



# **Report on the Implementation of 2018 Action Plan of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration**

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OFFICE OF THE STATE MINISTER OF GEORGIA FOR RECONCILIATION  
AND CIVIC EQUALITY

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Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality

## **Report on the Implementation of 2018 Action Plan of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration**

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**Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality**

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## Introduction

Protecting the ethnic minority rights and ensuring civic equality and integration is one of the top priorities for the Government of Georgia. In August 2015, with a goal to ensure the effective implementation of this policy, Government of Georgia approved the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and 2015-2020 Action Plan. The State policy seeks to ensure civic equality, enhance engagement of ethnic minorities in every sphere of public life, ensure access to quality education, improve knowledge of state language, promote their culture, and strengthen tolerant environment.

The Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia is responsible for coordination of development, implementation and reporting on the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan.

Implementation of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration continued throughout 2018. Activities were carried out as outlined in the strategy, and additional actions were planned to reach following strategic objectives:

- Equal and full participation in public and political life;
- Ensuring equal social and economic conditions and opportunities;
- Ensuring access to quality education and improving knowledge of the state language;
- Preserving the cultures of ethnic minorities and providing tolerant environment.

The Office of the State Minister is in charge of the State Inter-agency Commission, which was established to ensure the efficient implementation of the State Strategy. The State Interagency Commission is composed of the following entities: representatives of state institutions, local government bodies, Central Election Commission (CEC), and the Office of the Public Defender. The Council of Ethnic Minorities under the Public Defender is responsible for monitoring implementation of the state strategy and action plan.

**This report prepared by the Office of the State Minister reflects 2018 (January-December) Action Plan activities implemented by the state bodies according to the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration.**

## Resume - Overview of Implementation of Strategic Goals

The State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan defines strategic goals, interim goals, objectives and concrete activities. In 2018 Action Plan 4 strategic goals, 14 interim goals and 19 objectives were identified.

With the purpose of implementation of the objectives defined in the Strategy document the state agencies set up sub-objectives, planned programs/projects and activities. In 2018 some new initiatives were introduced, concrete measures were undertaken which aimed at more participation of ethnic minorities in all spheres of public life as well further supporting their culture.

During the reporting period, protection of the rights of small and vulnerable ethnic minorities and promotion of their full-fledged civic integration were under special focus. Within this priority a number of activities were undertaken. In particular, teaching of native languages of smaller ethnic minorities (Ossetian, Udi, Chechen, Avar, and Assyrian) at public schools was continued. Increased interest was revealed with regard to study of ossetian and Udi languages. Special programs were initiated and implemented for Roma as a result of which Roma children started to attend public schools and their number increased from 5 (in 2015) to 263 (in 2018). In the reporting period, registration of Roma was another priority issue. Two more Roma people were registered in 2018. In total within 2011-2018 75 Roma were registered and granted appropriate legal status. Roma population is provided with free legal aid as well.

Back in May 2017, the Office of the State Minister, based on local population's interests and regional development prospects launched needs/results assessment of the actions carried out in Pankisi Gorge with the aim to further elaboration of Pankisi Gorge Development Program. In 2018, Pankisi Gorge Strategic Development Program was drafted by the established inter-agency working group in the framework of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration. Several meetings and consultations were held with Pankisi Gorge population, in particular, members of the Council of Elders and the Council of ethnic Kist Women, employees of educational institutions, as well as civic society organizations working on Pankisi Gorge issues, and other stakeholders.

Special attention was given to raising awareness on Georgia's European integration. Extensive information campaign was carried out, which included first ever visit of Pankisi Gorge public school teachers/principals to Europe. A study trip to Brussels, Belgium, was organized to provide school teachers with objective information on European principals and values as well as the prospects of Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration. As a result of the study trip the teachers prepared information materials for their schoolchildren; they delivered the information on the EU and shared their experience with Pankisi Gorge young people.

In the reporting period, in accordance with the action plan, number of information meetings were held in ethnic minority settlements, mostly focusing on gender equality, early marriages, domestic violence, child protection and referral mechanisms and procedures. Implementation of the project “Youth for Gender Equality” was continued; within the frames of the Program the volunteers-educators conducted 200 meetings in 66 villages of 15 municipalities (8 additional municipalities were covered) attended by 6300 beneficiaries. Therefore, 90% of increase in terms of participants involved, geographic coverage and diversification of target groups was observed. Due to flexible approach and consideration of local needs by the donor organization involvement of all interested people was ensured.

Women’s social-economic empowerment was another important priority, through which a new initiative - a training course “How to start and develop business” was launched for women from Kvemo Kartli region. As a result of the training the participants have developed concrete business projects ready for presentation/submission.

Non-Georgian speaking citizens living in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities were provided with assistance while translating the documents submitted in non-state languages.

In order to improve participation of ethnic minorities in local decision-making processes, Advisory Councils at the Administrations of the State Attorney-Governor in the regions of Kvemo Kartli and Kaheti were empowered. The Councils held several meetings with participation of ethnic minority representatives, civil society organizations.

In the reporting period, young representatives from ethnic minority regions were provided with internship opportunities, in order to enhance participation in the public sector and improve their professionalism. Internship program should contribute to further expansion of their knowledge, professional skills, and in general to their civic integration. In the reporting period the number of persons involved in internship program increased twice in compare to previous year and equaled to 142.

Ethnic minority representatives participate in such political processes as elections. In the reporting period ethnic minority representatives were provided with all necessary information that could ensure their equal and full-fledged participation in election process. Moreover, special projects of the non-governmental organizations aimed at information delivery of elections and electoral systems were supported.

Improving access to mass media and information for representatives of ethnic minorities is one of the key priorities under the State Strategy and Action Plan. Therefore, launching a seven-language web portal ([www.1tv.ge](http://www.1tv.ge)) can be considered as a step forward.



During the reporting period a large-scale door-to-door information/awareness raising campaigns were conducted for ethnic minority representatives on the state programs, services and benefits, also on the issues of education, agriculture, human rights, women's rights, antidiscrimination, environmental protection. More than 300 information meetings were organized in the regions, including remoted areas.

Through infrastructural projects, social-economic conditions of ethnic minorities were improved. (Annex 1).

Education is one of the important mechanisms of civic integration. Ethnic minorities in Georgia have access to all stages of education (preschool, general, higher and professional), also in their native languages (Azerbaijani, Armenian, Russian). In this regard, some positive developments were observed during the reporting period. In particular, number of enrolled students within "1+4" educational program was increased 6 times, which demonstrates raised interest of ethnic minority representatives towards higher education in Georgia; qualification enhancement of teachers in non-Georgian language schools was promoted; also state program for vocational training was launched which aims to improve qualification of job seekers by offering training and retraining opportunities in the highly demanded fields, in order to increase their competitiveness and employment prospects.

One of the priority issues remains improvement of knowledge of state language among ethnic minorities that is still a challenge. The state language learning programs/courses were conducted for various target groups (schoolchildren, public servants, students) for the last years. In the reporting period Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration through its 10 regional training centers carried out the programs in which 3400 minority representatives were involved, 246 groups were established among them 171 mobile groups in 10 cities and 67 villages. Since September 2018 Zhvania School has conducted state language courses at military training bases within the military forces for ethnic minority representatives (303 persons were involved). Also, Georgian language learning courses have been launched at Ninotsminda Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church upon their request.

Various activities were undertaken which aimed at supporting ethnic minority culture and promoting intercultural dialogue. The state continued to support ethnic minority theaters, museums as well as cultural-educational projects.

In conclusion, it needs to be mentioned that the increased openness, interest and readiness of ethnic minorities towards participation in various spheres of social life was revealed that is considered as key positive tendency.



In the process of implementation various programs, projects, activities within 2018 Action Plan of the State Strategy the Office of the State Minister was supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UN Association of Georgia (UNAG) under the Promoting Integration, Tolerance and Awareness (PITA) Program.

## **Strategic Goal 1**

### **Equal and Full Participation in Civic and Political Life**

With the purpose to fulfil objectives under the above-mentioned strategic goal, following priorities were identified:

- ❖ Improving engagement of ethnic minorities at both central and local levels;
- ❖ Improving their participation/engagement in the decision-making process;
- ❖ Ensuring full and equal participation of ethnic minorities in the political processes such as elections;
- ❖ Ensuring civic participation by improving access to information and mass media, public services, public administration, and law-enforcement bodies and tools;
- ❖ Supporting small and vulnerable ethnic minorities;
- ❖ Ensuring protection and empowerment of women from ethnic minority regions.

#### **Interim goal – 1.1 Support to small and vulnerable ethnic minority target groups**

##### **Objective – 1.1.1 Developing and implementing policy for small and vulnerable ethnic minorities**

To fulfil this objective, following directions were identified:

- ❖ Protecting the identity of small ethnic minority groups;
- ❖ Ensuring registration of Roma people;
- ❖ Promoting inclusion of Roma youth in education system;

Protecting the rights of small and vulnerable ethnic minorities and promoting their full-fledged integration, is a top priority in the state civic integration policy. This effort is implemented by the relevant line ministries.

Throughout 2018, specific public schools continued providing classes to teach native languages of smaller ethnic minorities (Ossetian, Chechen, Avar, Udi and Assyrian).

The Office of the State Minister identified strategic goals, in order to ensure empowerment and inclusion of Roma people. In response to these objectives, in 2017-2018, several projects were carried

out in the framework of the following programs: Inclusive Education Support Program and Second Opportunity for Receiving Education through Social Inclusion, operating under the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport. Projects initiated by Roma youth, in order to improve Roma social inclusion, deserve a special attention. Six projects were funded, with a total budget of 24,464 GEL. 54 young people and 111 volunteers participated in this project.

Promotion of informal education helped inclusion of Roma children in formal educational system. As of 2018, 263 Roma children attend public schools in Georgia.

#### **1.1.1.1 Taking relevant measures for issuing certificates to persons without birth certificates or IDs, which will provide documentation for these people**

Issues of registration and confirmation of legal status of vulnerable groups, such as Roma, remain a challenge.

In 2018, under the project Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness in Georgia, the Ministry of Justice regulated identification data and issued IDs for two members of Roma community.

2011-2018 Statistics on registration of Roma, according to the Innovations and Reforms Center:

<b>Paperwork Category</b>	<b>2011-2018</b>
Issuance of Georgian Citizenship	1
Confirmation of Georgian Citizenship (ID card)	17
Confirmation of Stateless Status	18
Confirmation/Registration of Birth	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

#### **1.1.1.2 Effective work of the Council for Ethnic Minorities at Tbilisi Sakrebulo**

In the reporting period, the Council held 11 sessions and discussed 38 issues. The Council organized four rounds of free medical examinations for ethnic minorities living in Tbilisi. In total, 350 people benefitted from free medical examination and consultations.

In 2018, with the assistance of Tbilisi Sakrebulo and the Council for Ethnic Minorities, 20 ethnic minority representatives participated in thematic camps organized by Tbilisi Mayor's Office.

#### **1.1.1.3. Organizing presentations about municipal programs and providing state programs in ethnic minority languages for ethnic minority organisations operating in Batumi**

Batumi municipality organized a presentation of municipal programs for ethnic minorities in the “House of Friendship”.

#### **1.1.1.4. Thematic research on diversity heritage in Georgia**

- ❖ Inventory of Greek monuments in Trialeti;
- ❖ Inventory of Catholic monuments in Samtskhe-Javakheti;
- ❖ Complex research of Polish heritage – launch of inventory.

Research identified: up to 40 buildings designed by Polish architects and engineers, up to 400 paintings by Polish artists, 300 files documenting archives of Polish activities, up to 50 buildings owned or related to Polish people, numismatic materials; as well as Polish cemeteries in Tbilisi (Kukia Catholic Cemetery), Kutaisi, Batumi, Lagodekhi, Dedoplistskaro, Tetrtskaro, Manglisi, Pitavi, Uravli and other locations.

#### **1.1.1.5. Permanent exhibition about ethnic minorities living in Bolnisi – Bolnisi Museum**

Throughout 2018, preparations for 2019 exhibition took place in Bolnisi Museum. Exhibition will focus on Kvemo Kartli’s nature and cultural heritage, as well as identity of ethnic minorities living in the region.

#### **1.1.1.6. Exploring and exhibiting Jewish tangible cultural heritage in Georgia**

In 2018, preparations began to draft application for UNESCO to recognize 26-century-long unique Georgian-Jewish relations as intangible cultural heritage.

#### **1.1.1.7. Organizing traditional meetings between Jewish and Georgian societies, organisations, artists and scientists**

The David Baazov Museum of History of the Jews and Georgian-Jewish Relations, 26-century old Jewish-Georgian Friendship Society, and the World Georgian-Jewish Women Association “Esta” organized about 20 meetings involving Jewish and Georgian organisations, artists and scientists.

### **Additional activity**

- ❖ At the initiative of the Latvian Society in Georgia *Ave Sol*, Latvian language school was opened in the House of Friendship in Tbilisi. 12 children aged 7-10 are taking Latvian classes.

Special attention was paid to Pankisi Gorge development issues. As a result, **Pankisi Gorge Development Program** was adopted.

In May 2017, the Office of the State Minister, based on local population's interests and regional development prospects launched needs and result assessment of the actions carried out in Pankisi Gorge with the aim to further elaboration of Pankisi Gorge Development Program. In 2018, Pankisi Gorge Development Program was drafted by the inter-agency working group established in the framework of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration.

In the reporting period, following activities were implemented:

- ❖ The Office of the State Minister coordinated an information campaign about ongoing state services and programs. Pankisi Gorge population was informed about educational opportunities, vocational education, employment, healthcare and social protection, economic and financial programs, agriculture and environmental protection related issues.
- ❖ Under a joint initiative, the Office of the State Minister and the Information Center on NATO and the EU (LEPL), with financial assistance from EU Delegation in Georgia, carried out the very first awareness raising project for Pankisi Gorge women – Raising Awareness about Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic Integration. Under the project, 20 public school teachers and principals from Pankisi Gorge attended a 2-day seminar in Tbilisi. Participants were informed about the European and Euro-Atlantic integration process, discussed various aspects related to this issue, participated in the cultural program, and explored the capital. In the second stage of the project, a study trip will be organized in Brussels, where participants will be able to meet their European colleagues and learn about their education system.

