

Gender Equality Profile in LDN/SLM for Gori Municipality, Georgia

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“Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land
Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia”
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**“Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land
Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia”**

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Contents

Methodology	2
General Overview.....	2
Gender Equality Policies at Municipal Level	3
Gori Municipality Gender Equality Institutional Mechanism and Legal Framework.....	3
Women's Participation in Decision Making in Gori Municipality.....	3
Population	5
Migration	6
Households	7
Infrastructure and Access to Services.....	7
Roads	7
Transport	8
Gasification and Alternative Energy	9
Water Supply and Sewerage.....	10
Waste Management/Cleaning.....	11
Education	12
Higher Education	12
Schools.....	12
Kindergardens	12
Free Time, Non-Formal Education, Culture and Sport	13
Healthcare, Access to Healthcare Services.....	15
Primary Healthcare	15
Jobs and Incomes	15
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in SLM and LDN.....	18
Gender Equality in International Rankings - National Perspective on Georgia	18
Women in Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship - National, Regional, and Local Contexts....	20
Main Gender Inequalities in Agriculture and Rural Development	30
Recommendations for Advancing SLM and LDN in Gori Municipality through Gender-Responsive Approaches.....	35
Conclusion	37

Methodology

Three sources of data were used to develop the gender profile of Gori Municipality:

- Information obtained from the Gori Municipality regarding gender policy and gender statistics
- Official data from the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat)
- Specially designed questionnaires and surveys conducted in the villages of the municipality

It is important to mention that the National Statistics Office of Georgia primarily maintains national-level statistics. While some data is available at the regional and municipal levels, there is very limited statistical information at the village level. Moreover, the municipality itself rarely collects gender-disaggregated data. Therefore, the development of this gender profile would not have been possible without additional on-the-ground surveys.

A gender assessment of the villages in Gori Municipality was conducted during November–December 2021. The fieldwork was carried out by representatives of the Gori Municipal Administration (Executive Body) in the administrative units. Following the survey, the data collected from the villages was assessed and analyzed.

General Overview

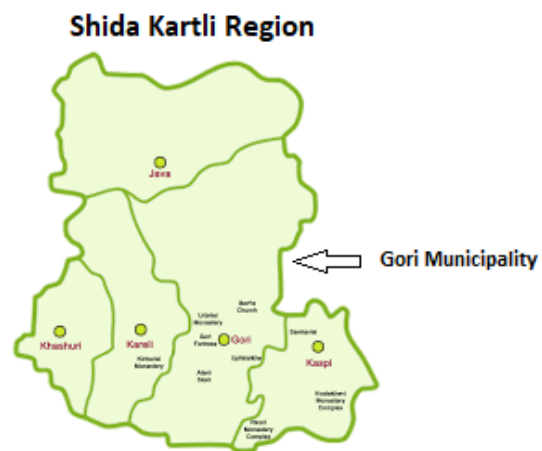
Gori Municipality is located in the central part of eastern Georgia - Shida Kartli region. It borders Akhagori Municipality to the northeast, Kaspi Municipality to the east, and Kareli Municipality to the west.

The overall territory of Gori municipality is 1,336 square kilometers (133,630 ha)¹.

According to the information available at the National Statistics Office of Georgia, as of January 1, 2021 the number of population in Gori Municipality stood at 120,600.

Gori Municipality consists of one city (Gori) and 120 villages, which are organized into the following 22 administrative units (*formerly self-governing communities*): Berbuki; Karaleti; Shavshvebi; Mejvriskhevi; Mereti; Skra; Tirdznisi; Ditsi; Tiniskhidi; Variani; Kvakhvrel; Shindisi; Dzevera; Zegduleti; Akhalubani; Ateni; Nikozi; Mgebriani; Boshuri; Sakavare; Tkviavi; and Khidistavi².

Administrative centre of the municipality is City of Gori.



¹ Official Web-Page of Gori Municipality at: <https://gori.gov.ge/index.php?m=364&lng=eng>

² Administration of State Representative-Governor of Shida Kartli.
http://shidakartli.gov.ge/ge/municipalities/index/2?fbclid=IwAR3e4LXZnUI3XuG9xJfAH7srO-08ISOq4U4rOTyinhR6kC44zWehINc_wDg

Gender Equality Policies at Municipal Level

Gori Municipality Gender Equality Institutional Mechanism and Legal Framework

According to the resolution #1 of Gori municipal Sakrebulo (Legislative Body), the Gender Equality Council of Gori Municipality, chaired by the head of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body), has been established on January 12, 2018.³ The Council is comprised of 20 members (10 female, 10 male) who are the public servants from both the Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) and the Administration (Executive Body). Representatives of non-governmental organizations are also among the members of the Council. The Gori municipal Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) has approved the 2019 Gender Equality action plan. No further action plan has been approved by the municipality.

Women's Participation in Decision Making in Gori Municipality

Although the number of female representatives has increased in Georgia in local self-government elections as a result of legislative gender quotas, including in Gori Municipality, the number of male decision-makers in Gori municipal Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) is considerably exceeding the number of female representatives. Women in Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) are mainly employed at the level of various specialists.

Out of the 36 members of Gori municipal Sakrebulo (Legislative Body), 10 are female (28%) and 26 are male (72%). The head of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) is a man, his deputies are 2 males, one female. There are a total of 23 people holding political positions at the Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) out of which 6 are female (26%), 17 – male (74%). There are five commissions at the Sakrebulo (Legislative Body), two of which are chaired by females, three others – by males. All of the three chairs of the factions are male. There is one man holding a managerial position, while the chief of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) staff is also a male. There are 18 public servants at the Sakrebulo (Legislative Body), out of which 15 are female and 3 – male. Meanwhile out of those employed under a labor contract two are male and two are female⁴.

	Gori Municipal Sakrebulo (Legislative Body)		
	Position	Women	Men
1.	Member of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body)	10	26
2.	Opposition member of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body)	5	7
3.	Person holding political positions	6	17
3.1	Chair of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body)	0	1
3.2	Deputy Chair of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body)	1	2
3.3	Chair of commission	2	3
3.4	Chairs of factions	0	3
4.	Person holding managerial positions	0	1

³ Legislative Herald of Georgia <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/4002020?publication=0>

⁴ Letter of Sakrebulo (Legislative Body) of Gori Municipality, 10.12.2021

4.1	Chief of staff		1
4.2	Head of service	-	-
4.3	Head of department	-	-
5.	Public servant	15	3
6.	Professional officer	-	-
7.	Person employed under a labor contract	2	2

Table 1 Gori Municipal Sakrebulo (Legislative Body)

Following the 2021 municipal elections the representation of men holding political and managerial positions at the Gori municipal Administration (Executive Body) exceeds the number of women.

Gori municipal Mayor is a man. The Mayor has two male deputies. The overall number of people employed on managerial positions stands at 36 (21 men, 15 women). This includes heads of services (7 men, 2 women) and heads of departments (14 men, 13 women).

Number of female professional public servants exceeds the number of males at the Gori Administration (Executive Body), the total amount of which stands at 187 (86 male, 101 female). The number of people employed at the Administration (Executive Body) under a labor contract stands at 25 (19 male, 6 female). The number of people employed under an administrative contract stands at 96 (47 male, 47 female)⁵.

Gori Municipal Administration (Executive Body)			
	Position	Women	Men
1.	Person holding political positions	1	2
1.1	Mayor	1	
1.2	Deputy Mayor		2
2.	Person holding managerial positions	15	21
2.1	Chief of staff	2	7
2.2	Head of service	13	14
3.	Public servant (specialist)		
4.	Person employed under a labor contract	6	19
5.	person employed under an administrative agreement	47	47
6.	Professional public servant	101	86

Table 2 Gori Municipal Administration (Executive Body)

⁵ The person responsible for gender equality at Gori Administration (Executive Body), 08.12.2021

Population

According to the 2014 census, the total number of population in Gori Municipality stood at 125692, including 60744 (48%) men, 64948 (52%) - women.

Based on the information available at the National Statistics Office of Georgia, as of January 1, 2021 the total number of population in Gori Municipality stood at 120600. Unfortunately, no gender disaggregated data is available. See the Table 3.

Population of Gori Municipality		Male		Female		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2014 census	City	22141	46%	26002	54%	10871	21%
	Village	38603	50%	38946	50%	40890	79%
Total		60744	48%	64948	52%	51761	100%
Data for January 1, 2021	City	-	-	-	-	45400	20%
	Village	-	-	-	-	75200	80%
Total		-	-	-	-	120600	100%

Table 3 Population of Gori Municipality. Source: The National Statistics Office of Georgia

Compared to 2014 the number of population is decreased both in the city (6%) and the villages (3%).

Based on the information provided by the Gori Municipality about the distribution of rural population in 120 villages and 22 administrative units in 2021, there are 51% of men and 49% of women. The gender disaggregation coincides with the information provided by the National Statistics Office of Georgia. See the Chart 1.

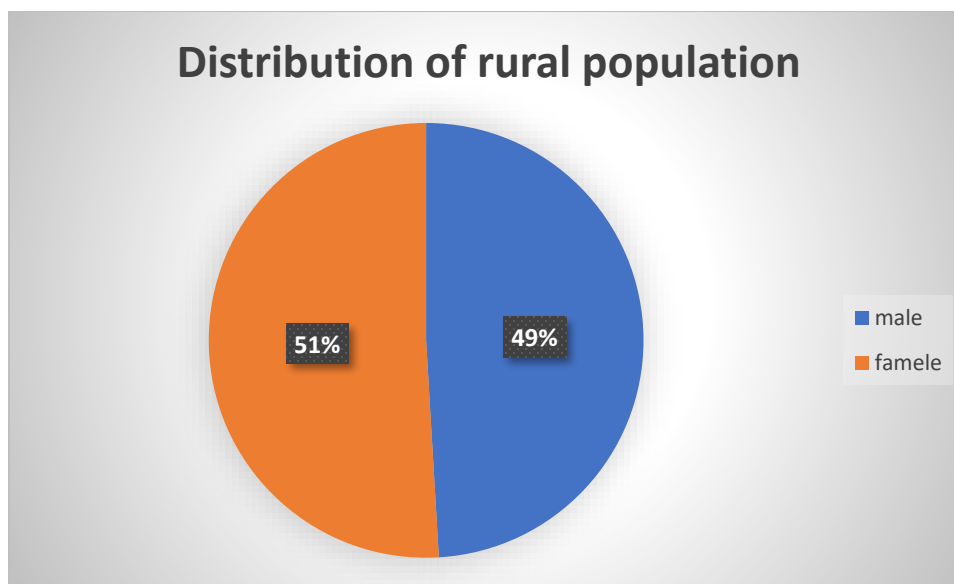


Chart 1 Population of Gori Municipality. Source: The National Statistics Office of Georgia

See the sex and age disaggregated data about the rural population of Gori Municipality in a chart below:

Distribution of rural population by age and sex																				
0-2 years			2-6 years			6-15 years			15-18 years			18-60 years			60-65 years			over 65		
male	female	total	male	female	total	male	female	total	male	female	total	male	female	total	male	female	total	male	female	total
709	703	1412	1421	1416	2837	3177	3298	6475	1825	1932	3757	19362	19800	39162	4231	4519	8750	5619	6486	12105

Table 4 Distribution of rural population in Gori Municipality according to age and sex

Migration

Internal and external migration are the precondition for the decrease in population in the municipality.

