



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO GEORGIA

Head of Delegation

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025

Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP for Georgia

In line with the EU Gender Action Plan III: An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in EU External Action (GAP III), adopted on 25 November 2020, the EU reaffirms the centrality of gender equality and women’s empowerment throughout EU external action at all levels and in all sectors.

This GAP III Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) is built on the Gender Country Profile of Georgia 2020¹ and its update², data provided by the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT)³ and other national and sectoral reports⁴, past and current draft EU Delegation’s Roadmap on its engagement with the civil society⁵. The CLIP covers both the programmatic and political commitments and propose specific actions and initiatives for promoting gender equality in Georgia.

The overall objective of the EU Delegation and the EU Member States is to support Georgia in reducing gender gaps by gradually eliminating domestic violence and gender-based violence and by ensuring better various rights protection and empowerment of women in social, economic, and political spheres of life.

In the context of this CLIP the EU and its Member States will support Georgia in all GAP III 6 key areas of engagement⁶. While mainly focusing on ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence, there will also be an increased dialogue and direct financial assistance aiming at strengthening economic and social rights and advancing women’s equal participation and leadership. The EU and its Member States will continue supporting promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, implementing the women, peace and security agenda as well as addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.

In line with the Guidelines for the Programming of the EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, implemented through the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), at least 85% of all EU financial assistance programmes deriving from the MIP 2021-2027 for Georgia will have gender equality and women’s empowerment as a

¹ Published by UN Women in June 2020 <https://georgia.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/the-country-gender-equality-profile>

² The EU funded regional project Reform HelpDesk has elaborated a Country Gender Profile update for Georgia, which draft was made to the EU Delegation in July 2021.

³ National Statistics Office of Georgia, GEOSTAT <https://www.geostat.ge/en>

⁴ Such as Human Rights Strategy implementation reports and other sectoral studies and reports.

⁵ EU Delegation’s Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Georgia 2018-2020 is the latest available document. The Roadmap for 2021-2023 is being drafted and is expected to be published in the coming months.

⁶ GAP III key areas of engagement: (1) Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence; (2) Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights; (3) Strengthening economic and social rights and the empowerment of girls and women; (4) Advancing equal participation and leadership; (5) Implementing the women, peace and security agenda; (6) Addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.

principal or significant objective. In addition, at least one programme financed by the MIP will have gender equality as its principal objective. This programme will focus on pursuing elimination of gender-based violence in broad sense.

The CLIP was prepared in conjunction with the MIP for Georgia, in collaboration with EU Member States and EEA countries present in Georgia, the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) and other EU institutions and services. In addition, the draft CLIP was consulted on with national authorities: the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality member institutions, Permanent Parliamentary Gender Equality Council, key civil society organisations (CSOs) and international actors such as UN agencies and international organisations.⁷

1. Context for EU action gender equality and women's empowerment in the country

Gender inequality in Georgia remains a barrier to sustainable and inclusive development, despite visible progress made in recent years in some areas. Georgia is ranked 74th out of 153 countries according to the Global Gender Gap Index for 2020 (Georgia's score of 70.8% is for the first time above the global average of 68.6%)⁸. According to the scorecard provided in the Global Gender Gap Report for 2020, compared to 2006 the situation in Georgia deteriorated in particular as regards women's political empowerment and economic participation and opportunity, while the situation improved in the area of health and survival⁹.

MIP Priority 1: A resilient, sustainable and integrated economy

Women and men's equal **participation in the economy** and equal opportunity to economic independence is hindered by deep-rooted gender stereotypes and structural factors such as lack of investment in care services, in particular child and eldercare, and social protection; labour regulations that do not support reconciliation of paid labour with domestic care and maternity; and underdeveloped gender-responsive budgeting and gender mainstreaming in economic development policies. **Labour force** participation rate of women was 40.4% for 2020, while that of men was 62%¹⁰. Time allocated to unpaid work by women is three times higher than that of men. Gender gap in **entrepreneurship** (only 32.4% of firms in Georgia have a female owner¹¹) is exacerbated by women's discrimination in inheritance of land and their limited access to financing. Gender **pay gap** in Georgia was 36.2% in 2019¹². The average monthly wage of women stands at only 63.8% of that of men in 2019¹³.

Under the **EU integration agenda**, Georgia has taken broad obligations by signing the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement and the Association Agreement. The latter, besides setting as a general aim to address gender gaps, also includes the EU acquis, which Georgia

⁷ The EU actors met twice in the course of CLIP elaboration and contributed to the CLIP in written. The draft CLIP was also consulted with wide range of national governmental and non-governmental actors as well as international organisations. However, limited response was received due to summer holiday season. Therefore, the EU Delegation will continue the broad consultations on CLIP in autumn 2021 focusing on its implementation and streamlining the priority fields of intervention, cooperation and dialogue.

⁸ Source: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf

⁹ Global Gender Gap Index shows that Georgia was ranked 41th in 2006 and 61st in 2020 for economic participation and opportunity; 28th in 2006 and 29th in 2020 for education attainment; 115th in 2006 and 86th in 2020 for health and survival; 5th in 2006 and 94th in 2020 for political empowerment.

¹⁰ Source: GEOSTAT, <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/37/employment-and-wages>, adjusted by the GoG.

¹¹ Source: Government of Georgia, Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality.

¹² Source: GEOSTAT, <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/39/wages>

¹³ Source: GEOSTAT, <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/39/wages>

committed to implement in the fields related to gender and non-discrimination in labour market specifically.

MIP Priority 2: Accountable institutions, the rule of law and security

Coordinated institutional response and **access to justice** in cases of violence, in particular need for specialised treatment of gender-based violence and domestic violence cases, is the area where Georgia has made serious progress in the past years, while further improvements are still needed. **Access to healthcare services**, in particular sexual and reproductive, is very limited as state-funded health insurance schemes often do not cover the most basic needs, e.g. modern contraceptives are not available for those in need, who do abortions instead. Despite progress in reforming **public administration and public finance** including consolidation and improvement of national policies, those remain mostly gender blind. Gender **statistics** is limited and rarely used for decision-making, gender responsive budgeting is underdeveloped. However, gender related institutional set-ups exist: the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament acts as an advisory body on gender issues, while at the Government level the Inter-Agency Gender Equality Commission, chaired by the dedicated Advisor to the Prime Minister is operational though lacking human capacities. Furthermore, Gender Equality Councils at the municipal level are being established and voluntarily Gender Action Plans are being elaborated and implemented at local level. Women are underrepresented in the **security sector** in Georgia – both in general and in decision-making positions. Women’s meaningful participation in **conflict management and resolution mechanisms**, namely the Geneva International Discussions (GID) and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), is low. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) live below the poverty line and face increased risk of violence and specific insecurities and vulnerabilities.

Georgia is strongly affected by past and recent **territorial conflicts** of its own and in the neighbouring countries. Women comprise over half of IDPs, and conflict-affected women and men face different vulnerabilities, needs and risks. Gender-based violence remains prevalent, and many women and girls lack information about and access to quality services for gender-based violence survivors, especially in the breakaway regions of **Abkhazia and South Ossetia**. Access to quality sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights, including family planning, abortions, and pre and post-natal care as well as information and education on sexual and reproductive rights remains restricted, further exacerbated by COVID-19. The situation of women in the breakaway regions, especially in Akhalkalaki and in Gali has been additionally negatively impacted with long-term closure of border crossing points, restricted access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights due to the lack of adequate facilities and medical personnel. The abortion ban in Abkhazia region continues to put women and girls’ lives at risk. Moreover, women’s meaningful and equitable participation in the security sector as well as in conflict resolution mechanisms remains low on all sides.

MIP Priority 3: Environmental and climate resilience

Environmental challenges, including **climate change** and the risk of landslides, floods, fires and droughts, affect women and men differently. In general, vulnerability to environmental changes is determined by the territorial attachment, economic status and social connections. It is noteworthy that in comparison to men, having lower income and lower participation in the workforce make women more vulnerable to environmental changes. As women in Georgia are mainly responsible for housework, they are less ready to react quickly to natural disasters.

Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during disasters¹⁴. More than half of Georgia's population is employed in agriculture, women and men being equally involved in farming¹⁵, however, women more likely than men are engaged in low-value-added agriculture production, such as subsistence agriculture. Taking care of domestic animals and producing dairy products heavily depend on interrupted or unavailable **water and gas supplies**. Women are the main caretakers of family members, they use water for everyday household activities such as cooking, washing and cleaning and quite frequently women wash in cold water to save family expenses. Also **waste disposal** is a problem for many households without a car. The shortage of basic supplies pushes the rural population, in particular women, to collect firewood for heating and cooking, in turn, negatively affecting their health due to large amounts of smoke and contributing to **deforestation**. In addition, poor roads or road construction might create adverse impacts on the local population, such as excessive **dust causing health problems** in children and more time spent on cleaning for women, who usually care for the children and take them to see a doctor.

MIP Priority 4: A resilient digital transformation

Use of **mobile phone** is quite similar between men and women, while men use **computer and internet** slightly more: 83% of women use a computer almost every day and 90% of them use Internet, while 78% of men use computer almost every day and 89% of them use internet¹⁶. The Digital Agenda in general is an area that remains influenced by a set of persistent gender inequalities. Gender gaps and differences in access to and use of digital technologies include: (1) lower access to the Internet among women-headed households for various reasons, such as lower income, lower digital skills and less interest in Internet technologies, as well as unequal in relation to women sharing of digital devices among family members, (2) low number of women graduates in science and technology, (3) women's low participation in the digital labour market and in particular in top management positions.

MIP Priority 5: A resilient, fair and inclusive society

Women in Georgia are more exposed to social exclusion, in particular single mothers, widows, rural women, internally displaced persons, the disabled, and those of ethnic minorities, and are more often living in **poverty** due to multidimensional reasons, including socioeconomic, cultural and political, as well as lack of access to basic services and/or social safety nets. Furthermore, women and girls in Georgia suffer from various forms of **gender-based violence and domestic violence**¹⁷; however, the numbers are underreported due to prevailing traditional gender norms and attitudes of non-disclosure, lack of awareness in particular on **sexual harassment** and other forms of sexual crimes, lack of social support and trust in law enforcement, health care and other relevant systems¹⁸. Victims of gender-based violence as

¹⁴ SOURCE: Country Gender Equality Profile for Georgia <https://georgia.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/05/the-country-gender-equality-profile>

¹⁵ As per GoG, according to the national survey of 2020 carried out by in cooperation with the ILO following the new methodology, only 20% of population were employed in agriculture (16.5% for women and 22.4% for men)

¹⁶ SOURCE: GoG provided information indicating GEOSTAT as source and data for 2020. G

¹⁷ According to Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia there is a steady increase in issued restraining orders (7646 in 2018, 10 823 in 2019 and 5304 in the first half of 2020) and criminal prosecution cases (3049 in 2018, 4579 in 2019).

¹⁸ In 2017 a national study on gender-based violence perceptions was carried out, which is planned to be repeated in 2022. According to the results of this study, (1) almost one quarter of women (22%) and one third of men (31%) believe that wife-beating is justified under certain circumstances; (2) both male (50%) and female (33%) respondents were likely to agree that intimate partner violence is a private matter and that others should not intervene; (3) most women (66%) and men (78%) agree that a woman's most important role is keeping the home in order. Some of aspects of this study was included in the UNFP survey of 2019, which has shown some positive

well as women being stalked constitute a high-risk group for **femicide**. Georgia has been a source, transit and destination country for sex **trafficking** of women and girls and forced labour of men, women and children. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (**LGBTI**) community in Georgia continues to face marginalisation, discrimination and stigma, and are subjected to various forms of violence and other vulnerabilities and threats to human security and human rights, further amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women are underrepresented in **decision-making** processes at all levels and in all spheres of public life, e.g. only 36.4% are women in lower and middle management positions in civil service. Even after the introduction of quotas for women for Parliament and local elections in 2020, the share of women in the newly elected Parliament reached only 19.3%.

Georgia is in the process of implementing a broad range of international commitments the core of which are the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (ratified in 2017), Sustainable Development Goals and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The EU has committed that at least 85% of all programmes deriving from the MIP for Georgia will have gender equality and women's empowerment as a **significant or principal objective** (Gender Marker 1 or 2¹⁹). In addition, at least one EU Delegation implemented financial assistance programme in the framework of the MIP will have gender equality as its principal objective (Gender Marker 2) over the period 2021-2027.

The EU Delegation will continue enhancing gender equality in its bilateral cooperation programmes and, where possible, including sex-disaggregated indicators for monitoring and specific activities targeting gender equality. Further efforts will be made in this regard, **building capacities of the EU Delegation management and Programme Officers** by ensuring training and technical assistance.

The EU Delegation and the EU Member States will put efforts in coordinating more extensively their dialogue on gender equality related issues as well as regularly exchange information on specific actions in this field.

The overall objective of the EU Delegation and the EU Member States is to support Georgia in reducing gender gaps by gradually eliminating domestic violence and gender-based violence and by ensuring better various rights protection and empowerment of women in social, economic, and political spheres of life.

trends, e.g. the percentage of men who think that it is never justifiable for a man to beat his wife increased from 69% in 2017 to 80% in 2019.

¹⁹ The OECD used Development Assistance Committee (DAC) gender equality policy markers to track and analyse development financing in support of gender equality and women's rights. Gender marker 2 means that gender equality is the **principal/main** objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project/programme would not have been undertaken without this objective. **Gender marker 1** means that gender equality is **significant** and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme, often explained as gender equality being mainstreamed in the project/programme. Gender marker 0 means that the project/programme has been screened against the gender marker but has not been found to target gender equality (**not targeted**).

In the context of this CLIP the EU and its Member States will support Georgia **in all GAP III six key areas of engagement**²⁰. While mainly focusing on ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence, there will also be an increased dialogue and direct financial assistance aiming at strengthening economic and social rights and advancing women's equal participation and leadership. The EU and its Member States will continue supporting promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda as well as addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.

Despite the fact that the EU and its Member States will continue their policy dialogue and implementing actions in all six key areas and pursue most of specific objectives listed in GAP III, **the level of engagement will vary**. Furthermore, some of the foreseen activities and dialogue fall under more than one key area and contribute to numerous specific objectives. In the course of formulation of these actions and implementation of this CLIP, efforts will be made to identify major specific objectives and consolidate areas of dialogue and actions, if feasible.

In addition to the below provided information on the thematic areas of engagement of the EU Delegation, European Commission, the EUMM and some of the EU Member States, other countries and institutions are important partners of Georgia on gender issues such as Austria, Norway, Switzerland, the UK, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, etc.

Key area 1: Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence

Taking into account the persistently high rate of domestic and gender-based violence in Georgia, which remains underreported, as well as long-standing EU cooperation with Georgian authorities in this field, this thematic area will remain the major focus for EU dialogue and specific actions.

The following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of this CLIP.

SO 1.1: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are better protected from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres, in the work place and online through legislation and effective enforcement

The EU Delegation will further support judicial reform including capacity building of law enforcement agencies officers, judges as well as further improvement of quality control and oversight of handling of gender sensitive cases. Furthermore, the EU Delegation will continue supporting development and strengthening of the state support system to gender-based violence and domestic violence survivors and rehabilitation of perpetrators. The EU Delegation will also support Georgia in further improving relevant legislation and its enforcement.

The Netherlands will work towards decreased occurrence of all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private life²¹.

²⁰ GAP III key areas of engagement: (1) Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence; (2) Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights; (3) Strengthening economic and social rights and the empowerment of girls and women; (4) Advancing equal participation and leadership; (5) Implementing the women, peace and security agenda; (6) Addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.