In order to popularize Vainakh culture and strengthen the cultural dialogue, the Office of the State Minister supported and carried out following activities:

- ❖ The Office of the State Minister and women's union Caucasian Women Congress organized a special event dedicated to 155th anniversary since the birth of Mate Albutashvili, Kisti writer, educator and theologian. Event was supported by President's Reserve Fund.
- ❖ As part of events dedicated to the memory of writer, educator and theologian Mate Albutashvili, Youth National Palace hosted a special youth conference named "Mate Albutashvili's Biographical aspects and Work: Pankisi Gorge through Time and Space". 20 public school students from Tbilisi, Duisi, Jokola and Chargali participated in this event.
- ❖ Vainakh Culture Days - the Office of the State Minister and the University of New Georgia in Poti organized event with a diverse program: musical performance, public meeting about the phenomenon of Kisti people in Georgia and the Georgian-Vainakh relationship, presentation of books about Vainakh culture;

- ❖ The National Parliamentary Library of Georgia hosted presentation of a new book by Kist writer and poet, Maia Margoshvili;
- ❖ Kote Marjanishvili State Academic Drama Theatre hosted a play by Duisi public school students – Open Loggia. 10 students took part in this play;
- ❖ A special event took place in Duisi, dedicated to famous writer and public figure Gigi Khornauli's work. His books, including the stories about Kists, were presented to the audience;
- ❖ A horse race named after Dui Dishneli took place in Duisi, dedicated to 200 years history of Kists in Pankisi Gorge. Winners of the race were awarded;
- ❖ In the framework of the European Days 2018, David Agmashenebeli National Defense Academy hosted participants of the project Young European Ambassadors - peer educators and students from Pankisi;
- ❖ Pankisi Gorge students visited the Administration of the Government of Georgia and were introduced with the recent developments regarding civic integration. They also discussed interesting initiatives.

## **Interim goal - 1.2 Gender mainstreaming**

### **Objective: 1.2.1. Supporting elimination of gender discrimination**

Throughout 2018, agencies involved in the work of the State Interagency Commission continued implementation of specific activities and projects seeking to:

- ❖ Raise awareness about women's rights/gender equality;
- ❖ Provide information about domestic violence/early marriages;
- ❖ Support women's social-economic empowerment;

Throughout 2018, meetings were organized intensively regarding domestic violence and early marriages. Importantly, last year, geography and number of beneficiaries were increased.

In 2018, 30 young ethnic minority representatives were trained on above-mentioned issues. They, later, conducted meetings to inform ethnic minority settlements.

In 2018, special attention was given to development of business skills among ethnic minority women. As a result of this effort, they came up with specific business plans.

#### **1.2.1.1 Trainings on women's economic empowerment, elimination and prevention of violence against women, women's rights and women's political participation to be held in Women's Rooms, under Kvemo Kartli Municipality; Engaging Kvemo Kartli women in the business forum**

The Women's Rooms, established under the State Strategy on Civic Equality and Integration and the 2015-2020 Action Plan, continued their active work in Kvemo Kartli Region. This municipal service

operates in all seven municipalities of the region, with the goal of providing women with interesting and useful information and ensuring access to services as a most important precondition for their engagement.

In the framework of the United Nations Populations Fund's (UNFPA) global programme, Women's Rooms hosted meetings about Gender-biased Sex Selection and Prevention. Under the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, several events were organized in six municipalities, with active participation of Kvemo Kartli ethnic minorities.

Statistics of meetings held in Women's Rooms:

- ❖ Bolnisi municipality: 16 meetings; 8 trainings; 52 ethnic minority beneficiaries;
- ❖ Tetritskaro municipality: 11 meetings, 6 trainings, 175 beneficiaries;
- ❖ Dmanisi municipality: 5 meetings, 2 trainings, 38 beneficiaries;
- ❖ Gardabani municipality: 12 meetings, 10 trainings, 140 beneficiaries;
- ❖ Tsalka municipality: 18 meetings, 4 trainings, 40 beneficiaries;
- ❖ Marneuli municipality: 40 meetings, 8 trainings, 278 beneficiaries;

Throughout the region, the Women's Rooms hosted 156 meetings on: early marriages, domestic violence, gender equality, and other issues. A variety of training courses were delivered on human rights protection, small and microbusiness development, communications, leadership, business development, and other issues. In total, 740 women from ethnic minorities participated in these events.

Under Women's Rooms, free medical examinations and consultations were provided to 300 women representatives of ethnic minorities.

In order to support women's economic empowerment, Women's Room under Dmanisi Mayor's office offered 3-months intensive course on financial management. Three women representatives of ethnic minorities participated in this course.

#### **1.2.1.2 Supporting Women's Rooms in Kakheti municipalities**

Based on the memorandum (signed in 2017) between the Administration of the State Attorney-Governor, NGO HEKS-EPER and Mercy Corps, in 2018 municipal service Women's Rooms were established in all Kakheti municipalities, including village Iormughanlo (Sagarejo municipality).

During 16 Days campaign against Gender-Based Violence, Telavi Mayor's office, Gender Equality Council of Telavi municipality, Telavi's Women's Room, UNFPA and NGO WeCare (under the project *Men Care*) organized an information meeting in village Karadjala. The goal of this meeting was to raise awareness about gender equality among men.

Women's Rooms hosted information meetings about various issues, including: the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and social services and state programs (healthcare, agriculture). In order to support dialogue of cultures, managers of Women's Rooms organized a special event - Under One Sky – and a sketch of the so called “tolerant costume” was created. The Women's Room in Gurjaani municipality organized meetings in village Kitaani on following issues: domestic violence and violence against women, early marriages, bullying, and strengthening economic and political participation of the women from rural areas.

#### **1.2.1.3/1.2.1.6 Supporting Women's Rooms in Samtskhe-Javakheti municipalities**

Women's Rooms are operating in every municipality of Samtskhe-Javakheti Region. Through this initiative and with support from the municipalities, various activities were implemented to strengthen women's activism and ensure gender equality. Meetings were held with women farmers and women entrepreneurs, and trainings were delivered on screening program, domestic violence, trafficking, early marriages, women's political activism, and leadership skills. In total, 46 meetings (628 beneficiaries) were held in all six municipalities.

Representative on gender equality issues, under the administration of State Attorney-Governor, actively coordinates work of the Gender Equality Councils in all municipalities. It is notable that in the reporting period, based on the administration's request, GIZ delivered a training cycle on gender budgeting.

#### **1.2.1.5 Ensuring engagement of female public servants in the selection commissions**

Women have a balanced representation in the selection commissions, both in the administration of the State Attorney-Governor and the municipalities. Last year, twice, chairperson of the selection commission in the administration of State Attorney-Governor was a woman.

Ethnic minority representatives were represented in the selection commissions in municipalities. In Akalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities, commission chairpersons were representatives of ethnic minorities.

#### **1.2.1.8-1.2.1.10**

- ❖ **Evaluation lecture on the principles of gender equality for IV year National Defence Academy junkers (4 hours);**



- ❖ **Introduction training on the principles of gender equality and UN Security Council's Resolutions for I year junkers (2 hours)**
- ❖ **Introduction training on the principles of gender equality for 2018-2019 academic year students (2 hours)**

LEPL David Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy of Georgia supports the integration of the principles of gender equality and women's peace and security, an endeavor implemented with support of UN Women and the Women's Information Center. Classes on the Principles of Gender Equality and the UN Security Council's Resolutions are delivered for the new students as part of the curriculum of both the bachelor's degree program and the career schools at the National Defense Academy, including representatives of ethnic minorities.

In 2018, evaluation lectures on the principles of gender equality were provided to 88 IV year junkers, including representatives of ethnic minorities. During 2017-2018 academic year, a two-hour training on the Principles of Gender Equality and the UN Security Council's Resolutions was delivered.

#### **1.2.1.11 Study programs and trainings on gender issues, including for the representatives of ethnic minorities working in the police**

On January 11, 2018, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) established the Human Rights Protection Department within its structure, to ensure timely response and effective investigation of crimes. The new department will monitor investigation of the following types of crime:

- ❖ Domestic violence;
- ❖ Violence against women;
- ❖ Crimes committed on the grounds of discrimination;
- ❖ Hate crimes;
- ❖ Trafficking;
- ❖ Crimes committed by and/or towards minors.

The Human Rights Protection Department:

- ❖ Adopted analytical document illustrating trends and challenges of revealing and investigating hate crimes. This document was shared with MIA operative units;
- ❖ Started improving the process of statistical data collection on crimes committed on the grounds of discrimination.

MIA launched a specialization process among investigators to ensure effective investigation of violence against women and domestic violence. At the first stage, a study program was offered to investigators from districts with the highest rate of domestic violence; although specialized course will be delivered for all MIA investigative units. In the period of June-December 2018, 110 investigators attended a specialized course on investigation of domestic violence and crimes.

A specialized course was attended by 13 investigators from the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities:

- ❖ Sagarejo municipality – 3 investigators
- ❖ Akhaltsikhe municipality – 2
- ❖ Marneuli municipality – 2
- ❖ Gardabani municipality – 2
- ❖ Adigeni municipality – 1
- ❖ Akhalkalaki municipality – 1
- ❖ Ninotsminda municipality – 1
- ❖ Lagodekhi municipality – 1

Ministry of Internal Affairs and NGO Anti-Violence Network in Georgia, with financial assistance from UN WOMEN, continues its efforts to enhance qualification of law enforcement bodies on judicial mechanisms against violence against women and domestic violence. Within this cooperation, trainings for police officers are conducting across Georgia. During January-December 2018, 325 patrol-inspectors and community police officers were trained, including 25 community police officers from Marneuli and 25 officers from Aspindza.

In the period of January 1-December 31, 2018, above-mentioned training was delivered for 50 groups and 797 participants (including 15 representatives from ethnic minorities):

- ❖ Professional educational program for patrol-inspectors – 5 groups, 63 participants, including 2 representatives of ethnic minorities (Armenian and Azerbaijani);
- ❖ Special professional educational program for community police officers – 5 groups, 65 participants, including 2 representatives of ethnic minorities (Ukrainian and Yezidi);
- ❖ Special professional educational program for detectives-investigators – 4 groups, 75 participants, including 1 representative of ethnic minorities (Azerbaijani);
- ❖ Training and retraining course for employees of the temporary detention isolators – 8 groups, 119 participants, including 1 representative of ethnic minorities (Armenian);
- ❖ Special educational program for employees of the land border defence department under the border police – 6 groups, 90 participants, including 4 representatives of ethnic minorities (1 Russian, 2 Azerbaijani, 1 Armenian);
- ❖ Retraining course for community police officers operating under territorial agencies of the criminal police – 4 groups, 66 participants;
- ❖ Special educational program for touristic security infantry patrol police inspectors – 7 groups, 123 participants, including 3 representatives of ethnic minorities (Azerbaijani);
- ❖ Special course for position promotion course for patrol police department personnel – 4 groups, 68 participants, including 1 representative of ethnic minorities (Azerbaijani);

- ❖ Special professional training course for border controllers – 4 groups, 73 participants, including 1 representative of ethnic minorities (Armenian);
- ❖ Special course for position promotion for officials in the central criminal police department and territorial agencies – 3 groups, 55 participants.

During 2018, in the period of January 1-December 31, 42 representatives of ethnic minorities enrolled in the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (LEPL), including 21 ethnic Armenians, 14 ethnic Azerbaijani, 4 ethnic Yezidis, 2 ethnic Ukrainians and 1 ethnic Russian.

#### **1.2.1.12 Information meetings about gender equality for ethnic groups – members of the House of Friendship operating under Batumi Center of Culture (LEPL) -various diasporas**

In 2018, the House of Friendship hosted monthly information meetings about gender equality for the Women's Club. The goal of this project was to promote women's economic empowerment and elimination/prevention of violence against women, to increase access to kindergartens, etc. Throughout the year, 12 meetings were carried out. Women representatives of ethnic minorities were involved during meetings/thematic trainings organized by NGOs working on gender issues. In 2018, 3 information meetings were carried out on gender equality issues with various ethnic groups.

In September and November 2018, the House of Friendship organized 2 information meetings in the framework of the campaign against gender violence. During these meetings, Adjara Legal Aid Bureau lawyers conducted presentations about women's rights and domestic violence. They also provided free legal consultations.

#### **1.2.1.13 Retraining civic education teachers and class masters in prevention of bullying, and promotion of tolerant culture and gender equality**

In the reporting period, 6142 civic education teachers and class masters completed a training module on Preventing Bullying in School and Promoting the Culture of Tolerance.

#### **1.2.1.14 Developing practical learning resources about gender mainstreaming for teachers; organizing thematic meetings for implementing these resources**

The National Center for Teachers' Professional Development carries out activities to promote culture of democracy in schools. Gender mainstreaming is part of this effort. In cooperation with the Council of Europe, three volume learning resource was developed for teachers and education experts, which was presented during VI National Teacher Conference (number of participants - 140). In addition, in cooperation with Human Rights and Monitoring Center (EMC) ToT (Training of Trainers) trainings were delivered for teachers on gender equality issues (number of participants – 15 trainers).

#### **1.2.1.15 Training/meetings about gender equality in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities, in the framework of the project Youth for Gender Equality**

Under a joint initiative of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality and the UN Association of Georgia, volunteer peer educators held meetings about domestic violence and early marriages in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. These meetings were organized for various target groups: students, teachers, parents and community leaders. Notably, the meetings were held in state language, with the use of ethnic minority languages as a supplementary language, when necessary. Relevant materials were prepared and distributed in ethnic minority languages. Mobile groups delivered 120 trainings in 68 villages of 11 municipalities from 3 regions (3465 beneficiaries). Throughout this cycle, young trainers discussed following issues: gender stereotypes, affect of domestic violence on children, types of domestic violence, causes of domestic violence, referral system – hotline, state services, etc.

#### **1.2.1.16 Meeting with women from ethnic minority regions about economic empowerment**

Under a joint initiative of the Office of the State Minister and the Academy of the Ministry of Finance (LEPL), a training course – How to launch and Develop Business - was offered to women from Kvemo Kartli region. This course allowed 16 participants to improve their theoretical knowledge and develop business skills. All of them received certificates of completion.

#### **1.2.1.17 Organizing working meetings and trainings for women from ethnic minority regions about gender based discrimination**

With support from the Council for Ethnic Minorities at Tbilisi Sakrebulo, Women for Multi-Ethnic Georgia conducted trainings for public servants (under the project No to Domestic Violence) about gender mainstreaming in local governments. These trainings were led by qualified experts from Women's Information Center and Gender Equality Network. In total, 18 participants attended this training, including 7 participants from ethnic minority regions.

Ethnic minority women were informed about gender equality, protection from domestic violence and relevant legislative norms.

#### **1.2.1.18. Organizing educational/information meetings about violence against women and domestic violence, as well as public services, for representatives of ethnic minorities living in Tbilisi and other regions**

Under Reduction of Domestic Violence in Georgia, a project implemented by the LEPL State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia prepared brochures, stickers and calendars in Georgian, Russian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani

languages featuring an anti-violence message and the hotline number (116 006). These materials were delivered in minority regions in cooperation with the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality of Georgia, local municipalities, and the territorial entities of the LEPL Social Service Agency.

The hotline offers consultations on domestic violence, violence against women, human trafficking, and sexual violence. Besides Georgian, the hotline is available in seven other languages - English, Russian, Turkish, Azerbaijani, Armenian, Arabic, and Farsi.

It is noteworthy that, on March 20, in the framework of the information strategy of the Council on the Implementation of Actions against Human Trafficking, the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking conducted information meetings in village duisi (Pankisi Gorge) about human trafficking. 45 participants attended this meeting.

