



**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 2021<sup>1</sup>, data provided by the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT)<sup>2</sup> and other national and sectoral reports<sup>3</sup>, the EU Delegation’s roadmap on its engagement with the civil society<sup>4</sup>. The CLIP covers both the programmatic and political commitments and propose specific actions and initiatives for promoting gender equality in Georgia.

The CLIP was elaborated by the EU Delegation with contributions from the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission, the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the EU Member States: Austria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic, Sweden; and Switzerland (further – CLIP Contributors). Other EU institutions, banks and Member States as well as Norway and the United Kingdom were also invited to contribute.

The overall objective of the CLIP Contributors is to support Georgia in reducing gender gaps by empowering women in social, economic, and political spheres of life also by gradually eliminating domestic violence and gender-based violence and by ensuring better various rights protection.

In the context of the CLIP its Contributors support Georgia in all GAP III 6 key areas of engagement<sup>5</sup>. Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence remains important area of cooperation. There is also increased dialogue and direct financial assistance aiming at strengthening economic and social rights and advancing women’s equal participation and leadership. The CLIP Contributors continue supporting promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, implementing women, peace and security agenda as well as addressing

---

<sup>1</sup> Published by UN Women in 2021, <https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/Country%20Gender%20Equality%20ENG%20%20UPDATED.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat), <https://www.geostat.ge/en>

<sup>3</sup> Such as Human Rights Strategy implementation reports and other sectoral studies and reports including those elaborated by the relevant UN and other international organisations.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/eu-updates-roadmap-engagement-civil-society-georgia-0\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/eu-updates-roadmap-engagement-civil-society-georgia-0_en)

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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 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 addressing gender gaps and women's empowerment.

The CLIP was prepared in conjunction with the MIP for Georgia. 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<sup>6</sup>.

## 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 76<sup>th</sup> out of 146 countries according to the Global Gender Gap Index for 2023 (Georgia's score of 70.8% is above the global average of 68.4%). According to the scorecard provided in the Global Gender Gap Report for 2023, compared to 2022 the situation in Georgia deteriorated substantially in the area of women's political empowerment and slightly in the area of health and survival, while situation in the areas of economic participation and opportunity as well as education attainment remained unchanged.<sup>7</sup>

### *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; as well as underdeveloped gender-responsive budgeting and gender mainstreaming in economic development policies. As of 2022, the gender gap in **employment** has reached its highest point in recent years and stands at 16.2 percentage points, with 51.7% of men and 35.4% of women employed. Labour force participation rate of women was 41.5% for 2022, while that of men was 64%<sup>8</sup>. Time allocated to unpaid domestic and care work by women is five times higher than that of men<sup>9</sup>. Gender gap in **entrepreneurship** (In 2022 the share of women owners among newly established enterprises was 24.7%<sup>10</sup>) is exacerbated by women's discrimination in inheritance of land and their limited access to financing. Only 11.5% of

---

<sup>6</sup> The draft CLIP was consulted in written in July 2021 with wide range of national governmental and non-governmental actors as well as international organisations. Furthermore, in December 2021 the EU Delegation together with the CLIP Contributors discussed CLIP in the framework of two online meetings with relevant Georgian state authorities and civil society organisations separately on CLIP implementation and streamlining the priority fields of intervention, cooperation and dialogue.

<sup>7</sup> Source: World Economic Forum, [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2023.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2023.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Source: Geostat, <https://www.geostat.ge/en>

<sup>9</sup> Source: UN Women and Geostat, Time Use Survey in Georgia: 2021-2022

<sup>10</sup> Source: Geostat, <http://gender.geostat.ge/gender/index.php?action=Business%20Statistics>

Georgian companies employ a predominantly female workforce, and just 16.5 percent have women in top management positions.<sup>11</sup> Adjusted gender **pay gap** in Georgia was 23% in 2022, which has slightly increased since 2020 and 2021<sup>12</sup>. The average monthly nominal earning of women stands at only 68.3% of that of men in 2022<sup>13</sup>. Furthermore, there is a notable gender disparity in land ownership in Georgia. The data reveals that men are more likely to own land, with 82% of land owned by men and only 18% owned by women and this trend is maintained throughout the last decade<sup>14</sup>. 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 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** has been improving, however it is 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 willingly 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 Akhalkori and in Gali is additionally negatively impacted by restrictions in freedom of movement across the Administrative Boundary Lines,

---

<sup>11</sup> Source: UN Women and the ILO, “National Assessment of Women’s Entrepreneurship Development in Georgia”. Georgia. <https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/Survey%20of%20Women%20Entrepreneurs%20in%20Georgia%20ENG.pdf>

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

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

<sup>14</sup> Source: Geostat, <http://gender.geostat.ge/gender/index.php?action=Agriculture>

including 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. It is noteworthy that in comparison to men, women, having lower income and lower participation in the workforce are more vulnerable to environmental changes. At the same time the population of Georgia is well-informed about climate change and recognizes it as a significant global challenge. Particularly women and individuals aged 65 and above have shown a heightened awareness of their vulnerability and exposure to climate change<sup>15</sup>. However, climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks and initiatives do not comprehensively consider the specific needs of women and girls.