²¹ The Netherlands's contribution to this and other SO's depend on whether budgets and priorities of the Netherland Embassy remain the same as in the current year, which is likely the case but not guaranteed.

Sweden will continue to contribute to improvements of existing legislation and policies linked to gender-based violence so that they meet international standards and to support the development of the national capacity for full and effective implementation, including support to strengthening multi-sectoral capacities of the public institutions to eliminate gender-based violence, combat harmful practices, and promote young peoples' agency.²²

SO 1.2: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are agents of change regarding discriminatory social norms, gender stereotypes, and gender-drivers of conflict

The EU Delegation will continue providing assistance to changing gender norms and perceptions in particular at local community level, awareness raising as well as supporting gender champion and activism initiatives among various groups of people, e.g. students, civil society representatives, etc.

Germany will contribute to the awareness raising on gender-based violence at the grass root level and capacitate local women groups and youth groups on key aspects of the gender-based violence.

Sweden will continue to support efforts to counter negative gender stereotypes, social norms and attitudes that condone gender-based violence at all levels of society, through support to awareness raising campaigns and through the promotion of gender mainstreaming in decision making at all levels.

SO 1.3: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, who experience gender-based violence have increased access to essential services

The EU Delegation will further be ready to support persons in vulnerable situations, who are more exposed to gender-based and domestic violence, to access essential services such as physical and mental health care, legal support, etc. Moreover, the EU Delegation will support improvement of the state support referral system and quality of services provided to the survivors.

The Netherlands will continue working with local civil society / women's rights organisations to offer survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence services such as legal support and mental health care.

Sweden will continue to support efforts to improve the capacity of key functions of police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers to ensure efficient response to sexual and gender-based violence cases including violence against persons with disabilities and against LGBTI persons. Continued support is also expected to strengthen the capacity of gender-based violence specialized services (shelters, sexual violence services, crisis centres and hotlines). Sweden further expect to support the introduction of multi-sectoral prevention and response measures for elimination of child marriage.

SO 1.4: The right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, free from discrimination, coercion and violence is promoted and better protected

The EU Delegation will continue supporting the Government of Georgia in the implementation of the EU acquis of the Association Agreement related to gender quality and non-discrimination in the field of labour. It will also promote sexual and reproductive health and related rights in the framework of its human rights programmes.

²² Sweden's commitments are dependent on the new strategy for Sweden's development cooperation in the Eastern Partnership Countries for the period 2021-2027, which has to this date not yet been decided.

Sweden will continue to support efforts to strengthen national policies, systems and public advocacy for advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as an inalienable human right, by supporting the Government to achieve its international and national commitments through at the central and local level, tackle gender-discriminatory social norms, prevent harmful practices and dismantle barriers that keep marginalized groups of the society from accessing information and services. This includes capacitate media to raise awareness and to support civil society organisations that work to promote SRHR for all.

SO 1.5: Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity trafficked for all forms of exploitation and abuse have improved access to adequate and quality services for socio-economic integration and psycho-social support

The EU Delegation will further provide support to victims of trafficking in human beings as well as support aiming to improve conditions for immigrants and returnees, which are in vulnerable situations.

SO 1.7: Women's rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations are influential in ending gender-based violence

The EU Delegation will continue providing substantial financial assistance aiming to strengthening civil society in Georgia, building their capacities, their consolidation and cooperation. As regards gender-based and domestic violence, the EU financial assistance will be partly channelled through and implemented by the CSOs mainly for delivering direct support, facilitating changes at local community level and for national policy monitoring and advocacy.

Estonia will continue supporting CSO actions aimed at enhancing business development skills and digital competencies of the women survivors of domestic violence, to improve their sustainable, independent livelihood.

France will continue supporting women's rights organisations and other CSOs in Georgia aiming to their strengthening, by participating to and organizing projects and events on women's rights with CSOs, especially on International Women's Rights Day, and regularly consulting with them on Women's rights issues.

The Netherlands will continue supporting selected projects by local CSOs meant towards combatting gender-based violence and domestic violence.

Slovak Republic will also support the development of human capacities of CSOs and other non-profit organizations, which work in the field of women's rights protection and on ending domestic violence and violence against children.

Sweden expect to continue to support women's rights organisations and other civil society organisations that are working to prevent and end different forms of gender-based violence. Sweden expect to increase focus on organisations that are representing especially marginalized groups such as ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities.

SO 1.8: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices are increasingly collected and used to inform laws, policies and programmes

The EU Delegation will continue providing ad-hoc support to improving data collection and reporting in line with Istanbul Convention requirements. The EU Delegation will further advocate for greater sex-disaggregated data availability and use for policy-making and

implementation monitoring as well as support repeated conducting of the national survey on violence against women in 2022.

Sweden will continue to contribute to technical assistance to the national gender equality machinery to enhance their capacity to develop, coordinate and monitor implementation of the national policies in the area of combating and preventing gender-based violence, including support to strengthening gender-based violence related administrative data systems. Support is also expected to be provided to civil society organisations that conduct research in this area.

Key area 2: Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights

Given existing gaps in sexual and reproductive health care system, access to health care services and protection of sexual and reproductive rights, in particular among persons in vulnerable situations, will require further EU support.

The following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of this CLIP.

SO 2.1: Enabled legal, political and societal environment allowing women and girls to access quality sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) care and services and protecting their sexual and reproductive rights

The EU Delegation will continue providing the possibility for the CSOs to implement actions in this field as part of broader EU human rights support programmes on competitive terms. The dialogue will be carried out also in the framework of EU Delegation led policy dialogue and as part of support to health care reform and social protection improvement in Georgia.

Sweden will continue to support efforts to strengthen national policies, systems and public advocacy for advancement of SRHR as an inalienable human right, by supporting the government to achieve its international and national commitments at the central and local level, to tackle gender-discriminatory social norms, prevent harmful practices and dismantle barriers that keep marginalized groups of the society from accessing information and services. This includes capacitate media to raise awareness and to support civil society organisations that work to promote SRHR for all.

SO 2.2: Improved access for every individual to sexual and reproductive health care and services, including family planning services, information and education on sexual and reproductive rights

The EU Delegation will include these issues in its dialogue and actions described also under key area 1: Ensuring Freedom from All Forms of Gender-Based Violence.

Estonia will support the Georgian and Estonian CSO actions aimed at improving the access to sexual health services for Georgian youth, the quality of the youth counselling services and the youth sexual health indicators. Primary health care workers will be trained in youth counselling, quality standards for youth counselling and online counselling system will be developed along with relevant training book adapted to the Georgian context.

Sweden will contribute to efforts to advance transformation on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (considering cultural context referred to as SRH and healthy lifestyle education in Georgia) in the formal education system of the country as well as support out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education for women and young people with disabilities. Sweden further expect to continue to support CSO's working on promoting SRHR to especially marginalized groups.

Key area 3: Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women

Using better the potential of women through empowerment and combating gender-based violence is essential for the development of Georgia's economy. The following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of this CLIP.

SO 3.1: Increased access for women, in all their diversity, to decent work, including women's transition to the formal economy and coverage by non-discriminatory and inclusive social protection systems

Given the low participation of women in labour market, the EU Delegation will further provide support to Georgian authorities in improving labour standards and working conditions in the framework of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement and other international commitments of Georgia. Furthermore, the EU Delegation will continue investing in better matching skills, in particular through improved vocational education and training, to labour market demands with particular focus on addressing gender disparities in this field.

France will take into account gender issues and gender equality, in a transversal and targeted manner, in the following fields: bilateral and multilateral local dialogues, cooperation projects, budgetary programming and strategic partnerships with the authorities. France will systematically mainstream gender in its action in education in Georgia. In Georgia, the number of students learning French are mostly women and girls, which is an opportunity to be used to promote among women and girls excellence trainings and studies in France and decent jobs. In this spirit, France will continue organising its annual "Women in Science" conference which aims at encouraging Georgian authorities to promote the place of women in scientific professions with a focus on balancing personal and family obligations.

