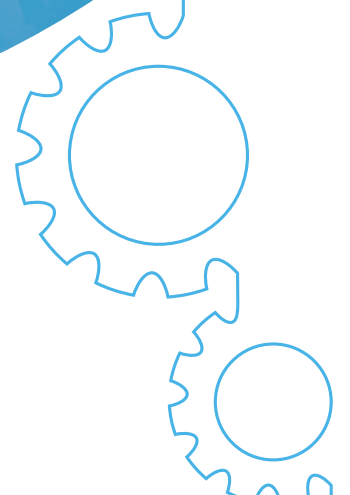


HISTORY OF LOCALIZATION OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN GEORGIA

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A summary of the process of localization of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and the 2022-2024 National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security was prepared by the Women's Information Center, within the framework of the UN Women's project in 17 municipalities of Georgia which was implemented together with three partner organizations -IDP Women Association "Consent", Women's Information Center and Fund "Sokhumi".

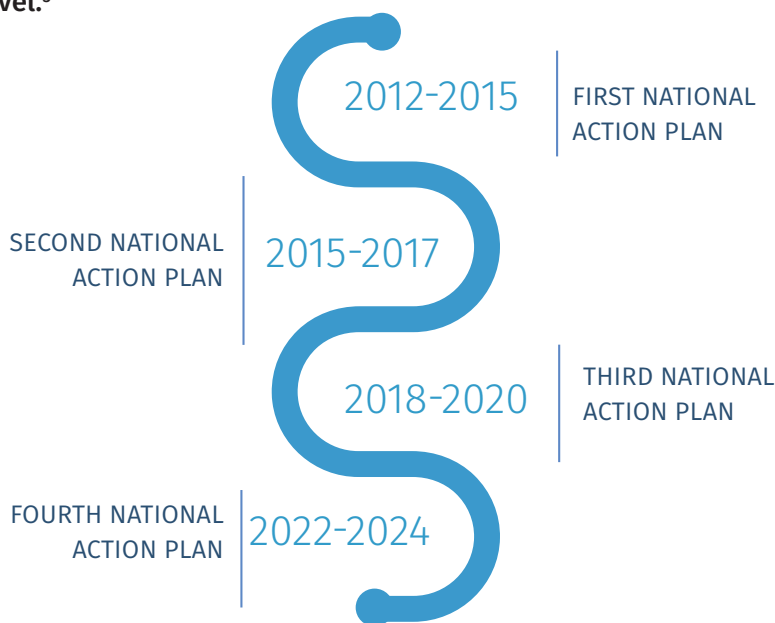
The process of localizing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Georgia is supported by the UK Government, Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.

The content of this report does not reflect the conflict between UN Women and the United Kingdom, Stability and Security Fund official position. Responsibility for the information presented in it and Comments are fully credited to the author(s).

2023

Resolution #1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, adopted by the United Nations Security Council on October 31, 2000, is an important document that laid the foundation for new international norms and improved the legal status of women in the world.¹ The primary purpose of the resolution was to protect women's rights, to present women/girls as significant actors, and to acknowledge their special importance in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding. This resolution was subsequently followed by the adoption of nine more resolutions², and collectively, all these documents constitute the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, which regulates the protection of women's rights before, during, and after conflict.

Over the past decades, as a response to the conflicts in Georgia, significant attention has been devoted to the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and the implementation of the related resolutions at the local level.³



It's noteworthy that in 2018, the localization process of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda was initiated.⁴

It should also be noted that the localization of the women, peace and security agenda in Georgia was preceded by the process of localization of gender policy, which was strengthened by legislative changes in 2016.⁵ As a result of the aforementioned changes, institutions responsible for gender equality were established in the local self-governments in the form of municipal gender equality councils. These councils, for the first time in Georgia, developed municipal gender equality action plans for the years 2018-19/2019-20. At the initial stages, women, peace, and security issues were integrated into 34 municipal gender equality action plans.⁶

