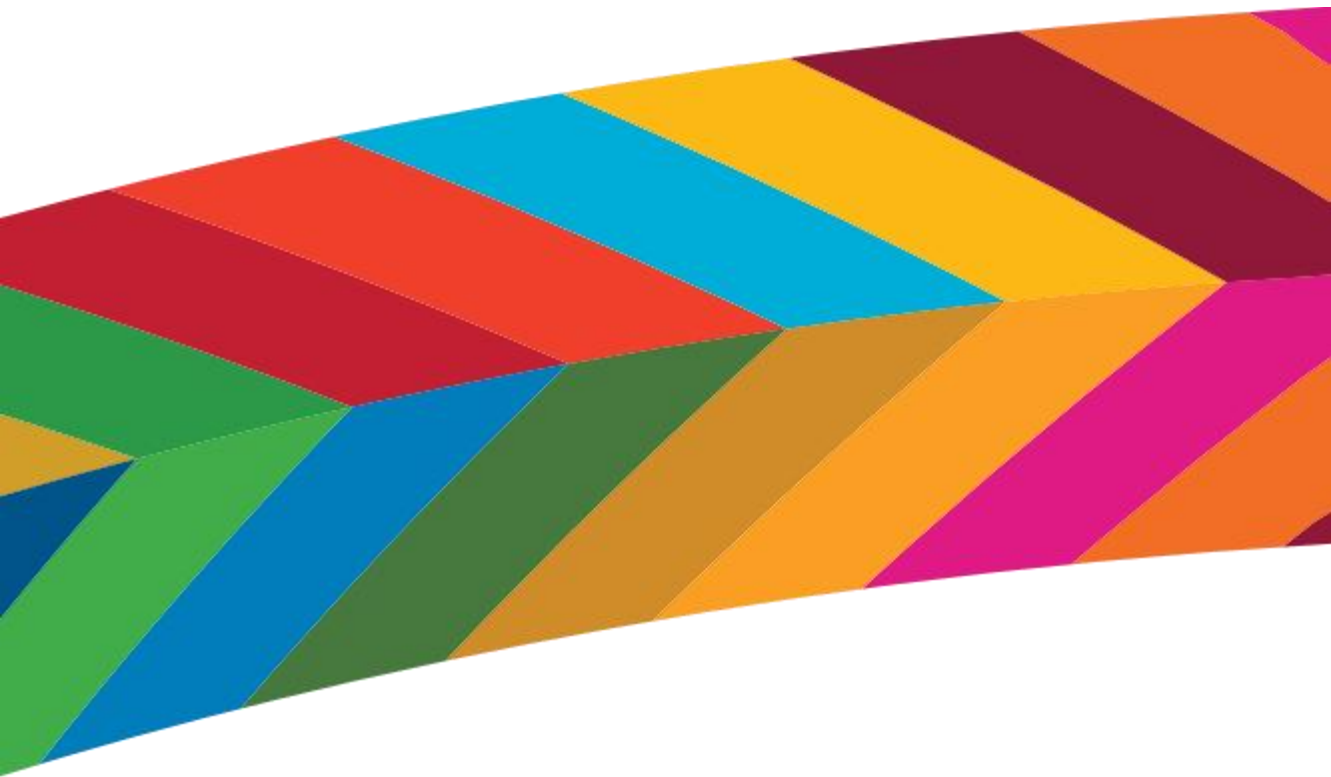


Shadow Report

Implementation of Sustainable
Development Goals in Georgia

Georgia, 2024



This publication was produced as part of the program SDG LENS. Monitoring Sustainable Development in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. SDG LENS is a capacity-building program for civic actors, representatives of NGOs and grassroots initiatives, researchers, and experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. It empowers civic actors to monitor, report, and advocate the 2030 Agenda and to stand up for peace, climate, and justice.

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Introduction

This report represents a joint product of civil society organizations and reviews the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Georgia.

In 2024, the government of Georgia submitted its third Voluntary National Review (VNR). This shadow report prepared by civil society organizations provides alternative perspectives on the status of the implementation of the 10 Sustainable Development Goals. It showcases critical challenges that hinder the country's sustainable development.

The report is built on official government documents, action plans, policies, and studies by international donors, and local non-governmental organizations.

Chapter I General Trends

In 2015, Georgia expressed its readiness and joined the United Nations resolution, which serves as an action plan to achieve the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. With half of the 15-year timeframe set for this plan having passed by 2023, the time remaining to achieve outlined goals and targets, therefore to transform the lives of the country's citizens is becoming increasingly limited. Throughout this period, Georgia took certain steps.

1.1 Governance and institutional arrangement

In 2015, when Georgia joined the UN resolution on the 2030 Agenda and undertook the commitment to implement and achieve the SDGs within the country, the Administration of the Government of Georgia was assigned the responsibility of steering

the nationalization (adoption of SDGs at the national level) and coordination processes at the highest political level.

In the following years, the Sustainable Development Goals Council (SDG Council) was established. Within its competence, the SDG Council ensures the facilitation of SDG implementation and monitoring and is accountable to the Prime Minister of Georgia. The Council comprises four multi-stakeholder thematic working groups (hereinafter referred to as working groups):

- Social Inclusion
- Economic Development
- Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection
- Democratic Governance

Each working group has three co-chairs: a relevant state agency, a UN organization, and a Civil Society Organization (CSO). Thus, through Council membership, CSOs, and other non-state stakeholders are potentially invited to engage and influence decision-making processes related to SDG implementation, such as nationalization, development of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), integration of the SDGs into national policy, project development, and enhancement of statistical data collection systems.

When discussing the effectiveness of the institutional arrangements necessary for SDG implementation, assessing the degree of cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder engagement/participation becomes particularly significant. Despite Georgia's ability to establish an institutional body, it is crucial to evaluate the extent to which this institutional arrangement has facilitated the effective involvement of stakeholders in decision-making processes and the creation of result-oriented models for multi-sectoral cooperation.

1.2 Stakeholder engagement in implementing the 2030 Agenda

Despite the multi-sectoral nature of the SDG Council's working groups, the operational model of the Council—limited to one summary meeting per year—provides minimal impetus or opportunity for non-state sector representatives to meaningfully engage in governance processes aimed at achieving the SDGs.

A baseline study conducted in 2023 by the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) involving CSO members of the working groups revealed that most participants considered the platform's operations ineffective.

Key challenges identified included:

- An ineffective working format with limited opportunities for discussions or meaningful engagement.
- Inconsistent communication between the Council's Secretariat and stakeholders regarding ongoing processes.
- Political turbulence deprioritizing SDGs within the policy agenda.
- A lack of a clear, unified vision for stakeholder dialogue, including defined roles, responsibilities, and processes.

While there are examples of non-state actor involvement, such cases are largely driven by initiatives from the civil sector, which often require additional funding. Such efforts allow individual organizations to engage in SDG policy development and implementation but for a limited time and consistency.

Notably, recent political decisions have further obstructed cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly the adoption of the "Foreign Influence Transparency" law amidst mass protests. These developments have reversed previously established cooperation between state and non-state actors, diminishing the willingness of state institutions to engage with the civil sector and lowering the motivation of civil society to collaborate. Such challenges directly undermine the collaborative efforts needed for the country's sustainable development and the attainment of SDGs.

1.3. Integration of the 2030 Agenda and the three dimensions of sustainable development at the national level

In 2019, the Government of Georgia approved the national document for sustainable development goals, which outlines priority directions at the national level. The VNR 2024 highlights that the national document comprehensively addresses all three aspects of sustainable development—economic, social, and environmental.

While Georgia has adopted all 17 goals as national priorities, specific targets under each goal have been incorporated with varying degrees. An analysis reveals that the three dimensions of sustainable development—social, economic, and environmental—are addressed to differing extents. The nationalized targets include 76% related to social objectives, 54% to economic priorities, and only 26% to biodiversity.



1.4. Localization of SDGs

In 2021, the SDG Council Secretariat developed an action plan for integrating SDGs at the local level. This plan outlines activities supporting various stages of localization, including context analysis, raising awareness among local authorities and communities, prioritization of SDGs in alignment with local contexts, integration, institutionalization, and monitoring of implementation.

However, the document does not outline how multi-level interaction and communication between central and local authorities should be ensured to prevent parallel, non-integrated processes. While the SDG Council structure includes municipalities, their role within the platform is not clearly defined, nor are mechanisms established for the involvement of all 64 municipalities.

The 2024 VNR document identifies a lack of human and financial resources as a significant challenge in the localization

process, impacting local governments, the business sector, and civil society organizations. Furthermore, the absence of adequate statistical data at the municipal level complicates the planning and evaluation of SDG-related initiatives.

Along with the challenges mentioned in the VNR, another important direction is the monitoring and reporting of progress at the local level. The localization action plan does not clearly outline the activities and measures necessary to create institutionalized processes for monitoring and evaluating SDG implementation at the local level. The action plan designates “preparation of SDG implementation reports in five pilot municipalities” as one of its target indicators. However, a monitoring strategy or methodology to achieve this indicator has not yet been established.

In parallel with the institutionalization of these processes, it is essential to strengthen local stakeholders and community organizations and enhance their capacity to ensure the

active engagement of these actors. These organizations often possess detailed, nuanced information about vulnerable groups, which can, in turn, address the gaps in statistical data production at the municipal level.