Internal migration

We obtained the data about internal migration from a survey based on a special questionnaire elaborated for the villages of Gori Municipality. Migration from the villages of municipality is frequent in 80% of the villages, while in the remaining 20% is rare. The population mainly migrates to Tbilisi – 81%, to the city of Gori – 54%, as well as to other cities (Rustavi, Kutaisi, Batumi) – 3%

External migration

A vast majority of the population migrates abroad. The major target countries are Turkey (36%), Italy (16%), Greece (14%) and others.

The vast majority (74%) of migrants are women, men compose 14% of migrants, while both women and men – 13%. As a rule, women migrate to Italy, Greece and Turkey to find jobs.

See the full data about the major destination countries for rural population in chart #2.

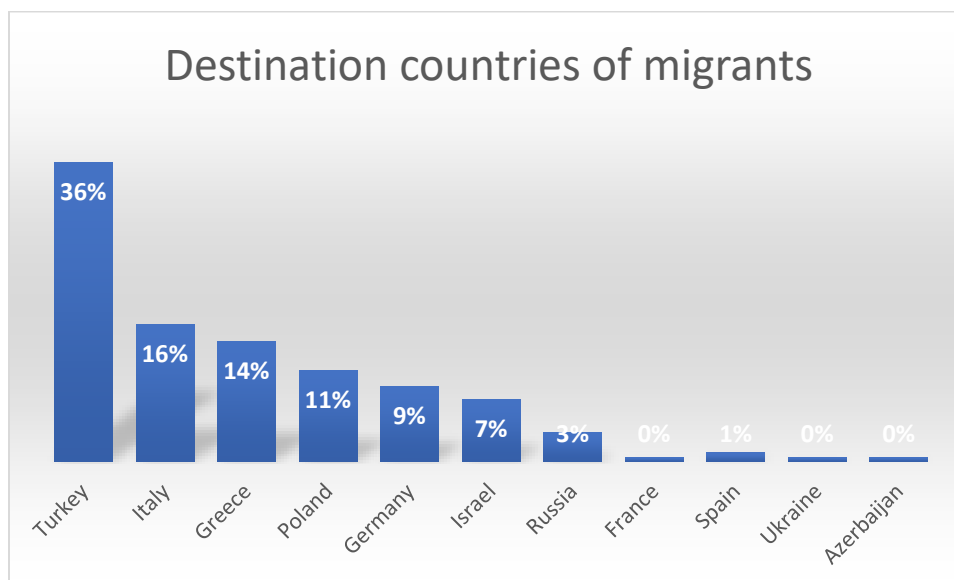


Chart 2 Destination countries of migrants from Gori Municipality

Households

There is no data about the overall number of households available in the municipality either on the webpage of the National Statistics Office of Georgia or at the disposal of the municipality, it is even harder to receive gender disaggregated information about the heads of the households on the municipal level. The results of the survey carried out by the Administration (Executive Body) representatives based on the questionnaire show that 64% of the heads of households are men. See the Chart 3.

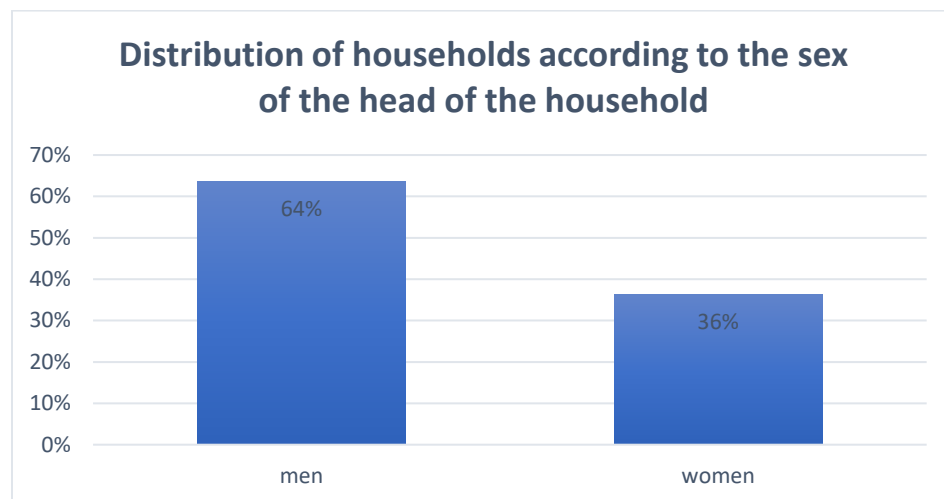


Chart 3 Distribution of households according to the sex of the head of the household in Gori Municipality

Infrastructure and Access to Services

Roads

Mayor's representatives assess the condition of the internal road infrastructure of the village mainly as average or poor, only 11% is assessed as good. Although 57.8% of the internal roads are paved, according to the mayor's representatives, in most cases the asphalt pavement is damaged or outdated and needs to be rehabilitated. See the chart 4.

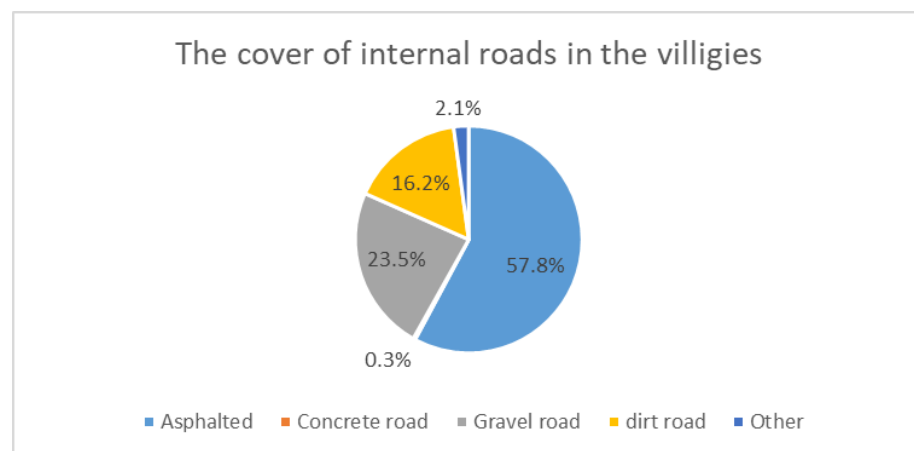


Chart 4 The cover of internal roads in the villages

88% of the inner roads of the village do not have sidewalks, the sidewalks are mainly 8% or 5% of the main roads leading to the village.

Drainage system is not ensured in 68% of the internal roads, it is fully ensured in 20% of the cases, which is cleaned on average once in 2-3 years.

Outdoor lighting of 93% of the roads in the villages are equipped with outdoor lighting.

Transport

No municipal or private transport operates in 15% of the villages, the private transport micro-buses operates only in 85% of the villages, except for the villages within the administrative unit of Tiniskhidi (Tiniskhidi, Otarasheni, Tedotsminda), there municipal transport operates by schedule.

The vast majority (92%) of private vehicle owners are male. See the chart 5.

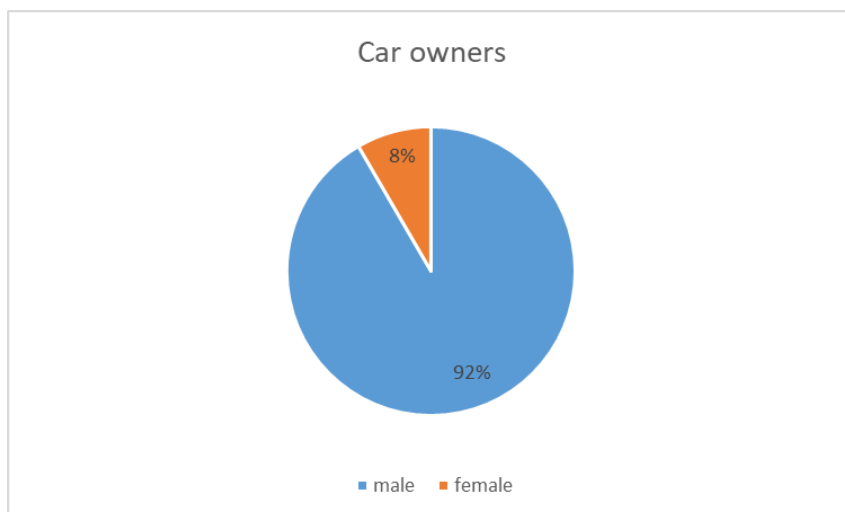


Chart 5 Car owners

The available data confirms that access for transport for women remains a serious challenge. The number of women who possess vehicles is much lower than the men.

Nonexistence of municipal transport and lack of private vehicles, especially among the women, is a concern and a barrier preventing them from accessing other services (including healthcare, education, etc.).

Therefore, it is important to develop municipal transport, scheduled in line with the needs of the local population, especially women/girls. Proper, safe municipal transport would contribute to increasing higher mobility among women, access to healthcare services, improve the quality of life and give the local population more self-esteem.