Slovak Republic will support projects aimed at strengthening the economic position of IDP women by educating and stimulating entrepreneurial activities, supporting women's entrepreneurship in rural regions and unregistered self-employed ("grassroots"), to set up registered companies.

Sweden will continue to support efforts to enhance legal and policy framework for women's economic and social empowerment and to promote policies contributing to greater protection of social and economic rights of especially vulnerable groups.

Switzerland will support gender equality in all its interventions in the South Caucasus as Governance and Peace, being one of the thematic accents of the Regional Guidance of Switzerland in South Caucasus for 2021-2024, envisages sustained efforts for women's empowerment in the region. In general, gender equality, good governance and social inclusion/*Leave No One Behind* are Switzerland's steady transversal themes, mainstreamed in all of its projects in the South Caucasus. Strengthened efforts at gender equality will also underpin the upcoming Swiss Cooperation Programme South Caucasus Region 2022-2025. Therefore, Switzerland will provide support related to this specific objective as well as to SOs 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 in the framework of the Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus project by, among others, advocating for eliminating gender pay gap, supporting women's economic and labour rights (including women's formal employment), working with women (especially those in vulnerable situations) on the grassroots level so that they become farmers/entrepreneurs or join the formal labour sector.

SO 3.2: Improved policy, legal framework and access to care services enabling equal division of domestic and care work between women and men

The EU Delegation will continue advocating further amendments to the Labour Code in line with EU and international standards as regards e.g. maternity and parental leaves, other gender equality and non-discrimination related aspects. In the framework of the EU support under key CLIP for Georgia 2021-2025

area 1: Ensuring Freedom from All Forms of Gender-Based Violence, an equal division of domestic and care work between women and men will be promoted.

Sweden will continue to support efforts to enhance legal and policy framework for women's economic and social empowerment and to promote policies contributing to greater protection of social and economic rights of especially vulnerable groups.

Switzerland will provide support related to this specific objective, as well as to SOs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 in the framework of the Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus project by, among others, contributing to the fine-tuning of the respective legislative and policy frameworks conducive to women's formal employment, and offering pertinent researches on the subject matter, as well as part of gender equality as one of its overarching transversal themes.

SO 3.3: Increased access for women in all their diversity to financial services and products, and productive resources

The EU Delegation will continue facilitating access to financial services and products, in particular for women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Activities under this objective will focus on women entrepreneurship and aim at the full realisation of commitments stipulated in the Trade and Sustainable Development part of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Georgia.

Estonia will support social integration and entrepreneurship of women living in Pankisi Valley. Estonian and Georgian project partners will organize business development online courses and training program for women entrepreneurs.

France will take into account gender issues and gender equality, in a transversal and targeted manner, in: bilateral and multilateral local dialogues, cooperation projects, budgetary programming and strategic partnerships with the authorities. France will integrate the gender equality aspects in the projects it funds via French Development Agency and Embassy of France.

Germany will continue supporting IDP and local women to increase their income through employment, self-employment and private sector development measures. Germany will promote economic perspectives and participation of women through capacitation of women support groups, networking and value chains. Economic support for women entrepreneurs is a further area of action. Germany maintains its support to the empowerment of female wine-makers and guesthouse owners (tourism) and the development of a sustainable tourism.

The Netherlands will contribute to this specific objective by facilitating, promoting and stimulating access to finance for women entrepreneurs via the loans from Dutch Entrepreneurial Bank and Dutch Good Growth Fund.

Switzerland will provide support related to this specific objective, as well as to SOs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 in the framework of the Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus project by equipping women with skills, economic opportunities, relevant information, network and support to become farmers/entrepreneurs or to join the formal labour sector, as well as part of gender equality as one of its overarching transversal themes.

SO 3.4: Women in all their diversity have improved access to entrepreneurship opportunities, including social entrepreneurship, alternative livelihoods and strengthened participation in the green and circular economy

As part of the EU Delegation's efforts to promote and support green and digital economy, gender inequalities in terms of access to entrepreneurship opportunities will be addressed and specific actions targeting resource and waste management will be developed taking into account gender aspects.

Estonia will continue supporting actions of Estonian and Georgian CSOs aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs living in IDP settlements in Georgia by providing entrepreneurship grants for women-led small enterprises, mentorship programmes and skills trainings to support sustainability of the supported businesses. With the financial support of the Estonian government, Estonian Chamber of Commerce will implement an entrepreneurship development program for women entrepreneurs, including mentorship opportunities, online networking forums, study visits.

The Netherlands will continue contributing to this specific objective by supporting women entrepreneurs, empowering them, helping them developing their talent and find international partners by organizing trade mission and Business to Business meetings in the Netherlands.

Slovak Republic will support projects focused on infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources, will monitor the number of men and women, girls and boys involved in specific activities contributing to the improvement of the environment, and the number of graduates (men and women) of vocational training in nature conservation.

Sweden will continue to support efforts to improve access for women to entrepreneurship opportunities, alternative livelihoods and strengthened participation in the green and circular economy through integrating a gender perspective in contributions focused on market development, entrepreneurship and the green economy.

Switzerland will provide support related to this specific objective, as well as to SOs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 in the framework of the Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus project by equipping women with new skills, information and economic opportunities to become farmers or entrepreneurs. Women will also be prioritized as part of gender equality being one of the overarching transversal themes for Swiss development cooperation along with digitalisation, which is one of cross-cutting topics that will be applied to the degree possible.

SO 3.5: Improved access for women in all their diversity to managerial and leadership roles in social and economic sectors and fora

The EU Delegation will further support women's political participation in Georgia at the national and local level. Women's business networking will also be supported and their leadership promoted in the framework of EU support programmes for economic development.

France will further advocate and support greater women's participation in politics at the national and local level. It will strive to implement the commitment/initiative of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs #JamaisSansElles (Never Without Her) - to not organise and not participate in all-male panels/events. France will strive to involve private sector actors in the events organised on gender equality (sponsoring, advocacy, discussions). France will encourage women to apply for scholarships co-funded by Georgian Government for Master's degrees in France aiming to break gender imbalances and stereotypes.

Germany will promote the role of women, specifically in rural areas, through their capacity development, mentorship, implementation of gender transformative approaches and supporting their decision-making and atypical functions in social and economic field.

SO 3.6: Reduction in gender disparities in enrolment, progression and retention at all levels of education and lifelong learning for women, men, girls and boys

The EU Delegation will continue supporting the education sector, with particular focus on skills for labour market needs taking into account gender related specificities.

France will systematically mainstream gender in its action in the field of education in Georgia. Majority of Georgian students learning French are women and girls, which is seen as an opportunity to promote among women and girls excellence trainings and studies in France and decent jobs. In this spirit France will continue organising its annual "Women in Science" conference which is aimed to encourage the Georgian authorities to promote the place of women in scientific professions with a focus on balancing personal and family obligations.

Germany will continue providing educational opportunities to vulnerable women and girls through inclusive vocational education that will increase their professional and personal competences. Germany will also continue promoting women's participation in vocational educational training as well as enhancing gender aspects in the Georgian Vocational Education and Training Strategy.

Slovak Republic will support projects aimed at creating new jobs, new small businesses, especially in regions outside the capital, innovation, new partnerships between educational institutions and economic entities, courses aimed at acquiring specific skills related to business development and employment in Georgia. Slovak Republic will monitor the number of graduates (men and women) courses focused on achieving specific skills related to business development and employment and the number of jobs created for disadvantaged social groups, including people (women and men) with special health needs.

SO 3.7: Improved regulatory framework for ensuring equal access to universal and public quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, including in crisis situations

The EU Delegation will further pursue health care and social protection reforms in Georgia, taking into account gender related disparities. Support to groups of persons in vulnerable situations and women more specifically will be provided also through CSO implemented projects and as part of EU support in the framework of key area 1: Ensuring Freedom from All Forms of Gender-Based Violence.

Germany will promote the establishment of an exchange platform for the promotion of gender mainstreaming and gender sensitive policy making in the South Caucasus.