The timeline for localizing and achieving the SDGs poses a significant challenge, both globally and for Georgia. According to the VNR 2024, 50% of Georgian municipalities have entered an active phase in the SDG localization process. Furthermore, the report projects that by 2025, all municipalities will have completed the integration of sustainable development goals at the local level, inline with the localization action plan. However, the precise status of municipal progress remains uncertain, including how many have advanced to the active stages of implementation, monitoring, and reporting. Additionally, there is uncertainty about the extent to which municipalities have progressed in drafting and approving local priority documents, engaging stakeholders, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and adopting the innovative and strengthened participatory models required to uphold the SDGs' inclusiveness and the "leave no one behind" principle.

1.5 Monitoring and Reporting

During the nationalization process, the methodologies and metadata for some goals and indicators had not yet been established at the international level. In Georgia's context, this challenge was compounded by additional "gaps" identified in data collection methodologies. As a result, sections of the national SDG Matrix intended for such data were left incomplete, with plans for further development and revision. In some cases, even the designation of responsible entities was omitted. Although the relevant international methodologies and metadata have since been developed, Georgia's SDG matrix document remains unchanged.

This has been further criticized by certain civil society organizations, arguing that the national document lacks ambitious targets and includes indicators that have already been achieved. This has created a perception among stakeholders that the reporting process focuses less on fundamental transformation and tangible progress. Therefore, it is recommended that Georgia's SDG matrix be revisited, updated, and rendered more relevant, ambitious, and trackable within the national context.

On the international level, Georgia has taken noteworthy steps in its reporting efforts. In 2024, the country submitted its third Voluntary National Review (VNR).

It is critical to establish a standardized framework for monitoring and reporting at the local level, enabling the integration of municipal reports and data into the national reporting system. However, since the localization process is still ongoing, a unified standard for local-level monitoring and reporting has not yet been developed. Challenges in this area include gaps in data collection and a lack of human resources within municipalities. Consequently, Georgian municipalities have not yet prepared Voluntary Local Review (VLR) reports, a practice already adopted in some countries, which strengthens coordination between governance levels and supports the principle of "leaving no one behind."

In Georgia, as in other countries, substantial improvements are still needed in data collection processes. These include data on multidimensional poverty, domestic inequality, and the state of vulnerable groups (e.g. people with disabilities, ethnic minorities). Enhanced data collection in these areas is essential for fostering inclusivity and achieving sustainable development goals.

1.6 Partnerships for achieving SDGs (private sector, financial mechanisms, and resources)

The role of businesses in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) is often emphasized, as they play a pivotal role in generating financial resources and acting as catalysts for transformative change.

As part of an initiative commissioned by the UN Global Compact Network Georgia and funded by the Swedish government, EY Georgia conducted a study titled “Sustainable Development Goals Through the Lens of the Georgian Business Sector”.¹ The study surveyed businesses to identify their perceived role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Respondents primarily viewed their contributions in three key areas:

1. Workforce upskilling and reskilling – identified by 19% of respondents as a critical area of impact.
2. Development of environmentally and socially beneficial products and services – highlighted by 14% of businesses as a priority.
3. Advocacy for sustainable development policies – cited by 16% of respondents as a significant contribution.

In recent years, the role of the private sector in advancing the country’s sustainable development model has grown significantly. Business operators are increasingly focused on raising awareness among their employees and integrating sustainability-oriented practices into their operations. This shift is further encouraged by programs and competitions initiated by international and local non-governmental organizations dedicated to sustainable development. These initiatives aim to incentivize the private sector

to adopt innovative solutions and align their activities with sustainability goals. Notably, collaborations between the private sector and NGOs have become more prevalent, facilitating the exchange of expert knowledge and its integration into business practices. Such partnerships play a crucial role in embedding sustainability principles within the corporate sector and driving progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The study reveals that while the private sector’s involvement in sustainable development has grown in Georgia, there is a pressing need for heightened efforts to increase awareness and encourage businesses to adopt more innovative and ambitious approaches. Currently, 73% of surveyed Georgian businesses recognize the impact of their operations on the SDGs, a figure notably lower than the global average of 95%. Additionally, only 54% of Georgian businesses have clearly defined specific activities dedicated to advancing at least one SDG, compared to 79% globally.

The gap becomes even more pronounced when examining tangible commitments and actions. Only 18% of Georgian businesses have made public commitments to contribute to achieving one or more SDGs, compared to 91% globally. Furthermore, just 16% of businesses in Georgia have adapted their products or services to better align with at least one SDG, whereas this figure reaches 78% globally.

These findings highlight a substantial disparity between Georgian businesses and their global counterparts in terms of action and transformative change. Closing this gap requires intensified efforts to raise awareness and foster the adoption of innovative and strategic practices within the private sector. When discussing the resources, mechanisms, and efforts necessary to achieve sustainable

¹ Sustainable Development Goals Through the Lens of the Georgian Business Sector <https://unglobalcompact.ge/kvleva-qartuli-biznes-sektoris-tvalit-danakhuli-mdgradi-ganvitarebis-miznebi/>

development goals (SDGs), the private sector is often highlighted as a potential donor and innovator capable of developing transformative solutions. However, in Georgia, such partnerships and initiatives remain limited.

The private sector's hesitation to allocate greater financial resources—despite the potential for more significant, large-scale outcomes with proper planning and management—may partly be attributed to a lack of effective communication. According to a study conducted by the UN Global Compact Network Georgia, “The government does not actively engage the private sector on

SDG-related matters. Collaboration between state institutions and businesses is primarily limited to the National Bank of Georgia and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. Consequently, the government's focus on financial, agricultural, and energy sectors excludes a substantial portion of the private sector.”

At this stage, efforts to accelerate the country's sustainable development rely heavily on funds from international donors and development partners.

1 NO POVERTY



This section was prepared by CENN

Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1)

This section reviews the following targets of SDG 1: 1.2 - *Reduce the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions*; 1.3 - *Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all*; and 1.4 - *ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property.*

• Poverty reduction (target 1.2)

The 2024 Voluntary National Review highlights post-pandemic economic growth and the reduction of absolute poverty as one of the key achievements of the government. At first glance, the quantitative data indicates economic growth and poverty reduction. While the ruling party attributes these improvements to executive policy measures, a significant portion of this economic growth and poverty reduction is linked to external factors, particularly Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. This geopolitical situation has led to increased capital inflows from Russia, driven by remittances, migration, and tourism. A deeper analysis of poverty indicators reveals substantial differences in the socio-economic conditions of urban and rural populations. These disparities raise concerns regarding the inclusiveness of economic growth and its equitable distribution. Questions remain as to whether this growth has translated into enhanced access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and overall social development for all citizens.

Data from the World Data Lab highlights that over 30% of young people aged 15–30 in Georgia live in conditions of high vulnerability, with daily incomes not exceeding \$6.85 (approximately GEL 500–600 per month).² Such financial constraints significantly limit their access to essential services, such as healthcare, and housing, and even force trade-offs between education and employment. According to the World Bank report, internally displaced persons (IDPs), ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and women are disproportionately affected by poverty, reflecting persistent inequality within the country. For instance, in 2021, the poverty rate among IDPs (43.3%) was more than double the national average.³

The creation of quality jobs remains a cornerstone of poverty reduction efforts. However, a significant share of Georgia's workforce remains concentrated in low-wage sectors, with access to high-paying, quality employment largely restricted to individuals possessing advanced qualifications and skills. Researches underscore that existing higher education programs in Georgia do not adequately align with labor market demands, leaving graduates underprepared. This skills gap diminishes their ability to secure quality jobs, earn sustainable incomes, and break the cycle of poverty.

• Social protection systems (target 1.3)

Quantitative data alone is insufficient to assess social welfare and socio-economic conditions and qualitative contextual analysis is essential. Despite a reduction in the percentage of the population living in poverty, the number of individuals receiving social assistance has significantly increased between 2020 and 2024. Over 30% of the population is registered in the social assistance database, indicating a high demand for social support.

Household income and expenditure analysis is another source for assessing social conditions and living standards. Annual figures show that household incomes are rising, but when adjusted for inflation, they have remained nearly stagnant since 2014.

² World Data Lab: <https://worldpoverty.io/>

³ World Bank Document: <https://shorturl.at/KSeq1>

• Access to basic services and land ownership (target 1.4)

Despite progress, spatial inequality remains a challenge. In some mountainous and rural areas, residents still lack access to essential services such as water, gas, roads, schools, kindergartens, and healthcare facilities. Inequalities among different groups in accessing basic services are also evident. For instance, in 2019, only 33% of children from ethnic minority groups and 47% of children in rural areas were enrolled in pre-school education, significantly below the national average of 70%.

In terms of gender, notable disparities exist in access to land ownership and business leadership. Only 35% of registered agricultural land is owned by women. Additionally, as of 2021, only 16% of companies in Georgia had a woman as a top manager. Despite improvements in the legal framework for women's economic activity, the majority of assets (e.g., real estate and land) remain owned by men.⁴

Recommendations for the government:

1. Strengthen regional development policies to ensure quality basic services (e.g., road infrastructure, schools, kindergartens, healthcare facilities) in mountainous and rural areas.
2. Update higher and vocational education programs to align with market demands, enabling individuals to acquire skills that facilitate employment in high-value sectors.
3. Introduce programs aimed at improving the professional skills of social assistance beneficiaries.
4. Collect high-quality, disaggregated data on the social, economic, and environmental impacts of poverty.