Under the Ministry of Justice grant program, with the goal to raise awareness about protection of children living and/or working in the streets from human trafficking, the winner organization conducted information meetings with local population in 10 large cities, including Akhaltsikhe. Citizens were informed about the risks associated with living and/or working in the streets, also how giving them money encourages children to stay in the streets, as well as about the state services for protection of this segment. Within the grant, implementing organization created videos and information brochures in 6 languages (Georgian, Russian, English, Azerbaijani, Turkish and Armenian).

Under the prevention component of the State Fund project Reduction of Domestic Violence in Georgia (USAID), several information meetings were carried out about violence against women, domestic violence and the Fund activities, targeting ethnic minorities. These meetings targeted school students in: Marneuli municipality - villages Tamarisi (45 participants) and Akhali Dioknisi (20 participants); Akhaltsikhe municipality - villages Skhvilisi (25 participants) and Didi Pamadji (15 participants); Akhmeta municipality - villages Jokolo (40 participants) and Duisi (45 participants); Lagodekhi municipality - villages Giorgeti (35 participants) and Afeni (30 participants).

#### **1.2.1.19 Women's economic empowerment**

On July 21, 2017, by the order (№1-1-319) of the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, a sub-council for women's economic empowerment was established under the Private

Sector Development Advisory Council. In the period of January-July 2018, the sub-council held one meeting.

- ❖ Women constituted 36,8% of beneficiaries in Kvemo Kartli region (25);
- ❖ Women constituted 52% of beneficiaries in Kakheti region (80);
- ❖ Women constituted 30, 6% of beneficiaries in Samtskhe-Javakheti region (41).

### **Interim goal - 1.3 Increasing access to state administrative and judicial bodies and mechanisms for ethnic minorities**

Events, programs and projects were carried out in accordance with the following objectives:

- ❖ **Objective: 1.3.1 Supporting translation of documents drawn up in non-state languages for non-Georgian speaking citizens living in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities - as required**
- ❖ **Objective: 1.3.2 Improving engagement of ethnic minorities in the Administration of Authorized State Representatives/Governors**
- ❖ **Objective: 1.3.3 Improving access to community services for ethnic minority representatives**
- ❖ **Objective: 1.3.4 Increasing engagement and professional development of ethnic minorities in public administration and public service**

Throughout 2018, response mechanisms to ethnic minority requests, at the municipal level, were carried out in accordance with legal procedures. Ethnic minority Representatives encountered no language barriers. When necessary, information was provided in a familiar language. Public servants representing ethnic minorities, involved in the work of the local government, were given oral explanations, when necessary, in their native or familiar languages.

Actions were taken to improve engagement of ethnic minorities at the local level. Advisory Councils for Ethnic Minority Issues, established under the Administration of the State Attorney-Governors, were even more active in 2018. Ethnic minority representatives were actively engaged in discussions around various programs and proposals.

Large scale information/awaranness raising campaigns were carried out about public services. Several meetings were organized with target groups in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities – Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti and Samtskhe-Javakheti.

On December 14, 2017, amendments were introduced to the Decree №410 of the Government of Georgia regarding the Approval of the State Program on the Rules and Terms for Internship in Public Institutions (June 18, 2014). In particular, internship procedures were defined for ethnic minority representatives. According to the amendments, ethnic minority students, who have passed the Special Education Program for Studying Georgian Language, are able to undergo an internship in public institutions and get sufficient experience and develop their professional skills, which will promote their engagement and civic integration.

#### **1.3.1.1. Supporting translation of documents drawn up in non-state languages for non-Georgian speaking citizens living in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities**

Representatives of ethnic minorities encountered no language barriers. When necessary, information was provided in a familiar language. There were no complaints regarding barriers caused by lack of knowledge of the state language.

### **Objective 1.3.2**

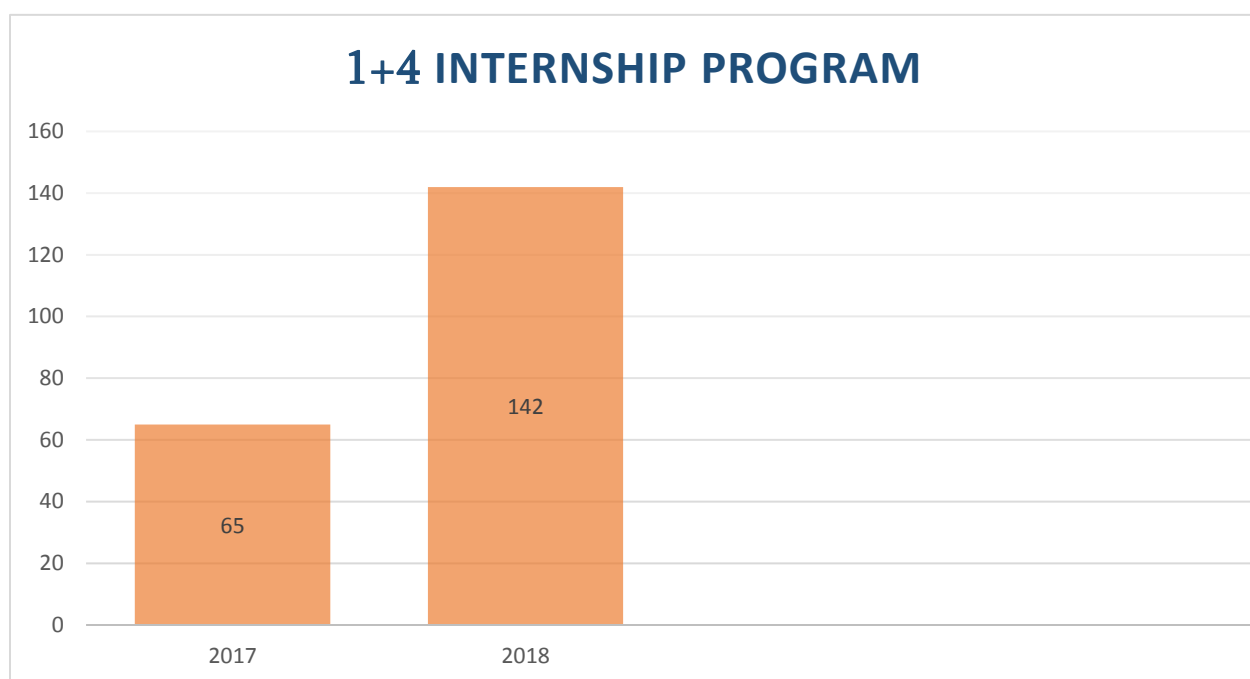
#### **1.3.2.1. Conducting sessions of the Advisory Council for Ethnic Minority Issues under the Administration of State Attorney-Governor of Kakheti**

A session of the Advisory Council for Ethnic Minority Issues under the Administration of State Attorney-Governor of Kakheti was held. Ethnic minority representatives from all relevant municipalities participated in this meeting and discussed ongoing programs and projects, as well as problematic issues for ethnic minorities. The council recommended municipalities to ensure access to information about projects and news in ethnic minority villages, and to find relevant funds in 2019 state budget for solving pressing issues.

#### **1.3.2.3-1.3.2.4 Implementing an internship program for ethnic minority representatives in the Administration of State Attorney-Governor and local government bodies; engaging the Administration of State Attorney-Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti in various state internship programs**

Under the 1+4 program, 142 beneficiaries (65 beneficiaries under the pilot program in 2017) did internships in various state bodies, including local government bodies and LEPLs.





#### **1.3.2.5 Engagemt of ethnic minority representatives in open calls announced by the Administration of State Attorney-Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti**

Throughout the year, Samtskhe-Javakheti State University was hosting information meetings where ethnic minority representatives were informed about open positions.

#### **1.3.2.6. Conducting meetings about the state policy on civic integration/ethnic minority rights in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities**

Throughout the year, several meetings were carried out about the state policy on civic integration in Samtskhe-Javakheti (Ninotsminda, Akhalkalaki, and Akhaltsikhe), Kvemo Kartli (Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Gardabani) and Kakheti (Pankisi Gorge, Lagodekhi, Sagarejo, Telavi).

#### **1.3.2.7 Increasing engagement of members of the Council for Ethnic Minority Issues in Tbilisi Sakrebulo activities**

Ethnic minority representatives were actively engaged during discussions about Tbilisi development plan 2019 and Sakrebulo's budget.

#### **Objective: 1.3.3**

### **1.3.3.1 Dissemination of information materials, produced in ethnic minority languages, about public services and ongoing state programs (psycho-social rehabilitation programs, educational programs, recent legislative changes)**

In order to increase access to public services, during January-July 2018, Ministry of Justice of Georgia disseminated information materials about public services and ongoing state programs in ethnic minority regions. These materials were disseminated through Community Centers, Public Service Development Agency territorial agencies and the Public Service Hall.

The Office of the State Minister carried out large scale awareness raising campaign to inform ethnic minorities (Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti) about public services and programs, including programs and news about agriculture, environmental protection, healthcare, social protection, economy and finances (more than 50 meetings).

### **1.3.3.2 Increasing number of Public Service Halls in Samtskhe-Javakheti region, in ethnic minority settlements; supporting construction of Public Service Halls (drafting relevant documents, identifying land slots)**

New Public Service Hall was opened in Akhalkalaki. Community centers were also opened in Akhaltsikhe municipality village Atskuri and Adigeni municipality daba Adigeni. Costs for landscaping were covered by municipalities.

### **1.3.3.3 Informing defendants/convicts about public services and ongoing state programs (psycho-social rehabilitation programs, educational programs, recent legislative changes)**

In 2018, 3460 beneficiaries were involved in psycho-social rehabilitation and educational programs in the penitentiary system, including ethnic minority convicts:

Type of program	Number of participants
General education	144
Higher education	38
Professional education (credits)	218
Professional education (certified)	507
Educational training-programs	480
Psycho-social trainings	766
Psycho-social therapy	1307

### **1.3.3.4 Informing ethnic minority defendants/convicts about their rights**

Defendants/convicts in all facilities have access to text videos about prisoners' rights, which are disseminated through TV channels. All penitentiary facilities offer free access to electronic materials

on the rights of defendants/convicts in five languages (Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Turkish and English). This information is available in print version in requested language (on demand).

#### **1.3.3.5 Information campaign about Georgia's European integration**

In the reporting period, informing ethnic minority representatives about European and Euro-Atlantic integration was one of the main objectives for the Information Center on NATO and the EU (LEPL). Up to 40 meetings were held for ethnic minority representatives, allowing direct communication with 4065 citizens. Meetings took place in the following municipalities densely populated by ethnic minorities: Marneuli, Bolnisi, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Tetritskaro and other.

Various activities were carried out in Samtskhe-Javakheti for ethnic minorities (competitions, concert, exhibition, information rally, study tour on Kutaisi military base, meetings, seminars); during information meetings, up to 2000 ethnic minority representatives had been informed about visa free regime, Association Agreement and the Free Trade Agreement.

#### **1.3.3.6 Conducting trainings/meetings under the project Young European Ambassadors in ethnic minority regions**

The project was implemented under a joint initiative of the Office of the State Minister and the UN Association of Georgia, with assistance from the Information Center on NATO and the EU. The goal of this project was to increase access to information (in relevant languages) about European and Euro-Atlantic integration in ethnic minority regions (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti). Youth mobile groups (30 participants), that attended thematic schools, informed Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti and Samtskhe-Javakheti residents about Georgia's European integration and its benefits. In total, 80 trainings were carried out (2133 beneficiaries) in 56 villages of 10 municipalities (3 regions).

#### **1.3.3.7 Organizing information meetings and introducing Sakrebulo's work to ethnic minority youth representatives**

A special youth organization was established under the Council for Ethnic Minorities, which is involved in implementation of Tbilisi Sakrebulo's youth policy. Sakrebulo's Sport and Youth Affairs Commission organized the first youth forum, with participation of 4 ethnic minority representatives (Ukrainian, Assyrian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani).

#### **1.3.3.9 Preparing/disseminating educational and video materials on healthcare, under the state healthcare program**

Information and educational materials, smoking ban signs, flyers and brochures were printed, including:

- ❖ Under the state healthcare program, 2 videos were created on Hepatitis C with subtitles in Armenian and Azerbaijani;
- ❖ Under the project Strengthening Control on Tobacco Consumption, following materials were prepared in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages:
  - Flyer about new regulations on tobacco control (quantity: 500);
  - Brochure (500-500);
  - Flyer (about tobacco harm) - 200-200;
  - Smoking ban signs (stickers) 250-250;
  - Under the component Strengthening Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Dependence, educational brochures were prepared on mental health in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages (1500-1500).

#### **1.3.3.10. Raising awareness about labour and employment sector reforms among ethnic minority representatives**

In order to improve employment prospects, information brochures were prepared and disseminated in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages (500-500); moreover, dissemination of brochures (500-500) on labour rights was launched in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities, which will continue throughout 2019.

#### **1.3.3.11 Dissemination of information about news and development trends in tourism sector, through broadcasting programs, electronic/print and social media channels**

Throughout the year, Georgian National Tourism Administration was disseminating information about tourism sector, namely: new tourist products, events, new tourist destinations, touristic offers etc. This information was shared with touristic actors from the database (hotels, food facilities, touristic attractions, etc). In the period of January-July 2018, information materials (163 copies) were disseminated.

#### **1.3.4.4 Professional development and engagement of ethnic minority representatives in the public sector**

See 3.4.1.3.

#### **1.3.4.5 Internship program for young ethnic minority representatives in Tbilisi Sakrebulo**

3 ethnic minority representatives underwent three-month internship program in the legal and organizational units of Tbilisi Sakrebulo.

#### **Interim goal: 1.4 Encouraging participation of ethnic minorities in the political decision-making process**

##### **Objective: 1.4.1. Providing opportunities for ethnic minorities to vote and make informed decisions**

Ahead of the Presidential election in 2018, efforts were taken to guarantee ethnic minority representatives' equal and full participation. 346 polling stations were established by 12 district election commissions in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities, including Georgian-Azerbaijani precincts - 209, Georgian-Armenian precincts - 133, and Georgian-Armenian-Azerbaijani precincts - 4.

Across Georgia, trainings were delivered for 43 352 members of the precinct election commissions, including 1,639 ethnic minority representatives (ethnic Armenians – 762, ethnic Azerbaijani - 877).

##### **1.4.1.1 Informing ethnic minority voters**

Ahead of the Presidential election, CEC produced a special video, translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, on services available to ethnic minorities. Moreover, 15 informative videos were produced, including in the Armenian and Azerbaijani languages that were broadcasted by regional TV stations.

Information about available services and E-Day procedures were published by the Vrapstan, Armenian-language newspaper, and the Gurjistani, Azerbaijani-language newspaper.

The CEC Call/Information Center offered voters information provided by Armenian and Azerbaijani speaking operators who informed stakeholders with relevant information on election related issues. 4 ethnic minority operators were employed (2 Armenian, 2 Azerbaijani).