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 disasters<sup>16</sup>. 40% of Georgia's population lived in rural areas in 2022, however, women are excluded from many aspects of rural and agricultural development due to their limited access to finances and other important resources that are essential for agricultural business<sup>17</sup>.

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, computer and internet** is quite similar between men and women, which for July 2023 was used by 94.3%, 72.9% and 93.4% of women and by 94.9%, 74.6% and 92.6% of men accordingly<sup>18</sup>. However, households with male heads are more likely to have internet access (90%) and computer access (62%) compared to households with female heads, where internet access is at 86% and computer ownership at 57%<sup>19</sup>. Overall digital and information technology area 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

---

<sup>15</sup> Source: UNDP, [https://rec-caucasus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/undp\\_ge\\_ee\\_eu4climate\\_climate20change\\_research202020\\_eng.pdf](https://rec-caucasus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/undp_ge_ee_eu4climate_climate20change_research202020_eng.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Source: UN Women, <https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/Country%20Gender%20Equality%20ENG%20%20UPDATED.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Source: UN Women, <https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/Country%20Gender%20Equality%20ENG%20%20UPDATED>

<sup>18</sup> Source: Geostat, <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/106/information-and-communication-technologies-usage-in-households>

<sup>19</sup> Source: Geostat, Survey on Information and Communication Technologies Usage in Households

skills and less interest in Internet technologies, (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, women from rural areas, 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**<sup>20</sup>; 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 systems<sup>21</sup>. Victims of gender-based violence as 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. across different public entities only 13% of heads and deputy heads are female<sup>22</sup>. Despite the increase of women participation in politics after introducing quotas for women for Parliament and local elections in 2020, the share of women in the current Parliament is only 19%. Women comprise 31% of the total public service workforce and comprise 43% within the rank I and rank II managerial positions. The gender gap widens significantly when considering the gender balance in top managerial positions – women make up only 9% of heads of public entities and 15% of deputy heads of public entities<sup>23</sup>.

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.

---

<sup>20</sup> According to Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia there is a steady increase in gender based violence cases: issued restraining orders (7646 in 2018, 10 823 in 2019 and 11 164 in 2020, 10120 in 2021, 9483 in 2022) and criminal prosecution cases (3955 in 2018, 4579 in 2019; 4633 in 2020, 5144 in 2021, 5323 in 2022).

<sup>21</sup> According to the national study on gender-based violence perceptions of 2022 carried out by the UN Women: (1) 98 % women and 96% men believe that it is never justifiable for a man to beat his wife; (2) both male (37.2%) and female (21.3%) respondents believe that violence between husband and wife is a private matter and that others should not intervene; (3) most women (59.9%) and men (74.7%) agree that a woman's most important role is to take care of her family; (4) Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-69 subjected to physical, sexual and/or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime is 24.6% and those subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner during their lifetime - 1.5%.

<sup>22</sup> Source: UN Women, <https://georgia.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2023/05/civil-service-bureau-continues-progressing-towards-gender-equality>

<sup>23</sup> Source: UN Women, [https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/brief\\_-\\_gender\\_impact\\_assessment\\_of\\_the\\_law\\_of\\_georgia\\_on\\_public\\_service\\_eng.pdf](https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/brief_-_gender_impact_assessment_of_the_law_of_georgia_on_public_service_eng.pdf)

## 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 2<sup>24</sup>). In addition, at least one EU Delegation implemented financial assistance programme in the framework of the MIP should 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 CLIP Contributors 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 CLIP Contributors is to support Georgia in reducing gender gaps by empowering women in social, economic, and political spheres of life and gradually eliminating gender-based violence as well as ensuring better protection of various rights.

In the context of this CLIP its Contributors will support Georgia **in all GAP III six key areas of engagement**<sup>25</sup>. While mainly focusing on reducing major gender gaps and empowering women, 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 as well as ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence. The CLIP Contributors will continue supporting promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, implementing 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 CLIP Contributors 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 the 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 by the CLIP Contributors the coordination and cooperation on gender related issues will continue with other institutions, banks and countries of Europe and beyond.

---

<sup>24</sup> 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**).

<sup>25</sup> 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.

### 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 one of the major focus for EU and other CLIP contributors' dialogue and specific actions.