Gasification and Alternative Energy

Natural Gas

The vast majority of the villages (71%) have access to natural gas, among them, an average of 5% of the gasified households in villages do not have access to natural gas. See the chart 6.

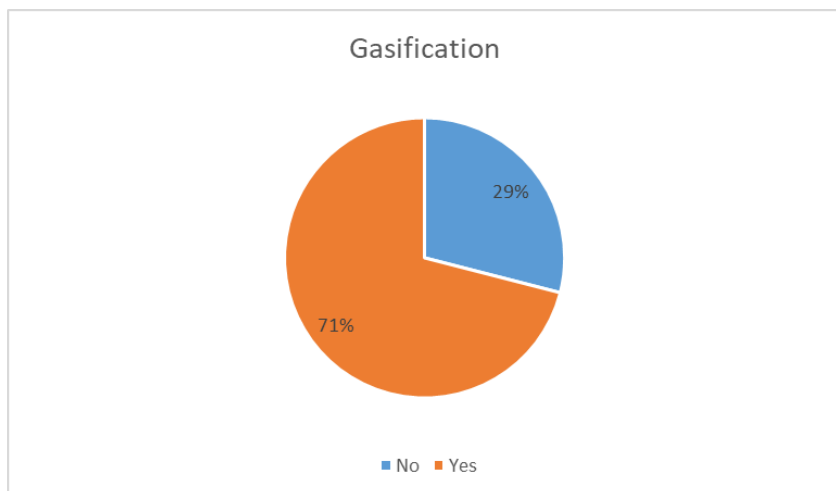


Chart 6 Gasification in Gori Municipality

The major source of heating. Despite that the majority of the villages in the municipality have been gasified, the number of households which use natural gas for heating is still low as firewood remains the major source of heating there.

The majority of the households' (46%) in villages use only firewood stoves, 29% of cases use firewood stoves and gas heater, only few of the households (0.1%-10%) use central heating system. See the chart 7.

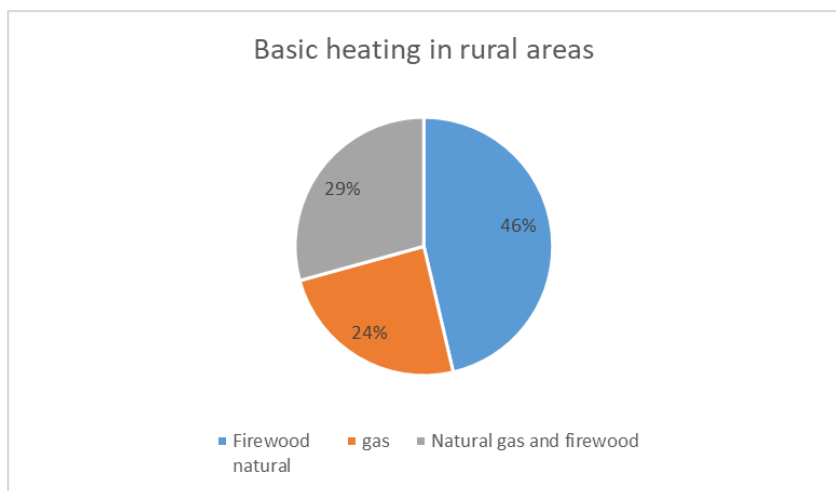


Chart 7 Basic heating in rural areas

The fact that the families are still using firewood in winter despite the gasification, points at their low income, the families have no central heating or hot water, which would be more energy efficient, ecologically safe and alleviate the household workload of women.

Water Supply and Sewerage

Access to water is particularly important for women considering the huge burden of responsibilities primarily in the village: household activities, water supply, sanitation and hygiene, and the welfare of the family. Lack of access to qualitative, constant water supply decreases women's quality of life and negatively affects their health conditions. The issue has become even more important amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Based on the information, in the Gori Municipality drinking water is available for the 68% of the villages, drinking water is not available for 20% of the cases.

Those villages who do not have access on drinking water are totally out of access on water supply. For example, village Mejriskhevi (50 families), village Khurvaleti (50 families), village Kitsnisi (80 families) and others.

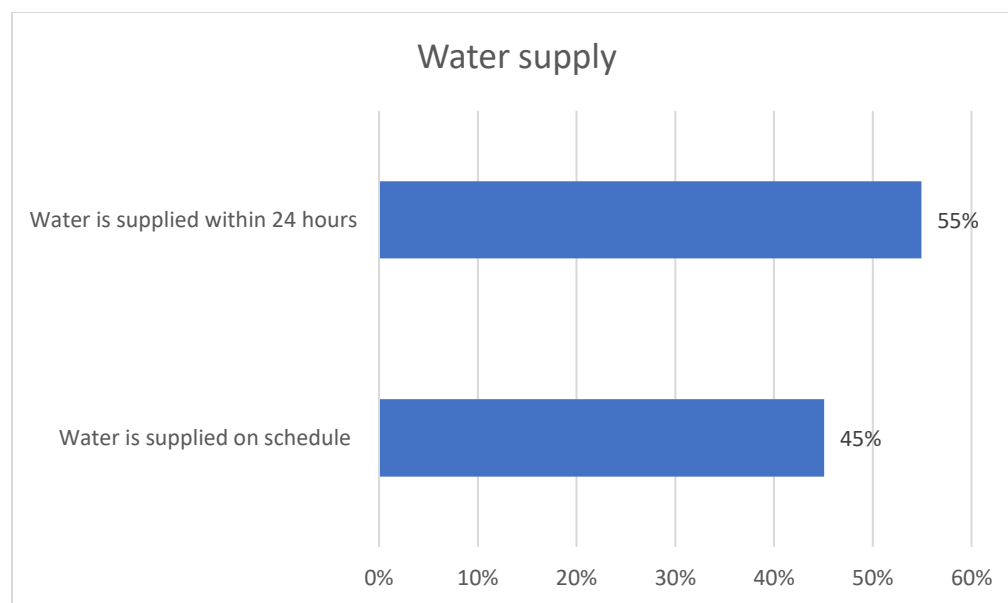


Chart 8 Water supply

Challenges related to the supply of permanent and quality drinking water have been identified in the villages of Gori Municipality:

- 32% of villages of Gori Municipality receive water on schedule
- Schedule is often unsatisfactory and does not provide sufficient and quality water to households. E.g. Village Ditsi - According to the mayor's representative, "some precincts are supplied once every two days for an hour or an hour and a half, some precincts every day, but for 20-30 minutes, some for 3 hours." (The village is located near the so-called administrative border).
- In 38% of the villages, there are frequent delays in the supply of quality drinking water.

The main reasons for the disruption of water supply are the reduction of water debit, which is related to:

- Climatic conditions (drought in summer and frost in winter),
- Use of drinking water for irrigation (in 42% of villages drinking water is used for irrigation),
- Damage to the water pumping station;
- Non-payment of electricity bills,
- Power cuts.

40% of villages are re-counterered, while 5% are partially re-counterered.

Water Quality

The main water supply station of Gori Municipality is mainly protected . In most cases the quality of water is being inspected from time to time.

It is noteworthy that the mayor's representatives speak about the facts of drinking water poisoning in 17% of the villages. In addition, there is a deterioration in the quality of drinking water, which is related to the periodic shutdown of electricity in the administrative units, insufficient filtration, disruption of water during heavy rains, depreciated old networks. By the mayor's representatives in 42% of the villages, the water quality is considered unsatisfactory.

Sewerage system - There is no sewerage system in any of the villages of Gori Municipality (the exception is the settlement of IDPs in Shavshvebi). A small number of families have a local sewerage system.

Waste Management/Cleaning

The situation is difficult concerning the waste management in the villages of the municipality. The population throws household rubbish in bins the number of which is not sufficient in the majority of the villages.

In 42% of the cases the garbage is being taken out of the villages once a week, in 30% of the cases – twice or thrice a week, while it is being taken out every day only in the village of Ateni. 11% of the villages in the municipality do not take out the garbage at all.

Even in the case of garbage bins, 41% of the villages in Gori Municipality are dumped - thrown in the gorges, slopes and rivers, on the outskirts of the village, along the canal, in streams and fields, which are not cleaned afterwards.

Women typically manage household waste. It is important to improve municipal waste management policy/infrastructure, involvement of women in waste management and raise public awareness around this issue.

Education

Higher Education

A total of 11036 people, including 57% women and 43% men, have received higher education in the villages of Gori Municipality.

Schools

Based on the information provided by the representatives of Gori municipal Administration (Executive Body), the number of school students is partially gender disaggregated. Based on this information there are 51% of boys and 49% of girls.

Based on the information provided, there are a total of 3195 students on the elementary level (1638 boys, 1557 girls), 1541 on the basic level (782 boys, 759 girls), 1520 – on the secondary level (750 boys, 770 girls). See Table 5.

Gender disaggregation of students in the village schools					
	Elementary level	Basic level	Secondary level	Total	%
Girls	1557	759	770	3086	49%
Boys	1638	782	750	3170	51%
Total	3195	1541	1520	6256	100%

Table 5 Gender disaggregation statistics of students in the village school

In villages where there is no school, students go to schools in neighboring villages. The school bus is mainly available,

72% of schools have been rehabilitated, while 28% of schools need to be repaired. The school infrastructure in most cases needs to be improved. The schools which have been recently rehabilitated have central heating, but 11 schools use only firewood for heating in winter.

Three schools do not have water supply in the building, but in the yard. A school in the village of Gavazi has delayed water provision.

The vast majority of schools use the local sewerage system.

Gyms have 30 schools, although more than half (16) school gyms need renovation.

84% of schools in the villages of the municipality have a library. 24% of rural schools in the municipality need to be equipped with computers. Most schools have internet access. Exceptions are the villages - Zemo Ksovrisi, Rukha, where internet access is not available at school.

Kindergardens

The total number of children of kindergarden age in Gori Municipality is 2837 (50% boys, 50% girls). See Table 6.

Number of children of kindergarden age		
Boys	Girls	Total
1421	1416	2837
50%	50%	100%

Table 6 Number of children of kindergarden age

There are 41 kindergardens in the villages of Gori Municipality 19 out of which have nursery groups.