SO 3.8: Improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities, disaggregated at least by sex

The EU Delegation will implement activities related to improvement of water supply and water quality, which will directly benefit women, who in Georgia often spend more time on households tasks such as cooking or cleaning.

Slovak Republic will support projects focused on developing infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources and monitor the level of accessibility of the population (men and women) to drinking water infrastructure, sanitation and waste management and the number of inhabitants (men and women) who have access to drinking water infrastructure, water, sanitation and waste management.

SO 3.9: Public health systems have sufficient and sustained financing to address the health needs of women and girls in all their diversity

The EU Delegation will increasingly support health care sector reform including health care insurance and state support to those in need.

SO 3.10: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, have improved nutrition levels

The EU Delegation will continue investing in food security improvement taking into account gender disparities in this field and use sex-disaggregated data for targeting its awareness raising and other specific activities.

Key area 4: Advancing equal participation and leadership

Taking into account gender disparities in social and economic spheres, the following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of this CLIP.

SO 4.1: Enabling conditions created for equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decision-making

The EU Delegation will pursue the goal to advocate and support greater women's participation in politics, based on the results of the ongoing pilot initiative.

France will further advocate and support greater women's participation in politics at the national and local level. It will strive to implement the commitment/initiative of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs #JamaisSansElles (Never Without Her) - to not organise and not participate in all-male panels/events. It will organise visits of women delegations from Georgia to France, including high-level talks.

Germany will promote women social and civic participation at the grass root level through local participatory and inclusive community initiatives and dialogue processes to advocate for the rights and services for women. Germany will also promote the strengthening of institutional mechanisms for gender equality in pilot municipalities as well as participatory budgeting, including gender responsive budgeting.

The Netherlands will work towards strengthening women's voice, agency, leadership and representative participation in decision-making processes in public, private and civic spheres.

Slovak Republic will support projects aimed at good governance and building civil society while monitoring the level of satisfaction of the population (men and women) with the level of services provided by the municipality, including care for disadvantaged groups and the level of participation of citizens (men and women) in the creation, implementation and control of public policies.

Sweden will continue to support efforts aimed to remove structural barriers to women's leadership and enhancing women's meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels. Efforts focused on women's political empowerment and providing tools for change for women at local self-governments, and establishing practices aimed at protection of women in politics from violence and harassment will be supported. Sweden further expect to continue supporting women's rights organisations and feminist civil society organisations that functions as platforms for mobilisation of engagement and advocacy for women's rights and gender equality.

SO 4.2: Women and girls, in all their diversity, have improved access to justice to safeguard their civil and political rights

The EU Delegation will continue supporting judicial reform, including better access to justice and implementation of a gender-sensitive and victim centred criminal justice procedures for sexual and gender-based violence. Potential synergies with the regional EU initiatives may be envisaged should further support to women's access to justice implemented by the Council of Europe be continued.

SO 4.3: Women's organisations, other CSOs and women human rights defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights work more freely and are better protected by law

The EU Delegation will continue providing substantial financial assistance aiming to strengthen CSOs in Georgia, building their capacities, consolidation and cooperation. The EU Delegation will support work of CSOs as watchdogs monitoring the policies and their implementation to the benefit of the society and its vulnerable groups in particular in the sphere of human rights as well as their greater involvement in advocacy and policy decision making.

Germany will provide the capacity development of local women groups to strengthen their self-representation and will support the local CSOs working on gender equality to promote women's rights and interests. The process will entail a collaboration with public actors through their improved awareness on gender equality to develop and implement genders responsive services.

The Netherlands will focus on security of human rights defenders and CSO's, with specific attention for women human rights dialogue and, where necessary, help CSO's address and influence norms and decision-making.

Sweden will continue to provide flexible support to local women's rights organisations and other CSO's working for gender equality and against discrimination to enable them to further develop and strengthen their own agenda and strategic direction, their organisational capacity (including their digital security), their networks for advocacy and for mobilisation of engagement.

SO 4.4: Equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours promoting equal participation and leadership fostered at community and individual levels – through civic education, media, education and culture at all levels

The EU Delegation will further include in its support programmes, where possible, change bringing actions and measures, in particular through civic education, work with media and cultural activities based on past successful experiences such as short film competitions on gender equality, media training on women's political participation and violence, etc.

France will take into account gender issues and gender equality, in a transversal and targeted manner, in: bilateral and multilateral local dialogues, cooperation projects, budgetary programming, strategic partnerships with the authorities, events and debates on ideas, communication, human rights awards, programmes for inviting personalities of the future and journalists.

France will systematically mainstream gender in its action in education in Georgia. In Georgia, the number of students learning French are mostly women and girls, which is an opportunity to be used to promote among women and girls excellence trainings and studies in France and decent jobs. In this spirit, France will continue organising its annual "Women in Science" conference which is aimed to encourage the Georgian authorities to promote the place of women in scientific professions with a focus on balancing personal and family obligations.

France will continue promoting women writers and personalities, values of emancipation of women and works on the status of women in the framework of book presentations at the French Médiathèque (library) and of the French Cinéclub in Tbilisi. France will also continue to support film and photography festivals working in this direction. As part of its decoration policy, France will continue to propose female personalities working in favour of French-

Georgian cooperation actions, particularly in the field of education and promotion of the French language.

Germany will continue providing inclusive approaches for social participation through working with women and youth groups on civic education and will support the implementation of local initiatives (cultural/sports/youth events, workshops, festivals, performance, etc.).

Sweden will continue to support awareness-raising efforts to counter negative stereotypes and advance equal participation of women and vulnerable groups; including LGBTI persons, conflict-affected, elderly, and ethnic minorities, in all aspects of social life.

SO 4.5: Improved systems for collecting quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on women's political participation and leadership

The EU Delegation will make further efforts to support collection, analyses and use for policy making sex-disaggregated and gender disparities related data, including, where relevant, on women's political participation and leadership.

Germany will apply gender mainstreaming and equality in all supported activities and will ensure data collection based on the gender action plan. This applies in particular to Gender Marker 2 actions. The process will include quantitative (sex-disaggregated data) and qualitative (impact indicators) monitoring tools. All planned economic and social participation initiatives as well as capacity development measures will be designed and implemented in consistency with the gender equality, gender responsive and gender transformative indicators.

Key area 5: Integrating the Women, Peace and Security agenda

The EU and its Member States will continue supporting Georgia in keeping it peaceful and safe, including support to conflict-affected persons. Therefore, the following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of this CLIP.

SO 5.1: Participation

In the framework of the regional EU assistance programme EU4Dialogue managed by DG NEAR, support will be provided to women's empowerment in conflict related issues and address the needs and rights of women among conflict-affected people in line with Women, Peace and Security Agenda. There is further need to support the empowerment of the women who already have a strong leadership role in their societies and help to ensure that their ideas are heard.

The EU, through its CSDP Mission and other appropriate institutions will support women's meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security, especially in the conflict resolution mechanisms in which its Mission participates – the Ergneti IPRM and the GID. EUMM will advocate for and closely monitor the implementation of recommendations generated by the first-ever Gender Analysis of the Ergneti IPRM completed in 2021, and will ensure meaningful and equitable participation of women staff members from EUMM within these conflict resolution mechanisms. EUMM will closely engage with civil society, especially women's groups and NGOs with a focus on WPS and gender equality as part of its monitoring mandate delivery. Within its Confidence Building Facility, the EUMM will continue to use gender and Women, Peace and Security criteria in grant application assessments and will encourage women-led CSOs and organisations with a strong focus on gender equality and Women, Peace and Security agenda to apply.

The Netherlands will consider opportunities for promoting women's meaningful participation and leadership in peace- and state-building.