The following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of the 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 gender sensitive cases' handling. 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 life<sup>26</sup>.

Sweden will continue to contribute to improvements of existing legislation and policies linked to gender-based violence. Sweden will provide policy advice and technical support to advocate for the streamlining of national legislation and policies with relevant international norms and standards around gender equality, including political and economic empowerment of women and regarding violence against women and girls.

The EBRD will continue to support clients to introduce measures to eliminate the risk of gender-based violence and harassment at the workplace as well as support the design and implementation of policies that address the risks of gender-based violence and harassment in the public spaces.

#### 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.

Austria continues its support to local authorities, to civil society organizations, and to local people in rural areas to enhance their knowledge and capacities on gender equality and non-discrimination and to foster an inclusive environment for civic engagement. Through its support to local CSOs, Austria is promoting gender equality, preventing gender-based violence in families, public settings (public schools), and communities of targeted locations. The capacities of professionals from local stakeholder organisations are built in addressing gender inequality and gender stereotypes in public schools to enable them to conduct awareness raising activities for public school teachers. By aiming at challenging gender stereotypes and fostering

---

<sup>26</sup> The Netherlands' contribution to this and other SOs 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.

more equal families, e.g. through piloting the “Active Fatherhood” approach, a contribution is made to increasing the value of unpaid care and domestic work.

Germany contribute through its bilateral program to the awareness raising on basic aspects of discrimination through an online tool developed with the aim to help teachers, formal and non-formal educators to integrate equality into teaching. The German Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) will continue to promote feminist knowledge production and understanding in Georgia that contributes to the dismantling of discriminatory social norms, structures, and stereotypes. Among others, HBF supports an annual feminist forum in Tbilisi and a project empowering women in mountainous Adjara region. The German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung published a historical-scientific study “European Women about Georgia” in 2021. The aim was to integrate European research and works by European women in the fields of sociology and gender studies into Georgian university curricula.

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. This also includes mobilizing and engaging men and boys as champions for gender equality and operationalizing the Leave No One Behind principle.

*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. The EU Delegation will also provide such assistance directly to the survivors through civil society organisations in local communities as well as finance initiatives for survivors’ greater economic and financial independence. Moreover, the EU Delegation will support improvement of the state support referral system and quality of services provided to the survivors.

Estonia will continue to support actions in the field of prevention of and response to crime and violence committed against children, both girls and boys, including gender-based and sexual violence. Together with UNICEF, Estonia has helped to establish child-friendly (Barnahus) centre for victims of sexual violence in Tbilisi and plans to assist Georgia in opening at least one more in Kutaisi for wider coverage and better access. As a result of the ongoing process, the legal framework and interagency cooperation have been facilitated, developed and upgraded to a significant extent and will be developed further. The result is a child-friendly justice approach.

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).

*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 through the Association Agreement related to gender equality 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.

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. This will be done by supporting the Government to achieve its international and national commitments 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.

*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 CSOs' actions aimed at awareness raising as well as 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 and Girl's Rights Day, and regularly consulting with them on women's and girl'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 will 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 will 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 including support to repeated conducting of the national survey on violence against women, which was carried out in 2022 by the UN Women.

Sweden will continue to contribute to the development of comprehensive evidence-based and data-collection systems, as well as knowledge resources, to inform policy makers and underpin advocacy on violence against women and girls.

*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 support.

The following specific objectives (SOs) will be pursued in the course of implementation of the 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 a human right, by supporting the government to achieve its international and national commitments at the central and local level. The aim is to tackle gender-discriminatory social norms, prevent harmful practices and dismantle barriers that keep marginalized groups from accessing information and services.

*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 Government and CSOs' 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, raising awareness on the importance of the issue. Estonia will continue supporting young girls and women to combat stereotypes, and stigmas related to sexual and reproductive rights and to tackle with gender based discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment. Estonia continues to support Georgia together with UNICEF in implementing the Barnahus model (SO 1.3) which includes health care for child victims of sexual violence.

Sweden will contribute to efforts to advance transformation on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (considering cultural context referred to as SRHR 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 will also continue to support CSOs working on promoting SRHR to target groups, including especially marginalized groups. Thereby, they will contribute to political, legal and financial commitments to SRHR at the national and regional level.

*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 the 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 and the EBRD will continue investing in bridging skills gaps, in particular through improved vocational education and training, to labour market demands with particular focus on addressing gender disparities in this field.

Austria explicitly pays attention to the situation of women and girls reflected in the framework strategy 2022-2024 of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) with the EU Eastern Partner Countries. Recognizing a strong patriarchal structures and high level of domestic or gender based violence rates, Gender equality is one of the general principles of the Austrian Development Cooperation in Georgia and therefore plays a particular role in ADC interventions.

