



Project Brief

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS - GEORGIA



Women's economic empowerment is increasingly considered to be a prerequisite for realizing gender equality, strengthening women's agency and achieving sustainable development for all as agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim to reduce inequalities and to "leave no one behind".

The UN Women project "Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus" (WEESC) was initiated in August 2018 and aims to ensure that women, particularly the poor and socially excluded, in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are economically empowered and participate in relevant decision-making. The project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Situation in Georgia

Georgia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1994. The Constitution of Georgia (including amendments approved by the Parliament of Georgia in 2017) and the Law of Georgia on Gender Equality (2010) provide women and men with equal rights and opportunities and recognize the need for specific actions to achieve equality between women and men. Gender equality is reflected in other relevant laws and in numerous policies, strategies and action plans. Despite significant progress in terms of the legislative and policy landscape related to gender equality, challenges remain in implementation and impact on the ground. According to the 2017 Global Gender Gap Report, Georgia ranked 94th among 144 economies with regard to how well they use the "female talent pool, based on economic, educational, health-based and political indicators".¹ Social and cultural barriers, gendered division of work and unpaid care work as well as weaker financial incentives for women to work, as reflected in the gender pay gap, constitute the major obstacles preventing women from engaging in income-generating activities.² Informal employment and the lack of stable job prospects in Georgia's regions make rural women most vulnerable economically.



On average, women earn 64 per cent of men's salary

The female economic activity rate is 58 per cent, falling behind the male economic activity rate by 17 percentage points

Source: GEOSTAT (2018), *Women and Men in Georgia*

Of those reporting that they do not work, 49 per cent of women, compared to 24 per cent of men, cite family circumstances as a reason, suggesting that women find it hard to reconcile childcare and work responsibilities

Source: UN Women, CRRC (2018)

¹ World Economic Forum (2017) *The Global Gender Gap Report*. Available at http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2017.pdf.

² CRRC (2018), *Women's Economic Inactivity and Engagement in the Informal Sector in Georgia*, UN Women.

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Women, particularly the poor and socially excluded, use skills, economic opportunities and relevant information to be self-employed and/or to join the formal labour sector in Georgia (*grass-roots level*)

Outcome 2: Georgia implements adequate legislative and policy frameworks to enable women's economic empowerment (*policy and legislation level*)

Outcome 3: Government and public institutions develop and deliver gender-responsive programmes, public services, strategies and plans for women's economic empowerment in Georgia (*institutional level*)

Implementation Strategy

In line with the theory of change, the proposed project will bring about transformative change through a holistic approach, enabling linked interventions at three levels: grass-roots, policies and legislation, and institutions. This will be achieved through consistent dialogue and participation of women so that relevant institutions, policies, legislation and services respond to women's needs and enable women with strengthened capacities to empower themselves economically. The project will also support capacity development to mainstream gender in the relevant laws and policies, programmes and services to make sustainable contributions to women's economic empowerment.

Target Regions

In Georgia, the project will target nine municipalities in three regions: three in Kakheti (Akhmeta, Lagodekhi, Telavi); three in Kvemo Kartli (Bolnisi, Marneuli, Tetri Tskaro); and three in Samtskhe-Javakheti (Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Aspindza).