Sweden will continue to apply a holistic and broad approach to remove structural barriers to women's leadership and enhancing women's meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, including in efforts related to conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Switzerland will support gender equality in all its interventions in the South Caucasus as Governance and Peace, being one of the thematic accents of the Regional Guidance of Switzerland in South Caucasus for 2021-2024, envisages sustained efforts for women's empowerment in the region. In general, gender equality, good governance and social inclusion/*Leave No One Behind* are Switzerland's steady transversal themes, mainstreamed in all of its projects in the South Caucasus. Strengthened efforts at gender equality will also underpin the upcoming Swiss Cooperation Programme South Caucasus Region 2022-2025. Therefore, Switzerland will provide support related to this specific objective, as well as to SO 5.4 in the framework of the project on Improving Economic Empowerment and Resilience of Women Dairy Producers in Abkhazia and Samegrelo Regions, which also contributes to UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security implementation in Georgia.

SO 5.2: Gender Mainstreaming

All projects within the DG NEAR managed regional EU4Dialogue programme, which includes Georgia will be gender mainstreamed, following the positive experience of Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism. At least 40% of the sub-grants, which will be awarded in the framework of the EU4Dialogue programme will serve women's needs specifically and/or are for women-led organizations. Dialogue between youth/boys and girls on gender roles and their role in policy making would be promoted further.

The EUMM, as the only international monitoring presence on the ground, will continue to monitor and report to the EU Member States on conflict-related developments with a gender lens, ensuring that gender is mainstreamed into all aspects of mandate delivery, that diverse conflict-affected women and men, including civil society and women's groups, are equally consulted and engaged, as well as ensuring that data disaggregated by sex and other variables are consistently collected and analysed, and that a gender analysis systematically informs the Mission's monitoring on the ground. EUMM will also ensure that its staff are trained on gender and Women, Peace and Security issues, and that job descriptions of key staff, especially managers, include Women, Peace and Security and gender equality-related responsibilities. Gender mainstreaming efforts at EUMM continue to be supported by full-time Gender Adviser as well as a network of Gender Focal Points across the Mission.

SO 5.3: Leading by Example

The EUMM will lead by example and support women's meaningful participation by ensuring gender balance (at least 50% women) among participants from the EUMM side in official conflict resolution and management mechanisms, namely the Ergneti IPRM and GID. The EUMM will take concrete actions and will advocate for full implementation of the recommendations set forth in the first-ever Gender Analysis of the Ergneti IPRM, which was completed in 2021, to increase women's meaningful participation in the mechanism – including stronger engagement with civil society and conflict-affected women as well as increased meaningful participation of women at the table. The EUMM will actively mark key international campaigns related to advancing gender equality and promoting Women, Peace and Security agenda in coordination with key stakeholders, including the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign and International Women's Day. The EUMM will

also support the work of civil society in the field of Women Peace and Security and gender equality through its Confidence Building Facility.

SO 5.4: Prevention

All the EU Delegation programming will continue following the “do no harm” principle and will be carefully designed to prevent any adverse effects on gender related developments. The EU Delegation will continue this practice and will further extend its dialogue with Georgian Government, both at central and local level, to ensure the implementation of policies that can prevent violence, including against women, in a sustainable way.

Furthermore, the staff of the EU Delegation, the EUMM and diplomatic missions will be trained on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, with a zero tolerance approach implemented towards all forms of harassment.

The EU Delegation and the EUMM will further make efforts to improve survivor-centred reporting and survivors’ support mechanisms mainly as part of efforts under key area 1: Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence.

Sweden will apply a conflict sensitive approach in all its development cooperation efforts, through identifying opportunities to contribute to conflict prevention and inclusive peacebuilding and mitigate risks of conflict insensitive practices.

Switzerland will provide support related to this specific objective as well as to SO 5.1 in the framework of the project on Improving Economic Empowerment and Resilience of Women Dairy Producers in Abkhazia and Samegrelo Regions, which also contributes to UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security implementation in Georgia.

SO 5.5: Protection

The EU Delegation will reinforce dialogue on the protection of the civil society activists involved in confidence building and peace-making, both in breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and in the rest of Georgia. A special status of “human rights defenders” (mutually agreed between Georgian and de-facto Abkhazian and South Ossetia Governments) would be beneficial, in order to protect their work and to enable the sustainability of their activities.

SO 5.6: Relief and recovery

EU Delegation will continue cooperation with local activists, majority of whom are women, to deliver humanitarian aid, and to contribute to the reconstruction activities. More effort from the EU Delegation side will be directed towards achieving a greater autonomy of women leaders to pursue stabilisation related activities (rule of law/access to justice and transitional justice/economic development): this will require a focused dialogue with the Georgian government, to adapt the “non-recognition” policy to introduce some flexibility for this purpose.

Key area 6: Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation

Given the emerging climate related challenges and need for greater digitalisation, the following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of this CLIP.

SO 6.1: Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues

The EU Delegation will support the participation of women in decision-making and implementation of the climate action, in particular those aiming to lowering emissions.

Sweden will continue integrating gender perspective in all its contributions focused on climate and environment change issues.

SO 6.2: Strategies and agreements on climate mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity are more gender-responsive, at local, national, regional and international level

Where possible, the EU Delegation will promote women's CSOs in dialogue across the dividing lines and confidence-building with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia on implementing the Climate Action Plan and promoting awareness-raising behavioural change for environmental protection and climate change.

France will take into account gender issues and gender equality, in a transversal and targeted manner, in: bilateral and multilateral local dialogues, cooperation projects, budgetary programming and strategic partnerships with the authorities.

Sweden will continue integrating a gender perspective in its contributions focused on climate and environment change.

SO 6.3: Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, addressing climate change in their daily lives and preserving the natural environment are recognised and valued

The EU Delegation will support access to safe and affordable transport options for women (and men) which is a key element for strengthening women's economic and social rights and empowering girls and women. The programme will also support the improvement of air quality in main cities of Georgia, which will ultimately benefit women.

Estonia will support the actions of CSOs to keep the environment clean and waste free. Technology will be provided for mapping waste in Kaspi and Khashuri municipalities in Georgia and illegal waste dumping will be prevented.

SO 6.4: Women and men in all their diversity, increasingly participate in and have improved access to jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities and alternative livelihoods in the green economy and the circular economy

The EU Delegation will put special focus on linking health issues and environment, and intends to tackle the issue of asbestos affecting women and children who spend significant time in households, and also target the issue of chemicals used in households. Special focus will also be put on improvement of waste management facilities, which would have positive effect on the well-being of women as they are more often in charge of household and family tasks.

The EU Delegation will support women's entrepreneurship and employment in the green and circular economy through capacity building, and economic empowerment and access to finance as well as improved access to labour market for women also through digital means and better working conditions as part of support under key area 3: Strengthening Economic and Social Rights and Empowering Girls and Women.

Sweden will continue integrating a gender perspective in its contributions focused on the green and circular economy.

Cooperation with the EU Member States, other EU actors and civil society

The EU and its Member States are coordinating their actions and dialogue in the form of regular (at least once a year) meetings on gender equality organised and co-chaired by the EU and

Sweden. The main goal of these meetings is to share information, discuss and exchange views among the EU Delegation, the EU Member States, European International Financial Institutions, European Economic Area countries and the UK. So far, joint implementation of any gender quality actions was not considered due to different programming, contracting and implementation cycles of the EU and its Member States.

Notably in Georgia donor coordination on gender equality is led by the UN Women, while different thematic task forces are co-chaired by the UN and national partners. In the regular task force meetings on specific thematic aspects related to gender equality, wide range of international and local partners interested and working on gender equality are invited.

During the past two years, a more coordinated approach was taken on joint messages by the EU Delegation and its Member States on women's political participation and COVID-19 pandemic impact on women's wellbeing.

As regards CLIP implementation, the civil society representatives were consulted on the priority areas defined in this document. The EU Delegation and the EU Member States will continue discussions with broad range of partners including civil society representatives on CLIP implementation and their possible involvement in progress assessment. The EU Delegation and its Member States will continue consulting with the civil society representatives when elaborating new support programmes on gender equality and calls for proposals.