Recommendations for Civil Society Organizations:

1. Monitor the implementation of government initiatives and programs aimed at poverty reduction.
2. Collect and analyze data to identify all characteristics and impacts of poverty.

⁴ World Bank Document: <https://shorturl.at/KSeq1>

2 ZERO HUNGER



This section was prepared by Georgian Farmer's Association

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2)

This section reviews the following targets of SDG 2: 2.3 - Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers; 2.4 - Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices; 2.a - Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity; and 2.c - Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives.

• Introduction

Over the past decade, Georgia has made significant strides in advancing food security and sustainable agricultural development, thanks largely to considerable support from international partners. Efforts have focused on initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity, strengthen food supply chains, and improve access to food. Additionally, measures have been taken to encourage the sustainable management of land and water resources. Nevertheless, persistent challenges continue to impede the full realization of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) in the country.

• Food prices and food security (target 2.c)

Food security in Georgia is influenced by various factors, including dependence on imports, international market prices, logistics, local production, seasonality, and inflation.

According to the National Statistics Office of Georgia, between 2019 and 2023, the average Georgian household spent approximately 43% of its consumer expenditures on food, three times higher than the EU average. For low-income families, this means cutting back on essential needs such as nutrition, healthcare, education and etc.

From 2019 to 2024, annual food price inflation in Georgia fluctuated between -3.5% and 22.0%. Among food categories, vegetable prices exhibited the most volatility, with inflation peaking at 51.1% in May 2022 and 46.4% in August 2023.

• Agricultural productivity and investments (targets 2.3 and 2.a)

A 2024 report from GeoStat revealed that Georgia's agricultural sector contracted by 2.8% in 2023. Over the past decade, the sector's real growth has been limited to 7%, excluding the production and export of wine and spirits, which are not classified as primary production.

Government funding for agriculture has steadily increased, rising from 0.4% of the state budget in 2010 (30.6 million GEL) to 3.8% in 2022 (750.4 million GEL). Since 2012, total agricultural investments have surpassed 7.5 billion GEL, with nearly 2.0 billion GEL provided through public co-financing. However, despite adequate local funding, foreign direct investment remains negligible. The effectiveness of domestic expenditures is also under scrutiny, as they have not resulted insignificant growth in production volume, improved product quality, or enhanced value chains. At the same time, food prices and production costs, including labor expenses, continue to rise annually.

• **Agricultural resilience to climate change (target 2.4)**

Georgia's agricultural sector is highly vulnerable to socio-economic and climate change-related threats. In response, many individuals have shifted away from agriculture to other industries, contributing to rising urbanization and emigration trends.

In 2020, Georgia developed a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans (2021-2023 and 2024-2025). However, the second version of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement (2015) did not set specific targets for reducing emissions in agriculture. Moreover, as of 2024, Georgia still does not have a National Adaptation Plan for climate change.

Donor organizations and civil society play a critical role in enhancing agricultural resilience to climate change and promoting green transformation within the sector. Initiatives by various organizations/associations, such as for example the Georgian Farmers' Association and CENN have supported climate adaptation efforts in agriculture.

• **National systematic land registration project (target 2.3)**

The pilot phase of the National Systematic Land Registration Project was carried out from 2016 to 2019, followed by systematic registration in irrigated areas (2020–2022) and mountainous regions (2020–2021). While the project was initially planned for nationwide completion by 2024, its timeline has been extended to 2026.

Recommendations for the government:

1. Integrate cutting-edge technologies to enhance agricultural productivity and optimize the use of natural resources. Expand access to agricultural extension services to provide farmers with critical information on best practices, pest and disease management, and climate change adaptation strategies.
2. Ensure the availability of better dietary options, particularly for socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.
3. Develop credit and insurance products tailored to the specific needs of farmers, facilitating better access to financial resources.
4. Promote effective management of water resources and introduce measures to combat soil erosion, ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability.
5. Facilitate the active participation of smallholder farmers, women, and youth living in rural areas in the development of agricultural and food security policies.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



This section was prepared by Education Coalition

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)

This section focuses on two targets of SDG 4: 4.5 and 4.c, which address eliminating inequalities and developing teacher policies. Specifically, target 4.5 relates to improving equity indicators, while target 4.c focuses on increasing the number of qualified teachers.

• Introduction

The development of the education system is crucial for sustainable development, serving as a cross-cutting goal that supports other SDGs. However, in Georgia, the education system struggles to fulfill its commitments under the national SDG framework.

• Eliminating inequalities (target 4.5)

It is noteworthy that the government acknowledges the issue of inequality and highlights specific areas such as gender, socio-economic, digital, and other forms of disparities.⁵ Equally notable is the increasing participation of students with special educational needs in school education, which reached nearly 10,000 in 2020. Additionally, there has been a positive trend in the enrollment of children in early childhood education. The government has also prioritized the development of educational infrastructure. For instance, a 1-billion GEL project has been announced, aimed at large-scale construction and rehabilitation of schools. Additionally, the development and prioritization of a school meal program is a critical step forward.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain. International and national assessments reveal disparities based on school type (private/public), location (Tbilisi/other cities/villages), and language of instruction (Georgian/non-Georgian). Private school students consistently outperform public school students across assessed domains (math, reading, science). However, when comparing students of similar socio-economic backgrounds in both school types, the performance gap narrows, highlighting the impact of socio-economic status rather than school type. Similarly, students residing in Tbilisi outperform those in other cities, towns, and villages. Georgian-speaking students also achieve higher results compared to non-Georgian speakers.⁶ Additionally, students from low socio-economic backgrounds face significantly lower chances of university admission and receiving financial aid, largely due to centralized examinations.

Digital inequality further exacerbates the problem, disproportionately affecting students from low-income families. For example, only 52% of students from low-income families had internet access compared to 94% in urban areas during the Covid-19 pandemic. This period was especially challenging for students with special educational needs and those from ethnic minority backgrounds, whose participation in the educational process was significantly hindered.⁷

According to UNICEF, only 27% of students receive daily meals during school hours. Alarming, 35% never eat during school hours, and this figure rises to 45% among children experiencing material and social deprivation. Despite ongoing discussions over the past five years, there have been no concrete actions toward implementing a comprehensive school feeding program. Furthermore, the involvement of civil society organizations in developing such initiatives, and in shaping education policy in general, remains minimal. This situation has been further aggravated by the so-called “agents law,” which significantly impedes the work of these organizations.

5 Unified National Strategy for Education and Science of Georgia 2022–2030 <https://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=7755&lang=geo>

6 Chanturia, G. (2024). The Schizophrenia of the Education System: How Education Policy Remained Unchanged During the Georgian Dream's Rule. Social Justice Center.

7 Kadagidze, M. (2021). The Impact of COVID-19 on the School Education System: Assessing Learning Losses Caused by the Pandemic. Education Coalition.

Significant gaps also persist in the development of school infrastructure. Delays in renovation and construction projects have denied tens of thousands of students access to quality education, forcing them to attend alternative schools for extended periods. This often results in reduced academic hours, overcrowded school facilities, and other related challenges. Moreover, little is publicly known about the specifics of the so-called “infrastructure reform” and its implementation. Concerns have also been raised about the cost-effectiveness of these projects.

• **Teacher policy development (target 4.c)**

The goal of increasing the number of qualified teachers has seen progress with salary increases and improved hourly wages. However, for some teachers, salaries remain significantly lower—up to twice as low—than the national average. Additionally, increased workloads tied to higher salaries pose risks of professional burnout, potentially undermining teachers’ well-being. Moreover, the hourly pay system fosters competition among teachers, reducing collaboration and hindering the recruitment of young professionals.

From the 2016-2017 to 2022-2023 academic years, the average age of teachers has risen, with the number of teachers under 40 significantly declining—from 15,277 to 11,616.⁸

Recommendations for the government

• **Reducing inequality (target 4.5):**

1. Implement and support targeted programs aimed at providing quality education and reducing inequalities, particularly in supporting and integrating ethnic minorities. For example, develop programs to employ qualified teachers in rural regions (e.g., Teach for Georgia). Enhance digital resources, building on the positive aspects of the Tele-School project, which was unfortunately short-lived.
2. Expedite the implementation of the school feeding program linked to local production. A pilot program could provide the government with evidence-based insights for broader decision-making.
3. Create a transparent plan for school construction and rehabilitation.
4. Initiate discussions on alternative mechanisms to unified national exams, increasing university involvement and supporting vulnerable groups.

⁸ Centre for Civil Integration and Inter-Ethnic Relations (CCIIR): https://cciir.ge/images/Analytical_Bulletin_version.pdf

Teacher policy development (target 4.c):

1. Enhance the professional image and status of teachers, including support for public initiatives promoting the teaching profession.
2. Focus the professional development system on school-based training. Decentralize control over training programs to allow for diverse, accessible opportunities. This would empower professional organizations and create tailored programs.⁹
3. Develop specific policies and action plans to attract young professionals to the teaching field through targeted programs.

Civil society organizations should intensify their efforts in education policy through shadow monitoring, thematic research, and advocacy campaigns. Strengthened communication and collaboration with teachers and broader school communities are also essential.