Wherever there are no kindergardens, the children go to neighboring villages which are 1-6 km away.

Mayor's representatives point out that the children are served by transport, presumably rented by the parents.

In Gori Municipality, a certain number of children do not go to kindergarden. The reason for this is the mayor's representatives: inadequate conditions (village Akhaldaba), long distance (village Brotsleti), insufficient groups in the kindergarden (village Mejvriskhevi, village Tiniskhidi), others.

Most children do not go to kindergardens in the villages where there are no kindergardens; their families do not probably afford to take them to other kindergardens due to long distance amid the nonexistence of municipal transport; this problem is further deepened by nonexistence of municipal transport, lack of accessibility on private transport (only 8% of women possess cars in the municipality). It is also important to consider how much time women need to take their children to neighboring kindergardens and how to combine this with their household tasks.

Although the municipality has been gasified, part of the kindergardens, in particular 29% gets warm with a firewood stove in winter.

Every kindergarden is provided with drinking water. Some kindergardens in Gori Municipality are not properly equipped with toys and literature. Outdoor infrastructure, including playgrounds, is also a challenge as most of them are not properly arranged.

Free Time, Non-Formal Education, Culture and Sport

The infrastructure in the villages of the municipality is not properly arranged for cultural-cognitive or sport activities.

The House of Culture is not functioning in most villages. Only in 6 cases there was identified the building of the House of Culture, although it is mostly under need of renovation, or if the conditions are unsatisfactory. E.g. There is an English language group in the House of Culture in the village of Kitsnisi, however, as the mayor's representative notes, the building is cold in winter. Libraries are open in only four villages. 52% of the villages in Gori Municipality have open sports stadiums, some of them need to be rehabilitated. The vast majority of sports stadiums are designated for football. In seven cases, there are stadiums for basketball and volleyball; there is one wrestling field as well. Considering the gender stereotypes, the stadiums are mainly used by boys (69%) and only 31% by both boys and girls. The small number of girls involved in sport, mainly play volleyball wherever possible, cycle ball, jogging.

It is important to ensure other alternative spaces in the village enabling girls/women to play sport. This includes gyms, which are available in 4 villages only.

Free Time and Space

There are certain areas in the village centers or other districts where the locals usually gather to talk called “Birzha”. People socialize in churches and mosques as well.

Girls/women and boys/men have different opportunities to spend their free time.

The representatives of Administration (Executive Body) say that men mainly spend their free time at the so-called “Birja” where they talk, feast and have fun, they also play dominoes.

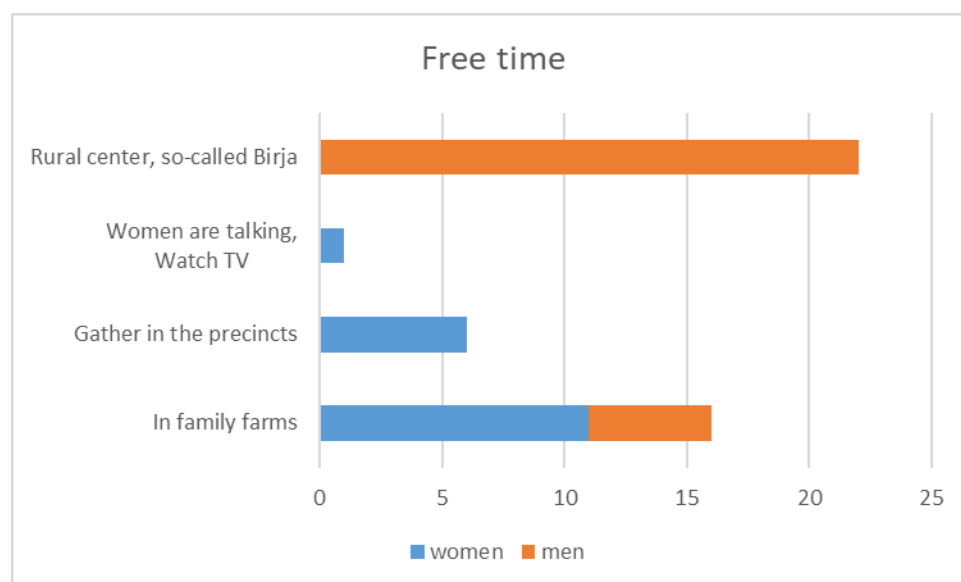


Chart 9 Free time of the population of Gori Municipality

The representatives of Administration (Executive Body) consider that women have a different understanding of free time: they mainly do the housework, stay home, watch TV and in rare cases spend their time talking with one another, visit neighbors or friends, surf the internet.

Practically, women spend their free time at home, doing household tasks and they rarely visit neighbors/friends or surf the internet, which supposedly is limited to using Facebook.

Based on the data provided, the attitudes of the representatives of Administration (Executive Body) are in line with the publicly rooted gender stereotypes about the work and leisure of women and men.

In the case of young people and children, the picture is slightly different. They spend most of their free time on sports fields and on social networks. If we take into account that boys are more engaged in sports activities, we can say that girls spend more free time in families as well.

Healthcare, Access to Healthcare Services

Primary Healthcare

The locals of the villages in Gori Municipality receive primary healthcare at the village hospital from a family doctor and a nurse.

Hospitals. The Administration (Executive Body) representatives provided information about 97 villages out of 105. There are a total of 43 hospitals in the villages of the municipality. In other villages without the hospitals locals receive healthcare services at the neighboring villages. The representatives of Administration (Executive Body) mainly assess the services provided by the health workers as positive, however at certain hospitals there is insufficient number of personnel, in particular nurses, while the hospitals have problems related to sewage system.

Ambulance service is available in almost every village, apart from the villages of Uplistsikhe and Ksovreli where the ambulance service is less available.

53% of Administration (Executive Body) representatives assess the ambulance services as qualitative, 40% - as satisfactory, while 7% - as of low quality.

The waiting time, poor road infrastructure and quality of services have been named as the major challenges.

Access to pharmacies is rather low in the villages. There are pharmacies only in 8 villages out of 105. In other villages locals go to the city of Gori.

Screening programmes are available in the city of Gori.

Maternity house is also available in the city of Gori. In other cases, women go to Tbilisi to receive the services they need.

The long distance to hospitals, lack of accessibility on transport, social norms and gender stereotypes reduce women's access to quality healthcare services. Particular attention should be paid on active involvement of rural women in screening programmes, as well as to increase the access on preventive interventions from a family doctor and a nurse at the hospitals.

Jobs and Incomes

Family farming (74%) is the major source of income for the families in Gori Municipality. This includes growing fruit and cereals, horticulture, viticulture, livestock, etc. It is noteworthy that the most part of income comes from hired labor, remittances of emigrants, social assistance and pensions. See the chart 10.

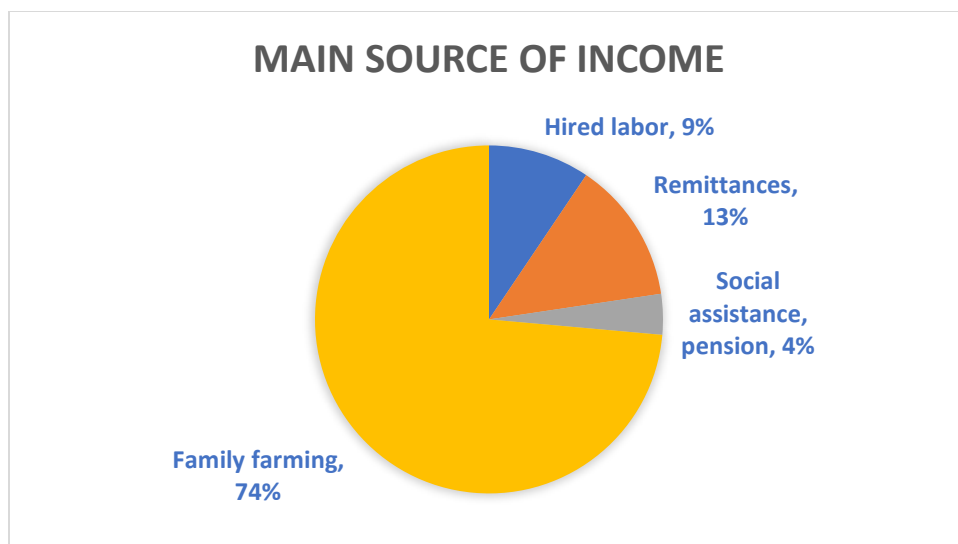


Chart 10 Main Source of Income

Growing fruit (43%) is considered the most profitable occupation in the villages of the municipality followed by livestock (26%), and horticulture (20%). See the chart11.

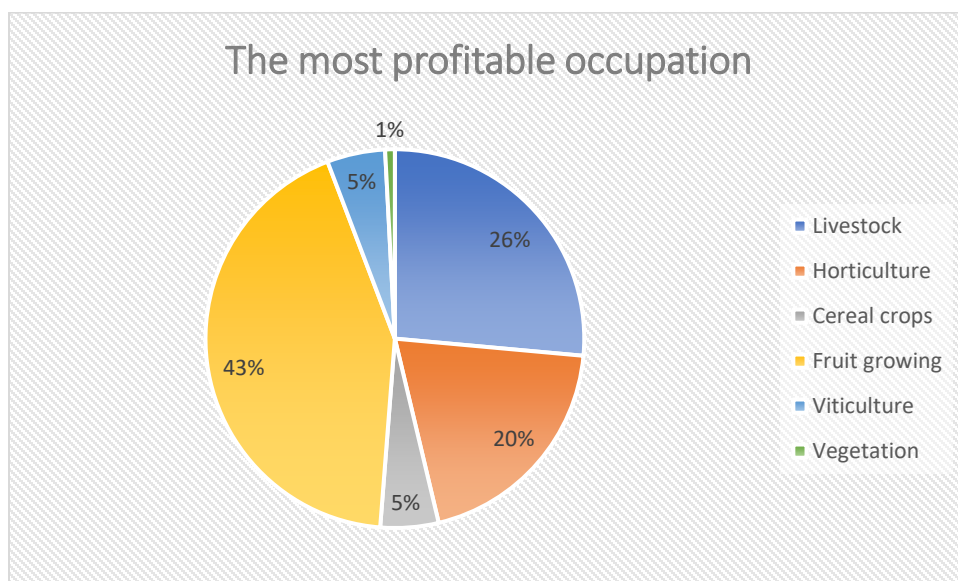


Chart 11 The most profitable occupation

According to the Administration (Executive Body) representatives, in 68% of the villages there is no other opportunity for employment apart from agricultural activities, in 23% of the villages people work in private sector, in 5% - in public service, in 5% - in other fields.