CSOs will be directly involved in implementation of the specific actions aiming for gender equality mostly on competitive bases, which would also include policy and its implementation monitoring at national and local levels, in particular in the fields of gender-based violence and domestic violence.

3. Targeted action(s) supporting gender equality and women's empowerment

The EU Delegation and the EU Member States will implement the following programmes and projects that will have gender equality as their principal objective (Gender Marker 2²³) over the period 2021-2027.

3.1. EU Delegation actions on gender equality

3.1.1. EU programme on Eliminating Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence

The EU Delegation will implement a specific programme on gender equality building on the previous and ongoing support of the EU Delegation, which preliminarily will pursue the following **purposes**:

- Elimination of domestic violence and gender-based violence (key area 1: Ensuring Freedom from All Forms of Gender-Based Violence will constitute major component of this programme, including support to national state actors);
- Greater women's political participation at national and local levels (key area 4: Advancing Equal Participation and Leadership)

²³ The OECD used Development Assistance Committee (DAC) gender equality policy markers to track and analyse development financing in support of gender equality and women's rights. Gender marker 2 means that gender equality is the **principal**/main objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project/programme would not have been undertaken without this objective.

- Stronger capacities of national authorities to pursue gender equality through national policies (mainly key area 4: Advancing Equal Participation and Leadership and support to national gender machineries and state actors)

The main focus of the programme – fighting gender-based violence and domestic violence – is chosen as part of zero tolerance to violence goals. The support in other thematic areas mentioned above is perceived as effective ways for sustainable results as enforced core rights, social protection and state support as well as greater financial and economic independence of women are viable means leading to less violence and growth. More details on this EU support programme are provided under point 2 of this CLIP.

This programme may include at least the following indicators²⁴, however, their precise list will be elaborated during the formulation phase:

- Number of individuals benefiting from EU-funded programmes to counter sexual and gender-based violence (indicator to be integrated into the European Union results framework – EU RF).
- Proportion of people who think it is justifiable for a person to subject an intimate partner to violence, by gender and age of the respondent (SI 3.1 amended).
- % of gender-based violence cases reported to the police, brought to court which resulted in the perpetrators being sentenced, disaggregated at least by sex.
- Number of victims/survivors of human trafficking who access support services for socio-economic integration and psycho-social support, disaggregated at least by sex.
- Number of grassroots CSOs benefiting from (or reached by) EU support (EU RF).
- Extent to which policies and measures are in place to regulate paid maternity, paternity and parental leave, including in the context of COVID-19 recovery plans.
- Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (SDG 5.5.1, EU RF 1.8).

Indicative budget of the programme would be in the range of EUR 4 to 6 million. Indicatively the programme implementation would start beyond 2023.

The programme will be implemented mainly at national level, however, specific activities will be carried out at local community level. Indicatively the programme will be implemented through cooperation with international organisations, service contract(s) and competitive call for proposals for grants to CSOs.

The programme activities will be implemented seeking the synergies with the EU regional programmes, if any, and in close coordination with other donor actions in this field, in particular the UN agencies and the EU Member States (particularly Sweden).

3.1.2. EU project on capacity strengthening of national authorities to pursue gender equality through national policies

The EU Delegation will implement a project on gender equality with the purpose to strengthen capacities of national authorities to pursue gender equality through national policies, including improved statistics and women's political participation. Most of this project activities will be related to the key area 4: Advancing Equal Participation and Leadership and support to national

²⁴ The following indicators are selected from the list of indicators provided in the Joint Staff Working Document on objectives and indicators to frame the implementation of the GAP III (2021-2025), Ref. No: SWD(2020)284 final of 25/11/2020.

gender machineries and state actors. More details on this are provided under point 2 of this CLIP.

Based on successful implementation of similar project in the past and needs for support due to weak capacities of the relevant authorities, in particular member-institutions of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality and its secretariat, further support has been envisaged under the AAP 2021 technical cooperation facility (subject to approval). Furthermore, one component of this project will be focusing on improving/heightening women's political participation at national and local levels due to big gender imbalances in politics in Georgia. The recent introduction of quotas for women candidates demonstrates the readiness of Georgia for change.

This programme may include at least the following indicators²⁵, however, their precise list will be elaborated during the project formulation phase:

- Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliament and (b) local governments (SDG 5.5.1, EU RF 1.8).
- Improved systems for collecting quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on women's political participation and leadership.
- Additionally indicators related to gender sensitive national policies and strategies, availability of sex-disaggregated data as well as number of institutions and civil servants supported and trained would be considered.

Indicative budget of this project is in the range of EUR 1 to 2 million. The indicative project implementation period would be 2022-2024.

This project will be implemented through a service contract mainly at national level. However, specific pilot support would be provided also at local municipality level such as support to gender action plans development, training of the gender focal persons, exchange of experience among municipalities, etc. Strong emphasis will be put on creative awareness raising activities through arts, culture, sports and gender champion initiatives.

The programme activities will be implemented seeking synergies with the EU regional programmes, if and when appropriate, and in close coordination with other donor actions in this field, in particular the UN agencies and the EU Member States (particularly Sweden).

3.1.3. Other EU projects on gender equality

The EU Delegation will continue supporting CSOs implemented actions in the field of gender-based violence and domestic violence and CSOs implemented projects of total budget up to EUR 1.8 million will be launched at the beginning of 2022. Furthermore, gender equality will continue being included as a cross-cutting issue in all its competitive calls for proposals for grants to CSOs. As a result of this practice, the EU Delegation is on case-by-case basis awarding and providing financial assistance to the CSOs implemented projects with gender equality as a principal objective (Gender Marker 2).

These projects may be in any of the six GAP III key areas of engagement, and their total number as well as budget is impossible to predict.

3.2. Estonia's actions on gender equality

²⁵ The following indicators are selected from the list of indicators provided in the Joint Staff Working Document on objectives and indicators to frame the implementation of the GAP III (2021-2025), Ref. No: SWD(2020)284 final of 25/11/2020.

Building on the previous experience Estonia will continue supporting Estonian and Georgian CSO actions aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in Georgia, through the following actions: providing entrepreneurial grants and mentorship programs, conducting networking forums, organizing skills trainings and study visits, offering entrepreneurship incubator programs and vocational trainings for women to improve their digital competencies. Estonia will also provide assistance to improve access to sexual health services for the Georgian youth, to enhance the quality of youth counselling services and improve youth sexual health indicators. The actions, including their budgets and specific indicators will be defined later.

3.3. France's actions on gender equality

Through budgetary financing operation associated to a dedicated public policy and technical assistance mobilizing French expertise, France particularly focuses on sustainable and inclusive economic and political model by supporting and strengthening the path towards social inclusion (healthcare, social protection, gender equality, vulnerable populations) and the EU standards (governance, adaptation of regulations, strengthened partnerships).

The following actions will be implemented in the framework of French Development Agency Regional Strategy for Eurasia.

3.3.1. Policy-Based Loan Programme on Social Welfare

In order to further support the upcoming reforms and elaboration of the new Social Code as well as continuation of the previous multi-year policy-based loans, France in close cooperation with the Government of Georgia, and Ministry for Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MoIDPOTLHSA) in particular will build a new multi-year policy-based loan program, in accordance with MoIDPOTLHSA identified needs and key reforms with a strong focus on climate and gender.

Indicatively this activity will be implemented in the course of 2022-2025, while its more specific objectives, indicators and budget still need to be defined.

3.3.2. Project on Social Welfare

This technical assistance project will provide support to the Government of Georgia and MoIDPOTLHSA in particular to design and implement the policy-based loan scheme described under point 3.3.1.

Indicatively this activity will be implemented in the course of 2021-2023 with the budget EUR 1 million, while its more specific objectives and indicators still need to be defined.

3.3.3. Project on Gender Equality

Under this grant project will focus on specific gender equality related issues linked to policy-based loans programme and project on social welfare described under points 3.3.1. and 3.3.2. In the framework of this project a general analysis of the institutional context in Georgia will be carried out with focus on health care sector as well as assessment of available resources and capacities of the MoIDPOTLHSA to implement above-mentioned loan programme. Furthermore, under this project a specific Gender Action Plan will be elaborated and support to its implementation will be provided.