1 United Nations Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20Georgia/Attachments/Publications/2017/1325_GEO.pdf

2 United Nations Security Council Resolutions: #1820 (2008), 1888 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), 2493 (2019)

3 Women's information Center, UN Security Council Resolution #1325 Monitoring the localization Process in Georgia, 2021

4 The process of localization of the women, peace and security agenda includes the transfer of the National Action Plan of Georgia for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security to the local level

5 Amendment to Article 13 of the Law of Gender Equality and Article 24 of the Code of Self-Governmen

6 The process was carried out by the Women's Information Center with the support of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and UNDP, 2018, link: http://old.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=37450&l_ang=ge



In 2018, the process of localization of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, within the framework of cooperation with UN Women and three women’s non-governmental organizations⁷, was started as a pilot project in 10 municipalities.⁸ This involved the creation of working groups and the integration of women, peace and security issues into local policy documents and a promotion of their effective implementation.⁹ In 2022-2023, the localization process took on a larger scale, the target municipalities were further expanded and included 17 municipalities¹⁰ where the localization interventions of the National Action Plan have been implemented. These activities served to promote the effective implementation of gender policies, including the localization of the women, peace and security agenda and the empowerment of displaced and conflict-affected women.

As of today, the 2022-2024 National Action Plan of Georgia for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security, along with the Municipal Gender Equality/Women, Peace and Security Action Plans, serve as crucial tools for the effective implementation of gender policies both at the national and local levels. These action plans are designed to enhance the legal status of women and girls, with a particular focus on those who are internally displaced and affected by conflict.

7 IDP Women Association «Consent», Women’s Information Center and Fund «Sokhumi»

8 Municipalities: Sachkhere, Tskaltubo, Dusheti, Kazbegi, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Gori, Kareli, Khashuri, Kaspi

9 The project was supported by UN Women and the US State Department’s Bureau of Resettlement, Refugees and Migration

10 Municipalities: Mskheta, Dusheti, Kareli, Gori, Kaspi, Khashuri, Tetrtskaro, Gardabani, Tskaltubo, Kutaisi, Khoni, Sachkhere, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Senaki, Mestia and Oni

COALITION PROJECT

In 2018-2019, following the successful implementation of the pilot project titled “Women and Girls for a Strong Society,” and considering the accomplished results and future needs, the project “Women and Youth for the Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda at the Local Level”,¹¹ was planned and developed for 2021-2023. The project was implemented within the framework of UN Women’s Organization project through collaborative efforts between the Women’s Information Center, IDP Women Association “Consent”, and Fund “Sokhumi”. The project was supported by the UK government and aimed to:

- Strengthening and involving IDPs and conflict-affected women, community leaders in the development and implementation of local policies;
- Facilitating the active participation of displaced and conflict-affected women in identifying needs and advocating at various levels;
- At the local level, developing gender equality policy documents and prioritizing women, peace and security issues on the agenda;
- Establishing and fortifying a network of internally displaced and conflict-affected women and youth;



¹¹ The project was supported by the financial support of UN Women and the UK Government’s Conflict Stability and Security Fund

AS A RESULT OF INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN 17 TARGET ABL MUNICIPALITIES IN 2021-2023:

The issues of women, peace and security were integrated into the policy documents of the target municipalities: In all 17 target municipalities, 2022-2023/2023-2024 Gender Equality Action Plans have been developed, which integrate the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security in 2022-2024 and Georgian National Action plan issues. Topics related to the protection and strengthening the rights of women/girls, as well as the internally displaced population have been integrated into the Local Action Plans.¹²

Funds were allocated in municipal budgets to implement the resolution's women, peace and security issues: In 9 out of 17 municipalities, budgets were allocated and approved for the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan, which also includes the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda issues at the local level.¹³

Collaborative research: A research was conducted with the direct involvement of internally displaced and conflict-affected women and youth - **“Assessment of the needs of the population living near the so called Administrative Border Line in Georgia, the situation of the population living near the so called Administrative Border Line of Tskhinvali/South Ossetia and the IDP settlements and its gender dimensions”**.¹⁴ The community's women leaders played an integral role in the research in actively contributing to the identification of numerous problems and needs.