The Administration (Executive Body) representatives meanwhile say that 70% of the cases of employment in private sector include shops, 7% - pharmacies, 16% - others including farms, pesticide shops, beauty salons, fruit processing plants, etc.

94% of the Administration (Executive Body) representatives consider that agricultural duties are equally distributed between men and women, while the remaining 6% considers that men work more.

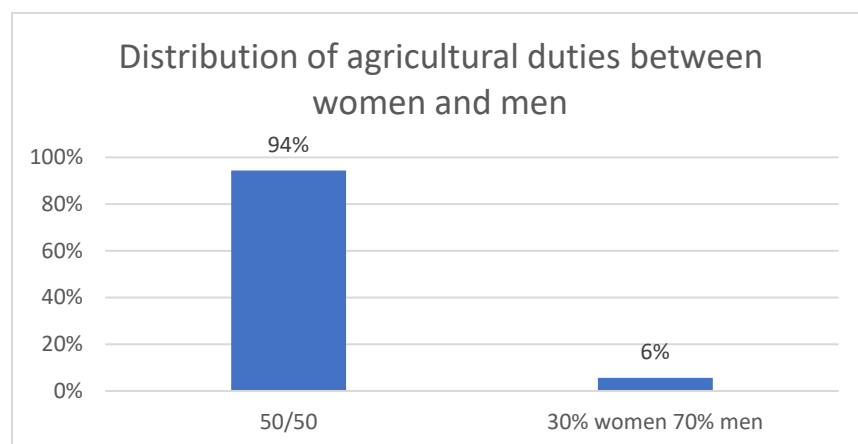


Chart 12 Distribution of agriculture Duties between women and men

Considering the fact that fruit growing, livestock and horticulture are considered the most profitable occupations in Gori Municipality, the role of women is immensely high, especially in horticulture. We can assume that women's labor is unnoticed considering their low gender sensitivity.

Tractors and mini tractors (87%) are most frequently used in agriculture, however in 18% of the villages the land cultivation is being ensured without agricultural tools (a hoe and a bar).

Agronomist's service is not available in 96% of the villages, it is partly available in 5% of the villages and is available in 9% of the villages. Irrigation water is available in 50% of the villages, while in 21% of the villages it is partly available, and in 29% of the villages it is not available at all.

39% of the villages have no access to news about modern technologies, they lack additional information and availability to improve their knowledge. 39% of the population receive the information from internet and television, 18% - from the rural consultancies available in the city and agronomists, 5% - have other sources of information.

According to the Administration (Executive Body) representatives, the monthly income of the rural population is rather low and ranges between GEL 50 to 700. They meanwhile note that the income of men exceeds the income of women by 3%. While the lowest income of men is GEL 50, the highest is GEL 700; while the lowest income of women is GEL 40, the highest is GEL 400.

Considering that almost 100% of the Administration (Executive Body) representatives are male, the opinion might be subjective, thus the difference between the income may be even larger (based on the data of the National statistics Office of Georgia, in 2020, the gender pay gap stood at 32.4% in Georgia).

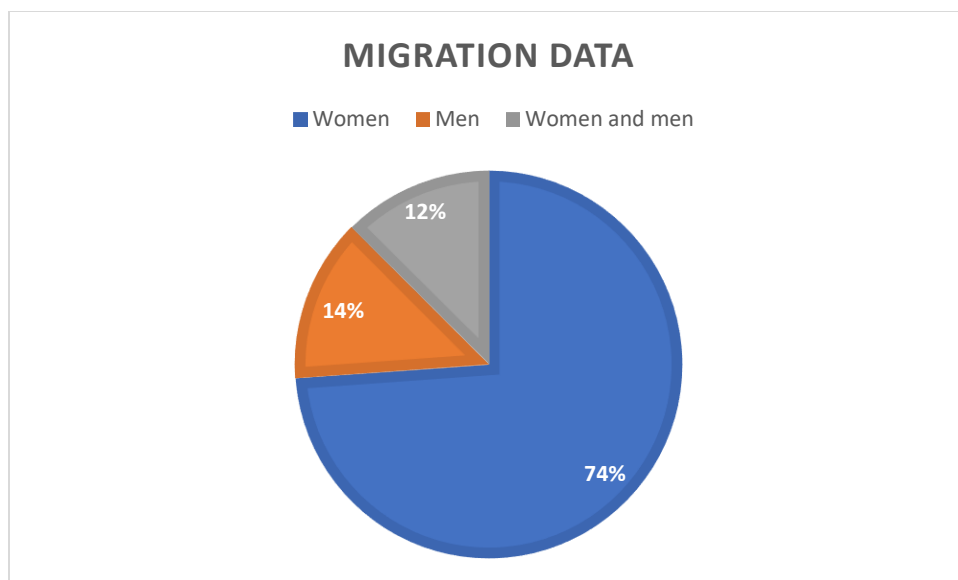


Chart 13 Migration data

It is also noteworthy that as a large portion of labor migrants are women (74%), the share of their remittances to their families is significant. 13% of income of the rural people is comprised of the remittances.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in SLM and LDN

Gender Equality in International Rankings - National Perspective on Georgia

Georgia has made positive steps in elaborating and implementing a gender equality strategy and has adopted number of international commitments. However, there is an overall consensus that greater efforts are needed to ensure gender equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. Georgia ranked 61st of 189 countries on the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index (HDI) 2020⁶, falling in the category of countries with 'very high human development'. The HDI is an internationally comparable measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: health, knowledge and living standards. Georgia's HDI ranking has experienced steady progress, rising by seven places since 2014. Its HDI value of 0.812 is below the average of 0.898 for countries in the very high human development category, and above the average of 0.791 for countries in Europe and Central Asia. In terms of the ranking of other neighbouring countries, the HDI 2020 places Georgia ahead of Azerbaijan (which ranks 88th), Armenia (81st) and Ukraine (74th), but behind Russia (52nd), Belarus (53rd) and Turkey (54th).

⁶ UNDP (2020). Human Development Report 2020 /UNDP, New York, 2020.
<https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdr2020.pdf>

The Gender Development Index (GDI)⁷ measures gender gaps in human development achievements by accounting for disparities between women and men in the three basic dimensions of human development. The GDI is the ratio of the HDIs calculated separately for females and males using the same methodology as in the HDI.

The female HDI 2020 value for Georgia is 0.800, compared to the male HDI value of 0.817, resulting in a GDI value of 0.980.

As a result, the country is placed in Group 1. Country groups are based on absolute deviation from gender parity in the HDI. This means that the grouping takes into consideration inequality in favour of men or women equally.

On the Gender Inequality Index 2020 (GII)⁸, Georgia ranks 76th of 162 countries, with a GII value of 0.331. The GII measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development – reproductive health (measured by the maternal mortality ratio and the adolescent birth rate), empowerment (measured by the proportion of parliamentary seats held by women and the proportion of adult women and men aged 25 and older with at least some secondary education) and economic status (measured by the labour force participation rate of the female and male populations aged 15 and older).

The GII is built on the same framework as the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) to highlight differences in the distribution of achievements between women and men. It measures the human development costs of gender inequality.

Thus, the higher the GII value, the more disparities between women and men, and the more the loss to human development.

On the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2021⁹, Georgia ranks 49th of 156 countries and has a value of 0.731 (with '0' corresponding to imparity and '1' to gender parity).

The index shows that Georgia's position has improved in terms of its overall ranking, rising from 54th place in 2006. However, its performance has deteriorated on some of the components of the Global Gender Gap Index, such as economic participation and opportunity. In terms of these areas, Georgia ranked 64th of 156 countries in 2021, compared to 41st of 115 countries in 2006.

The country's performance on educational attainment also deteriorated (from 28th place in 2006 to 30th in 2021), as did its performance on political empowerment (from 59th place in 2006 to 60th in 2021).

However, its performance in terms of health and survival has significantly improved – rising from 115th place in 2006 to 50th place in 2021. In terms of regional comparisons, Georgia ranks 12th on the index 26 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

⁷ UNDP (2020). Gender Development Index 2020 /UNDP, New York, 2020.

<https://hdr.undp.org/gender-development-index#/indicies/GDI>

⁸ UNDP (2020). Gender Inequality Index 2020 /UNDP, New York, 2020.

<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII>

⁹ World Economic Forum (2021). Global Gender Gap Report 2021 /WEF, Cologny, 2021.

https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf

Women in Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship - National, Regional, and Local Contexts

The share of rural population in the total population of the country was 42% for 2017. It was reduced by 1% to 41% by 2020, and it is 40.6% in 2021¹⁰. By 2019, agriculture, forestry and fisheries accounted for 7.4% of gross domestic product (GDP)¹¹.

Nationwide problem of land fragmentation is particularly acute in the agricultural sector. The issuance of loans is hindered by various factors in practice. Fragmentation of agricultural lands is high, which makes small enterprises risky. Commercial credit organizations, on the other hand, focus on large farmers as usual.¹²

However, when state programs require land beneficiaries to own land, women are in a doubly disadvantaged position because they either do not own land at all or own little land.

According to Geostat¹³, there is still a radical imbalance between men and women in the percentage of agricultural land distribution. According to 2017 data, this figure was 17.9% for women and 82.1% for men; In the following years, these figures have changed slightly. Namely, in 2018, the area of land used for agriculture was 19% for women and 81% for men, while in 2019, women owned 19.8% and, consequently, man owned 80.2%. In 2020, this figure was 20.7% for women and 79.3% for men.