Indicatively this activity will be implemented in the course of 2022-2023 with the budget of EUR 100,000, while its more specific objectives and indicators still need to be defined.

3.4. The Netherlands actions on gender equality

The Netherlands will continue promoting gender equality in Georgia by providing contributions to projects implemented by local CSOs and by supporting women entrepreneurs. In the course of CLIP implementation such support will be provided in the following areas of priority:

- Decreased occurrence of all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private life (key area 1: Ensuring Freedom from All Forms of Gender-Based Violence will constitute major component of this programme, including support to national state actors)
- Strengthened women's voice, agency, leadership and representative participation in decision-making processes in public, private and civic sphere (key area 4: Advancing Equal Participation and Leadership);
- Reinforced women's economic rights and empowerment, and female entrepreneurship encouraged (Key area 3: Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women);
- Women's meaningful participation and leadership in peace- and state-building promoted (Key area 5: Integrating the Women, Peace and Security agenda).

Specific objectives, indicators and concrete financial contributions allocated to these projects depends on the relevance and quality of proposals by local CSOs, which the Netherlands will chooses to support. These priority areas and overall financial allocation is decided annually.

3.5 Sweden's actions on gender equality

Sweden will continue working in the field of gender equality in three ways; (1) through targeted interventions on gender equality; (2), by integrating gender perspective in all operations and sectors; and (3) by highlighting gender equality and women's rights in the dialogue with partner organisations and other stakeholders.

Sweden's commitments are dependent on the new strategy for Sweden's development cooperation in the Eastern Partnership Countries for the period 2021-2027, which has to this date not yet been decided. Priorities will be defined based on the operationalisation of the new strategy and in dialogue with stakeholders. Sweden currently support two interventions that have gender equality and/or SRHR as their principal objective:

- The UN Joint programme on Gender Equality in Georgia, implemented jointly by the UNDP, the UN Women and the UNFPA. The comprehensive program has a holistic approach with the overall objective to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by means of strengthening capacities of the Government at both central and local levels and across the executive, legislative and judicial branches, engaging civil society and raising public awareness about gender equality. The main focus areas cover women's social and economic empowerment, women's political participation, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Support to the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) and their grant programme to CSOs in Georgia. The main goal of the programme is sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) being respected, protected and fulfilled by all.

3.6. Switzerland's actions on gender equality

While gender equality is a constant and steady transversal theme for all the Swiss-funded projects in Georgia, there are two projects, which will be implemented within CLIP timeframe.

3.6.1. Regional project on Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus

The main objective of this project is to contribute to ensuring that women, particularly poor and socially excluded, in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are economically empowered and participate in relevant decision-making processes. The project has three outcomes distributed along its three levels of intervention: legislative-policy, institutional and grassroots:

- Outcome 1 (grassroots level): Women, particularly poor and socially excluded, use skills, economic opportunities, relevant information, network and support to become farmers/entrepreneurs or to join the formal labour sector in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- Outcome 2 (policy-legislative level): Armenia and Georgia implement adequate legislative and policy reforms and frameworks to enable women's economic empowerment.
- Outcome 3 (institutional level): The government, public and non-governmental institutions are strengthened to develop and deliver gender-responsive programmes, policies and services for women's economic empowerment in Armenia and Georgia.

This long-term project has been implemented in two phases: 2017-2021 and 2021-2024, with an overall budget of CHF 7.4 million, and with Austria being a co-donor of this project. Switzerland's primary implementing partner for Georgia and for the South Caucasus region is UN Women.

3.6.2. Project on Improving Economic Empowerment and Resilience of Women Dairy Producers in Abkhazia and Samegrelo Regions

The overall goal of the project is to improve economic empowerment and resilience of women dairy producers in Abkhazia and Samegrelo regions through two outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Rural women improve their home-made dairy products, with a focus on food safety through learning in Farmer Field Schools.
- Outcome 2: Rural women, engaged in dairy production, acquire and use leadership, economic and social skills to be self-employed and expand their income-generation activities, while promoting gender equality.

This project will be implemented in the course of 2020-2024 by the FAO and UN Women. The total Swiss financial contribution to it is CHF 3'360'000.

Collaboration among the EU Member States, Team Europe initiatives and with other development partners

A Team Europe approach is further considered by the EU Delegation and the EU Member States, in particular in relation to increased information sharing on gender equality, joint analysis, joint messages and implementation²⁶. Currently a group of interested EU Member States, the EU Delegation and non-EU Member States is being formed²⁷ to support greater women's political participation in Georgia through joint messaging and coordinated actions.

The EU Delegation and the EU Member States work closely with the UN Agencies as well as with international and national civil society organisations and will further contract them as Implementing Partners.

²⁶ Hardly possible due to different financial procedures and cycles, but will be discussed and considered in the course of implementation of the CLIP.

²⁷ This open informal group includes Sweden (the initiator), the EU Delegation, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Estonia, Switzerland, Norway, the UK.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

The EU Delegation and the EU Member States are carrying out policy dialogue with Georgian authorities in all six GAP III key areas of engagement. However, most intensive efforts are put into continuous policy dialogue with Georgian authorities, international partners and civil society representatives on gender-based violence and domestic violence issues, including sexual violence as well as various rights.

The first EU informal group to coordinate dialogue and actions has been formed following the initiative of the Swedish Ambassador on women's political participation, which will aim to draw attention and support to greater women's involvement in politics in Georgia in the course of CLIP implementation. The EU Delegation is actively involved in regular dialogue with Georgian Parliament on this topic.

Furthermore, in the framework of the support to public administration reform and public finance management, the EU Delegation in particular, pursues greater gender mainstreaming in public administration, promoting more gender sensitive policies and gender responsive budgeting.

The EU Delegation and the EU Member States keep close contact and consult with the civil society representatives on their support programmes and strategies as well as contact them for key policy updates and impact analysis. A broad range of civil society representatives are involved in the general consultations, while key sectoral organisations are consulted on sectoral policy issues on regular bases.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

At least two high level dialogue events will take place during CLIP implementation period in one or two selected GAP III key areas of engagement, which are currently being discussed. Indicatively the first event may take place in 2022.

Gender Equality will be incorporated in EU implemented assistance programmes communication and visibility actions, where appropriate, in particular when defining the target audience and specific needs of each gender.

Furthermore, gender equality related messages will be integrated, where relevant, in public diplomacy work, in particular as regards public administration reform and public finance management.

6. Technical Facility and/or financial resources allocated to support GAP III implementation

In the framework of the Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF IV) described in the MIP point 3.2: Cooperation Facility, EUR 1.5 million is proposed by the EU Delegation to be earmarked for technical assistance on gender equality in the framework of Annual Action Programme 2021 for Georgia, which still needs to be decided. If approved, these funds will be used mainly to further build in gender equality as a cross-cutting issue across national sectoral policies and strengthen capacities of state authorities, further training gender focal persons as well as support gender related data collection, analyses and use for policy making. More details about this action are provided under point 3.1.2 of the CLIP.

During 2021-2023 the EU will provide technical assistance to Georgian Government in its reform work on gender equality in the framework of a regional project Reform Helpdesk managed by the DG NEAR, implemented in the framework of the regional programme EU4Gender Equality of which Georgia is one of beneficiary countries.

Since the beginning of 2021 the EU has started providing technical assistance to Georgian Government in its reform work on gender equality in the framework of a regional project Reform Helpdesk managed by the DG NEAR, implemented in the framework of the regional programme EU4Gender Equality of which Georgia is one of beneficiary countries. It is expected that additional follow up action would be needed and it would fall under the MIP timeframe. Indicatively this action would be part of the EU Delegation specific programme described under point 3.1.1 of the CLIP.

Date: [e-signature date in ARES]

.....

The Head of Delegation: Carl HARTZELL [e-signed]

.....