To ensure the effective involvement in the research, at the initial stage, 137 women underwent comprehensive training in various areas such as research methodology, filling out questionnaires, online survey reflection in the system, etc. It should be noted that the project contributed to women empowerment through both skill development and economic incentives, as they were paid for the work performed in the research.

604 internally displaced and conflict-affected female respondents participated in the survey. In order to verify the information and expand the target groups, the women leaders conducted additional focus groups in their community, in which a total of 635 more women were involved. However, based on the research document and findings, women effectively participated in various advocacy meetings, at local and national levels, and had a relevant influence on the decision-making process.

Overall, the research component of the project covered 1 239 women, who played significant roles in identifying and further prioritizing the needs of internally displaced and conflict-affected women, as well as planning and implementing targeted advocacy activities.

¹² Issues integrated into municipal gender equality, women, peace and security action plans: ensuring women's representation and effective participation in the process of strengthening peace and security; Ensuring access to public services for IDPs and conflict-affected women and girls; Informing women and young people living near the dividing line about the projects and opportunities of the Rural Development Agency and others.

¹³ Municipalities: Gori, Kaspi, Khashuri, Tskaltubo, Kutaisi, Khoni, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha and Senaki

¹⁴ the research is available on the South Caucasus Gender information portal: <https://shorturl.at/dinW6>



Raising awareness and capacity building of civil servants: Within the framework of the project, 28 workshops/trainings were held, also, 199 decision-makers/members of the Gender Equality Council/ person responsible for equality were trained on the issues of gender policy, also, women, peace and security, gender budgeting, advocacy, and the importance of women’s involvement in the development and implementation of local policies.

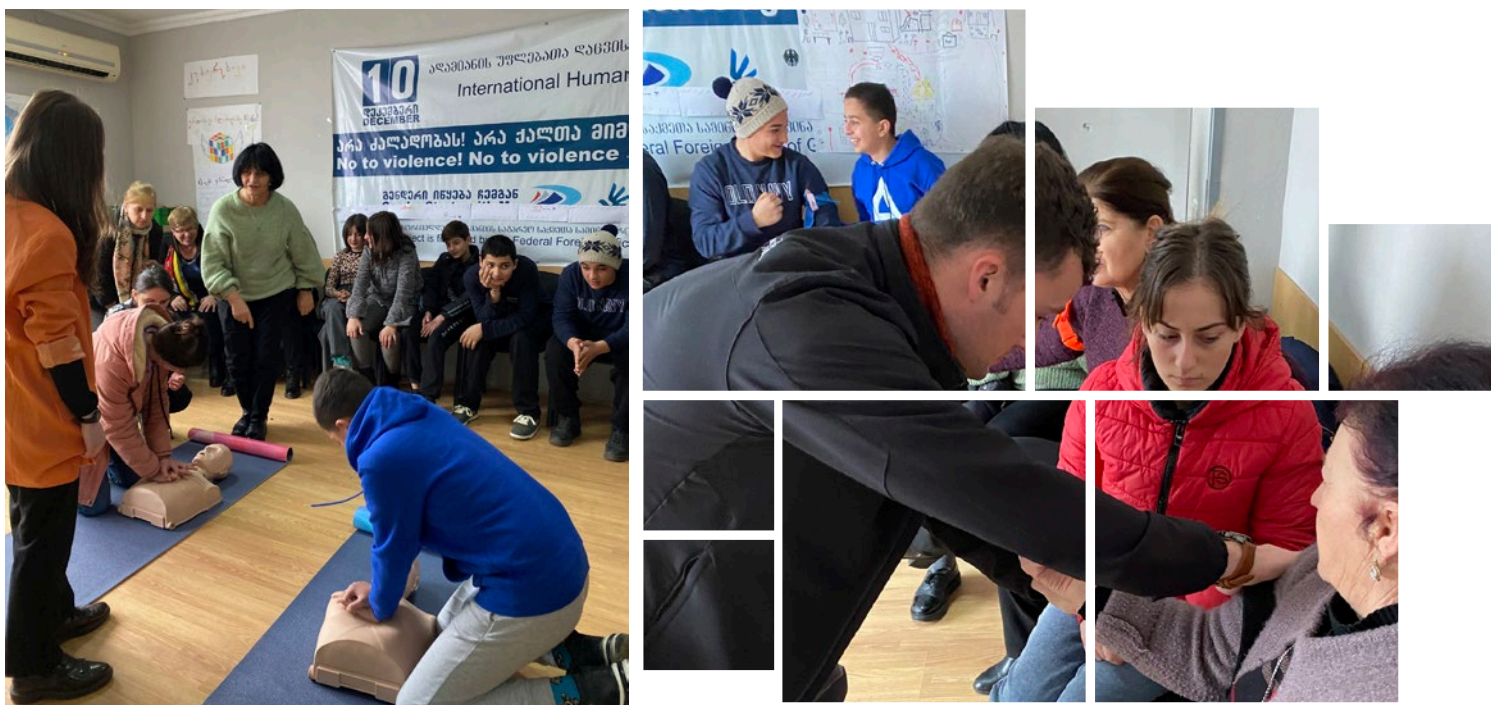
Empowerment and engagement of women community leaders: Within the framework of the project, 12 training modules were developed,¹⁵ through which 265 women were trained. As a result of the implemented interventions, the awareness of women leaders of the community has increased about women of the resolution and peace and security agenda. In addition, their technical skills have improved, in the use of modern technologies, as well as in matters of information gathering and documentation. Furthermore, women’s awareness of the importance of their involvement in the process of local policy development and implementation has increased, which has improved practical outcomes in terms of planning and implementing the advocacy process.