Recent studies show that rural people are significantly more prone to poverty. However, these risks are equally characteristic of men and women. The poverty rate for women and girls was highest in 2018 at 23.3%, although it was 23.0% for men as well. According to the regions, women and girls living in rural regions are more prone to poverty compared to women and men living in capital city of Tbilisi, who are at the lowest risk of poverty.¹⁴

In Georgia, a man is traditionally considered to be the head of the household. Accordingly, the share of male-headed households exceeds 60 percent.

Household total income and expenditures as well as poverty indicators do not reveal gender differences among male- and female-headed households. However, gender differences are revealed through an analysis of certain categories of household incomes and expenditures. Incomes from wages, self-employment and selling agricultural production are higher for households where the head is male, while incomes from property leasing, interest on deposit and money received as a gift are higher for households where the head is female. In case of expenditures, expenses on agriculture and property acquirement are higher for households where the head is male, while expenses on health care and clothing and footwear

¹⁰ GeoStat (2021). Population of Georgia by Regions and Self-Governed Units in 1994-2021 (as of 1 January for each year). [online]: <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/41/population>

¹¹ GeoStat (2021) - <https://www.geostat.ge/en>

¹² European Union (2021). Gender Equality in Georgia in GAP II Priority Areas: Country Review // EU 4Gender Equality: Reform Help Desk” project, funded by the European Union and implemented by NIRAS. https://georgia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/gender_eng_part_2.pdf

¹³ GeoStat (2021). Women and Men in Georgia / Statistical Publication, Tbilisi, 2021. https://www.geostat.ge/media/41855/WOMEN-AND-MEN-IN-GEORGIAN_-2021.pdf

¹⁴ UN Women (2016). Georgia: Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Local Development Systems. <https://dSPACE.nplq.gov.ge/bitstream/1234/156815/1/GenderAssessmentOfAgricultureAndDevelopmentSystems.pdf>

are higher for households where the head is female. Women are less likely to be employed, and their salary/earnings is lower in almost every economic sector - especially in agriculture.

The most recent data of 2021¹⁵ show that the number of men founding businesses is almost twice as high as the number of women in the same category. In terms of the economic sectors, a relatively small number of women business owners are found in the mining industry, construction, transport and warehousing, and agriculture. On the other hand, the number of female owners is much higher than the number of male owners in areas of activity such as education, health and social services and other services.

The Government Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2020¹⁶ sets out certain commitments that the State has made to strengthen the economic participation of women living in villages; The Action Plan also sets out a commitment to ensure equal access to agricultural land and real estate. It should be noted, however, that the projects implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture did not include a gender component. As various reports point out, obtaining agro-credits by women is still a challenge as it involves owning land and other property.

Rural women also have less access to information that includes support for agriculture and manufacturing. It should also be noted that the indicators for the 2020 task of the 2018-2020 Action Plan of the Rural Development Strategy of Georgia¹⁷, as well as newly approved Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia for 2021-2027 and its Action Plan for 2021-2023¹⁸, take into account the gender perspective, but, actually, in substantially general priority areas, for example, these action plans aim to raise awareness of innovation and entrepreneurship and to encourage collaboration by promoting skills development and employment (especially for young people and women); The plans also emphasize the importance of increasing the involvement of the population (especially women and youth) in identifying local needs and ways to address them. However, these measures are not sufficient to meet the needs and interests of women and girls living in villages; They also fail to strengthen them economically as these measures are not supported by appropriate effective mechanisms, including the obligation to implement gender budgeting in local municipalities.

The Law on Gender Equality of Georgia¹⁹ does not oblige relevant agencies to provide gender budgeting, gender impact assessment or gender audit and appropriate reporting. Consequently, without these tools, the needs of women and girls living in villages are difficult to be fully reflected in relevant strategies or state and local programs implemented in Gori Municipality.

¹⁵ GeoStat (2021). *Women and Men in Georgia / Statistical Publication, Tbilisi, 2021.*
https://www.geostat.ge/media/41855/WOMEN-AND-MEN-IN-GEORGIAN_-2021.pdf

¹⁶ Government of Georgia (2019). Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2020,
<https://myrights.gov.ge/en/plan/Human%20Rights%20Action%20Plan%20for%202018-2020>

¹⁷ Government of Georgia (2017). Rural Development Strategy of Georgia for 2017-2020 and its Action Plan for 2018-2020.
<https://eu4georgia.eu/wp-content/uploads/Rural-Development-Strategy-of-Georgia-2017-2020.pdf>

¹⁸ Government of Georgia (2019). Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia for 2021-2027 and its Action Plan for 2021-2023.
<https://eu4georgia.eu/wp-content/uploads/Agriculture-and-Rural-Development-Strategy-of-Georgia-2021%E2%80%932027.pdf>

¹⁹ Gender Equality Act (2010) // Law of Georgia on Gender Equality of 26 March, 2010 (*Official Gazette of Georgia – Legislative Herald of Georgia (LHG)*, web-page: matsne.gov.ge, Ref.: 2844-Is, Registration Code No. 010.100.000.05.001.003.962 - [Unofficial Translation in English]
<https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/91624>

The above programs are implemented by the Rural Development Agency which is operating within the system of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA). It has to be noted that, until June 1, 2019, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) maintained a presence at the municipal level through its territorial bodies, specifically:

- *Municipal Information-Consultative Agricultural Centers*, which were directly subordinated to MEPA.

At the regional level, MEPA was represented by:

- *Regional Agricultural Offices*, which were likewise directly subordinated to MEPA.

It is also important to note that the Municipal Information-Consultative Agricultural Centers operated independently and were not subordinated to the Regional Agricultural Offices.

As of June 1, 2019, both the Information-Consultative Agricultural Centers and the Regional Agricultural Offices were merged into the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA), operating under the control of the MEPA. In 2020, this agency was renamed the *Rural Development Agency (RDA)*²⁰. Following this reorganization, these centers became territorial units of the RDA.

At present, Agricultural Information-Consultative Centers - informally referred to as agricultural extension centers or extension services - are established in each municipality (incl. Gori Municipality) and are directly subordinated to the RDA. Their primary role is to provide agricultural extension services to farmers and to disseminate information on ongoing and planned agricultural and rural development programs. These centers offer a range of services, including in-office consultations, remote support, and on-site field visits. In addition, extension officers conduct rural outreach activities, including farmer training sessions and informational meetings.

In parallel, the RDA implements government-funded programs and projects initiated by the MEPA. These initiatives are financed through the state budget and are aimed at fostering sustainable rural development and enhancing the link between rural and urban areas. The RDA's mission includes integrating traditional agricultural knowledge with modern innovations to support rural prosperity. Furthermore, the RDA is responsible for managing and developing the national farm and farmer registry system.

In addition, there is established **the Multistakeholder Municipal Land Degradation (LD) Working Group of Gori Municipality**. The Working Group was established in 2019 by order of the Mayor of Gori Municipality as a multi-stakeholder advisory platform aimed at addressing the pressing issue of land degradation within the municipality. The formation of the group aligns with national and international efforts to promote sustainable land management (SLM), land degradation neutrality (LDN) and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) as effective strategies for improving agricultural resilience, ensuring environmental sustainability, and enhancing rural livelihoods.

The establishment of the Working Group was catalyzed by a broader initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and implemented

²⁰ <https://www.rda.gov.ge/en>.

under the auspices of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) through the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus).

Core Functions of the Working Group Include:

- Providing expert advice and recommendations to the Mayor of Gori Municipality on land degradation issues;
- Identifying priority areas and strategic objectives for achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN);
- Supporting the planning and implementation of SLM and CSA measures;
- Facilitating stakeholder coordination for project implementation;
- Promoting awareness, capacity building, and knowledge exchange among local communities.

Crucially, the Working Group operates as a multi-stakeholder coordination platform at local (municipal) level, bringing together representatives from:

- Local government (municipal administration);
- Central government agencies and their municipal branches;
- The Office of the State Representative (Governor);
- Academic and research institutions;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Subject-matter experts.

There are nine members on the Working Group, of whom only one is a woman. In this regard, it is recommended that the composition of the Working Group be expanded to include more women in order to achieve a reasonable gender balance.

Currently, the following nationally supported programs are available and have the potential to contribute to the implementation of SLM/LDN approaches in the rural municipalities of Georgia, including Gori Municipality:

*Preferential Agrocredit Program*²¹: Preferential Agrocredit Program was initiated by the MEPA and is supported by the central state budget funds. The purpose of the Program is to improve the processes of primary agricultural production, processing, storage and sale by providing the legal and natural entities with cheap, affordable long-term and preferential funds. Estimated allocations²² under the above *Preferential Agrocredit Program* for 2021-2024 will be UD\$ 12 million in total.

*Agroleasing Program*²³: Agroleasing Program is managed by the MEPA and is supported by the central state budget funds. The program serves for the development of the agricultural products' added value generating infrastructure. Preferential agroleasing are benefited by the companies, involved in creation of the agricultural products (modern farms, greenhouse, etc.) or engaged in any form of processing of agricultural products (storage, packaging, recycling), or producing packaging materials for the agricultural products, as well as the companies, which have approved the state co-financing within scopes of the co-

²¹ https://rda.gov.ge/programs/read/aqro_credit/5:parent/

²² Estimation is based on approved average annual amount for 2021, however this amount could be substantially increased in post pandemic period.

²³ https://rda.gov.ge/programs/read/aqro_credit/9:child/

financing Program. Estimated allocations²⁴ under the above *Agroleasing Program* for 2021-2024 will be UD\$ 5 million in total.

*Produce in Georgia Program*²⁵: The Agricultural component of the program 'Produce in Georgia' is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MESD) and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) and is supported by the central state budget funds. This includes co-financing of agricultural primary production and processing by the state, inter alia, for high-technology greenhouses of vegetables, berries, herbs and mushrooms; production of seedlings and saplings; gardens, vineyards, plantations of perennial crops; processing fruits, berries, vegetables, mushrooms, citrus etc. Estimated allocations²⁶ for agricultural part of the above *Produce in Georgia Program* for 2021-2024 will be UD\$ 40 million in total.