⁹ Khadagidze and Chanturia. (2023). Overview Report on Sustainable Development Goal 4. SDG Lens.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The group of the following organizations prepared this section: *Association HERA XXI (team lead), Women's Information Center, Women Fund "Sokhumi", Women's Democracy Network of Georgia, Anti-Violence Network of Georgia, National Network of Women with Disabilities, Georgian Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, and IDP Women Association "Consent"*

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5)

This section reviews the following targets of SDG 5: 5.1 - End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; 5.2 - Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres; 5.3 - Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage; 5.5 - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life; and 5.6 - Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

• Reduction of discrimination (target 5.1)

Over the past three decades, Georgia has made significant progress in gender equality and combating violence against women, due in part to improvements in policy and legislative frameworks, especially in alignment with international conventions. According to UN metadata, Georgia has well-established legal frameworks that support, implement, and control gender equality in the public sphere. Despite this, the existence of gender stereotypes plays a negative role and hampers the effective implementation of the convention addressing the end of all forms of discrimination (CEDAW).

Methods that perpetuate gender stereotypes and discriminatory investigations continue to be employed, creating significant obstacles for individuals exposed to sexual violence. Legal representatives of sexual violence survivors indicate that some representatives of law enforcement exhibit dismissive and demeaning behaviors, which often hinder the participation of victims in the pursuit of justice.¹⁰ Moreover, there are no crisis centers specifically for the survivors of sexual violence.¹¹

Despite certain advancements at the national level, the general situation and conditions for people with disabilities and their families have not improved significantly. The intersectionality of disabilities and gender disproportionately affects women and girls with disabilities. State policy documents in Georgia insufficiently recognize the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities. This applies to health care, social rehabilitation, education, employment, and other programs.¹² Additionally, at the local level, municipal action plans, programs, and budgets for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities are not gender-responsive.¹³

LGBTQI+ women are particularly vulnerable to violence. In most cases, victims avoid reporting incidents to law enforcement agencies due to the fear of secondary victimization and the disclosure of personal information.¹⁴

• Elimination of all Forms of violence (target 5.2)

The country has progressively adopted legislative norms that define the forms of violence against women and girls, their characteristics, and accountabilities for such actions, establishing mechanisms for the prevention and protection of affected individuals. According to UN data, the legal framework for violence against women in Georgia is assessed with 66.7 scores out of 100. Despite this, the country faces critical challenges in this direction.

10 Sex Crimes – Unpunished and Poorly Regulated Crimes in Georgia, Open Society Georgia Foundation, November 2022, p.5; Accessible at: <https://rb.gy/fdkbp6>; See Also Joint CEDAW submission of Equality Now and 15 Georgian NGOs on factors effectively denying access to justice for survivors of sexual violence in Georgia, submitted in June 2021, p. 5. Available at: <https://rb.gy/k5ldll>; Tkheidze group v. Georgia (Application No. 33056/17), 1483rd meeting, 5-7 December 2023 (DH), CM/Del/Dec (2023)1483/H46-14.

11 GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Report Georgia, 2022, paras. 198-200.

12 Thematic Inquiry of the Parliament of Georgia (2019): <https://info.parliament.ge/file/1/BillReviewContent/242885>

13 Analysis of Action Plans and Municipal Program Budgets for Persons with Disabilities from a Gender Perspective (2022) : <http://wandr.ge/>

14 Joint Shadow Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): <http://ginsc.net/uploads/docs/b5ffb1814504598223a8849b022013fa.pdf>

According to a study conducted by the Women’s Fund “Sokhumi”, awareness of different forms of violence has increased compared to previous years. The most prevalent forms include psychological violence (83.6% of cases), and physical and economic violence (56-58% of cases). Respondent women less frequently discuss sexual violence (16.5% of cases), due to underrecognition and stigmatization.¹⁵

An additional significant challenge is the insufficient and fragmented collaboration, information exchange, and coordination between municipalities and local referral mechanism stakeholders on issues of violence against women and/or domestic violence. Furthermore, the early identification of crisis/vulnerable families and the implementation of appropriate responses for the prevention of domestic violence remain critical issues.¹⁶

The prevention of domestic violence remains the “weakest link.” There is inadequate awareness and sensitivity among entities within the referral mechanism—particularly at the primary healthcare level—regarding issues of violence against women in the family.

To protect, assist, and rehabilitate victims of trafficking in Georgia, the Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL) State Care and Assistance Agency for Victims of Trafficking and Persons Affected by Violence has been established and is operational. The agency provides trafficking victims with shelter and appropriate rehabilitation programs.

Despite the measures implemented, significant challenges remain in fully establishing and operationalizing a comprehensive rehabilitation system for perpetrators of violence against women and domestic violence.¹⁷ Additionally, there is a need to develop robust support mechanisms for survivors who leave shelters and must independently navigate numerous challenges, such as achieving full societal integration, securing employment, and addressing other critical needs.

In the area of sexual crimes, a significant flaw exists in the legislation regarding the definition of rape. Due to the problematic definition in the law, the only means of proving rape is the presence of visible injuries on the victim’s body.

Furthermore, violence and harmful practices against women and girls in both public and private spaces remain persistent issues. Risk assessment, preventive measures, and protective tools continue to pose challenges for authorities. Reliance solely on restraining orders, without accurately assessing risk levels, may fail to provide adequate protection against potential future threats.¹⁸

15 The Women Fund “Sokhumi”: <https://www.fsokhumi.ge/index.php/en/publications/gender-based-violence/item/14417-risks-of-violence-against-women>

16 The Women’s Fund “Sokhumi”: “Assessing the effectiveness of implementation of preventive measures on issues of domestic violence against women by municipalities.” (2023)

17 UN Women (2023): https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/updated_vaw_eng_web4-2.pdf

18 Social Justice Centre, Key aspects of systemic coping with violence against women, 2022, 16. <https://shorturl.at/hsyET>

• Early and forced marriage (target 5.3)

The elimination of harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriages, remains a significant challenge. Although the law prohibits the official registration of marriages involving minors, child and forced marriages persist as serious issues in Georgia.¹⁹ Families often circumvent legal accountability by avoiding the official registration of such marriages. Instead, they may organize engagement gatherings and wedding ceremonies, after which they are considered married.

Authorities face challenges in identifying cases of potential forced marriages, particularly when the individuals involved are aged 16-18. While the adolescent birth rate has shown a declining trend, in 2022, it still stood at 21.5 per 1,000 women.²⁰

Achieving the goal of eliminating harmful practices is particularly challenging in the context of women with disabilities. In Georgia, no data is collected on forced contraception, abortion, or sterilization of women with disabilities, making it impossible to understand and address the full extent of the issue.

• Full and effective participation of women (target 5.5)

Gender disparities across the three branches of government in Georgia remain significant. Women hold only 19% of high-ranking positions among ambassadors and 17% among ministers in the executive branch. In the defense forces, women make up just 7% of personnel.²¹

In the judiciary, women constitute 55% of judges in common courts. However, the largest gender gap in power is traditionally observed in the legislative branch, both at the national and municipal levels. Only 28% of parliamentarians are women.

Access to economic resources for women with disabilities is severely limited. Compared to men with disabilities, women are less involved in household economic decision-making. Furthermore, their pensions are often managed by family members without their consent. Women with disabilities are also significantly underrepresented in decision-making processes compared to men with disabilities (whose representation is also minimal). They hold no positions in parliamentary or local government structures, amounting to 0% representation.

Displaced women face significant challenges in engaging with decision-making processes. Limited awareness of programs designed to empower and support them further restricts their ability to contribute to decisions that directly affect their lives.²²

19 Report of the Public Defender of Georgia, On the Situation of Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, 2022, p. 160; Exploring Harmful Practices of Early/Child Marriage and FGM/C in Georgia, Final Report, UNFPA, 2017. See also CEDAW/C/GEO/CO/6 Concluding Observations on The Sixth Periodic Report of Georgia, 2023, para. 44. Public Defender's Office of Georgia, Harmful Practices of Early/child marriage in Kvemo Kartli: Research of Attitudes, 2021, p. 2.

20 National Statistics Office of Georgia (2023): https://www.geostat.ge/media/58119/Women_And_Men_In_Georgia_2023_ENG.PDF

21 Report of the Public Defender of Georgia, On the Situation of Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, 2022.

22 Research by the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia "Barriers to the Mobility of Persecuted Women

• Sexual and reproductive health protection (target 5.6)

According to UN metadata, as of 2022, Georgia's laws and regulations ensure full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education for women and men aged 15 and older (94%). Despite significant progress over the past two decades, recent years have seen regression in achieving international target indicators, particularly in access to safe abortion and the realization of sexual and reproductive health as a fundamental right for women.

Although the 2017–2030 Strategy for Promoting Maternal and Neonatal Health aims to ensure access to family planning services for vulnerable groups and the introduction of youth-friendly services, none of these objectives have been achieved. No state budget funds are allocated for family planning consultations or services, and these are not included in the service packages provided by state programs or private insurance. Additionally, the state does not include contraceptives in the list of medications covered by the universal healthcare program.²³ The strategy also fails to address access to safe abortion services.

Another challenge is the full integration of comprehensive sexuality education into the formal education system. The Georgian government has not implemented the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur to integrate education on gender equality, violence against women, and sexual and reproductive health and rights at all levels of education.