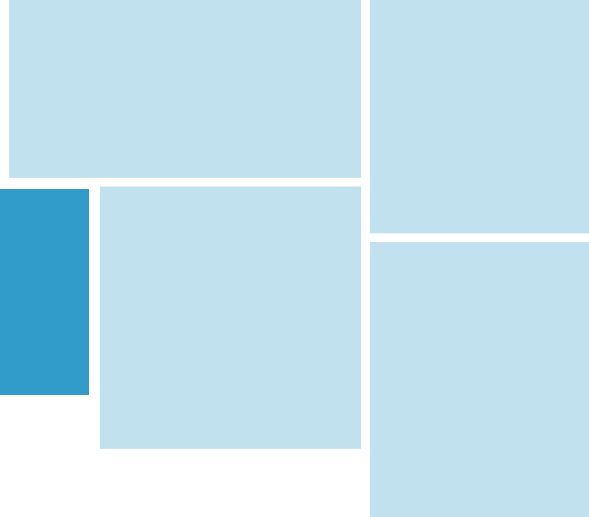
¹⁵ Training modules: women, peace and security; resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council and its localization; human rights and women’s rights; gender equality and gender-based violence; evidence-based advocacy; leadership, presentation and public speaking; Local municipalities, self-government and civic participation; Local budget analyses, participatory budgeting; One window principle methodology and its implementation; conflict analysis, management and transformation; peace building and confidence building coalitions and networks; Women’s political participation.



Moreover, the good practice of cooperation with the “National Women’s League”¹⁶, should be noted, which resulted in creating another additional training module (module 13) on the topic of human security. A total of 6 trainings were conducted in different regions on the following issues: situation management during natural and man-made disasters and conflicts, issues of medical aid and primary diagnosis, through both theoretical and practical examples. 150 female leaders participated in the training sessions.



¹⁶ The National Women’s League is a sub-branch of the General Mazniashvili Youth Legion, which aims to advance the role of women in the development/security of the Legion and the state.