Ethnic Armenian and Azerbaijani citizens could verify their names in unified voter list on CEC website ([www.cesko.ge](http://www.cesko.ge)), both in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. Moreover, this website (under the banner Ethnic Minorities) was offering different documents translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.

#### **1.4.1.2 Informing ethnic minority voters about E-Day procedures**

##### **Information campaign Talk to Voters**

In 2018, CEC conducted an information campaign Talk to Voters. The goal of this activity was to raise awareness about the Presidential election, improve communication with election administration, and inform about available services, both for citizens living in and outside of Georgia.

Information campaign was carried out in two stages. At the initial stage of the campaign (May-June), 335 members of the district election commissions and 400 volunteers conducted 263 meetings in municipality centers and villages, including ethnic minority regions. In addition, 73 chairs of district election commissions conducted 76 public meetings. Voters and involved parties were informed about voters' rights, presidential election, election process, history of elections, and election administration activities. In total, 1681 people attended these meetings.

At the first stage of the campaign, organizers disseminated information flyers about available services and 100 years anniversary of first universal democratic elections in Georgia.

At the second stage of the campaign (September-October), representatives of election administration conducted 97 events - Find Yourself—Find Your Election Precinct – in Tbilisi and the regions, including the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. The goal of this project was to help voters verify their data in the voter list.

During these events, voters were able to use mobile phones, tablets and electronic payment machines to verify their data in the unified voter list and check polling station location. Informative brochures and CEC branded products were also handed out.

In 2018, CEC implemented a new initiative to increase youth participation. First time voters received a letter from CEC Chair.

Importantly, all information campaign materials were translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages.

During the campaign, CEC offered young voters a new service. Posters with quick response code (QR code) were displayed at 24 high education institutions. The special poster was created for young people on the CEC website and after scanning the QR code via mobile application, they could access information about: Presidential Election 2018, voter rights, voting procedures, online electoral library, history of elections in Georgia, educational projects, and some other important activities of the election administration.

CEC representatives met with women from Marneuli municipality village Kapanakhcha and Ninotsminda municipality, to promote women's engagement in electoral processes. 100 ethnic minority women participated in these events.

#### **1.4.1.3 Translating election related materials into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages**

Ballot papers, unified list of voters, instruction for filling in the ballot paper and a poster describing voting procedures were translated and printed in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, for voters residing in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities.

Moreover, following manuals were translated and printed for the members of Armenian and Azerbaijani election precincts:

- ❖ Instruction manual of the PEC members;
- ❖ Memorable manual of the PEC Chairperson;
- ❖ Authorities of the PEC Secretary on E-day;
- ❖ Duties of the PEC member responsible for the regulation of the flow of voters;
- ❖ Duties of the registrar PEC member;
- ❖ Duties of the PEC member supervising the ballot box and special envelopes;
- ❖ Duties of the PEC members conveying the mobile ballot box;
- ❖ Training module – Election Security for the PEC members;
- ❖ Training module for the PEC members on the etiquette of communicating and protection of behavioral norms in relation with persons with disabilities;
- ❖ Learning film “E-day Procedures” with Armenian and Azerbaijani subtitles.

#### **1.4.1.4 Small Grants for civil society organizations and ethnic minority communities to conduct awareness raising campaign about the importance of elections and to strengthen electoral culture**

In 2018, supporting vulnerable groups in the election process, including ethnic minorities, was identified as a priority area for grant competitions by CEC. LEPL Center of Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Trainings (Training Center), based on the decision of the Grant Competition Commission, funded 10 projects by local NGOs. These projects, with the total budget of 219 062 GEL, targeted regions densely populated by ethnic minorities.

#### **1.4.1.5. Training ethnic minority members of the precinct election commissions on electoral procedures**

In 2018, trainings were delivered throughout Georgia for 43,352 members of the precinct election commissions, including 1,639 ethnic minority representatives (Armenian – 762, Azerbaijani - 877). The Armenian and Azerbaijani speaking members of the precinct election commissions completed an intensive learning course in accordance with training concept. Training consisted of 4 stages:

- ❖ Giving instructions on selection of chairperson of the district election commission;



- ❖ Teaching module about the composition of election commissions, including competencies of precinct election commissions, ahead of elections and on e-day;
- ❖ Teaching module for the leadership of the election commissions (chairperson, deputy, and secretary). It covered authorities of the chairperson. The program also included an innovative learning module on conflict management and election security, developed by the Training Center.
- ❖ Simulation of E-day procedures;

#### **1.4.1.6 Educational programs for young ethnic minority representatives**

- ❖ School of Electoral Development for young citizens aged 18-24;
- ❖ Elections and Young Voters for XI-XII grade students;
- ❖ Courses for Election Administrator;
- ❖ Learning course in election law for Akhaltsikhe University students;

#### **Educational project School of Electoral Development**

With support from the Council of Europe (CoE) and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), CEC implemented another stage of the project School of Electoral Development in Tbilisi and 23 municipalities across Georgia. During 10 day course, young people aged 18-24 were taught about following issues: election systems, election administration, elections of 1919 Constituent Assembly of Georgia, democratic electoral principles, elective bodies in Georgia, electoral stakeholders, transparency and accessibility of elections, and gender equality.

33 graduates were employed in the Electoral Processes Management Department for 2 months; 10 of them did internship in Tbilisi, the rest, 23, in other district election commissions, and gained electoral experience.

25 Electoral Development Schools were organized in Tbilisi and 23 municipalities, including ethnic minority regions and villages near the occupation line. In total, 472 young citizens participated in the project, including 311 women (66%) and 161 men (34%).

#### **Courses for Election Administrator**

CEC and the Training Center implemented a specialized program Electoral Administrator Courses. This program was carried out to raise civic awareness around electoral issues and facilitate the formation of qualified staff in the electoral administration. Participants were familiarized with the following issues: procedures ahead of voting, voting process, closing of the polling station, procedures before opening the ballot box, opening of the ballot box, procedures before compiling a summary protocol, compiling a summary protocol, making summary protocol public.

For the first time, a specialized program was implemented for potential lawyers willing to work in district election commissions. Their course covered following issues: causes for electoral disputes, identifying procedural risks at PECs on E-day, administrative proceedings, organizing and conducting

a DEC session, preparing DEC/Commission Chair's decision on electoral disputes, pleading template and details.

The project Electoral Administrator Courses was implemented by 73 district election commissions across the country - in Tbilisi and all municipalities. 5,551 citizens participated in the project, including 4,470 (81%) women and 1,081 (19%) men. The project for potential lawyers was conducted in Tbilisi, with participation of 128 citizens, including 77 (60%) women and 51 (40%) men.

### **Educational Course in Electoral Law**

CEC and the Training Center implemented an educational course on electoral law for partner universities' students pursuing studies in the following disciplines: law, social sciences, business and law, science and art.

The course aimed to deepen students' knowledge in electoral law, enhance necessary professional skills and raise civic awareness. The Training Center prepared a guidebook, collection of practical exercises, and electronic presentations.

The course covered following issues: concept of elections; types of elections and periodicity; election systems; legal sources and principles of elections in Georgia; election process and electoral management body; powers of election administration of Georgia and work procedures; stakeholders; registration of voters, pre-election campaign (agitation); informational provision of pre-election campaign; financing of elections; polling time and place; opening of the polling station, procedures to be carried out before the voting starts; voting process; closing of the polling station, summarizing polling results; summarizing/determination of polling and election results; election disputes; elections of the President of Georgia; elections of the Parliament of Georgia; elections of Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Adjara; elections of self-governing communities and self-governing cities – Sakrebulo; elections of Mayor of self-governing city (governor of self-governing community); referendum; plebiscite.

The project was implemented in 9 universities, including Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University and Samtskhe-Javakheti State University. It was attended by 338 students, including 201 (59%) women and 137 (41%) men.

### **Seminars Informed Young Voters at universities**

CEC and the Training Center, in the framework of respective MoUs with universities, implemented a project Informed Young Voters, in two stages, in order to raise civic awareness among youth and increase youth participation during elections. The course covered following issues: the essence of elections and its importance in the country's democratization process; international responsibilities and principles; importance of a voter in the Presidential Election; election stakeholders and their role in electoral processes. The project was carried out in 12 universities, both in Tbilisi and the regions,

including Samtskhe-Javakheti State University. Seminars were attended by 701 students, including 523 (77%) women and 178 (23%) men.

#### **1.4.1.7 Involvement of the administration of State Attorney-Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti in civic awareness raising efforts for ethnic minorities, within their competence**

Throughout the year, relevant bodies of the administration of State Attorney-Governor were actively involved in civic actions/meetings, organized by municipalities and other organizations, including NGOs.

#### **1.4.1.8 Organizing an Open Door Day for ethnic minority representatives in the administration of State Attorney-Governor, in order to inform them about the administration's activities and learn about ethnic minority problems**

In 2018, an Open Door Day was organized to inform citizens about the administration's activities and learn about ethnic minority problems.

#### **1.4.1.9 Engaging ethnic minority representatives in planning/conducting public meetings about budget issues and other events/activities in municipalities**

In 2018, administration of the State Attorney-Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti coordinated an effort to develop economic development strategy with active participation of ethnic minority representatives. This took place in the framework of EU initiative – Mayors for Economic Growth.

Moreover, administration of the State Attorney-Governor organized information tours in municipalities. Besides visiting sightseeings, Samtskhe-Javakheti University students and municipality employees met with the local population and identified specific needs. Among other locations, these events also took place in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities – Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities.

### **Interim goal: 1.5. Improving access to mass media and information for representatives of ethnic minorities**

#### **Objective 1.5.1. Providing access to broadcasting programs and electronic/printed media in minority languages**

Efforts to support non-Georgian print media carried on. Throughout the year, Armenian weekly newspaper Vrastan (102 series, circulation 3,500) and the Azerbaijani weekly newspaper Gurjistan (93 series, circulation 2,000) were published with support from the state. The newspapers were

disseminated both in Tbilisi and the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities, as well as in the facilities of penitentiary establishments.

#### **1.5.1.2 Providing the public broadcasting for ethnic minority defendants/convicts**

Special Penitentiary Service, within its technical capacity, offers all defendants/convicts in penitentiaries access to interesting TV channels. Moreover, the Ministry provides free accessible satellite TV channels. TV broadcasting in penitentiaries offers 20 channels in foreign languages: Russian (12 channels), English (2 channels), Turkish (2 channels), Azerbaijani (2 channels) Armenian (1 channel), and Arabic (1 channel).

#### **Providing defendants/convicts with relevant periodicals**

All penitentiary facilities provide access to Azerbaijani newspaper Gurjistan and Armenian newspaper Vrastan.

### **Interim goal 1.6: Informing society on ethnic minority rights**

#### **Objective 1.6.1 Complying with the European Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities and raising awareness about the European Charter on the Regional or Minority Languages**

As a result of an information campaign in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities, their level of awareness about several issues, including human rights and protection of ethnic minorities (including international mechanisms) improved.

##### **1.6.1.1. Strengthening cooperation with media, coordination with relevant bodies and NGOs, planning joint events**

See 1.4.1.9

##### **1.6.1.2 Information campaign on the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Tbilisi and the regions**

The Office of the State Minister organized meetings about ethnic minority rights, the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the status of implementation in Samtskhe-Javakheti (Ninotsminda, Akhalkalaki), Kvemo Kartli (Marneuli, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Gardabani), Kakheti (Pankisi Gorge, Lagodekhi, Sagarejo, Telavi), Tbilisi.

#### **Objective 1.6.2. Raising awareness of public servants and ethnic minority target groups in the field of ethnic minority rights and antidiscrimination legislation**

### 1.6.2.1. Organizing field meetings in Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities

See 1.4.1.9

## Strategic Goal 2

### Creating Equal Social and Economic Conditions and Opportunities

#### Interim goal 2.1. Supporting social and regional mobility

##### Objective: 2.1.1. Supporting improvement of economic conditions of ethnic minorities

##### Infrastructural rehabilitation<sup>1</sup>

Implementing various projects, including infrastructural projects, contributed to improvement of social conditions among ethnic minorities. It involved rehabilitation of roads, installation of street lighting and fixing internal roads, installation of irrigation and drinking water systems and other.

##### Samtskhe-Javakheti region

- ❖ Under allocated funds, 47 projects were financed with total value of 21 385 845 GEL, including 19 489 657 GEL from the Regional Development Fund (RDF);
- ❖ Under the Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements, 4 projects were financed with total value of 2 516 262 GEL, including 2 390 448 GEL from RDF.

##### Kvemo Kartli region

- ❖ Under allocated funds, 63 projects were financed with total value of 33 732 709 GEL, including 26 488 474 GEL from Regional Development Fund (RDF);
- ❖ Under the Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements, 3 projects were financed with total value of 284 895 GEL, including 270 650 GEL from RDF.

##### Kakheti region

- ❖ Under allocated funds, 164 projects were financed with total value of 37 362 821 GEL, including 35 223 336 GEL from Regional Development Fund (RDF);
- ❖ Under the Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements, 8 projects were financed with total value of 1 019 408 GEL, including 968 436 GEL from RDF.

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<sup>1</sup> See annex 1

Social assistance was provided to socially vulnerable population, including ethnic minority representatives. This included: covering medical and drug costs, financial aid for economically and socially vulnerable families, assistance for newborns and families with many children, etc.

#### **2.1.1.1. Infrastructural projects planned under the local budget: installation of wells, installation of water pipeline system, fixing roads, installation of street lighting, installation of lightning for stadiums and squares, etc**

In 2018, several infrastructural projects were implemented in ethnic minority villages in Kakheti, namely:

##### **Akhmeta municipality**

- ❖ Reinforced concrete bridge was installed in village Birkiani – total value 15181 GEL;
- ❖ Wrestling hall was rehabilitated in village Duisi – total value 4535 GEL;
- ❖ Kindergartens were rehabilitated in villages Jokolo, Duisi (#1 and #2), Birkiani, Omalo and Dumasturi – total value 30497 GEL;

##### **Telavi municipality**

- ❖ Bore well was installed in village Karadjala - total value 110 000 GEL;
- ❖ In the same village, 40 street lightning units were installed - total value 8000 GEL;

##### **Dedoplistskaro municipality**

- ❖ Installation of natural gas supply is still underway in villages Sabatlo and Choeti; main gas pipeline was installed. Internal network was setup in village Sabatlo;

##### **Lagodekhi municipality**

- ❖ With support from the Regional Development Fund, internal roads were fixed in village Gandjala – total value 241578 GEL;
- ❖ Local budget covered installation of bore well and delivery-precinct pipe in village Zemo Bolkvi – total value 62 275 GEL;
- ❖ Local budget covered rehabilitation of drinking water system in village Kvemo Bolkvi – total value 29670 GEL;

##### **Sagarejo municipality**

- ❖ Duzagrama-Lambalo-Tulari water supply system was rehabilitated; reinforced concrete stands were setup in village Iormughanlo – total value 7 261 GEL;
- ❖ Speed limitation barriers were installed in village Lambalo;
- ❖ Damaged drinking water well pumps were replaced in village Lambalo and Duzagrama.