According to research by the association HERA XXI, the number of medical facilities providing safe abortion services in Georgia halved between 2016 and 2022. Furthermore, there is a growing stigma surrounding abortion among service providers and decision-makers, reflected in changes to regulatory frameworks and the rhetoric of ultraconservative groups in society. Many aspects of Georgia's legal and regulatory framework on abortion are problematic, contradictory, and inconsistent with Georgia's human rights obligations and the World Health Organization's guidelines.²⁴

In 2020, Georgia adopted the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but its provisions are so loosely formulated that they effectively do not require the state to take effective steps to ensure the reproductive health of women with disabilities. Despite the obligations outlined in the law and the relevant conventions, adapted gynecological services and state screening programs for women with disabilities remain unavailable.

In psychiatric institutions, there is still no screening for timely identification of breast and cervical cancers. The sexual lives of long-term patients in psychiatric clinics and beneficiaries living in group homes are effectively prohibited. Staff do not prioritize providing information or assessing beneficiaries' knowledge about contraception or sexually transmitted infections, even in group homes where beneficiaries theoretically can leave and establish sexual relationships. This lack of information and access to contraception disproportionately exposes women with disabilities to significant risks.

and Their Impact on Women's Economic Empowerment". Available at: <https://bit.ly/3l2s21z>

23 Public Defender of Georgia: <https://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019072913513711692.pdf>

24 Public Defender of Georgia: <https://ombudsman.ge/res/docs/2019040210585343203.pdf>

Recommendations for the government

• **Reducing discrimination (target 5.1)**

1. Develop communication skills training curricula for undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuous education programs, including new communication standards for engaging with persons with disabilities.
2. Establish rape crisis centers to support services for survivors of sexual violence.

• **Eliminating all forms of discrimination (target 5.2)**

1. Regularly conduct population surveys in alignment with Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention to evaluate the prevalence and trends of all forms of violence addressed by the convention.
2. Prioritize the risk of repeat domestic and gender-based violence by accurately assessing risks and determining whether restraining orders alone, electronic bracelets, or additional restrictive measures are necessary.
3. Develop corrective behavioral programs for perpetrators of violence.
4. Ensure the specialization of judges, prosecutors, and investigators in all cases of gender-based violence.
5. Increase awareness of economic violence and systematically criminalize economic violence as another form of domestic violence.

• **Eliminating harmful practices (target 5.3)**

1. Impose legal accountability for all forms of child engagement and marriage.
2. Develop effective mechanisms within the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Youth, including operational procedure guidelines for identifying, responding to, and referring cases of child marriage, supported by systematic training of school administrators, principals, and teachers.
3. Develop and implement a comprehensive life skills/sexual education strategy and action plan in line with UNESCO standards to prevent early marriage and harmful practices affecting children.

- **Ensuring women’s full and effective participation (target 5.5)**

1. Consider the specific needs of women with disabilities in all state gender-sensitive programs and policies related to women’s empowerment and rights protection, including economic empowerment programs.

- **Ensuring sexual and reproductive health (target 5.6)**

1. In line with the principles of the Istanbul Convention, develop and implement coordinated preventive policies to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. This includes eliminating harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriages.
2. Strengthen prevention efforts by formulating a national communication strategy on sexual and reproductive health and rights, led by the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health, and Social Affairs of Georgia.
3. Aligned with the maternal and neonatal health promotion strategy, provide access to information and services on contraception. This includes incorporating free family planning consultations and contraceptive distribution into the core offerings of Georgia’s universal healthcare program. This initiative seeks to enhance accessibility for young people, economically disadvantaged individuals, and all women while ensuring the seamless integration of family planning services within primary healthcare.
4. Review the regulatory framework governing safe abortion to address restrictive norms and safeguard women’s rights.
5. Fulfill the recommendations received during the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights.
6. Review of the 2017–2030 Maternal and Neonatal Health Strategy. Update the strategy to incorporate inclusivity and anti-discrimination principles.
7. Amendment to the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Revise Article 6, Paragraph 3, of the law: “The state ensures equal access to sexual and reproductive health rights for women with disabilities”.
8. Implement screening programs for cervical and breast cancer, pregnancy testing, and other preventive and treatment measures in mental health institutions to support the preservation of sexual and reproductive health.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



This section was prepared by CENN

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)

This section reviews the following targets of SDG 6:

6.1 - achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all;

6.2 - achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all; and

6.3 - Improve water quality.

In the 2024 Voluntary National Review, the only mention of SDG 6 is the adoption of the Law on Water Resource Management in 2023, aligned with the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive. While this legislation is a significant step forward, as it promotes integrated approaches to water resource management in the country, the report omits critical issues. Challenges remain regarding access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services for the population, as well as addressing water pollution and water loss.

Between 2020 and 2023, the proportion of the population connected to water supply systems increased by 5.6%, reaching 74.5%. However, over 900,000 citizens still lack access to these systems.²⁵ Notably, satisfaction with water supply schedules varies significantly between urban areas (81%) and rural settlements (49%).²⁶

Access to sewage systems also remains a challenge. Despite a 3.6% increase in the proportion of the population connected to sewerage networks from 2020 to 2023, 46.3% of the population was still not connected in 2023.²⁷ The situation is particularly dire in rural areas, where only about 20% of residents have access to sewage systems.

Monitoring water quality poses another challenge. The number of water quality samples collected nationwide is insufficient to manage drinking water quality effectively, develop a comprehensive database, and identify the current situation accurately.

Water losses during transportation by water supply companies are critically high. In 2023, 68.3% of the water supplied by these companies was lost during distribution.²⁸

Recommendations for the Government

1. Implement competent management practices and invest in the construction/rehabilitation of water supply and sewage systems infrastructure.
2. Expand the coverage area of licensed water supply companies and improve service quality in rural areas.
3. Introduce modern technologies to reduce water losses during transportation.
4. Increase the number of water quality samplings and strengthen laboratories with financial, human, and material resources.

Recommendations for Civil Society Organizations

1. Raise public awareness about water accessibility and sanitation conditions.
2. Monitor the governance and delivery of water resource management services.

25 The National Statistics Office of Georgia: [C-5.-Water-supply-industry-and-population-connected-to-water-supply-industry_GEO.xlsx](#)

26 UNDP Georgia (2021): [undp-georgia-frld-citizen-satisfaction-survey-2021-geo.pdf](#)

27 The National Statistics Office of Georgia: [C-14.-Population-connected-to-wastewater-treatment_GEO.xlsx](#)

28 The National Statistics Office of Georgia: [C-7.-Water-losses_GEO.xlsx](#)

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



This section was developed by World Experience Georgia

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7)

• Introduction

Georgia's energy sector has undergone significant changes over the past five years. The new Law on Energy and Water Supply, adopted by the Georgian Parliament in 2019, establishes the primary framework for energy sector development. In addition, the parliament approved several laws in 2019-2020 aimed at improving energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy sources.

Since early 2021, Georgia has been working on an integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for 2030.²⁹ The NECP aims to outline Georgia's strategy and goals for energy and climate action over the next decade, underscoring the country's commitment to sustainable development and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

• Implementation of SDG 7

While notable progress has been made, access to clean energy remains a challenge for Georgia, particularly in rural areas. Despite efforts to develop access to gas, biomass (mainly wood) remains the primary energy source used for heating in the regions. Biomass also represents a significant share of the cooking market. In 2022, over 42% of rural households (and 6.2% of urban households) were using wood for cooking, and 68% of rural households (10.5% of urban households) were using wood for heating with individual heating facilities (Geostat, 2022).³⁰ Wood is mainly burned in traditional, inefficient woodstoves which leads to indoor air pollution. The combustion of wood in inefficient stoves also has an impact on how people heat their homes: in winter, many households heat only one or two rooms of their dwelling. These factors combined put a considerable part of the Georgian population at risk of energy poverty.³¹

The health risks associated with energy poverty have been addressed in several international publications. According to UNESCAP (2021), indoor air pollution in Georgian households is a significant problem, contributing to the burden of disease.³² ESMAP (2021) highlights the problem of underheating in Georgian homes, noting that temperatures often fall below the WHO's recommended 18°C for a healthy living environment. This problem disproportionately affects vulnerable groups such as pensioners, homemakers, and the disabled, who spend more time at home.³³

Regarding the development of Renewable Energy Sources, the share of renewable energy sources in Georgia's total final energy consumption was 22.4% in 2022 (Geostat, 2023).³⁴ The

29 National Energy and Climate Plan of Georgia, Draft document, March 2023. Accessed at <https://www.energy-community.org/implementation/package/NECP.html>

30 National Statistics Office of Georgia. (2022). "Energy Consumption in Households". Accessed at https://www.geostat.ge/media/52116/Publication_Energy-Consumption-in-Households.pdf

31 Kvaratskhelia, T., Dubois, U. (2023). Understanding Energy Poverty in Georgia. Accessed at http://weg.ge/sites/default/files/final_understanding_energy_poverty_in_georgia.pdf

32 UNESCAP. (2021), Situational Assessment for Household Energy Needs in Georgia, United Nations ESCAP, Energy Division, September 2021.

33 World Bank, ESMAP. (2021) State of underheating in Georgia and estimation of associated economic costs.

34 National Statistics Office of Georgia. (2023). "Energy Balance of Georgia 2022". Accessed at https://www.geostat.ge/media/59320/Publication-Energy-Balance-of-Georgia_2022.pdf

draft Energy Policy document aims to increase this share to 27.4% by 2030, with sectorial targets for electricity (85%), transport (7%), and heating and cooling (7%).³⁵ This reflects Georgia's commitment to expanding the use of renewable energy sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. However, the development of renewable energy sources, especially hydroelectric power plants (HPPs), is a topic of ongoing debate. The construction of major reservoir HPPs has been suspended, raising concerns about achieving the 2030 renewable energy target.