Austria also supports the strengthening of vulnerable families living in poverty through capacity building of the caregivers and young people in developing employability, in generating income, and in improving their entrepreneurship skills for better integration in the local labour market. By means of this support, families can better meet the basic needs of their children. By integrating economic strengthening with awareness raising on gender stereotypes, as well as by specifically targeting women headed households, better access to decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities will be created. Austria is contributing to the promotion of the formalization of the overburdened and under - resourced elderly state care sector. By means of this support, two changes will be triggered: first, the quality-of-care services for the elderly (the majority of which are women) will be increased; second, decent jobs will be created (most of which will benefit women). This, in turn, strengthens women's economic and social rights and reduces the existing gender (pay) gap.

Estonia will continue supporting actions aligned to achievement of the strategic objective of Women's economic empowerment, stated as one of the key elements of Estonia-Georgia Development Cooperation Land Strategy 2021-2024.

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 and girls in scientific professions with a focus on balancing personal and family obligations.

For Germany, the Heinrich Böll Foundation will continue to support knowledge production and experience sharing in the context of women's labor emigration from Georgia as well as the empowerment of women migrants, through a project with media platform Batumelebi.

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 has adopted a systematic approach to gender equality, poverty reduction and social inclusion in all of its projects in the South Caucasus. In order to Leave No One Behind, Swiss interventions particularly target some of the groups left behind (such as women and youth, minorities and rural populations) and focus on their specific needs regarding capacity-building, education, political representation and economic opportunities. Strengthened efforts at gender equality and women's empowerment underpin the Swiss Cooperation Programme for 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 the gender pay gap, implementing the commitments under the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), supporting women's economic and labour rights (including women's formal employment, maternity benefits, parental leave, etc.), working with women (especially those in vulnerable situations) on the grassroots level so that they become farmers/entrepreneurs or join the formal labour sector. Austria is a co-donor of this project.

The EBRD will continue to invest in companies that create gender-equal labour market opportunities and skills development across traditional and emerging industries as well as promote increased access to high quality market relevant TVET and STEM education for women and support the strengthening of gender-responsiveness of the TVET systems.

*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 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.

Austria supports the strengthening of the professional home care services and contributes to the national home care programme. Through the home care advocacy strategy, Austria contributes to the development of Governmental National and Local Home Care policies, standards and capacities that guarantee a proper quality-life of people and the sustainability of home care services in Georgia.

The German funded independently working political foundations have also supported this SO: Heinrich Böll Foundation will continue to work on care politics and the economy, through research, advocacy and awareness raising on "who cares" in Georgia and a specific focus on care for the elderly. HBF also partners with the Social Workers Union to mainstream feminism into the social work profession. The German Friedrich Ebert Foundation will provide networking and space for story-telling activities of domestic female workers as well as public

discussions to create meeting points for domestic female workers and other civil society groups including activists, labour right defenders, students and researchers.

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, 3.3 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 economic empowerment and economic/labour rights, and offering pertinent researches on the subject matter. In general, women are prioritized in all the projects by Switzerland as part of a systematic approach to gender equality. Austria is a co-donor of this project.

*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.

Austria supports improving the economic situation of the local population, men and women, living in the area of Aragvi Protected Landscape through sustainable development of tourism and agriculture. This project focuses on addressing the gender imbalance between the role of men and women and seek to tackle the gender gap in providing family care, care for elderly and people with disabilities by raising awareness of this issue and by offering alternative models of division of labour in these fields. This is achieved among other measures by capacity building activities involving both men and women.

Estonia will continue supporting social integration and entrepreneurship of women living in Pankisi Valley as well as within the IDP communities along the occupation lines. Estonian and Georgian project partners will organize business development courses and training programs for women entrepreneurs from aforementioned communities.

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 and civil society. France will integrate the gender equality aspects in the projects it funds via French Development Agency and Embassy of France. France will pay particular attention to feminist organisations, which it recognises as actors of change.

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. As mobility restrictions is one of the barriers for vulnerable women and girls in rural and mountainous regions to get access to basic resources, education and employment opportunities, Germany will research gendered patterns of mobility barriers for different groups and support

decision makers on local and central level in gender-sensitive mobility planning through its bilateral program implemented by GIZ.

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. In general, women are prioritized in all the projects by Switzerland as part of a systematic approach to gender equality. Austria is a co-donor of this project.

The EBRD will continue to embed gender into Green Economy Financing Facilities and across Partner Financial Institutions and raise awareness on the importance of collection, reporting and analysis of sex-disaggregated SME data for better product design and policy based investment decision making.

*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.