Alongside with the activity and the event, various international platforms were actively applied in effectively implementing the advocacy campaigns. The stakeholder meetings were held, focusing on sharing good practices of the project, increasing visibility of results and supporting issue advocacy.

To encourage women leaders and increase their motivation, as well as draw attention to their needs, meetings were held with high-ranking persons in the formats of direct dialogue. For example, the project ensured the visit of the Israeli ambassador to Chorchana, the village of Khashuri municipality, and the visit of the British ambassador to the municipality of Gori. Also, the women had the opportunity to meet with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of NATO for Women, Peace and Security, Irene Fellin, and the representative of the United Nations at the Geneva International Discussions, Ayse Cihan Sultanoglu.

In addition, several activities were planned, such as cultural events (inviting women to performances), forum theater, youth camps, and sports activities which led to the socio-cultural activation of the IDPs and conflict-affected women participating in the project.

Additional activities included the involvement of women leaders in various events planned and implemented by coalition member organizations. The events were related to such issues as women, peace and security, gender-based violence, women's political participation, etc. Also, a meeting of IDPs and conflict-affected women was organized with political party leaders and other members, which served to raise women's political awareness.

In parallel with the activity and the event, to effectively implement the advocacy campaign, various international platforms were actively used, and meetings were held with interested parties. The focus was on sharing good project practices, increasing the visibility of results and supporting issue advocacy.

It should be noted that, the award established in connection with the Peace Day was presented by the joint initiative of the Women's Information Center and Teritiskaro Municipality to Madonna Okropiridze, a two-time IDPs woman living in the IDP settlement of Koda, for her special contribution to peacebuilding,

Formation and gradual strengthening of the network of IDPs and conflict-affected women: As part of the project, women and youth who are internally displaced and affected by conflict in 17 municipalities were brought together through various platforms and meetings, creating an opportunity to establish a unified network. The network aims to strengthen connections, unite around common challenges and needs, engage with processes in the target municipality, raise awareness, and share best practices. As a result of the activities carried out within



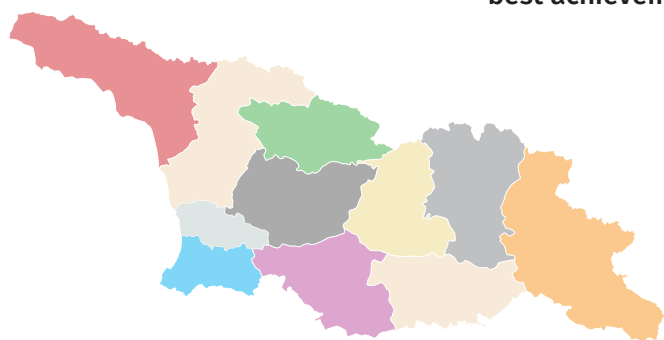
the framework of the project, the network was named ‘Peace Ambassador Women and Youth’ on the initiative of the women themselves. This network represents the unity of women residing in the villages of the first large-scale displaced people and the areas along the dividing line. It is founded on a memorandum of cooperation, with the initial stage involving 40 female leaders as the founders and signatories.

Active Advocacy Campaign: The main component of the project was an active advocacy campaign, within the framework of which women leaders of the community presented their needs and priorities on various platforms, both at the central and local, as well as international levels. Women themselves were the top speakers, including at such extended advocacy meetings as UN Women’s annual Open Day on Women, Peace and Security, Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism and Geneva International Negotiations briefings, and One Window Methodology meetings in target municipalities.¹⁷



¹⁷ The methodology of the “One window principle” implies a model of services provided to citizens, during which the heads of different departments of one municipality, or people in leading positions, gather and listen to IDPs and conflict-affected population who present their problems. The methodology of conducting meetings involves preliminary search, verification and full documentation of problematic cases.

