. In general, male-headed households have higher incomes than female-headed households do and overall there is a considerable difference in the income of male-headed households, which emphasizes the increased vulnerability of female-headed households. Pregnant

¹ UN Women, *Gender Assessment of the Agriculture and Local Development Systems*, 2016

² Ibid

³ Civil Code of Georgia, Article 1

and nursing mothers are particularly vulnerable because of their increased need for food and water and their decreased mobility. As the primary caretakers of their homes, women attend to the needs of children, elderly and the disabled. This increases their workload and reduces their mobility in cases where quick evacuations are required or where they live a long distance to water supply facilities. For effective climate and disaster risk management, the project will ensure that women are primary stakeholders and will therefore need to be involved in decisions on the types of solutions that are implemented. Gender mainstreaming actions, capacity building and tools will be applied at various institutional levels (central government agencies, local government, community level), in particular, through the Activities 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1 and 3.2. Gender differentiated indicators will be used to monitor the projects performance in achieving the right gender balance. Please refer to the Gender Action Plan (Annex XIIIc) for the description of gender mainstreaming actions to be supported through the project.

- **Providing sustainable infrastructure, namely renewable, efficient and clean energy and safe reliable water supply and sanitation to build climate resilience;**
- **Providing sustainable infrastructure and technology and improving rural women's and girls' access to renewable, efficient and clean energy and safe and reliable water supply and sanitation to build their climate resilience (operative paragraphs 2i, j, k, v, x);**

The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (MRDI) under its mandate is implementing programs and projects by strong emphasis of women support, empowerment and recognition. Number of targeted areas was identified to tackle, namely reduction of unpaid care and domestic gender work. For this reason number of kindergartens are and will be constructed, rehabilitated and equipped in Georgian regions, water access will be improved, rehabilitation and construction of roads are also envisaged. The Ministry intends to continue implementation of gender-sensitive projects and support to all municipalities in this field. For example for just one water area (rehabilitation, supply and sanitation), around half of billion GEL will be financed. However, drinking water supply, basically in rural areas remains a challenge and the Ministry intends to accelerate the process and increase the number of projects to be implemented in this area.

In response of accessible, affordable and quality child care services in rural areas - construction and rehabilitation of around 40 nursery schools projects were financed in 2018. For future Georgian side plans to implement around 100 nursery schools projects and rehabilitate all schools. Georgian side plans also to construct new schools where applicable.

The Ministry intends to continue implementation of gender-sensitive projects and support to all municipalities in this field. From 2019 the Ministry intends to construct/repair ambulances in required locations that will improve access to health care services.

As far as the clean and renewable energy are concerned, the households without electricity will be supported by the Government of Georgia and for this purpose around GEL 2 million will be spent to install Photovoltaic solar panels (renewable energy) for permanent households, living in remote areas.

In addition the Ministry is planning to support the municipalities to improve municipal transportation. In particular, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia made an inquiry, regarding the needs of public transport from municipalities. Based on the received information, particular solutions will be made, along with the detailed action plan, with concrete description of activities.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry considers the gender component and concrete measures to ensure gender equality in ongoing and planned strategies, programs and action plans directed for development of regions and local self-governments.

- **Ensuring women's full participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change (operative paragraphs 2d and aa);**
- **Promoting education, training and information programmes for rural and farming women through affordable and appropriate technologies to improve their climate resilience (operative paragraph 2ii);**

Women's engagement in information and communications technology (ICT) is important for their own success, as well as for the progress of companies specialized in this field and for the entire industry as a whole. However, fewer women are employed in the ICT sector globally - Georgia included - despite it being one of the most demanded and highly paid fields. This disparity stems largely from the stereotype that ICT work is still considered to be a "man's job". With the purpose of reducing these inequalities and supporting women's engagement in ICT, UN Women began implementing a new initiative in partnership with the Innovative Education Foundation, GeoLab and universities aimed at providing free training courses in website development and social media marketing for women aged 18-35 in five regions in western Georgia. As a first step in the implementation of this initiative, a Training of Trainers was held at Ilia State University in Tbilisi. Fourteen participants from various regions of Georgia deepened their knowledge in teaching website development and social media marketing, which they will then share among the women in their regions starting in March, 2019.

LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia introduced changes to preschool education system in order to improve access to Environmental education which furthermore contributes to awareness raising on environmental issues and disseminating information on environmental rights both in urban and rural areas of the country at national level.

Within the framework of school preparedness programme, textbook - "Preschool Environmental Education" is developed and relevant trainings are provided for preschool educators. At this stage, more than 50% of preschools are trained in rural areas of Georgia (Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Guria, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe- Javakheti and Imereti Regions). It should be noted that 1011 women and girls are already trained and all preschools on other rural areas will be covered by the end of 2019.

Agricultural Projects Management Agency (APMA): The projects/programs implemented by the "Agricultural Projects' Management Agency" envisage the introduction of modern high-tech technologies, including the methods for preventing negative impact of climate change. Currently, the projects / programs in question do not necessarily provide any special conditions for the Agency beneficiaries on the gender or other social grounds. Accordingly, female beneficiaries enjoy the same conditions as all other beneficiaries.

Agricultural Cooperatives Development Agency: In 2018 the Chairman of LEPL **Agricultural Cooperatives Development Agency** had meeting with IDPs living in Tskaltubo, and shared information about current programs of the Agricultural Cooperative Development Agency. Consultation about creating agricultural cooperatives was provided to IDP women. Three agricultural cooperatives are established by women in 2018 year.