Austria supports the existing and newly created youth-led enterprises to implement gender inclusive practices and tools by strengthening the capacity of Women's Rooms, VET Centres and BDS providers in gender mainstreaming and by providing related technical assistance.

Denmark will launch new activities together with UN Women focusing on creating economic opportunities for the IDP and conflict affected women outreaching them through social mobilization and engaging in Women's Community Academy, to deepen knowledge on women's rights in general and on how to start and develop business in particular. The trainees will be further provided with small grants to kick start their businesses. Some of the outreached women will be supported to access vocational education and find jobs in formal sector.

Estonia will continue supporting actions of Estonian and Georgian CSOs aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in Georgia by providing entrepreneurship grants for women-led small enterprises, mentorship programmes and skills trainings to support sustainability of the supported businesses. There is a strong emphasis on women from vulnerable communities (Pankisi, IDP).

Under the EU and Germany funded project on employment service provision women were identified as one of the target groups, more specifically women in vulnerable situations such as survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, women single parents, and women with long-term unemployment. More than 1000 women were consulted and 263 were employed.

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) supports women's economic empowerment in rural areas through entrepreneurship trainings. In Tbilisi, FNF encourages female founders through networking and knowledge sharing seminars. FNF's work will increasingly focus on green economy with most of its training and networking participants being women.

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's 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. In general, women are prioritized in all the projects by Switzerland as part of a systematic approach to gender equality. Austria is a co-donor of this project.

The EIB will invest in projects enabling women to play an active role in tackling the effects of climate change. It will finance projects that tackle deep-rooted gender inequalities while strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of women and girls in the country, including through digital technology. The EIB will support financial institution clients who (in line with the 2X Challenge criteria that are increasingly becoming a global standard for gender lens investment) set targets for women's entrepreneurship, employment and leadership opportunities.

EBRD will support financial institutions to better target women entrepreneurs across sectors they operate in, including green and agricultural sectors, and continue to expand advisory services to women entrepreneurs. The EBRD will explore investments in digital technologies, opening up women's access to digital skills and employment in digital economy occupations.

*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 the EU's support programmes for economic development.

Austria continues supporting socially vulnerable families to meet the developmental needs of the children/youth by ensuring an emotionally safe environment in the families, by supporting caregivers to access the existing public and social resources, and by enabling children to improve academic performance via afterschool classes.

France will further advocate and support women's full, equal and significant participation, in all their diversity, in politics at the national and local level. It will strive to implement the commitment/initiative of the French Ministry of Europe and 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 combat gender barriers 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.

The EBRD will promote women's representation in all sectors of the economy and public service, incl. at technical and leadership positions.

*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 TVET 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 CSOs' 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 the 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 pilot initiative implemented in 2021-2022.

Austria will continue implementing capacity development activities for local elected representatives and municipal staff on gender policies, safeguards and assistance mechanisms. These activities will also raise their sensitivity against sexism and sexual harassment, and towards gender-responsive budgeting as a tool for equal participation and representation in local decision-making. Partner municipalities will be supported in incorporating gender perspective in local political action through the adoption and implementation of equality action plans to improve social inclusion and increase participation of women in policy and government processes at the local level.

France will further advocate and support women's full, equal and significant participation in politics at the national and local level. It will strive to implement the commitment/initiative of the French Ministry of Europe and 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 and promote the strengthening of institutional mechanisms for gender equality in pilot municipalities as well as participatory budgeting, including gender responsive budgeting, and gender-sensitive urban planning, by supporting the drafting of gender-sensitive Neighbourhood-Development-Plans and by cooperating with the respective municipal Gender Focal Points and Gender Equality Councils.

In public service, Germany will focus on female leaders (including in Parliament's administration) and implement formats and measures (trainings, exchange, networking) to

strengthen their capacities. Hence, all the mandatory training courses for public servants/managers will include a module on gender equality.

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom will continue strengthening female participation and leadership in politics. This is achieved through seminars in rural areas, through an annual conference on women in politics in Tbilisi with more than 200 participants including the most active participants from the rural seminars. All political trainings are hosted in coordination with one or more liberal Georgian political parties (ALDE-members). In addition, international study and training programmes of FNF regularly target Georgian female aspiring political leaders, such as the programme of the “International Academy for Leadership“ or the “Alliance of Her“.

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 at removing structural barriers to women’s leadership and enhancing women’s meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels. Efforts include women’s political empowerment and establishing practices aimed at protection of women in politics from violence and harassment. Sweden further expects to continue supporting women’s rights organisations and feminist civil society organisations that function as platforms for mobilisation of engagement and advocacy.

Switzerland will provide support related to this specific objective in the framework of the Women’s Increased Leadership for Democracy in Georgia (WILD) project by supporting women’s and girls’ full and equal participation in decision-making so that they could benefit from gender-responsive governance. In general, women are prioritized in all the projects by Switzerland as part of a systematic approach to 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 between the regional EU initiatives and CoE implemented the EU funded program on women’s access to justice may be considered.