Georgia has introduced market-based support schemes for the development of renewable energy. However, in order to fully operationalize these schemes, amendments to the Renewable Energy Law are crucial to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework. In addition, intraday and day-ahead electricity markets need to be established. The integration of renewable energy in the heating and cooling sector has not progressed significantly, and the establishment of renewable energy communities is still at an early stage (Energy Community, 2023).³⁶

In terms of energy efficiency, the country has made significant progress in implementing the EU Clean Energy Package. A law on the energy performance of buildings and key by-laws are in place. Georgia has developed several strategies and action plans to promote energy efficiency. Energy intensity, measured in terms of primary energy (TJ) and real GDP (million GEL in 2014 prices), was 5.23 in 2022. It has decreased by 19% during the period 2015-2022.³⁷

Effective implementation of existing laws and strategic objectives requires a system of secondary legislation and coordinated efforts of relevant bodies, which is a major challenge today. The development of secondary legislation is underway, but the establishment of an effective institutional framework remains a challenge. While the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development is responsible for the development of energy efficiency policies and legislation, there is currently no implementing body (Energy Efficiency Agency) to execute the planned policies.

There is a need to develop qualification, accreditation, and certification schemes for energy service providers, energy auditors, energy managers, and other professionals in the energy sector. In addition, a sustainable financing mechanism for energy service companies (ESCOs) is needed to ensure the successful implementation of energy efficiency projects. The achievement of target indicators depends not only on financial resources, but also on the development of appropriate educational programs, the training of qualified personnel, and the collection and analysis of data necessary for energy efficiency indicators.

35 Georgia's Draft National Energy Policy (2023). Accessed at https://www.economy.ge/uploads/files/2017/energy/2023/skopingi/4_sakartvelos_sakhelmtsifos_energetikuli_politika.pdf

36 Energy Community (2023). Georgia, Annual Implementation Report. Accessed at <https://www.energy-community.org/implementation/report/Georgia.html>

37 Based on Geostat energy balance and GDP data.

• Conclusion

Georgia is making progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 on increasing access to clean energy. However, there is still a need for targeted policies and support measures to reduce energy poverty, increase the share of renewable energy, and improve energy efficiency. Despite efforts to expand access to clean energy, challenges remain, particularly in rural areas, where biomass is the main source of energy for heating. Strengthening policies and implementing programs to promote renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency will be critical for Georgia to achieve its sustainability goals.

Recommendations for the government

1. To Improve regulatory and economic instruments to make investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency more attractive. In addition, increasing the availability of targeted financing, loans, and grants to businesses and households can help overcome financial barriers to the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. These efforts can stimulate investment in sustainable energy solutions and contribute to Georgia's sustainable development.
2. To promote the development of renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency in Georgia, it is essential to develop public awareness campaigns. These campaigns should emphasize the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency in stimulating economic development and enhancing Georgia's energy security. Efforts should also be made to ensure more effective public participation in the decision-making process regarding new renewable energy projects. This can be achieved through strategic communication and the provision of more resources for public engagement. Furthermore, improved enforcement of environmental standards is essential to ensure that new energy projects adhere to sustainable practices.
3. To address the root causes of energy poverty in Georgia, long-term measures should be introduced. Structural causes of energy poverty, such as inadequate housing and lack of access to clean energy sources and technologies, need to be tackled. This can be achieved through comprehensive strategies that focus on improving housing conditions, promoting energy-efficient technologies, and increasing access to clean energy sources.
4. Promoting vocational education and training tailored to the needs of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies is crucial for their successful implementation. Businesses should be actively involved in this process to ensure that education is aligned with industry needs. The development of work-based learning programs, apprenticeships, and internships can provide students with practical skills and experience. In addition, businesses can contribute to curriculum development and provide input on the skills and knowledge needed in the industry. Offering incentives such as tax breaks or access to funding can further encourage businesses to participate in vocational education.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



This section was prepared by the Georgian Trade Unions Confederation

Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8)

This section reviews the following targets of SDG8: 8.5 - achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value; and 8.8 - Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers.

- **Full employment and decent work with equal pay (target 8.5)**

In Georgia, there is significant salary inequality. The 346 highest-paid individuals earn as much as 266,000 of the lowest-paid workers combined. Additionally, 119,000 (12.5%) of high-income earners earn the same amount as 794,000 low-income workers (82% of the employed population). Income inequality is reflected in relative poverty, which has only decreased by 1.5% over the past 20 years, reaching 19.8%. The Gini coefficient, a measure of income inequality, has remained almost unchanged, dropping only by 0.02 from 2006 to 2023, currently standing at 0.36.

The significant income disparity is a consequence of the labor market policies. The minimum wage in the private sector has been set by a presidential decree since 1999, which still stipulates a monthly wage of 20 Georgian lari. The income tax rate is also set at a flat rate. These factors have perpetuated wage inequality for decades.

However, a positive change occurred in 2023, when a different minimum wage was introduced for medical personnel working under the universal healthcare program.

- **Gender equality and women's labor rights**

In Georgia, women's economic activity lags significantly behind men's. The number of economically active men has consistently been almost 1.5 times higher than that of women in recent years. There is also a considerable gender wage gap. According to The Georgian Trade Unions Confederation, gender disparities in the labor market stem from stereotypes, women's employment in low-wage sectors, vertical segregation, and other factors hindering women's career advancement.

Despite Georgia's ratification of ILO Convention No. 100 on "Equal Remuneration," the principle of equal pay for work of equal value is not fully reflected in the country's legislation. Although changes were made to the Labor Code in recent years to address equal pay for equal work, the ILO convention calls for the evaluation of work of equal value across different positions, a practice that Georgia has not yet adopted.

Another key issue is maternity leave compensation. In the public sector, maternity leave is fully paid, while in the private sector, the government provides a maximum of 2,000 Georgian lari for up to six months. Informally employed individuals, including those working via platforms, are excluded from receiving this support, as they are still regarded as "service providers" by both the state and employers.

- **Labor rights protection and promoting a safe working environment (Target 8.8)**

In September 2020, the Georgian Parliament introduced legislative amendments to the Labor Code and reinstated the Labor Inspectorate. While The Georgian Trade Unions Confederation was involved in this process and many of their recommendations were considered, several unresolved challenges remain. The country's labor legislation is still not fully aligned with international standards and does not offer comprehensive protection in areas such as working hours, overtime work, maternity protection, gender pay gaps, the right to strike, minimum wages, etc.

Working hours

The Georgian Labor Code defines the length of the standard working week as 40 hours for adult employees. However, for those in “specific work regimes,” the working week of 48 hours is set. “Specific work regimes” refer to industries where production processes last more than 8 hours. The list of sectors subject to specific working hours was defined by a government decree in 2022 but is based on discriminatory practices rather than objective criteria.

While the Labor Code limits the number of weekly working hours, it does not set a daily limit. There have been cases where employees have worked for 24 hours, which is not prohibited by law.

In contrast, the Public Service Law stipulates that working hours cannot exceed 8 hours per day, which creates a discrepancy between public and private sector employees, amounting to discrimination.

Overtime work

According to the Georgian Labor Code, overtime should be compensated at an increased rate, determined through mutual agreement. However, the legislation does not specify the maximum number of overtime hours or the rate at which overtime should be paid.

The ILO's First Convention on working hours specifies that overtime should be compensated at no less than a 25% increase in pay, but in Georgia, overtime is often either not compensated or paid at a minimal rate.

The Georgian Labor Code does not ensure adequate compensation for rest days either.

Trade union rights

The Labor Code and the Organic Law on “Trade Unions” guarantee the right to collective bargaining. As per the 2020 amendments, if collective agreements are not upheld, employees can appeal to the courts or the Labor Inspectorate, which is a positive step. However, collective bargaining is still not sufficiently encouraged or supported by the government, and the legislative changes have not led to tangible results.

A critical challenge remains the ineffective collective bargaining process and the limited number of collective agreements. Moreover, social dialogue in a tripartite format is insufficient. Although a national-level commission exists, regional commissions have been established in only two regions as pilot programs.

• **Mandatory mediation and the right to strike**

The obligation to undergo mediation before exercising the right to strike is a significant barrier for employees in Georgia, as it often hinders the process of reconciling positions between employees and employers.

In Georgia, the right to strike is restricted for a significant portion of public sector employees. According to the International Labour Organization's approach, the same treatment should not be applied to all public institutions, and a list of emergency services should be defined. Georgia defines this list broadly, which results in a substantial portion of employees being denied the right to strike.

• **Occupational safety**

Georgia has ratified 18 ILO Conventions, none of which are related to the Labor Inspectorate. The Georgian Trade Unions Confederation has long advocated for the ratification of five ILO conventions related to labor inspections, including:

- Convention No. 155 "Occupational Health and Safety"
- Convention No. 81 "Labor Inspection"
- Convention No. 121 "Benefits for Workers Injured in the Workplace"
- Convention No. 176 "Health and Safety in Mines"
- Convention No. 187 "Promoting Occupational Health and Safety Framework"

Despite some recent improvements, workplace accidents remain a significant concern. According to research by the Union of Professional Unions of Georgia, the following factors contribute to workplace accidents:

- The lack of personal protective equipment or equipment that does not meet required standards.
- Insufficient monitoring of work processes by the administration.
- Inadequate qualifications of employees.