Based on the findings of the research, with the active participation of women leaders of the community and the involvement of the decision-makers of the target municipalities, the solution of **88** specific issues was put on the agenda. Below are some of the best achievements of the project by municipality:



MUNICIPALITY OF GARDABANI

- 1** In the 9-story settlement for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), notable achievements include the installation of an elevator in the residential building;
- 2** Additionally, a Sunday school for children has been inaugurated, offering artistic and cognitive circles;

MUNICIPALITY OF GORI

- 3** In the village of Zardiyaantkari, near the so-called Administrative Border Line, 28 houses damaged during the 2008 war have been successfully rehabilitated;
- 4** Regarding transport services in Ergneti village, negotiations have commenced, involving the subsidization of drivers' wages by the municipality, with women leaders overseeing the transport operations;
- 5** The construction of a sports stadium in Ergneti and Karaleti IDP settlements is planned;
- 6** Additionally, the infrastructure improvements in the village of Koshka involve the arrangement of drainage channels and the installation of outdoor lighting;

MUNICIPALITY OF DUSHETI

- 7** For residents of Bazaleti IDP settlement, addressing transportation challenges is a current priority. Ongoing negotiations are focusing on defining the route and work schedule;
- 8** In Gremishkhevi, the gasification of the community has been raised as an issue;
- 9** To enhance transportation from Gremishkhevi to Dusheti, three mini buses have been allocated;
- 10** Furthermore, the community's kindergarten has been equipped with both entertaining and educational toys;

MUNICIPALITY OF ZUGDIDI

- 11** In the ABL village of Ingiri, a project for the external drainage system in the former Tea factory settlement has been developed, with the municipality taking responsibility for internal works, which will alleviate the issue of flooding of residential buildings;
- 12** It is planned to construct an integrated educational institution meeting standards and initiating work on a well-equipped garden;
- 13** Transportation allowances have been instituted for kindergarten teachers across the municipality;
- 14** Rehabilitation of the sewage system in the ABL Village Ganmukhuri is commencing;
- 15** Along with the plans for landscaping the kindergarten's outdoor space and rehabilitating the assembly hall;
- 16** To economically empower women, a women's room has been established in the village of Akhalabastumani. This initiative, focusing on IDPs and conflict-affected women, aligns with the broader goal of empowering women economically;
- 17** Addressing security concerns, female police officers are appointed at the Enguri checkpoint;

MUNICIPALITY OF TETRITSKARO

- 18** Commencing in the spring of 2024, municipal transport will be launched with the route extending to the IDP settlement of Koda;
- 19** Collaborating with the Municipality of Eredvi, a project for the rehabilitation of the sewerage system has been formulated;
- 20** In the IDP settlement, a drainage system has been implemented in the vicinity of the kindergarten;
- 21** The agenda also encompasses the greening of the existing small public garden, and 30 pine saplings have been planted to enhance the recreational space;

MUNICIPALITY OF KASPI

- 22** Cleaning operations for the water system were executed in Metekhi village;
- 23** There are plans to relocate the recreation area/playground;
- 24** The primary financial document of the municipality allocates funds for the home care program catering to the elderly;

MUNICIPALITY OF MTSKHETA

25 In the Frezeti IDP settlement, paving works were undertaken on three streets;

26 Additionally, addressing concerns related to the elderly was prioritized, involving the development and implementation of programs supporting the elderly in the social aspects of the municipality;

MUNICIPALITY OF MESTIA

27 In the ABL village of Chuberi, on the request of the local community, additional garbage bins were installed;

28 Active efforts were initiated to search for water sources;

29 Meanwhile, in the ABL village of Idliani, the City Hall of the Mestia municipality launched a community needs survey, currently in the information-gathering stage;

30 Notably, a social media campaign, in collaboration with connected municipalities, immigrants, and the organization «Mountain Books» facilitated the collection of entertainment-cognitive toys and books for the kindergarten in the ABL village of Idilani;

31 The purchase of attractions for the outdoor space of the educational institution was also provided (the campaign was also implemented in the kindergarten of the village of Tsaghvli, Khashuri municipality);