*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.

Austria will cooperate with the Public Defender’s Office and with the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia to support strengthening the protection of human rights at local level, especially on gender equality and prohibition of discrimination. Austria will promote

effective, balanced, and inclusive participation of women in local planning, budgeting and decision-making processes.

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 gender responsive services.

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

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

*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 and civil society organisations, events and debates on ideas, communication, human rights awards and initiatives, the French Republic Simon Veil award, programmes for inviting personalities of the future and journalists.

France will systematically mainstream gender in its action in education sector. 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, defending women's and girls' rights and works on gender equality 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.).

The German political foundations support the following: Heinrich Böll Foundation will continue working on the issue of masculinities, primarily by publishing a book where authors from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan analyze and discuss different types of masculinities as

well as their own experiences as men. Focus areas of the book are masculine bonds, masculinities and war, and queer masculinities. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung will work on increasing gender representation in media storytelling and transparency on cross-border, gender-specific issues, looking through a gender lens and amplify women's voices and provide a platform for them to bring the gender discourse on the political agenda and influence those in power to uphold women's rights. The work addresses the restrictions to women's role in public life and empowers women to participate in their communities. Through the "Civic Engagement School", the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung supports young women's political and civic participation, advocacy campaigns in the regions of Georgia as well as remote mountainous areas. The project provides training opportunities and small grants to implement projects in local communities.

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.

Austria, with the support of local CSOs, will continue providing expert support to partner municipalities in the collection of sex and socially disaggregated data.

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 CLIP Contributors 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 the CLIP.

*SO 5.1: Participation*

In the framework of the regional EU assistance programme EU4Dialogue managed by DG NEAR, support has been provided to women's empowerment in conflict related issues, including to 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. In the framework of the programme the Women's Platform for Agenda Setting has been set up, which aims to help increasing women's leadership and participation in all policy-making decisions/processes in all areas related to peace and security in line with the GAP III.

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 continue to apply a gender-sensitive approach when carrying out its monitoring activities and 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.

Denmark will launch activities to promote knowledge sharing for young women peace and rights' activists from Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia through Summer Academy for Young Feminists, focusing on educating young women on human rights, women's rights, WPS and Youth, Peace and Security agendas, SGDs, feminist foreign policy, feminist peace theory, militarized masculinities, among other cross-cutting fields and academic scholarship.

Germany will promote through its bilateral program via GIZ meaningful participation of IDP women in tripartite dialogue process with municipalities and local CSOs working on women peace and security. The German Heinrich Böll Foundation will continue to explore the potential of German's feminist foreign and development policy for the region and to promote analysis on how feminist principles can be integrated in conflict management and peacebuilding in the region. Feminist ideas form part of the HBF's book on masculinities in the South Caucasus to be published in early 2024, specifically its part on masculinities and war. HBF will also support a study on cybersecurity and gender.

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 has adopted a systematic approach to gender equality, poverty reduction and social inclusion in all of its projects in the South Caucasus. In order to Leave No One Behind, Swiss interventions particularly target some of the groups left behind (such as women and youth, minorities and rural populations) and focus on their specific needs regarding capacity-building, education, political representation and economic opportunities. Strengthened efforts at gender equality and women's empowerment underpin the Swiss Cooperation Programme for 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 have been and will be awarded in the framework of the EU4Dialogue programme will serve women's needs

specifically and/or are for women-led organizations<sup>27</sup>. 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 gender analysis is systematically integrated in the Mission's monitoring and reporting activities. 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.

Denmark will launch a new program to produce knowledge and engage public in the discussions around gender and generational dimensions of conflict and peacebuilding and barriers to young women's participation in peace and security discourses addressing the marginalization of women's diverse groups from decision making and contributing to more people-centered, gender and youth responsive policies and practice.

#### *SO 5.3: Leading by Example*

The EUMM will lead by example and support women's meaningful participation by carefully considering the gender composition of EUMM teams in the relevant confidence-building mechanisms, namely the Ergneti IPRM and GID. The EUMM, including at senior management level, will continue to closely engage with civil society, women's groups and conflict-affected women and men as part of its efforts to ensure a strong gender lens in the delivery of its monitoring mandate. The EUMM will actively mark key international campaigns related to advancing gender equality and promoting the 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.

---

<sup>27</sup> By December 2023 the rate of such sub-grants was 57%.  
*CLIP for Georgia 2021-2025, updated 2023*

Sweden will continue to 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 Ossetian 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 the 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.