#### **2.1.1.2 Creating favourable environment for business development, supporting state programs, strengthening trans-border economic relations**

In the framework of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development program Produce in Georgia, 21 meetings were held in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities - Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Kavakheti and Kakheti. These meetings were attended by 873 ethnic minority representatives.

#### **2.1.1.3 Implementing infrastructural projects in order to improve citizens' economic conditions**

In the reporting period, following projects were implementing in ethnic minority settlements in Akhaltsikhe, Ninotsminda and Akhalkalaki municipalities: rehabilitation of motorways and internal roads, setting up sport arenas and squares, rehabilitation of drain collectors and retaining walls, etc.

In the reporting period, 126 projects were implemented in ethnic minority regions, through state and local budgets, with total value of 16 773 784 GEL, including:

- ❖ Akhaltsikhe municipality – 51 projects - 6 326 182 GEL;
- ❖ Akhalkalaki municipality – 43 projects - 7 105 337 GEL;
- ❖ Ninotsminda municipality – 32 projects - 3 342 265 GEL;

#### **2.1.1.4 In order to raise awareness about social programs, organizing information meetings in ethnic minority regions with various target groups: NGOs, representatives of municipalities, etc.**

In the framework of the information campaign in ethnic minority regions, with the goal to raise awareness about social programs and state healthcare programs, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs conducted meetings that were attended by ethnic minority representatives – local population, representatives of the administrations of State Attorney-Governor and municipalities, village trustees, teachers, medical personnel, local media, youth, and other stakeholders. In the period of June-July, 5 information meetings were held in Kvemo Kartli region – Marneuli, Gardabani, Tsalka, Dmanisi, Bolnisi; 5 meetings in Kakheti region – Iormughanlo (Sagarejo municipality), Kabali (Lagodekhi municipality), Chantliskure (Kvareli municipality), Duisi (Pankisi Gorge, Akhmeta municipality), Karadjala (Telavi municipality); 12 meetings in Samtskhe-Javakheti region – Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda.

Furthermore, information brochures about social programs were printed (in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages) and handed out during these meetings.



#### **2.1.1.5 Organizing meetings for informing ethnic minority regions about state healthcare programs; also informing them about the programs for providing medicine for the chronic diseases and free screening for Hepatitis C**

Free screening for Hepatitis C is available across the country, including ethnic minority regions, both in medical facilities and through mobile groups. Free screening was implemented in Marneuli, Rustavi and Akhaltsikhe Justice Houses.

Information meetings were held in Kvemo Kartli region (Marneuli, Gardabani, Tsalka, Dmanisi, Bolnisi), Kakheti region (Iormughanlo, Sagarejo municipality), Kabali (Lagodekhi municipality), Chantliskure (Kvareli municipality), Duisi (Pankisi gorge, Akhmeta municipality), Karadjala (Telavi municipality) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities).

Moreover, 4000-4000 information brochures were printed and disseminated about the programs for providing medicine for the chronic diseases and free screening for Hepatitis C (in Georgian, Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages).

#### **2.1.1.6 Information/consultancy meetings with farmers in ethnic minority regions, under the Mobile Extension Project**

Under the Mobile Extension Project, information-consultancy meetings with farmers were carried out in 8 villages:

- ❖ Ninotsminda municipality, village Gorelovka;
- ❖ Akhalkalaki municipality, villages Kotelia and Vachiani;
- ❖ Tsalka municipality, village Daba Trialeti;
- ❖ Marneuli municipality, village Kasumlo and Sadahklo;
- ❖ Dmanisi municipality, village Tnusi;
- ❖ Bolnisi municipality, village Samtsverisi.

#### **2.1.1.7 Disseminating information materials (brochure, booklet, informative video and other) in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities**

100 brochures were disseminated in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti, including guidebook on rural-agricultural cooperatives in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. 11 100 information materials about agriculture and environmental protection were disseminated in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities.

#### **2.1.1.8 Conducting information meetings in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities (Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti) on state programs for supporting cooperatives**

4 information meetings were held for representatives of ethnic minorities about the agricultural cooperative programs in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti.

#### **2.1.1.9 Organizing information meetings, together with the organizations working on issues of ethnic minorities, on economic programs and services funded by the city budget**

See 1.3.2.7

#### **2.1.1.10. Promoting micro and small business in Georgian regions**

In 2018, 320 business projects were financed, including:

- In Kvemo Kartli region - 61;
- In Kakheti region - 135;
- In Samtskhe-Javakheti region 124.

#### **2.1.2.1. Infrastructural projects in Kvemo Kartli region**

During the reporting period, many projects were implemented in administrative units populated by ethnic minorities with financial support from the local government and local budgets, in particular:

- **Tsalka Municipality** - 55 projects, with a total value of 4 908 500 GEL;
- **Tetritskaro Municipality** - 32 projects, with a total value of 2 671 100 GEL;
- **Marneuli Municipality** - 36 projects, with a total value of 3 759 980 GEL;
- **Bolnisi Municipality** - 70 projects, with a total value of 8 011 368 GEL;
- **Dmanisi Municipality** - 9 projects, with a total value of 6 022 83 GEL;
- **Gardabani Municipality** - 22 projects, with a total value of 10 180 000 GEL;
- **Rustavi Municipality** - 29 infrastructural projects, with a total value of 2 951 177 GEL;

#### **2.1.2.3 Promoting the use and equal distribution of social programs in Samtskhe-Javakheti municipalities and other units by ethnic minority representatives**

During 7 months in 2018:

- In Ninotsminda Municipality, the social aid was allocated to 607 beneficiaries, including 541 ethnic minority representatives; social aid amounted to 129632 GEL;
- In Akhaltsikhe Municipality, the social aid was allocated to 1547 beneficiaries, including 477 ethnic minority representatives; social aid amounted to 152 664 GEL;
- In Akhalkalaki Municipality, the social aid was allocated to 783 beneficiaries, including 685 ethnic minority representatives; social aid amounted to 265 230 GEL;

Ethnic minority representatives living in **Kvemo Kartli region** benefit from a single financial aid program, a stationary-ambulatory service program, and free transport service for students, veterinarians and visually impaired persons. According to the social protection programs, 170

beneficiaries received 422,594 GEL in social aid in Bolnisi, 1050 beneficiaries received 312,961 GEL in Dmanisi, 800 beneficiaries received 400,000 GEL in Tsalka.

More than 900 beneficiaries in the **Kakheti region**, including ethnic minority representatives, were provided with social assistance, including: covering medical and drug costs, one-time financial assistance for economically and socially vulnerable families, assistance for newborn babies, support for large families. The kidney replacement therapy - hemodialysis, travel expenses, assistance to fire and natural disaster victims. During the year, 200 000 GEL was issued under the social assistance program.

### Strategic Goal 3

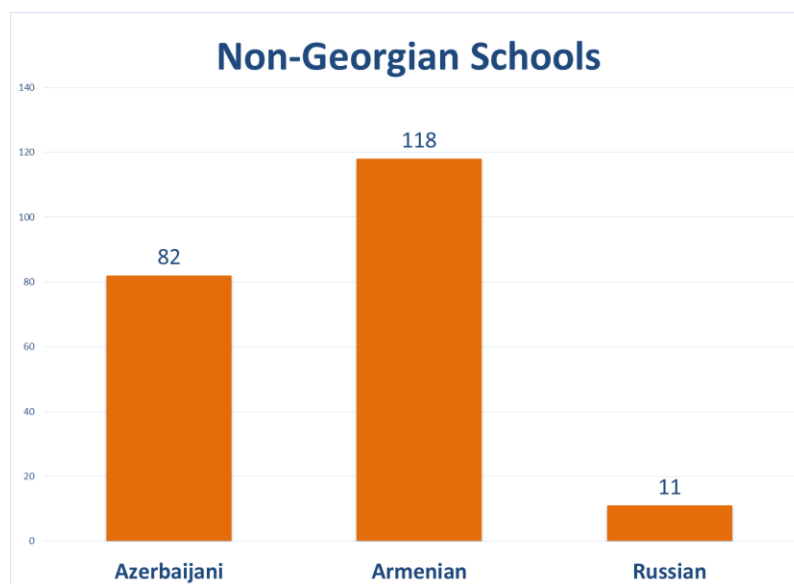
#### Providing Access to High Quality Education and Improving Knowledge of the State Language

During the reporting period, as an important tool of civic integration, special attention was paid to ensuring access to quality education and improving the level of knowledge of the state language.

Number of activities and programs were implemented to achieve following goals:

- Increasing access to pre-school education and improving quality of general education for representatives of ethnic minorities;
- Ensuring access to higher education;
- Increasing access to vocational and adult education;
- Improving the level of knowledge of the state language.

Each level of education is accessible for representatives of ethnic minorities. They are also able to get education in their native languages (Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Russian). There are 211 non-Georgian language public schools and 76 non-Georgian language sectors in Georgia, including 82 Azerbaijani, 118 Armenian, and 11 Russian-language schools, along with 32 Georgian-Azerbaijani sectors, 29 Georgian-Russian sectors, 10 Georgian-Armenian sectors, one Georgian-Azerbaijani-Russian sector, and one Georgian-Russian-Armenian sector.



**Interim goal: 3.1. Increasing access to pre-school education for representatives of ethnic minorities**

**Objective: 3.1.1. Developing a pre-school education program, developing learning resource modules, elaborating professional development programs for teachers and administrative staff**

Pre-school readiness programs were created in all municipalities of Kvemo Kartli.

**3.1.1.1 Opening an additional kindergarten group for the Azerbaijani children in village Badiauri. Rehabilitation of Omalo, Duisi N1 and Birkiani kindergartens**

**Additional activities:** The School Readiness Program was implemented and is currently actively used in the Pankisi Gorge kindergartens (11 kindergarten and 17 groups). The caregivers are trained by the center facilitators.

**3.1.1.2 Implementation of the second stage/completion of construction of the pre-school institution in minority settlements (Kizilkilisa, Kokhta) in Tsalka Municipality**

Pre-school institutions were rehabilitated in accordance with modern standards in the villages densely populated by ethnic minorities in Tsalka Municipality: Avranlo, Kokhta, Artsivani, Kizilkilisa. New kindergartens were opened in villages Sameba and Sakrdioni.

**3.1.1.3 The second stage of the Aghtaklia-Karatakia (Gardabani Municipality) kindergarten construction**

The first phase of the Aghtaklia-Karatakia kindergarten construction was completed in 2018. Currently, the second stage is underway; in particular the relevant expertise and cost estimation for the implementation of the project is being calculated. The tender will be announced. The kindergarten will serve both villages.

**3.1.1.4 Construction of kindergarten in Saimerlo village, Marneuli Municipality**

The construction of the Aghtaklia-Karatakia kindergarten will be completed in the third-quarter of 2019. The construction of the Saimerlo kindergarten in Marneuli will be completed by the end of 2019.

### **3.1.1.5 Supporting the formation of non-Georgian language groups in the pre-school institutions and promoting learning of the state language in Samtskhe-Javakheti region; Equipping the non-Georgian language kindergartens with material technical base, creating appropriate conditions for teaching and learning**

#### **Projects financed by the local budget**

##### **Ninotsminda Municipality**

- Rehabilitation of a kindergarten and gasification works in Didi Arakali village. Total value - 17 698 GEL; 200 beneficiaries;
- Rehabilitation and landscaping of a kindergarten in Ninotsminda. Total value - 66 666 GEL; 500 beneficiaries;
- Rehabilitation of a kindergarten in Gorelovski village. Total value - 5 635 GEL; 1 200 beneficiaries;

##### **Akhalkalaki Municipality**

- Construction of a kindergarten in Kulikami village. Total value - 170 186; 120 beneficiaries;
- Installation of a heating system boiler in Kartsakhi village, Akhalkalaki. Total value - 13 098 GEL; 80 beneficiaries;
- Rehabilitation of a kindergarten in Kartikami village. Total value - 9 642 GEL; 80 beneficiaries;
- Rehabilitation of a kindergarten building in Khulgumo village, Akhalkalaki Municipality. Total value - 2 677 GEL; 80 beneficiaries;

##### **Akhaltzikhe Municipality**

- Building a road leading to the House of Culture and kindergarten in Vale. Total value - 41 007 Gel; 5750 beneficiaries;
- Landscaping of the N1 kindergarten yard in Akhaltzikhe. Total value - 47 531 GEL; 460 beneficiaries.

### **3.1.1.6 Translation of state standards on early learning and development and caregiver-pedagogue's professional standards into ethnic minority languages, in order to ensure quality and accessible pre-school education for ethnic minority representatives**

In 2018, for the purpose of ensuring quality and accessible pre-school education for the representatives of ethnic minorities, the state standards on early learning and development and caregiver-pedagogue's professional standards were translated into Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.

**3.1.1.7. With the goal to teach the state language, supporting the trainings of the staff of pre-school education institutions in the regions densely populated by ethnic minority representatives**

In 2018, the Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration trained 46 staffers, including 26 caregivers of the pre-school educational institutions in Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Ninotsminda, Bolnisi, Marneuli, Gardabani, Sagarejo and Akhmeta.

**Interim goal: 3.2. Increasing access to quality general education, both in state and native languages**

**Objective: 3.2.1. Improving-developing the national curriculum and educational resources to support the introduction of quality bi-lingual education**

In 2018, the standards of primary school (I-IV, V-VI grades) were translated into Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.

**3.2.1.1 Conducting the National Educational Olympiad in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages**

In 2018, following stakeholders participated in the National Educational Olympiad:

- 1394 Azerbaijani speaking participants;
- 1393 Armenian speaking participants;
- 694 Russian speaking participants.

**3.2.1.2 Conducting the school graduation exams in Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages**

**At the XI class school graduation exams:**

- 1257 students chose Azerbaijani. 851 of them passed all the subjects which are included in the school graduation exams;
- 944 students chose Armenian. 686 of them passed all the subjects which are included in the school graduation exams;
- 849 students chose Russian. 748 of them passed all the subjects which are included in the school graduation exams;

**At the XII class school graduation exams:**

- 2043 students chose Azerbaijani, 1026 of them passed all the subjects which are included in the school graduation exams;
- 1491 students chose Armenian. 905 of them passed all the subjects which are included in the school graduation exams;
- 1037 students chose Russian. 817 of them passed all the subjects which are included in the school graduation exams;

In 2018, in an effort to facilitate the integration process, 600 ethnic minority students attended winter and summer camps, which were organized for the students from the small-contingent public schools in the regions.