MUNICIPALITY OF ONI

32 The transportation concern from the village of Glola to the center of Oni has been addressed. Two extra mini-busses have been designated, operating three times a week with a planned route through all the villages;

33 Additionally, a minibus serving the school route has been assigned to facilitate the transportation of students from the village of Glola to school;

34 The community's request for the installation of payment machines will be met, with a pay-box machine set to be installed in the ABL village of Perevi;

MUNICIPALITY OF SACHKHERE

35 The municipality has also arranged for the local cultural ensemble to participate in the festival;

36 Additionally, in response to women's requests, the need to activate information meetings in the municipality has been added to the agenda;

MUNICIPALITY OF SENAKI

In the IDP settlement within the municipality, several infrastructural issues have been addressed,

37 Including the arrangement of drainage channels;

38 Covering four residential buildings;

39 Installing an outdoor lighting system;

MUNICIPALITY OF KARELI

40 At all stages of implementation, the project was open to additional opportunities, a good example of which is the inclusion of IDPs and conflict-affected women in another thematic grant program, within the framework of which equipment and pets were given to women leaders living in the village of Knolev;

MUNICIPALITY OF KUTAISI

41 In the IDP settlement of Kutaisi municipality, a collaborative effort between local self-government and the business sector is underway to rehabilitate the courtyard of the former music school;

42 Additionally, in response to the community's request, the internal road in the IDP settlement, adjacent to the cottages, is undergoing rehabilitation. The funding for these infrastructural projects is allocated in the main financial document for the year 2024;

MUNICIPALITY OF TSALENJIKHA

43 In the Zgvaia IDP settlement, residents can now access a Liberty Bank mobile vehicle three times a month;

44 A metering project has been initiated, with works scheduled to commence in the first half of January 2024;

45 Additionally, responding to the community's demand, the budget includes provisions for the rehabilitation of the sewage system. Underway the issue of rehabilitation of the local school building;

MUNICIPALITY OF KHASHURI

46 An outpatient clinic was opened in the village of Tsaghvli, which is equipped with new equipment, and two nurses serve the population;

47 A sports field was organized and also the issue of arranging a recreational space is considered in the 2024 budget;

48 It should be noted separately as good practices of women's sustainable economic empowerment in Khashuri municipality, where, on the initiative of the municipality, women living in Chorchana ABL village were employed in the positions of a dance teacher and a library manager in the village. The framework of the social media campaign extended to the kindergarten in the ABL village of Tsaghvli, Khashuri Municipality, ensuring the acquisition of attractions for their outdoor space;

MUNICIPALITY OF KHONI

49 In the Khoni IDP settlement, 8 residential buildings have undergone rehabilitation, with plans for the rehabilitation of an additional eight buildings in 2024;

50 The enhancement of the children's stadium and recreation area is also in the works;

51 Moreover, a community initiative has surfaced, sparking active discussions about the formation and establishment of a support program for apartment owners, driven by signatures collected in the settlement;

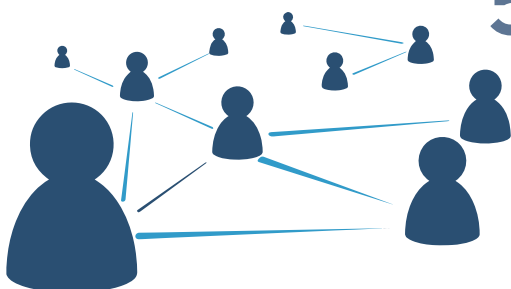
MUNICIPALITY OF TSKALTUBO

52 The main financial document of the municipality for 2024 includes provisions for the construction of a kindergarten, extending its coverage to the IDP settlement and several nearby settlements. Additionally, various infrastructural issues have been addressed;

53 Including the repair of the drainage system in the displaced people's settlements;

54 The completion of roofing works on a residential building;

55 With plans for the thermal insulation in the future.






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ქალები, მშვიდობა და უსაფრთხოება

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