Austria will continue supporting women and girls to lead the activities for sustainable rural development, through experience-based learning which will play an important role for women and girls and inspire them to foster participation in decision-making processes locally.

Germany will support through GIZ the Government of Georgia in implementing its national commitments for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. By promoting awareness of the gender aspects of climate change and encouraging dialogue among stakeholders on mainstreaming gender issues in national climate change policies.

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 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.

Germany will enable the Georgian Government through its bilateral program in cooperation with GCF and the Swiss Government to implement its transformational forest sector reform agenda to put the entire nation's forests under the sustainable forest management (SFM) framework, with the focus on increased participation of women and girls. The German Heinrich Böll Foundation will continue to support analysis of the nexus of mining and gender, i.e., the gendered impacts of mining, and promote more sustainable development agendas.

The German funded NGO Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) is analysing the gender dimensions in Georgia's climate policies, and builds capacity and awareness on mainstreaming gender in national climate policies and actions from a feminist perspective. Germany encourages and builds via WECF capacities of women and feminist organizations to engage in climate policies and actions.

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

The EBRD will promote gender-inclusive policies in climate-affected sectors and climate finance.

*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.

*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.



The EBRD promoting increased female employment in technical and leadership positions in green infrastructure and companies.

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

The representatives of the embassies of the EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, the UK as well as EU institutions and European Development banks are invited to the regular EU+ gender coordination meetings led by the EU Delegation. 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 has not been taking place due to different programming, contracting and implementation cycles of different actors, however, the EU Delegation and the EU Member States would consider more coordinated approach for ongoing programmes and projects on gender equality.

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 years, a more coordinated approach was taken on joint messages by the EU Delegation and its Member States on women's political participation, which started from shared concerns regarding 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 and other CLIP Contributors will continue discussions with broad range of partners including civil society representatives on CLIP implementation and their possible involvement in progress assessment. The CLIP Contributors 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 CLIP Contributors will implement the following programmes and projects that will have gender equality as their principal objective (Gender Marker 2<sup>28</sup>) over the period 2021-2027.

#### *3.1. EU Delegation actions on gender equality*

##### *3.1.1. EU programme on Empowering Women to Bridge the Gender Gap*

The proposed programme would invest in women empowerment aiming to contribute to economy, democracy and equality. This would be achieved by focusing on women's economic

---

<sup>28</sup> 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.

empowerment, promoting gender balance in decision-making, and combating gender-based violence and domestic violence. Indicative priority areas:

- Women's economic empowerment aiming for their greater financial independence; participation in better paid (male-dominated) sectors and achieving better work-family balance, employment, entrepreneurship and careers.
- Women's participation in decision-making at national and at local level, including women's political participation, activism and building empowering networks.
- Mainstreaming gender equality into policy-making through evidence-based gender sensitive policy-making including gender responsive budgeting, their implementation and capacity building of state authorities at the national and local level.

Indicative budget of the programme would be in the range of EUR 4 to 6 million. Indicatively the programme implementation would start in 2025.

The programme will be implemented mainly at national level, however, specific activities will be carried out at local community level.

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) and potentially other CLIP Contributors.

### *3.1.2. EU projects on supporting gender equality in Georgia through partnership with the United Nations*

The EU Delegation has a long standing partnership with the relevant UN organisations working for gender equality and in particular on combating gender based violence. In the course of CLIP implementation one project of budget EUR 1.5 million with UN Women and the UNFPA was completed in October 2023 and a new project of the same budget and implementing partners will be implemented during the period from December 2023 until December 2026.

The recently started project continue the two main directions of support mainly that the legislation, policies, and capacities are in place for gender-responsive policymaking and budgeting to ensure greater gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence; and gender stereotypes, social norms, and attitudes transformed in support of women's empowerment, greater participation in political and economic life, and combatting of gender-based violence. This project activities mostly were related to the key area 1: Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence and it will also contribute to key area 3 as regards women's economic empowerment and employability as well as key area 4 as regards women's political participation.

The project activities will be carried out at national level in cooperation with relevant state authorities, including their capacity building, as well as at local community level in the Kvemo Kartli and Guria regions and small-scale awareness raising work against violence against women in breakaway region of Abkhazia.

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 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, domestic violence and gender equality. Currently there are five such projects

ongoing of the total budget over EUR 4.6 million mainly contributing to key area 1 and to the limited extent to key areas 3 and 4. 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. Austria's actions on gender equality*

Austria will continue incorporating a gender perspective in all its supported projects in Georgia and will aim to eliminate sex- and gender-based discrimination in the country. In doing so, Austria will contribute to creating equal opportunities for women and men in all their diversity for employment, for entrepreneurship, and for access to social and economic benefits as well as to policy and government processes at all levels. A dialogue and cooperation on issues such as social inclusion, gender equality and anti-discrimination will be strengthened. This will help pave the way for Georgia to improve its legislative framework, policies and practices on gender equality in line with the EU GAP III priorities.