Despite some progress in occupational safety in recent years, labor legislation remains imperfect, and informal workers continue to be outside the scope of legal protection. International standards clearly state that occupational safety should cover all sectors of the economy, including informal workplaces.

Recommendations for the government

- **To reduce inequalities in the labor market and improve working conditions (Target 8.5):**

1. Implement a fair and adequate minimum wage.
2. Provide ratification of Key ILO Conventions: C183 - Maternity Protection Convention; C190 - Violence and Harassment Convention; C156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention; C189 - Domestic Workers Convention.
3. Ensure equal treatment in maternity leave policies for employees in both the private and public sectors.
4. Include a comprehensive definition of equal pay for work of equal value in the Labor Code and develop a robust methodology to enforce this principle.
5. Encourage and support increased representation of women in decision-making positions.
6. Implement a progressive income tax system.

- **To promote labor rights protection and safe working environments (Target 8.8):**

1. Define an 8-hour workday.
2. Establish overtime pay rates in the Labor Code, no less than 125% of the standard wage.
3. Introduce additional compensation for night work: Implement benefits for employees working night shifts.
4. Introduce unemployment insurance or assistance programs to support workers during periods of joblessness.
5. Take steps to formalize informal employment and ensure labor protections apply to informal workers.
6. Grant labor inspection authorities the mandate to identify occupational diseases and implement compensation mechanisms.
7. Ratification of Key ILO Conventions: C155 - Occupational Safety and Health Convention; C81 - Labor Inspection Convention; C121 - Employment Injury Benefits Convention; C176 - Safety and Health in Mines Convention; C187 - Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention.
8. Increase human resources for labor inspections and establish regional offices for better oversight and enforcement.

Recommendations for Civil Society Organizations

1. Collect, analyze, and monitor data on labor rights and working conditions in Georgia.
2. Develop programs to assist women in transitioning from education to the workforce, focusing on skills development and business support.
3. Continue information campaigns addressing stereotypes about women's professional capabilities and their role in the family.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



This section was prepared by CENN

Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12)

This section reviews the following targets of SDG 12:
12.3 - halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses; and
12.5 - substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

Since 2020, Georgia has made several advancements toward achieving SDG 12, supported by international donor organizations.

With funding from the Swedish government, Georgia conducted its first evaluation of the circularity level of its economy. This assessment identified the current state of circularity in the country and highlighted 14 sectors with high potential for developing circular models.³⁸

In 2022, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations were adopted for four waste streams: oils, batteries and accumulators, electrical and electronic equipment, and tires.

In 2021, efforts began to develop a legislative framework addressing food loss and waste, which includes provisions for establishing food banks in Georgia. The operation of these food banks is expected to significantly contribute to reducing food loss and waste in the country.

• Challenges

According to the EU Waste Framework Directive, the most prioritized approach to waste management is prevention or reduction of waste generation, followed by reuse and recycling.³⁹

While Georgia's National Waste Management Strategy for 2016–2030 declares a vision of becoming a waste prevention- and recycling-oriented country, the corresponding action plan lacks sufficient activities and mechanisms to effectively support waste prevention.

For instance, Objective 5 of the strategy, which addresses waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and/or recovery, primarily focuses on developing programs for waste prevention and reuse but does not specify concrete actions or mechanisms for prevention. This includes, for example, a lack of clear state approaches at the production level or regulations for imported products.⁴⁰

The same gap is observed in the current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system. While EPR's primary function is to promote product designs that minimize waste or enable reuse, this priority is not yet evident in the EPR schemes implemented in Georgia.

Currently, the state lacks effective standards and regulatory mechanisms for business operators. On the one hand, there are no internal standards to promote sustainable production, waste prevention, reuse-oriented manufacturing, and recycling. On the other hand, similar regulations do not apply to imported products.

One of the major challenges in Georgia remains the construction of landfills that meet modern standards and the prevention of illegal and spontaneous dumpsites. Although international financial institutions such as KfW and EBRD have mobilized funding for the construction of regional landfills, the selection of suitable locations remains a significant issue, as local

38 [Assessment of Georgia's Economic Circularity Level - 2022.pdf \(orkisi.ge\)](#)

39 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/98/2018-07-05>

40 Georgia's National Waste Management Strategy for 2016–2030 <https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/PublicInformation/34073/>

communities oppose landfills near residential areas. This highlights the critical importance of prioritizing waste prevention to minimize the volume of waste requiring landfill disposal.

Another key challenge is the lack of systematic approaches and coordinated efforts in waste prevention. Ensuring waste prevention requires identifying needs and challenges at every stage of the value chain (production, processing, distribution, consumption), generating relevant knowledge, developing infrastructure, and establishing regulations and standards. These measures are essential to minimize waste generation across all levels of the value chain. Furthermore, partnerships and collaboration among public, private, and civil sectors are vital for success.

Food loss and waste are critical components of SDG 12. However, to date, Georgia has not conducted any comprehensive studies to evaluate food loss and waste across the entire value chain on a national scale. The available data remain fragmented and incomplete.

Recommendations for the government

1. Promote meaningful involvement of civil society organizations in developing waste prevention plans.
2. Encourage the creation of product designs that generate less waste by implementing restrictions on manufacturers.
3. Ensure that appropriate actions are carried out at all stages of the value chain and facilitate coordination among all potential stakeholders.
4. Set standards aimed at waste prevention for both domestic market operators and imported products.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



This section was prepared by Georgia's Environmental Outlook

Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13)

This section reviews target 13.2 of SDG 13 - Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

• Introduction

The Fourth National Communication (2021) reports that Georgia's average annual temperature increased by 0.58°C between 1986 and 2015, compared to the baseline period of 1956-1985. Projections indicate that, if current warming trends persist, the average annual temperature could rise by 1.6°C to 3.0°C by 2041-2070. These projections are subject to further refinement based on ongoing research being conducted for the Fifth National Communication.⁴¹

• Policy frameworks addressing climate change

Since 2020, Georgia has undertaken substantial initiatives to enhance its national climate policy framework. This marks a considerable shift from the pre-2020 period. Between 2020 and 2023, the country adopted several key climate policy documents that define priority actions. Additionally, in 2023, the Parliament initiated work on a framework law for climate change.

Advancements toward meeting Target 13.2 have been notably driven by the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (2014), which incorporates specific commitments to addressing climate change.

To implement the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Georgia adopted the following documents reflecting its vision and specific mitigation actions:

- Climate Change Strategy for 2030 and the 2021-2023 Action Plan (CSAP): Adopted in 2021, with a new action plan for 2024-2025 ready for adoption.
- Georgia's Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy (LEDS-LT): Adopted in 2023.
- "Georgia's National Energy and Climate Plan" (NECP) (the document has undergone the strategic environmental assessment procedure. It is scheduled for adoption in 2024).

Despite recent progress, challenges remain that hinder the effectiveness of climate action.

The country has a range of sectoral strategies and action plans that were adopted before 2020 and remain in force due to their duration. However, since climate policy documents were adopted later (the earliest document dates back to 2021), climate change issues are less integrated or insufficiently addressed within sectoral strategies and action plans.

It is crucial that sectoral strategies and action plans incorporate the objectives of CSAP, LEDS, and NECP to ensure that climate change issues are thoroughly analyzed and appropriate mitigation measures are identified.

In 2022, the government of Georgia approved the strategic document "Vision 2030," which defines the country's long-term priorities for sustainable development.

⁴¹ The work on the Fifth National Communication will be completed in 2024.

Although work on the NECP document was actively underway at the time, and the CSAP had been adopted, climate change commitments already defined in existing documents are not fully integrated into the determination of sectoral development priorities (e.g., the renewable resource development section of the energy sector, and sections dedicated to transport, tourism, and infrastructure sectors).

Georgia has not yet developed a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for climate change. Unfortunately, the commencement of work on the document has been delayed.

One of the challenges identified by the non-governmental sector in the process of developing climate policy documents is the fact that specific areas prioritized for emissions reduction and energy security have not been analyzed from a cost-benefit perspective. This approach would allow the government to consider not only the economic and energy benefits of selected priorities (e.g., the development of small or large hydropower stations) but also the environmental, social, and cultural heritage impacts. Therefore, addressing this issue in this context could potentially alter the prioritization within the emissions reduction strategy.

A significant portion of policy documents and action plans lack a clear system for monitoring and evaluation and are devoid of assessment indicators, which complicates the monitoring of their implementation and the evaluation of progress in specific areas. It is essential to assess how comprehensively the outcomes of these plans and strategies are measured and to identify the challenges in this regard.

Public involvement in policy discussions is limited, partly due to low awareness. Efforts to raise public awareness and incorporate their feedback into policymaking are necessary.

Another concern raised by the public is whether their opinions and recommendations are sufficiently taken into account, as they are not always informed about the reasons for excluding certain views or recommendations from the policy documents.

As practice shows, Georgia is heavily dependent on external (donor) support for the preparation of climate-related policy documents and mandatory reporting documentation.

Significant financial resources are mobilized from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Georgia still requires assistance not only in financial terms but also in expertise. Due to years of donor-driven technical support, national capacities in this area have significantly improved. However, in certain areas, the lack of expertise continues to necessitate the involvement of international experts.