*Plant The Future Program*²⁷: *Plant The Future Program* is managed by the MEPA and is supported by the central state budget funds. Co-financing will be carried out in two separate components of the program: a) component of co-financing perennial gardens (hereinafter referred to as 'gardens' component') and b) co-financing component of the nursery gardens. One of the objectives of the program is support of the local, high-quality, phytosanitary clean planting material (seedlings) production, which will make possible for individuals interested in creating modern, intensive cultivated gardens, offer cheap, local materials for planting compare to imported ones. Estimated allocations²⁸ under the above *Plant The Future Program* for 2021-2024 will be UD\$ 25 million in total.

*Young Entrepreneur Program*²⁹: Young Entrepreneur Program supports young entrepreneurs in rural area desiring to conduct a business activity in Georgia. The program is managed by the MEPA and is supported by the Denmark International Development Agency (DANIDA). Program aims at Promoting of development of young entrepreneurs; Investing in value chains of the agricultural products. Estimated allocations³⁰ under the above *Young Entrepreneur Program* for 2021-2024 will be UD\$ 15 million in total.

*Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises Program*³¹: Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises Program is initiated by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) with financial support from the state budget. The target area of the program covers all rural municipalities of Georgia. Estimated allocations³² under the above *Agro Processing and Storage Enterprises Program* for 2021-2024 will be UD\$ 16 million in total.

²⁴ Estimation is based on approved average annual amount for 2021, however this amount could be substantially increased in post pandemic period.

²⁵ http://rda.gov.ge/programs/read/agro_credit/10:child/

²⁶ Estimation is based on approved average annual amount for 2021, however this amount could be substantially increased in post pandemic period.

²⁷ http://rda.gov.ge/programs/read/plant_future/2:parent/

²⁸ Estimation is based on approved average annual amount for 2021, however this amount could be substantially increased in post pandemic period.

²⁹ <http://danida.arda.gov.ge/quest/about>

³⁰ Estimation is based on approved average annual amount for 2021, however this amount could be substantially increased in post pandemic period.

³¹ <http://rda.gov.ge/programs/read/grant/6:parent/>

³² Estimation is based on approved average annual amount for 2021, however this amount could be substantially increased in post pandemic period.

Moreover, there are also two ongoing international agricultural aid programs relevant to SLM/LDN implementation in Gori Municipality:

*The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD)*³³ was launched in 2014 in Georgia with the goal of reinvigorating the agricultural and rural sectors in the country by supporting the Government's Agriculture Sector Strategy, strengthening small farmers' organizations, and enabling sustainable rural development. ENPARD is composed of a variety of aid modalities, from direct budget support to the Government to technical assistance and small grants to NGOs. The total budget for ENPARD in Georgia for 2018-2021 (Phase III) is about 77.5 mln Euro, while for 2022-2025 (Phase IV) it is estimated at 55 mln Euro. ENPARD is operating in 9 selected municipalities of Georgia, including Gori Municipality.

The USA-funded Zrda Activity in Georgia³⁴: ZRDA is a five-year program for 2016-2021 designed to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth in target regions by improving micro, small, and medium sized enterprise growth; increase productivity of rural households; facilitate market linkages between producers and buyers; and promote local economic development by establishing and strengthening networks. Zrda targeted communities in proximity to the administrative boundary lines in Shida Kartli Region (incl. Gori Municipality) and communities with ethnic minority populations. In total, the Zrda activity has been working in 81 communities within five regions of Georgia to create at least 2,400 jobs, increase sales for at least 860 MSMEs, boost incomes of 13,200 households, and generate measurable improvements in community resilience. ZRDA supports gender mainstreaming, in order for women, men, boys and girls to participate and benefit from development efforts.

In 2020, UN Women published the Gender Equality Profile of Georgia, which included, among other topics, sex-disaggregated indicators for small-scale food producers in Georgia, in accordance with SDG Indicators (see Table 7 below).

Table 7 Small-scale food producers by sex status - according to SDG indicators (Source: UN Women, 2020³⁵)

Indicator	Data
Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status (SDG indicator 2.3.2)	Data not available
Average monthly income of agricultural population by household from employment or the sale of agriculture products (country-specific indicator 2.3.2.1)	GEL 445 in 2018 (combining income from wages, self-employment and the sale of agricultural products) 43 per cent of the agricultural population produces goods for sale, with an average monthly income of GEL 313.30. However, the distribution is highly positively skewed; therefore, reporting a median income of GEL 133.30 is more appropriate.

³³ <https://eu4georgia.eu/enpard/>

³⁴ <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/Projects/Details/48> / <http://zrda.georgiano.ge/index.php/en/about-us/> / https://issuu.com/observer-diplomat/docs/diplomat-2020_october/s/11209600

³⁵ UN Women (2020). Gender Equality Profile of Georgia / Authors: Nino Javakhishvili, Tamar Tskhadadze, Maia Barkaia, Lika Jalagania (Gender Research Center and D. Uznadze Institute of Psychology, Ilia State University) and Nani Bendeliani (UN Women Georgia).

<https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20Georgia/Attachments/Publications/2020/Country%20Gender%20Equality%20Profile%20of%20Georgia.pdf>

<i>(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (SDG indicator 5.a.1)</i>	<p>Of the total landowners, 62.3 per cent are men and 37.7 per cent are women.</p> <p>81 per cent of land is owned by men; 19 per cent, by women.</p> <p>In 2016, women owned 28.2 per cent of the agricultural lands; 10 per cent of the farming land under lease; and 17 per cent of the total farming land (including under lease).</p> <p>Considering ownership by tenure type, women own 19 per cent of the land that has legal ownership or is in legal owner-like possession; 11 per cent of the land that is rented out; and 18 per cent of the land that is operated with a long-term lease (no possession).</p>
<i>Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services (SDG indicator 1.4.1)</i>	<p>14.3 per cent of the rural population does not have access to drinking water on their premises. Collection of drinking water is almost equally divided between men and women (aged 15 and above): 50.6 per cent and 45 per cent respectively. About 77.6 per cent of the rural household population is satisfied with water quality. The piped sewer system is available for 15.8 per cent of rural households.</p>
<i>Access to kindergartens</i>	<p>23.3 per cent of children living in rural areas (aged 36-59 months) do not attend kindergartens.</p>
<i>Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (SDG indicator 13.1.1)</i>	<p>Between 2011 and 2015, the average death rate attributed to natural disasters was 0.2 per cent.</p>

A number of issues were highlighted in conjunction with the above data. Namely, two thirds of the labour force in rural areas is employed in agriculture. The table's data on land ownership by sex point to only a slightly disproportional ownership; however, considering land size, women are in a disadvantaged position, which is also reflected in the economic inactivity in villages.

Women and men are equally involved in farming, with men spending 98.1 days and women 84.3 days per year in the crops value chain, while men spend 165.8 days and women 259.9 days in the animal husbandry value chain. Taking care of domestic animals and producing dairy products heavily depend on problematic water and gas supplies; this is probably one of the reasons for the long hours spent on animal husbandry.

Indeed, rural women have limited access to basic services, as indicated in the preceding table. These shortages affect women as they are the main caretakers of family members and, thus, use water for everyday household activities such as cooking, washing and cleaning; quite frequently, women wash in cold water to save family expenses.

Waste disposal is a problem for many households without a car. Such situations for rural women may hamper their income-generating activities, as women with limited access to basic services spend much more time and effort on household chores and have less time for other income-generating activities, not to mention free time. The lack of kindergartens - or the poor conditions or long distances of existing ones - leave almost no chance for women with small children to find the opportunity to work.

The shortage of basic supplies pushes the rural population to collect firewood for heating, which, in turn,

affects the environment. Mainly poor and elderly women collect non-timber resources, such as mushrooms and berries; a consequence of deforestation is the additional foraging time and effort required of those who rely on forests for firewood, fodder and other non-timber forest products. The lack of transport - and thus the need to walk long distances - is another problem for women who use forest resources. In addition, road construction might create some adverse impacts on the local population, such as excessive dust causing health problems in children and more time spent on cleaning for women, who usually care for the children and take them to see a doctor.

Environmental challenges, including climate change and the risk of landslides, floods, fires and droughts, affect women and men differently. As women are mainly responsible for housework, they are less ready to react quickly to natural disasters. Women and children are 14 times as likely as men to die during disasters. The most vulnerable groups are inhabitants of high mountainous regions and rural areas, poor people and those living below the poverty line, and people living alone.

In addition, some women are victims of varying forms of domestic violence; in the case of economic violence, for example, husbands forbid their wives to work. Other victim women and their children are in need of shelters and crisis centres; however, these are not always accessible. Crisis centres are very limited in number and geographical scope. Rural women have limited access to economic opportunities, like starting their own business or being employed in a highly rewarded position; in addition, they face barriers to taking out loans and borrowing credit as they lack their own income or property.

Not being a landowner creates the additional risk of being excluded from village development programmes and, correspondingly, from decision-making processes. The same holds for IDPs and ethnic minority women. Because of traditional gender stereotypes, women are not entitled to decision-making in public activities; rural women rarely participate in decision-making affecting their own village or city's development, including environmental issues.

Small and medium-sized enterprises provide the main source of economic growth and employment in countries with market economies. During the third quarter of 2018, the share employed in this type of business constituted 63 per cent of the entire employed population in Georgia. Women-owned enterprises were few; beyond that fact, women face problems selling their products as they cannot compete with large food producers, in addition to lacking food-keeping facilities.

The main problem for rural women as well as the rural population is the lack of income and lack of income-generating activities. This, in turn, exacerbates their careless approach to environment protection, which also arises from a lack of awareness on environmental issues. Women are in a disadvantaged position because of their submissive role in families and societies, lacking a voice in decision-making processes in their own communities. Family responsibilities as dictated by traditional gender roles further impede women's economic and decision-making activities in villages.

Earlier, in 2016, UN Women also published sex-disaggregated data and analyses in terms of gender differences in access to productive resources for agriculture within a regional context³⁶, including for the

³⁶ UN Women (2016). Georgia: Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Local Development Systems.
<https://dSPACE.nplq.gov.ge/bitstream/1234/156815/1/GenderAssessmentOfAgricultureAndDevelopmentSystems.pdf>

Shida Kartli region (see Table 8), where Gori Municipality is located.