### **Objective: 3.2.2. Supporting the professional development of non-Georgian language school teachers**

During the year, special attention was paid to training/qualification enhancement of teachers. The program Professional Development of Non-Georgian Language School Teachers continued, which envisages solving the problem of staff shortages in the non-Georgian language schools. In order to fill in the deficit of the teachers speaking Georgian as a second language in the non-Georgian language schools of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions, three groups of teachers were assigned to those schools:

- 121 consultant/teachers;
- 86 assistant teachers ;
- 77 bi-lingual assistant teachers;

#### **3.2.2.1 Validation of subject examination and subject and professional competences in Russian, Armenian or Azerbaijani languages, for those candidates who teach in non-Georgian language schools**

During subject examinations and competency tests:

- Armenian language was chosen by 561 applicants;
- Azerbaijani - 494;
- Russian -147;

#### **3.2.2.2. Within the framework of the Leadership Academy 1 and 2:**

- Translation of outlined training modules in ethnic minority languages;
- Conducting trainings for non-Georgian principals and facilitators at public schools;

The 1-2 training modules of the Leadership Academy 2 began in December 2017 and concluded in March 2018. The trainings were attended by 143 (85%) principals and 124 (81%) facilitators, including ethnic minority representatives.

The 3-4-5 training modules of the Leadership Academy 2 were conducted in August, 2018. All the non-Georgian language school principals and facilitators were invited to the trainings, which were attended by 151 (84%) principals and 129 (74%) facilitators.

The 6 training modules of the Leadership Academy 2 was conducted in September-October, 2018. The principals/facilitators from non-Georgian language schools were invited to the trainings. The trainings were attended by 167 (84%) principals and 138 (75%) facilitators.

### **3.2.2.3 Translating the subject-related training modules for teachers into ethnic minority languages**

Translation and editing of all (6) module methodologies into Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian languages was completed in June, 2018.

### **3.2.2.4 Conducting teacher trainings on the second (Student Oriented Learning Environment - Teaching and Evaluation Strategies) and third (Positive Management of Learning Process and Preparedness for Professional Development) modules of the general professional skills course; Conducting trainings for teachers based on subject course modules**

During April-May 2018, with the aim to introduce modern teaching methods in non-Georgian language schools, trainings were conducted under the third module of general professional course (Positive Management of Learning Process and Preparedness for Professional Development). As a result, 1421 (68%) non-Georgian teachers were retrained.

### **3.2.2.5 Within the program Professional Development Program for Non-Georgian Language School Teachers, appointing the consultant-teachers of Georgian as a second language, assistant teachers of Georgian language, geography and history and bilingual assistant-teachers (1 + 4 program graduates) of any subject, as instructed by the NCP, to the non-Georgian language schools/sectors in ethnic minority settlements.**

Three groups of teachers were assigned to those schools:

- 121 consultant-teachers;
- 86 assistant teachers;
- 77 bilingual assistant-teachers;

During the reporting period, 548 pedagogues (civic education teachers and class tutors) and 170 participants of the Teach for Georgia program (total of 718 teachers) completed the training module on Preventing Bullying in School and Developing the Culture of Tolerance.

### **3.2.2.6 Under the Professional Development Program of Non-Georgian Language School Teachers, the program consultant-teachers offering professional counseling to the program assistant teachers and local teachers (teaching methods, development of a lesson plan, classroom observation, self assessment)**

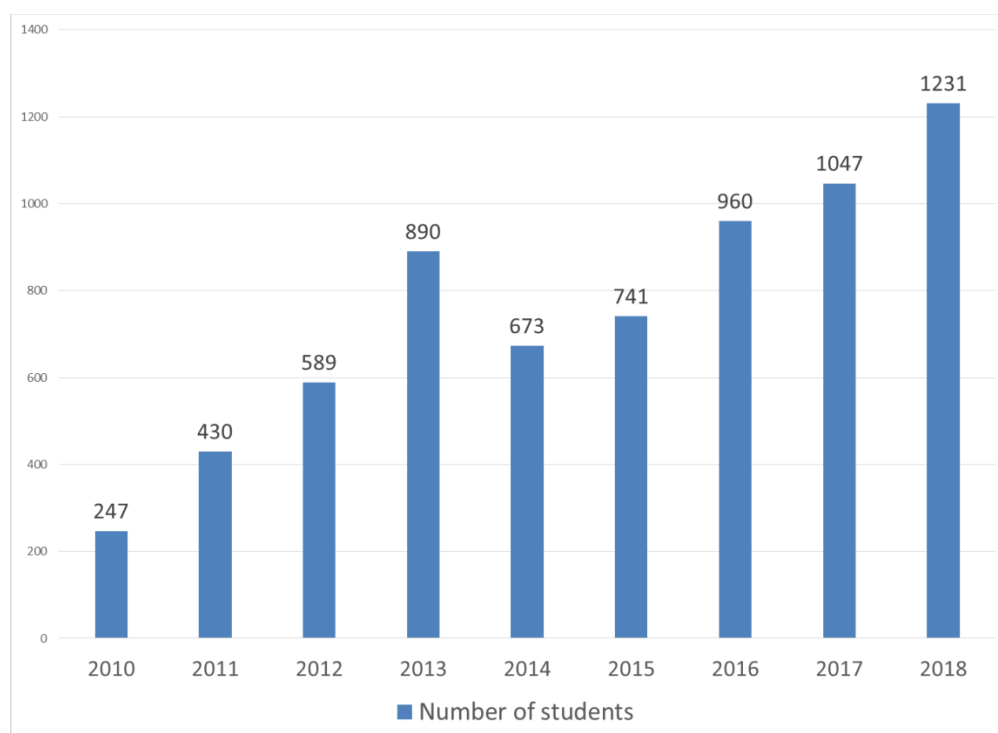
As a result of the counseling, provided by the consultant-teachers, the assistant teachers of subprogram and the local teachers from Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions improved their professional skills. Within the program, over 1000 projects have been implemented by the consultant-teachers and assistant teachers aiming to improve informal teaching practices at the non-Georgian language schools.

**Interim goal: 3.3 Increasing access to higher education**



### Objective: 3.2.1 Providing and supporting preferential policies

The Educational Training Program in the Georgian Language operates since 2010, with the goal to promote higher education for ethnic minority representatives. Students are enrolled based on their General Aptitude Test results in Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages. The number of the ethnic minority students in higher educational institutions of Georgia was increased 6 times (247) compared to 2010.



**3.3.1.1. Providing the state grants based on the results of general skills tests (administered in Abkhazian, Ossetian, Azerbaijani or Armenian language) to those admitted students, who have to take the Educational Training Program in the Georgian Language and pursue a bachelor's degree, integrated bachelor's and master's program, or medical/dentist certified educational program**

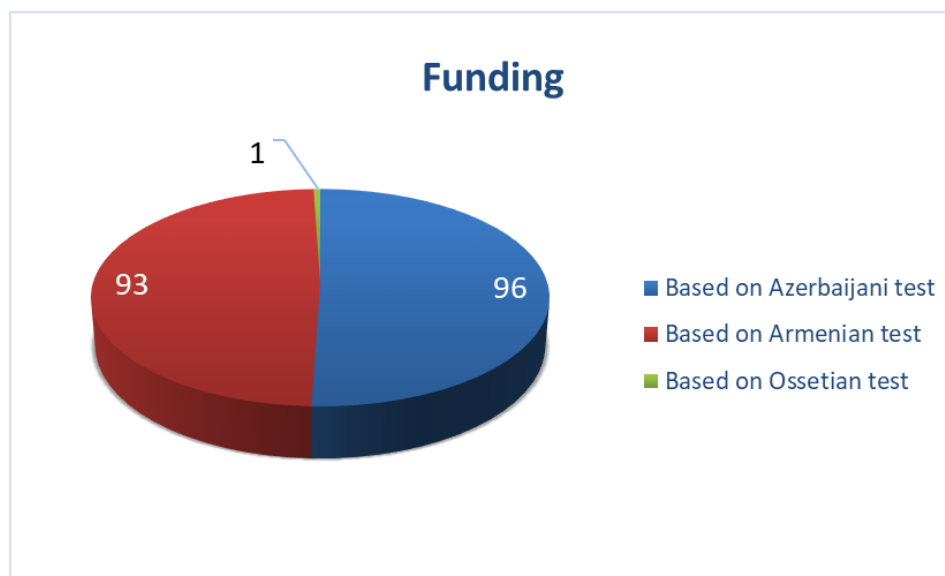
In 2018, 1231 citizens were enrolled based on their Azerbaijani, Armenian and Ossetian language general skills test results. Including:

- Based on the Azerbaijani language general skills test results- 806;
- Based on the Armenian language general skills test results - 424;
- Based on the Ossetian language general skills test results - 1;

The state education grant was awarded to 190 students, solely based on their Azerbaijani, Armenian and Ossetian-language general skills test results during Unified National Exams 2018. Including:

- Based on the Azerbaijani language general skills test results - 96;

- Based on the Armenian language general skills test results - 93;
- Based on the Ossetian language general skills test results - 1;



**3.3.1.2. In the framework of the Georgian Language Educational Program (1 + 4 Program), the National Defense Academy reserved 16 seats for ethnic minority representatives**

During the reporting period, under the Georgian Language Educational Program (1 + 4 Program) 3 cadets (1 Azerbaijani and 2 Armenians) were enrolled in the National Defense Academy. 6 cadets (5 Azerbaijani, 1 Armenian) were enrolled in the Georgian language learning program.

**3.3.1.3/3.3.1.8 Informing ethnic minority representatives about training programs at the Academy of MIA; Providing information about educational programs for ethnic minorities living in Georgia**

Office of the State Minister of Georgia on Reconciliation and Civic Equality paid particular attention to the awareness raising campaign on the benefits and opportunities for ethnic minorities in the field of higher education. Informative meetings were held on Special Preparatory Educational Program in Georgian Language in the regions: Kvemo Kartli (Gardabani municipality - village Nazarlo/Kosalo, Kakheti (Sagarejo municipality - village: Lambalo, Iormuganlo, Dusagrama) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (Akhalkalaki municipality - Akhalkalaki, the village of Kumurdo, Diliska, Kuligami, Turtskhi, Kartsakhi, Sulda). The representatives of LEPL National Assessment and Examinations Center, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy took part in these informational meetings.

**3.3.1.4 Awareness raising on the work of law enforcement agencies for school and university students (including representatives of ethnic minorities)**

The Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs actively participates in television and radio programs, including in the regions; it regularly conducts information meetings to raise awareness on issues of its competence with school and university students and civic sector. Notably, MIA Department conducted follow activities:

- The Human Rights Protection Department of MIA and the Regional Police Department servants conducted 12 meetings within the 16-day campaign on violence against women in Tbilisi, Kakheti, Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli. The aim of the meetings was to increase public awareness on violence against women and domestic violence, and inform them on relevant legislation and existing state services;
- Up to 400 people attended meetings on domestic violence in Tbilisi, Marneuli, Telavi, Lagodekhi, Gurjaani, Dmanisi, Batumi, as well as in different universities and educational institutions.

### **3.3.1.5 Accepting students for the educational program Studying Georgian Language (1 + 4 Program)**

In 2018, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (LEPL) did not enroll anyone in the educational program, due to amendments made in the Law on Higher Education and the Law on Police, and the decision made by the Authorization Council of Higher Education Institution (decision N47, August 17, 2018) to cancel the authorization of the Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (LEPL).

### **3.3.1.6. Develop/publish the preparatory materials for unified national exams: A) Optional subjects in Russian; B) General Skills Tests in Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages**

Providing general skills tests in all languages in which the exams will be conducted. General skills test were chosen in the following languages:

- Azerbaijani language - 1580 entrants;
- Armenian language - 602 entrants;
- Russian language - 592 entrants;

On November 17, 2017, the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia adopted amendments to the Regulation of Unified National Examinations and Rules of Distribution of State Study Grants, according to which the elective subjects in unified national exams are no longer held in Russian language.

### **3.3.1.7. Providing information on exams (organizing open door days) for ethnic minorities to improve their access to higher education**

3 meetings were held in Tbilisi, Gardabani, Akhalkalaki and Sagarejo municipalities.

### **3.3.1.8 Informing ethnic minorities about educational programs**

### See 3.3.1.3

#### Interim goal: 3.4 3.4 Providing vocational and adult education

**Objective: 3.4.1 Increasing participation of ethnic minority representatives in professional educational institutions, as well as providing opportunities for adult population to learn the state language**

The Professional Development Program for Non-Georgian Language School Teachers was implemented in non-Georgian language schools. The goal of the program is to foster the professional development of teachers in non-Georgian language schools and sectors and to improve teaching/learning through strengthening the teaching of the state language. In addition, the program aims to prepare local teachers from non-Georgian language schools for subject exams and teach them the state language (2016-2019).

Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (LEPL) implemented the State Language Learning Program to improve knowledge of the state language. Within the framework of the program, representatives of ethnic minorities employed in the public sector, local self-government bodies, regional administrations, resource centers of the Ministry of Education, public schools and any interested person can learn a state language for free within A1, A2, A2 +, B1, B1 + language proficiency levels in 10 regional training centers and mobile groups, which are subordinated to the school.

**3.4.1.1 Conducting meetings in various educational institutions and community college Opizari (LEPL) in Akhaltsikhe, in order to inform students about the social and economic development strategy and action plan of the region, labor market and high demand jobs**

**3.4.1.2 Providing Georgian language courses to non-Georgian speaking convicts**

Throughout 2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport the learning program Georgian as Second Language was implemented for non-Georgian speaking convicts in the following penitentiary establishments - N2; N3; N5; N14; N15; N16 and N17. 113 beneficiaries were involved in the project:

Name of the establishment	Number of participants
Nº2 establishment	15
Nº16 establishment	11
Nº15 establishment	32
Nº5 establishment	19
Nº17 establishment	19
Nº14 establishment	11
Nº3 establishment	6
Total	113

### **3.4.1.3 Supporting participation of ethnic minority representatives in professional educational institutions, as well as providing opportunities for the adult population to learn the state language**

Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (LEPL) implemented the State Language Learning Program and continued efforts to improve the level of knowledge of the state language.

3,386 ethnic minority representatives were trained within the state language teaching program. Under the Professional Development Program for Non-Georgian Language School Teachers, 1,080 non-Georgian speaking teachers from local schools in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti were divided in two cohorts and provided with a course on the state language.