### *3.3. Estonia's actions on gender equality*

Building on the previous experience Estonia will continue supporting Estonian and Georgian CSO actions aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in Georgia with an emphasis on women and girls from vulnerable communities, 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 on the rolling basis. Women's economic empowerment is one of the key elements of Estonia-Georgia Development Cooperation Land Strategy 2021-2024.

Estonia will continue to consider gender equality as key criteria in project selection, reporting and evaluation across all projects in all areas implemented in Georgia, both large- and small scale, hence, where relevant – gender equality has to be taken into account in all projects for their successful implementation.

### *3.4. France's actions on gender equality*

As part of the feminist diplomacy adopted in 2019, France is making gender equality one of the priorities of its external action. The aim is to strengthen the cross-cutting nature of our international actions, working in close collaboration with embassies, operators and our partners.

Priority must be given to action in favour of rights and resources dedicated to 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.

#### *3.4.1. Policy-Based Loan Programme on Social Welfare*

In order to further support the upcoming reforms and elaboration of the new social policy for Georgia 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.

#### *3.4.2. 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.

#### *3.4.3. 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.

#### *3.5. The Netherlands' actions on gender equality*

Reinforced by the recently adopted Feminist Foreign Policy, the Netherlands will continue promoting gender equality in Georgia by providing contributions to projects implemented by local CSOs and by supporting women entrepreneurs. Wherever possible, the Netherlands will focus on supporting smaller grassroots CSOs in the regions outside of Tbilisi. 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 choose to support. These priority areas and overall financial allocation is decided annually.

### *3.6 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.

Increased gender equality is an objective for Sweden’s strategy for the region<sup>29</sup> and will be mainstreamed into the implementation of all objectives in all support areas. In the area of gender equality, activities will contribute to reducing gender discrimination, strengthening women’s economic empowerment and rights, supporting women human rights defenders, increasing women’s influence and participation in political processes, and contributing to increased access to, and respect for, sexual and reproductive health and rights. This involves efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence and changed social norms.

Sweden currently supports three interventions with gender equality and/or SRHR as principal objective:

- The UN Joint programme on Gender Equality in Georgia is implemented jointly by the UNDP, the UN Women and the UNFPA. The 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 for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) being respected, protected and fulfilled by all.
- Support to Women’s Fund Georgia through strengthening feminist movement in order to give voice and support to marginalized and discriminated communities and groups.

### *3.7. Switzerland’s actions on gender equality*

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

#### *3.7.1. 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

---

<sup>29</sup> Strategy for Sweden’s reform cooperation with Eastern Europe 2021-2027

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.

### *3.7.2. Women's Increased Leadership for Democracy in Georgia*

The main objective of this project is to support women's and girls' full and equal participation in decision-making so that they benefit from gender-responsive governance in Georgia. The project has three outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Women and their organizations in all their diversity are engaged in and influence political life and decision-making at all levels in Georgia
- Outcome 2: Gender equality and women's meaningful participation and leadership at all levels is promoted through adoption and implementation of gender-responsive legislative and policy frameworks and practices in Georgia

This project is being implemented in two phases so far: 2023-2027 and 2027-2031, with an approved budget for 2023-2027 of CHF 3.8 million. Switzerland's primary implementing partner is UN Women.

### *3.7.3. 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 implementation. The EU Delegation and Sweden is discussing the possibility to implement their ongoing actions “in the spirit” of Team Europe approach.

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

#### **4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment**

The CLIP Contributors 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 various rights as well as women’s economic empowerment and participation in decision-making.

Overall donor activity coordination with the participation of Georgian state authority representatives is led by the UN and organised around Gender Theme Group and thematic Task Forces where EU is broadly represented. This is the platform for news and updates on recent developments in specific areas related to gender equality as well as discussions, initiatives and coordinating actions, including joint messaging agreements.

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

The CLIP Contributors 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 are to take place during CLIP implementation period in one or two selected GAP III key areas of engagement. The first high level event took place in March 2022 and it was dedicated to women’s political participation, while the second event is foreseen to take place in March 2024 on topic related to greater women’s empowerment.

Gender Equality is incorporated in the 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 are 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) under Annual Action Programme 2021 described in the MIP point 3.2: Cooperation Facility, EUR 1.5 million is earmarked for gender equality. This project is described under point 3.1.2 of the CLIP.

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. The current project will end in early 2024 and a follow up project is planned to start later in 2024.

*Date: [e-signature date in ARES]*

.....

*The Head of Delegation: Pawel HERCZYNSKI [e-signed]*

.....