Another significant challenge is the mismatch between the staffing and resources available in the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the volume of work required. Considering the increased climate-related obligations, the need for policy document development, and the intensity of reporting, it can be confidently stated that the division's human resources are insufficient to meet the workload.

Recommendations for the government:

1. Ensure the alignment of sectoral policy documents under development with CSAP, NECP, LEDS-LT, and NAP (once it is finalized).
 2. Introduce a cost-benefit approach in the development of policy documents.
 3. Conduct a study on the country's expertise needs in the field of climate change and establish a systematic approach to expanding the pool of experts.
 4. Establish research centers in collaboration with relevant ministries, focusing on analytical activities and policy document development, essential for supporting decision-making processes.
 5. Ensure broad public participation in the document development process (e.g., local communities and public economic circles) and actively inform the public about climate change policy documents.
 6. Allocate adequate funds from the national budget for the development and reporting of climate policy documents.
 7. Strengthen the Climate Change Division with additional human resources.
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Recommendations for Civil Society Organizations:

1. Raise public awareness about climate change issues.
2. Inform the public actively about climate policy developments.
3. Encourage media involvement in covering state climate policies.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



This section was prepared by an independent expert

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16)

This section reviews the following targets under SDG 16: Target 16.10 - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements; and Target 16.b - Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

• Introduction

Since the preparation of Georgia's Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2020, the standards of human rights, the rule of law, and access to public information have significantly deteriorated between 2020 and 2024.

According to Freedom House's *World Freedom Index*, Georgia scored 61 points in 2020, which dropped to 58 points in 2024. In the same organization's Democracy Index, Georgia's score declined by 4 points compared to 2020, reaching 34 points in 2024, which has led to Georgia being classified as a transitional hybrid authoritarian regime. In addition, media freedom in Georgia has significantly deteriorated. In 2020, Georgia ranked 60th place out of 180 countries with a score of 71 points, but by 2024, it had fallen to 103rd place with a score of 53 points.

Against the backdrop of these data, the Voluntary National Review prepared by Georgia in 2024 fails to recognize the ongoing human rights crisis in the country. Instead, it emphasizes accomplishments that are largely declarative and bear little resemblance to the actual situation.

• The right to access public information (target 16.b)

The Constitution of Georgia and other legislative acts protect the right of every individual to access public information. This right is a fundamental element of open governance, enabling the public to oversee government actions and work alongside authorities to enhance the effectiveness of governance. In this regard, the data from the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) is noteworthy. Since 2010, IDFI has been monitoring the accessibility of public information in Georgia and presents the results to the public annually.

According to the latest report from IDFI, the situation regarding access to information in Georgia significantly worsened in 2022. Specifically, the percentage of responses received to requests sent in 2022 (58%) was the worst result since 2010.

It is also important to note that in 2019, the Constitutional Court of Georgia declared certain legislative provisions unconstitutional, which had previously prevented the release of full texts of court decisions made in open sessions as public information. Despite more than five years having passed since this ruling, the Georgian Parliament has yet to enforce the decision, resulting in continued challenges regarding access to court decisions.

• Promote and Enforce Non-Discriminatory Laws and Policies (target 16.10)

On March 3, 2022, Georgia submitted its application for European Union membership, which was followed by the European Council granting Georgia European perspective status on June 23, 2022, and outlining 12 priorities for the country's association path.⁴²

42 Twelve Recommendations for Georgia: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/twelve-priorities_en?s=221

These priorities focused on strengthening human rights and key democratic institutions to enable Georgia to achieve candidate status. One of the key priorities was the government's commitment to involving civil society in decision-making at all levels and ensuring a free media environment.

In this context, in March 2023, the Georgian government introduced the "Foreign Agents" draft law, which would classify non-governmental and media organizations receiving over 20% of their funding from foreign sources as "foreign influence agents." Following mass protests, the ruling party withdrew the bill on March 9, 2023, assuring that it would not be reintroduced.⁴³

In April 2024, however, the government reintroduced the "Foreign Influence Transparency" draft law, which, despite protests, was passed by Parliament in three readings. The law mandates that non-governmental organizations, broadcasters, and online media outlets receiving more than 20% of their funding from foreign sources register as "agents of foreign influence" in a special registry. Additionally, the law imposes financial disclosure requirements on these organizations and subjects them to monitoring by the Ministry of Justice, including the submission of sensitive information such as health, sexual, and criminal records.

The adoption of this law was condemned by several international organizations and countries, who urged the ruling party to refrain from passing legislation aimed at discrediting NGOs, broadcasters, and media organizations, which could ultimately exclude them from democratic processes. Legal assessments from the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR highlighted that the bill infringed upon fundamental rights, including the rights to equality, freedom of association, personal privacy, and others.

Ultimately, the government passed the "Foreign Influence Transparency" law, which has led to the stigmatization of NGOs, broadcasters, and online media organizations. This has led to a decline in public trust and reputational harm, while also impeding the organizations' operations due to the time, financial, and human resources required for compliance. The law is expected to harm relationships between these organizations and their beneficiaries, making their services appear undesirable and unreliable.

It is also notable that the law has negatively impacted Georgia's European Union integration process. According to the European Council's conclusion on June 27, 2024, the process has been de facto suspended. The conclusion states: "The European Council urges the Georgian government to clarify its intentions and amend its current course, as this poses a threat to Georgia's path towards the European Union de facto puts an end to the process."

Moreover, the law triggered protests across various sectors of Georgian society. Over 200 people were arrested during the demonstrations, with more than 90% found guilty of violations. The total fines imposed exceeded 230,000 GEL. The Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) reported that the protests saw disproportionate use of force, and ensuring the right to a fair trial for activists posed significant challenges. GYLA also highlighted that arbitrary administrative detentions were used to suppress protests and intimidate citizens. It is important to note that the individuals responsible for dispersing the protests, Zviad Kharazishvili, head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Assignments Department, and his deputy, Miller Lagazauri, were sanctioned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for activities undermining fundamental human

⁴³ Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: "Georgian Dream" has decided to withdraw the draft law that sparked mass protests. Available at: <https://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/a/32309708.html>

rights, including unlawful interference in freedom of expression.

According to the Constitution of Georgia, equality before the law is guaranteed. Additionally, Georgia's law on "Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination" prohibits discrimination in both private and public sectors.

Between 2020 and 2024, government policies and laws have significantly undermined the rights of the LGBTQI+ community. Notably, the protection of LGBTQI+ rights was removed from the political agenda. The 2022-2030 National Human Rights Strategy document excluded any reference to LGBTQI+ rights, and the government ceased to include their protection in its strategic framework.

In 2024, the government introduced draft laws on constitutional amendments and the "Family Values and Protection of Minors", which received widespread negative international criticism. While the constitutional amendments were postponed, Parliament passed the law on "Family Values and Protection of Minors".

The proposed legislative changes impose restrictions on fundamental rights, including the right to privacy, freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and academic and artistic freedoms. For instance, the law prohibits public gatherings or manifestations promoting same-sex sexual orientation or sexual relationships outside of heterosexual norms.

It also bans the broadcasting of content related to LGBT relationships or incest. The Venice Commission's legal opinion on the proposed constitutional amendments stated that the law conflicts with the European Court of Human Rights case law and could exacerbate the already hostile environment toward LGBTQI+ minorities in the country.⁴⁴

• Conclusion

In recent years, the laws and actions taken by the Georgian government have contributed to a significant deterioration of human rights in the country. The legislative environment has created existential threats to the functioning of NGOs, broadcasters, and online media outlets. This has compounded the difficulties in identifying and addressing human rights violations, making it increasingly challenging for civil society to play its vital role in upholding and promoting human rights. Moreover, minority groups, particularly LGBTQI+ individuals, find themselves living in a hostile environment, where the state has used them as political tools while failing to meet their real needs. Rather than fostering inclusion, the government's actions have reinforced an unfriendly atmosphere towards these groups.

44 Venice Commission Opinion on THE DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ON PROTECTING FAMILY VALUES AND MINORS, available: [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD\(2024\)021-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD(2024)021-e)

Recommendations for the government:

1. Revoke and annul restrictive laws: repeal the laws that infringe upon fundamental human rights, including the “Foreign Influence Transparency” law and any other legislation that undermines freedoms of expression, assembly, and privacy.
 2. Cease the discrediting campaign: end the ongoing campaign aimed at discrediting NGOs, broadcasters, and online media organizations. Return to a cooperative relationship with these entities to ensure their ability to operate freely and contribute to democratic processes.
 3. Ensure LGBTQI+ rights protection: take immediate steps to protect the rights of LGBTQI+ minorities by reintegrating their specific needs into the national human rights action plan and ensuring their inclusion in broader policy frameworks.
 4. Respect public access to information: uphold the right of citizens to access public information by responding promptly and transparently to public information requests in accordance with constitutional principles.
 5. Implement constitutional court decision: take the necessary legislative steps to enforce the constitutional court’s decision (N1/4/693,857) made in 2019 to ensure that its provisions are fully implemented.
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Recommendations for Civil Society Organizations:

1. Monitor and report on human rights: NGOs, broadcasters, and media outlets should continue to assess and inform the public about the human rights situation in Georgia, ensuring that citizens remain well-informed about these issues.
2. LGBTQI+ awareness and advocacy: raise awareness about the issues and needs of LGBTQI+ minorities to foster their integration into society.



shadow Report

Ergebnisbericht
Klimawirkung 2023