During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented:

- In order to expand geographic outreach of the state language teaching program, a competition was announced for selection of teachers; as a result, 14 teachers were selected;
- The school implemented the project Facilitation of Vocational Training for Ethnic Minorities, with the goal to promote and develop vocational education in Georgia, help ethnic minority representatives to better demonstrate their abilities, fully master their desired profession, get actively involved in social life and contribute to country's development. 10 groups were created in the framework of the project. Each of them completed work and created sectorial handbooks and workbooks on B1+ language proficiency level;
- In the framework of the State Language Teaching Program, two new sectoral programs were approved – A2+ level for teachers and B1+ level – civil education. Under the project, a pilot training was conducted in Kutaisi, in the Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (LEPL), in two groups (26 ethnic minority representatives); 18 course graduates were awarded with certificates;
- 10 new sectoral B1+ level programs were approved in the framework of the State Language Teaching Program for nurses, teachers, accountants, agronomists, electricity specialists, food technology specialists, specialists in tourism, construction, animal farming and transport;
- A working meeting was held in Kutaisi to inform about the development of the state language teaching program, introduce changes in the program, share pedagogical practices, train teachers on conducting sectoral teaching and evaluate teachers. Meetings were held in March - 2 day long, with 15 participants; In June - 4 day long, with participation of 50 teachers and regional educational center administrators involved in the project;
- Under the State Language Teaching Program, training courses were completed by 1,072 ethnic minority representatives from 81 groups (enrolled in 2017) and 2,058 representatives from 145 groups (enrolled in 2018). Trainings were delivered in 10

regional Training Centers of the School, located in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti;

- Representatives of Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (LEPL) and examiners attended the final examination (test-interview) which was held on monthly basis in 10 regional training centers, upon completion of the State Language Teaching Program;
- The school process was monitored in all 10 regional training centers and mobile groups;
- In 2018, 3,400 ethnic minority representatives were enrolled in the State Language Teaching Program, 246 training groups were created, including 171 mobile groups in 66 villages;
- Since September 2018, Zhvania School has been conducting state language courses on military bases for ethnic minority representatives involved in mandatory military service and undergoing initial combat training in the Armed Forces of Georgia. 300 representatives of ethnic minorities have undergone A1 level language proficiency course;
- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (LEPL) and the Regional Mission of UNHCR, implemented the project Learn Georgian through Audio Lessons. As a result, CD with 12 audio lessons and relevant illustrations was prepared. The course will help the persons granted international protection, asylum seekers and stateless persons - persons of concern under UNHCR's mandate for obtaining basic knowledge of the Georgian language;
- All handbooks and above-mentioned audio lessons will be uploaded on the official website of the School [www.zspa.ge](http://www.zspa.ge) (and UNHCR partners' websites). Electronic resources are free for any interested person;
- With the goal to popularize the state language, the School announced essay competition – Privilege of our Generation. The winners were awarded;
- Under the Public Administration program, short-term specialized training courses, as well as field training courses were developed; 16 different directions;
- In 2018, 307 individuals participated in the Public Administration Program, including 48 ethnic minority representatives;
- Trainings on Casework and Electronic Management were conducted in 9 municipalities (Akhalkalaki, Bolnisi, Akhmeta, Dedoplistskaro, Lanchkhuti, Chkhorotsku, Tsalka, Chiatura, Kutaisi); 193 people participated and were awarded with certificates;
- Training courses on Human Resources Management and Public Relations and Communications were carried out in Kakheti region, with participation of 22 representatives from various municipalities, Sakrebulo and Governor's office;
- Trainings on Technologies for Effective Citizen Services were conducted in Rustavi. 10 people participated in it;
- 82 public servants were retrained within the basic learning program on computer technologies.

Under a joint initiative, the Office of State Minister of Georgia on Reconciliation and Civic Equality and Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport launched Georgian Language Teaching Courses in the diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in Ninotsminda Municipality.

#### **3.4.1.4 Professional tests in Russian, Azerbaijani or Armenian languages, in case the applicant picks vocational education programs, established under the Vocational Education Framework**

In the spring of 2018, following languages were selected while taking professional tests:

- Azerbaijani language - 10 applicants; 7 applicants got enrolled;
- Armenian language - 3 applicants;
- Russian language - 26 applicants; 14 applicants got enrolled.

In the fall of 2018, following languages were selected while taking professional tests:

- Azerbaijani language - 12 applicants; 10 applicants got enrolled;
- Armenian language - 7 applicants; 4 applicants got enrolled;
- Russian language - 34 applicants; 18 applicants got enrolled.

Under the professional educational programs implemented by the state educational institutions, 123 applicants were registered to pass professional tests in Russian, Armenian or Azerbaijani languages, ahead of the spring and fall 2018 entrance exams.

#### **3.4.1.5. Improving access to professional education for ethnic minority representatives**

In order to improve access of ethnic minority representatives to vocational educational programs, in particular, to develop a new vocational education institution, preparations began in Marneuli municipality. Initially, three locations were selected, then one of them was identified as place where the vocational institution will be built. Stages for implementation of infrastructural works were also planned.

#### **3.4.1.6. Providing a training module on Georgian language for those students who are enrolled in vocational educational programs and passed professional tests in non-Georgian language**

In 2018, 44 persons participated in the Georgian language teaching module in the state educational institutions implementing vocational education programs.

#### **3.4.1.7 Internship for "1 + 4 Program" participants - see 1.3.2.3-1.3.2.4**

#### **3.4.1.8 Providing state language learning courses to the adult representatives of ethnic minorities to overcome language barriers**

The Georgian language teaching program in the Friendship House, founded by Tbilisi Sakrebulo, continues. This project is being implemented with the financial support of the Reserve Fund of the President of Georgia and in partnership with Tbilisi State University. The program started on February 1, 2017. In 2017, 110 participants (out of 132) completed the course with honors and

received certificates. In 2018, the duration of the course was changed to 2 months, the trainings take place 3 times a week. 210 participants out of 230 completed the course with honors and received certificates.

#### **Strategic Goal 4.**

#### **Preserving the Culture of Ethnic Minorities and Encouraging Tolerant Environment**

**Interim goal: 4.1 Reflecting the role and importance of ethnic minorities in the development and implementation of cultural policies**

**Objective: 4.1.1 Improving activities aimed at preservation of ethnic minorities' culture; providing coordination with regional and local entities**

During the reporting period, various programs/projects and events were implemented aimed at preservation-development and popularization of culture and cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. In order to further popularize and promote the culture of ethnic minorities, the state provides financial support for museums, theaters and cultural centers.

**4.1.1.1 Cultural Diversity Day - Pankisoba, events organized during Nowruz Bayram, International Refugee Day, literary evenings, sports and cultural events**

**4.1.1.2 Involving ethnic minorities in planned cultural events in Samtskhe-Javakheti region - 154 events are planned - 3 633 490 GEL**

The clubs, singing and dancing ensembles and music schools are operating in the administrative entities densely populated by ethnic minorities. Art schools are also operating in Akhalkalaki and Akhaltsikhe, which regularly participate in local, republican and international exhibitions. In addition, in order to protect cultural traditions, the local budget provides financial support for various cultural sites and cultural events. During the reporting period, number of events were held in order to preserve and develop cultural identity of ethnic minorities. In particular: Ninotsminda Municipality - 55 events, Akhalkalaki Municipality - 59 events, Akhaltsikhe Municipality - 41 events, Borjomi Municipality - 4 events, Aspindza municipality - 2 events.

**4.1.1.3 Promoting activities of ethnic minority LEPLs - theatre plays, tours, exhibitions, publications, concerts**

#### **Supporting Museums:**

- **The Mirza Fatali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture (LEPL)** hosted exhibition of children's works and personal exhibition of paintings by young Azerbaijani artist Fuad Babazade, 2 documentary film screenings, 2 cultural and educational events, and 2 book presentations. The museum received financial support of 37 000 GEL;
- In 2018, **David Baazov Museum of History of the Jews and Georgian-Jewish Relations (LEPL)** conducted up to 40 events - meetings, evenings, lectures,



personal exhibitions, concerts - to showcase history of Jews of Georgia and develop Georgian-Jewish friendly relations. Within the framework of the International Week of the Museum, a special event - Night at the Museum - was held, which was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the restoration of the statehood of Israel and 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Democratic Republic of Georgia. Throughout the year, permanent and temporary expositions were seen by 2800 visitors; 2000 participants took part in various events. During the year, the museum received financial support of 115 000 GEL;

- Throughout the year, **the Smirnov Family Museum (LEPL)** hosted 14 events: poetry evenings, film screenings, lectures, expositions. The German exhibits, which were preserved in the museum, were exhibited within the European Heritage Day. During the year, the museum received financial support of 63 216 GEL.

#### **Supporting Theaters:**

- **Heydar Aliyev Tbilisi State Professional Azerbaijani Drama Theater LEPL, Alexander Griboyedov Tbilisi State Russian Professional Drama Theater LEPL, Petros Adamyan Tbilisi State Armenian Professional Drama Theater LEPL** staged 192 plays, including 142 fixed-site, 7 premiers, 34 regional field trip performances, 16 tours. The plays were attended by 39 767 visitors. During the year, the museum received financial support of 215 000 GEL;
- During the year, **Petros Adamyan Tbilisi State Armenian Professional Drama Theater LEPL** received financial support of 400 000 GEL;
- During the year, **Alexander Griboyedov Tbilisi State Russian Professional Drama Theater LEPL** received financial support of 1 900 000 GEL;

#### **4.1.1.4/4.2.1.3. Supporting Cultural Events**

Tbilisi Sakrebulo, through the National Council on Minorities, is involved in the cultural life of all minorities and celebrates all important holidays with them: Nowruz Bayram, Flower Festival Vardaton, award ceremony of successful Kurd-Yazidi women, memorial evening of Latvian artists, Ukrainian Spring on My Street, and etc. During the reporting period, Tbilisi City Council held around 10 different activities.

**Interim goal: 4.2 Protection and popularization of ethnic minority cultural heritage**

**Objective: 4.2.1 protecting of tangible and non-tangible cultural values of ethnic minorities**

**4.2.1.1 Publishing a publication (in 3 languages) about German cultural heritage - Architectural Heritage of German Colonists in Georgia and organizing public presentations in Tbilisi and the regions, with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Federal Republic of Germany; Presenting the publication during the Frankfurt Book Fair**

Trilingual publication Architectural Heritage of German Colonists in Georgia was published with financial assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Federal Republic of Germany.

#### **4.2.1.2 Exhibition - Religions in Georgia - in the Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia (LEPL)**

In the period of January 30-March 30, 2018, Georgian National Museum (LEPL) and the State Agency for Religious Issues at the Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia organized an exhibition - Religions in Georgia. Exposition included the sacred books and literature of various religions, religious garments and attributes, historical photos and documents. The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness about religious organizations, and strengthen tolerance and mutual respect.

#### **4.2.1.3 - See. 4.1.1.4**

#### **4.2.1.4 Organizing introductory tour in Dmanisi municipality, within the project Explore Georgia, with the goal to popularize local tourism potential and cultural heritage**

Under the project “Going around Georgia”, tours were conducted in Gardabani Municipality. 35 young representatives of ethnic minorities participated in this project. In total, 9 tours were held. Furthermore, at the initiative of Kvemo Kartli Governor, a media tour was held in Dmanisi and Bolnisi Municipalities, which included journalists from ethnic minorities.

### **Interim goal: 4.3. Encouraging cultural diversity**

#### **Objective: 4.3.1 Developing intercultural dialogue**

Several events were held to introduce/popularize the culture of ethnic minorities and promote intercultural dialogue.

#### **4.3.1.3 Conduct intercultural programs and sports events in penitentiary establishments**

In 2018, various cultural and educational activities were conducted in penitentiary establishments. During the reporting period, 176 cultural and 39 sports activities were carried out. Alongside other convicts, representatives of ethnic minorities were actively involved in these events.

#### **4.3.1.4 Presentation of poetry and novels of poet Maia Margoshvili**

**See the Pankisi Gorge Development Program**

#### **4.3.1.5 Exhibition of artist Varazat Minasyan's paintings**

On June 4, exhibition of artist Varazat Minasyan's was held in the National Library Exhibition Hall.

#### **Additional events:**

- Presentation of Interactive Map of Ethnic Diversity - On March 2, the Centre for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism presented the Interactive Map of Georgia's Ethnic Diversity at the National Library Conference Hall;

- Presentation of Mzia Khetaguri's collection of poems - On April 26th, presentation of Mzia Khetaguri's collection of poems Right of the Right was held at the National Library Exhibition Hall;
- Opening of the library in village Zanavi - On May 7, the National Library movement Equilibrium visited the multiethnic village Zanavi in Adigeni Municipality. Georgian library was opened in Zanavi sports-cultural center;
- Event Women's Role in Different Ethnicities and Religions - On November 1, event Women's Role in Different Religions and Religions was held at the National Library Conference Hall.

#### **4.3.1.9 National and regional level contest to support cultural events, including events reflecting integration with common cultural life**

Following projects were financed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia:

- - Within the scope of the project by **Community Action Initiative for Women NNLE**, an exhibition of works of first Yezidi woman painter Base Japarova was organized in Tbilisi, Telavi and Batumi;
- **Roma Culture Festival** - The two-day Roma festival was held in Tbilisi by **Disarmament and Non-violence NNLE**. The event included seminars, conference and a Roma cultural evening. Singers and dancers from Roma community participated in these activities;
- **Loyal to Ancient Traditions - Assyrian Youth Organization Ninevia, under** the project, held a creative evening dedicated to the Assyrian doctor and a translator Freidun Aturaiah (Bit-Abram), who worked and lived in Georgia. Representatives of this ethnic group from the US, Netherlands and Sweden participated in this event. The screening of the movie on F. Aturaiah, a poetry evening and a concert were also held;
- **Lesya Ukrainka's Trace in Georgia - Union of Journalists Georgian-Ukrainian Press and Book House NNLE**, within the project, supported establishment of a tourist trail Lesya Ukrainka's Trace in Georgia as a follow up of a respective research. A guidebook-booklet was published for tourists, as well as master classes on traditional Ukrainian embroidery were delivered to tour guides and other interested persons;
- **Ornaments Revived in Glass** - - The project by **Art Piuzing Glas Ltd.** was envisaging a training course on techniques of working on glass and traditional ornament making for residents of Akhmeta Municipality. On July 29, the festival Kveteroba was held in the Kveteri fortress, exhibiting works by ethnic minority representatives.
- **Promotion of Intercultural Relations - Regional Development Fund of Kakheti supported holding** various exhibitions on the territory of a fortress Kvetera, in Akhmeta, which is located in Ilto gorge. The cultural characteristics of different regions and ethnic groups were presented, including: handmade items, agro-products, samples of felt, clay and knitting, traditional dishes were cooked onsite, and a concert with participation of local ensembles was held;

- **Armenian Traditional Celebration Katnapur** - - In the frames of the project, **NNLE Cultural-Educational and Youth Center Hayartun** organized a Festival of Flowers, aka Katnapur in the village Patara Khanchili in Ninotsminda Municipality. Music ensembles of Ninotsminda Culture House, the young artists from the Hayratun Center, pupils from the village of Patara Khanchali public school participated in the event. Presentation of the history and tradition of the holiday was conducted in Georgian and Armenian languages;
- **Jubilee evening of the Prominent Artist and Public Figure Alikhan Binatoghli; Exhibition of Masterpieces and Master Classes on Azerbaijani Folklore and Folk Craftsmanship** - Within the framework of the project, **Union Demosi NNLE** organized the festival – “Where Else is Another Georgia?” in Marneuli to inform youth about the Georgian music. During the festival, Azerbaijani culture day was also celebrated. A jubilee evening of Alikhan Bibatoghli was conducted, where the photo exhibition of his work was displayed;
- **Public Celebration Kostaoba** - Within the frames of the project, **Caucasian Mosaic NNLE** supported holding public celebration Kostaoba in village Arashferani in Lagodekhi Municipality. The celebration activities included: horse racing, various sports and cultural events, exhibition of local artists, tasting of Georgian and Ossetian dishes;
- **Theatrical-Literary Bohemia of Old Tbilisi - Armenian, Jewish and Azerbaijani Cultural Traditions** - **Studio Asteroid NNLE** - M. Tumanishvili Theater hosted presentation of two books - Ioseb Grishashvili's Old Tbilisi's Literary Bohemia and a presentation of rare publications on famous ashugh poet from Tbilisi - Sayat-Nova; the literary-musical composition-performance using effects of the Shadow Theater was also organized, reflecting the Jewish, Azerbaijani and Armenian folklore, choreography, rituals and traditions. Applied art objects and a photo exhibition by students of ethnic minorities was displayed in the foyer;
- **Memoria (Exhibition of Sergo Chakhoyants (1924-2009))** - **LTD IARTI** - Within the project, the works of S. Chakhoyants was gathered and exhibited (50 paintings and 50 graphic works). The album was released.

Up to 2500 people attended above-mentioned events.

#### **4.3.1.10 Competition to publish albums reflecting the lifestyle and cultural identity of ethnic minorities and their integration into Georgian cultural space**

- The book-album Pankisi and Kists was prepared, with the goal to popularize material culture of Kists in Georgia and abroad;
- The book Georgian-Greek Relations was prepared and published by the G. Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation LEPL;

- The book-album European Artists was created by the Theater, Music, Cinema and Choreography Museum LEPL. The aim of the project is to collect works of European artists working in Georgia, kept in public and private collections, and publish them under one publication;
- In the frames of the Tbilisi Conservatoire's work, a book-album The Traditional Music of Kists was prepared.

#### **4.3.1.11 Project Diverse Georgia**

The project Diverse Georgia was implemented, which aimed to implement cultural and educational activities in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. Events were held in Bolnisi, Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Gardabani, and Pankisi Gorge.

Within the framework of the project, meetings were held (lectures) with writers, scientists and artists on the following topics: the 100th anniversary of the First Republic; Alexander Kazbegi - 170; Otar Chiladze - 85; Georgian Cinema - 110; Year of European Heritage etc.;

The Shota Rustaveli Day was celebrated in Marneuli (May 15);

**Following events were carried out within the project Diverse Georgia:**

- 19 lectures/seminars; various kinds of exhibition (11) with participation of local and Tbilisi based artists;
- Screening of modern short animated and feature films (7) - review of films;
- Concerts (2) and plays (3);

Up to 6 000 beneficiaries attended these events.

#### **4.3.1.12 Event dedicated to cultural diversity**

On May 21, the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on Reconciliation and Civic Equality in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Sport and Culture of Georgia, and with the support of UN Association of Georgia, held the event dedicated to cultural diversity at the Tbilisi History Museum. Ethnic minority representatives participated in the event. Within the project, concerts and thematic meetings were held in 7 municipalities (Marneuli, Gardabani, Akhaltsikhe, Ninotsminda, Duisi, Jokolo and Birkiani).

#### **4.3.1.13 Multi-Ethnic Art Festival “Under One Sky”**

Since 2010, the young Georgians and young representatives of ethnic minorities have been participating in the biannual multi-ethnic art festival “Under One Sky - Dialogue of Cultures”. Throughout the year, the concerts were held in Telavi Music School (160 participants) and Nodar Dumbadze Professional State Youth Theatre (200 participants).

#### **4.3.1.14 Evening dedicated to the memory and 165th birth anniversary of the first Kist educator Mate Albutashvili.**

See sub-section - Pankisi Gorge Development Program.

#### **4.3.1.15 Conducting events dedicated to the International Day of Tolerance**

The Office of the State Minister planned and implemented a diverse program during the week dedicated to the International Day of Tolerance: a public lecture was held at Samtskhe-Javakheti State University; meetings were held in Tbilisi with students and interns participating in the Georgian Language Educational Program (1 + 4 Program), as well as pupils from local public schools in Tsalka Municipality. In cooperation with the UN Association of Georgia, an official reception was held dedicated to the International Day of Tolerance. Video-clips (5 video clips) prepared by the Office of the State Minister within the new project Meet the Diverse Georgia, were presented. The goal of the project - Meet the Diverse Georgia - is to present and introduce successful ethnic minority representatives to the public. Within the framework of the Tolerance Week, performance My Diverse Homeland was prepared. Presentation of this performance was held in Tbilisi, during the reception dedicated to the International Day of Tolerance, and in Akhaltsikhe, at the closing event of the Tolerance Week.

#### **4.3.1.16- 4.3.1.19 Vainakh Folklore Festival in Poti**

See sub-section - Pankisi Gorge Development Program.

#### **4.3.1.17 80th birth anniversary of the Kist public figure and writer Gigi Khornauli in Pankisi Gorge**

See sub-section - Pankisi Gorge Development Program.

#### **4.3.1.20 Needs assessment of the small ethnic minority groups**

In order to study and identify their needs, several meetings were held with different target groups (members of the Elders' Council, members of the Kist Women's Council, educational institutions and local self-government representatives) in Pankisi Gorge, in particular: Duisi, Omalo, Jokolo and Akhmeta.

#### **4.3.1.21 High school students from ethnic minorities visit the MIA Academy and Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy**

Within the framework of European Days 2018, the Office of State Minister organized a study tour in David Agmashenebeli National Defense Academy. Participants of the project Young European Ambassadors and high school students from Pankisi participated in this event (50 participants).

#### **4.3.1.22 Essay competition for youth representatives of ethnic minorities**

- In cooperation with the Office of the State Minister and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, within the Georgian Language Day, a play competition - My First Georgian Role - was organized where participants were performing in Georgian language. Competition was open for the non-Georgian speaking pupils from general educational institutions/sectors. The aim of the competition was to promote Georgian language among ethnic minority pupils, develop competences in the state language and identify their creative skills. Presented projects were assessed by the jury, which identified three best performances and a "favorite performance of the jury". The winners were awarded;
- With the participation of the Office of State Minister, the Georgian Calligraphy Competition Winners were awarded. Up to 800 II-XII grade students from private and public schools of Kvemo Kartli municipalities participated in the competition. 64 winners were announced. The aim of the competition was to promote the art of calligraphy among different groups, including ethnic minority pupils.

#### **4.3.1.24 Promotion of the project Tbilisi Friendship House**

During the reporting period, the Friendship House at the Tbilisi Sakrebulo supported up to 20 cultural-educational events.

#### **4.3.1.25 Funding more than 50 events planned by ethnic minorities in Batumi**

Up to 30 various types of activities were funded by the Batumi Municipality City Hall.

#### **4.3.1.26 State Inter-agency Commission sessions**

With coordination of the Office of the State Minister on Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the State Inter-agency Commission meeting was held, discussing report on 2017 action plan and 2018 action plan.

#### **Additional activities**

- The Office of State Minister organized opening of the memorial in Karajala, Gardabani Municipality, dedicated to the first democratically elected Muslim woman - Fari Khanum Sofieva. Following the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Georgia in 1918, elections were held throughout the country,

including the district of Tbilisi, in Karaiazi. Leading parties participated in the local elections - Social Democrats and Federalists, Hummet, National-Democrats and candidates of ESERY, but an independent candidate - Azerbaijani Muslim woman Fari-Khanum Sofieva beat them all and became member of Tbilisi's local self-government body – Samazro Eroba from Karaiazi district. Her name is attributed to number of cases, including the construction of a railway station in her native village;

- The Office of State Minister on Reconciliation and Civic Equality, within the International Women's Day, organized a meeting in village Duisi (Pankisi gorge) with the local teachers;
- The Office of State Minister on Reconciliation and Civic Equality organized an exhibition of contemporary Azerbaijani artists living in Georgia. The Giorgi Leonidze State Museum of Georgian Literature hosted the exhibition of artworks on various topics by Azer Mosaoghlu, Ali Aliyev, Rasim Gasanov and Rizvan Ismailov.

## Recommendations

The report reflects several positive trends having been revealed while implementing 2018 Action Plan of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration. Number of new initiatives were implemented and concrete steps were undertaken for further support and empowerment of ethnic minorities, improvement of their engagement in various spheres of public life as well as preservation of their culture and further strengthening of a tolerant environment. At the same time certain challenges still remain which need to be well-addressed through intense and active work within specific directions. In order to fulfill the goals set up in the Strategy in the nearest future we consider that the following actions need to be carried out:

### **Strategic goal - Equal and Full Participation in Civic and Political Life**

- To intensify work of Advisory Councils established at the Administrations of the State Attorney-Governor of Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions for the purpose of improving participation of ethnic minorities in local decision-making processes at local level. To establish the similar Councils at the Administration of the State Attorney-Governor in Samtskhe Javakheti region as well at municipal level;
- To carry out evaluation study (including recommendations), of the internship program at public institutions for ethnic minority young people, beneficiaries of “1 +4” Educational Program for further development of the Program;
- To improve the access to the information and relevant documents in ethnic minority languages at the local self-governing bodies in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities;



- To continue implementation of the activities ensuring full and equal participation of ethnic minorities in elections;
- To conduct information/awareness raising campaigns on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as on other international mechanisms for human rights protection, and obligations in the area of human rights within Georgia's European integration process.

**Objective – Supporting small and vulnerable ethnic minority groups:**

- To continue teaching native languages of smaller ethnic minority groups. Implementing the targeted programs for raising the qualification of respective specialists;
- To strengthen teaching Udi language as well as preparation of relevant additional educational materials/resources;
- To conduct active work in the framework of respective Inter-Agency working group for ensuring effective implementation of Pankisi Gorge Strategic Development Program;
- To continue registration of Roma community representatives;
- To improve social-economic conditions of Roma community;
- Carrying out active information campaigns for Roma community on state programs and services.

**Objective - Gender mainstreaming:**

- To carry out intensive information/awareness raising campaigns in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities on the issues of gender equality, women's rights, early marriages, as well as domestic violence and trafficking;
- To provide ethnic minority women with relevant trainings and seminars with the aim to improve their socio-economic conditions.

**Strategic goal - Ensuring Equal Social and Economic Conditions and Opportunities:**

- To design and implement needs-based infrastructural projects aiming at improving social-economic conditions of local population;
- To carry out information campaigns on regular basis on the state programs and services (healthcare, social protection, agriculture, local infrastructure, environmental protection) for ethnic minority population in the regions.

**Strategic goal - Ensuring Access to Quality Education and Improving Knowledge of State Language:**

- To introduce pre-school readiness program in the pre-school institutions in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities;
- To improve pre-school education infrastructure;
- To improve school infrastructure;
- To study the conditions of public school in the village of Tsopi with the purpose to determine the need of its rehabilitation/reconstruction;
- To ensure translation of textbooks for the non-Georgian language schools;
- To ensure qualification enhancement of teacher-pedagogues through delivering relevant training programs;
- To continue implementation of “Georgian Language Educational Program (1+4 Program)” and conduct an evaluation study of its implementation (including recommendations) for further development of the program. To conduct information campaign for raising awareness on “1+4” Educational Program;
- To plan specific activities for improving access to vocational education;
- To continue intensive implementation of Georgian language learning programs for specific target groups;
- To develop joint initiatives of relevant state institutions aiming at popularization of state language and improvement of level of state language knowledge among ethnic minority representatives.

**Strategic goal - Preserving the Culture of Ethnic Minorities and Encouraging Tolerant Environment**

- To further support ethnic minority theatres, museums and cultural centers;
- To plan and implement the relevant programs and events with the intention of deepening intercultural dialogue and strengthening a tolerant environment.

**Objective – Development of information/awareness raising campaigns for ethnic minority representatives:**

- To carry out large-scale awareness raising/ information campaigns in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities on the issues of education, healthcare, social protection, economy, agriculture, environmental protection;
- Raising awareness of ethnic minorities on Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration process and its prospects and benefits; Preparation and distribution of relevant information materials in ethnic minority languages;
- To carry out the study visit for teachers in Brussels, Belgium, aiming at getting participants more familiar with European culture and values as well as prospects and benefits of Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

**Coordination of implementation process of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan(s):**

- To organize meetings of Inter-Agency Commission in the format of direct dialogue with ethnic minority representatives in the regions;
- To develop active and productive work within thematic working groups under the Inter-Agency Commission.

**Rehabilitation of infrastructure**

**Kvemo Kartli region**

**Rustavi**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 10 projects were financed with a total value of 9 230 862 GEL, including the FRD fund of 8 096 398 GEL.

**Bolnisi municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 15 projects were financed with a total value of 5 679 483 GEL, including the FRD fund of 4 055 520 GEL.

**Gardabani municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 3 projects were financed with a total value of 2 199 799 GEL, including the FRD fund of 2 089 809 GEL.

**Dmanisi municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 9 projects were financed with a total value of 2 452 475 GEL, including the FRD fund of 1 888 579 GEL.

**Tetritskaro municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 6 projects were financed with a total value of 3 430 449 GEL, including the FRD fund of 3 262 574 GEL;
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 2 projects with a total value of 134 265 GEL, including the Mountain Fund of 127 551 GEL.

**Marneuli municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 15 projects were financed with a total value of 6 533 463 GEL, including the FRD fund of 3 291 155 GEL;

**Tsalka municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 5 projects were financed with a total value of 4 206 178 GEL, including the FRD fund of 3 804 439 GEL;
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project with a total value of 150 630 GEL, including the Mountain Fund of 143 099 GEL.

## **Samtskhe-Javakheti region**

### **Akhaltzikhe municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 13 projects were financed with a total value of 7 465 903 GEL, including the FRD fund of 6 701 639 GEL;
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project with a total value of 800 000 GEL, including the Mountain Fund of 760 000 GEL.

### **Adigeni municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 3 projects were financed with a total value of 2 498 600 GEL, including the FRD fund of 2 373 668 GEL;
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project with a total value of 638 995 GEL, including the Mountain Fund of 607 045 GEL.

### **Aspindza municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 6 projects were financed with a total value of 3 101 240 GEL, including the FRD fund of 2 946 177 GEL;
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project with a total value of 830 467 GEL, including the Mountain Fund of 788 943 GEL.

### **Akhalkalaki municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 14 projects were financed with a total value of 3 110 622 GEL, including the FRD fund of 2 955 085 GEL;
- The Fund for the Development of High-Mountainous Settlements financed 1 project with a total value of 246 800 GEL, including the Mountain Fund of 234 460 GEL.

### **Borjomi municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 7 projects were financed with a total value of 2 906 107 GEL, including the FRD fund of 2 324 884 GEL.

### **Ninotsminda municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 4 projects were financed with a total value of 2 303 373 GEL, including the FRD fund of 2 188 204 GEL.

## **Kakheti Region**

### **Akhmeta municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 16 projects were financed with a total value of 3 753 266 GEL, including the FRD fund of 3 715 929 GEL.

### **Lagodekhi municipality**

- Under the funds allocated for the regional projects, 18 projects were financed with a total value of 4 066 399 GEL, including the FRD fund of 3 862 985 GEL.