Table 8 Problems related to Land Cultivation in Shida Kartli Region (Source: UN Women, 2016)³⁷

Problem Description	Rating (%)
None	9.0%
Agricultural land shortage	12.5%
Land cultivation equipment is not available in the region	15.4%
There is not enough land cultivation equipment available in the region/need to wait	13.5%
Land cultivation equipment is outdated (modern equipment is not available)	1.6%
Rental of land cultivation equipment is too expensive	41.4%
Fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and other chemicals are not available in the region	11.6%
Fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and other chemicals are too expensive	56.1%
Available fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and other chemicals are not of the desired quality	18.5%
Qualified agronomists consultation is not available in the region	0.5%
Limited access to irrigation water	47.2%

A large part of the surveyed population in Shida Kartli region (incl. in Gori Municipality) experienced financial difficulties - this may be influenced or worsened by restricted access to productive resources, knowledge and expertise. A vast majority of the population produced small quantities of agricultural products; just enough for household consumption, or even less. Access to irrigation water, and to a smaller extent, access to agricultural land were the key challenges in the most municipalities of the region.

Access to land cultivation equipment, fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides were also highly problematic in the most municipalities (incl. Gori Municipality) of the region, mainly due to relatively high costs. About 30% of the population had additional income from non-agricultural activities, however, it was small, and women earned half of what men earn. Many focus group respondents indicated a wish to have a permanent job outside of the agricultural sector, as the latter is less stable. They did not plan to expand farming nor improve their agricultural/farming knowledge and/or skills. Only 1.4% of the surveyed population had used extension services, and a limited number of Technical Vocational Education and Training Colleges offered agricultural education.

Gender stereotypes might further prevent women from getting agricultural training, and fewer women than men were aware of what the extension services offered. While agricultural cooperatives might be

³⁷ UN Women (2016). Georgia: Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Local Development Systems.
<https://dSPACE.nplg.gov.ge/bitstream/1234/156815/1/GenderAssessmentOfAgricultureAndDevelopmentSystems.pdf>

a path to increased production, very few respondents were involved in cooperatives, and women constituted only 25% of the cooperatives membership base.

Gender Differences in Access to Productive Resources

Women and men are differently affected by difficulties in access to resources in the most municipalities (incl. Gori Municipality) of the region. This finding is based on the survey and focus group data³⁸: According to the survey data, about 90% of the population in the target region - Shida Kartli - experienced financial difficulties.

As the survey data showed, respondents identified challenges in relation to **land cultivation**, however the main challenges reported varied across the most municipalities (incl. Gori Municipality) of the region. Overall, access to irrigation water, and to a smaller extent access to agricultural land appeared to be key challenges in the most municipalities (incl. Gori Municipality) of the region. The shortage of agricultural land was comparatively lowest in Shida Kartli region. Access to land cultivation equipment was also a challenge in the most municipalities of the region, primarily due to high costs, but also due to waiting periods for accessing the equipment. Few respondents reported that the land cultivation equipment available was outdated, however, in Shida Kartli 10-15% of respondents reported that this equipment was not available at all. Access to fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and other chemicals was also problematic due to high costs. Kvemo Kartli respondents identified this problem to the lowest extent (5.1%). Access to qualified agronomist consultations and the availability of a labor force were reported as challenges only by very few respondents, while access to markets was identified. Access to markets is complicated because of: a) bad roads (although the main roads are in a good condition, secondary roads in villages are underdeveloped); and b) a lack of money for transport and for renting stalls to sell products in the markets. Finally, access to irrigation water was reported by 35% to almost 50% in Shida Kartli region.

No statistically significant differences were found between men and women in terms of facing the above problems.

The above data presented is also reflected in the needs of the surveyed population, and includes those who are willing to engage in income-generating agricultural activities in the future.

About 20% of the surveyed population reported receiving non-agricultural income via wages and about 10% via self-employment. The data showed a clear gender wage gap: the median annual wage for men is 4,000 GEL, while for women it is 3,000 GEL. The median annual self-employment income for men is 4,000 GEL, while for women it is half of that: 2,000 GEL.

According to experts (key informant interviews), addressing poverty in rural regions and creating a sustainable livelihood as well as income-generating activities were complex issues. Among other things, this would require a change in behavior and a willingness to take certain risks so that production could be increased for sales purposes, for establishing an agribusiness and/or for joining or establishing a cooperatives. However, only 20.9% of those surveyed planned to engage in some kind of income-

³⁸ UN Women (2016). Georgia: Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Local Development Systems.
<https://dSPACE.nplg.gov.ge/bitstream/1234/156815/1/GenderAssessmentOfAgricultureAndDevelopmentSystems.pdf>

generating agricultural activities. Out of those who think about expanding *land cultivation activities*, 40.3% were women and 59.7% were men. Some 5.5% planed to take a loan to address their needs.

Generally, loans are more difficult to access for women than for men, as women to a lesser extent possess land or a house that would function as collateral for the bank. In Georgia, women are more often co-owners of property (for example, as shareholders of their parents' property or in the case of divorce) than owners.

Only 9.3% of the survey respondents reported taking a loan to finance farming activities, and no statistically significant difference between women and men was found. Forty-nine percent of these loans were taken for purchasing equipment; 20.9% for purchasing livestock; 17% for operational/running costs; and the remaining 13% was divided among other expenses. Among respondents, 5.3% think that agricultural credits are not equally available for men and women. No statistically significant gender difference is found in this answer.

Key informant interviews showed that most of the population was not primarily interested in agriculture or farm development; they wished to have permanent jobs in, for example, construction, education, or medicine as a main or more sustainable source of income. The key informants also noted that, unfortunately, the rural population does not express a special interest in learning new or other ways of *land cultivation or animal husbandry*. Focus group meetings showed that those farmers who were actively engaged in income-generating activities were also interested in receiving deeper and more advanced knowledge as well as practical skills in their respective areas of interest. Those who were not engaged in income generating activities were not interested in expanding their knowledge, as they did not see a tangible outcome of such development, were scared of innovations, and/or may also lack the finances needed to invest in business development.

Main Gender Inequalities in Agriculture and Rural Development

In fact, gender equality issues in agriculture and rural development are more or less the same across the country – incl. Gori Municipality of Shida Kartli region. This was consistently demonstrated by FAO assessment³⁹ across the Georgia that attempted to highlight the challenges, gaps and practices in the area of gender and agriculture and rural development that need to be considered by policy-makers and project managers in their decision-making and their implementation of development interventions.

This reiterated the main gender inequalities in the country. These included: the gap between policies, legislation and their implementation; the gender gap in earnings; the vertical and horizontal gender-based segregation in employment; the widespread of gender stereotypes; the rigid division of gender roles and decision-making at all levels, and other systemic issues. This assessment drew attention to rural women's time poverty. Women in rural areas were extensively involved in work related to the production of goods and services for the family and household use. This work included crop production and breeding of livestock in the households' plots and family farms; production of household goods; production of food for consumption by the family and household members and for sale; fetching water

³⁹ FAO (2018). Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia – Country Gender Assessment Series. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ad43affd-9e14-41ce-96c7-e9b84edf5709/content>

and firewood; housework; looking after children, the elderly and sick members of the families. Poor rural infrastructure, the low level of housing, limited access to transport and modern energy supplies increased women's workload and time use. However, even women themselves rarely considered this work because it is not paid and is considered part of their gender responsibilities. As such, their contribution to the agricultural production remained invisible and under-recognized.

At the same time, the above assessment emphasized women's limited access to productive resources such as land, finance and decision-making - and more limited when compared to men - access to information, new technologies and agricultural inputs. This may often happen due to the widespread stereotypes that areas such as, for example, agricultural machinery 'naturally' belongs to the men's domain. Trainings and services for these products also tend to be directed towards men. This approach not only sustains the existing status-quo. It also overlooks women's existing roles (in the management and storage of pesticides, for example), ignoring the fact that if women had better access to training and information, they would increase agricultural productivity.

Main gender inequalities in agriculture - including sustainable land management (SLM), land degradation neutrality (LDN), and rural development - based on nationwide aggregate data and analyses, can be broadly characterized for Gori Municipality in the Shida Kartli Region in the section below:

- *Gap between legislation, policies and their implementation*

Despite the progress made by the Government of Georgia over the last two decades in improving the national legislative frameworks and developing policies in gender equality, the enforcement and monitoring of these laws and policies remains a challenge.

- *The social status of women in rural areas (villages) remains low, gender stereotypes persist and there is a low awareness of existing gender inequalities*

This implies a rigid division of gender roles and decision-making within the household and family farming that directly and negatively affects women's economic opportunities. Gender inequalities and gender stereotypes are perceived as somehow natural or acceptable. Agricultural work (as helpers and not as managers) along with domestic and care work are both believed to be women's primary responsibilities, and there is a general underestimation of time workload of women for this work. The disadvantaged status of rural women and the prevalence of gender stereotypes are reinforced at different levels. For example, given the social existing patrilocal form of marriage, rural households have less interest in investing in girls because the potential economic returns are perceived to be significantly lower than that of boys. This has long-term implications for the status of young women and their life opportunities, limiting their abilities to have access to well- paid jobs and other various resources. It also has an impact on overall agricultural productivity and rural development.

- *Significant gender pay gap, and women are overrepresented as unpaid workers*

Because of the perception of women as helpers or contributing family members, they are more likely to be involved in unpaid and informal work, and the gender pay gaps in agriculture, forestry and fisheries are significant. Women are also paid less in almost all the sectors of agriculture. As

of 2020, in agriculture, hunting and forestry, women earn 75 percent of men's salary, what falls to 35 percent of men's salary in fisheries. Nearly 60 percent of self-employed women are non-paid workers⁴⁰.

- *Gender gap in technical and professional expertise on agriculture and rural development*

There is both a vertical and horizontal gender-based segregation in employment, with men being more highly represented in higher managerial positions and in technical subjects as agriculture, engineering and construction, where very few women are represented.

- *Women's access to information, innovation and knowledge is lower compared to men*

Due to deeply entrenched bias, 'farmers' are perceived only as men, while women are seen only as 'wives of farmers.' Rural advisory services, as it was revealed by FAO⁴¹, inform farmers by contacting a small number of men from local communities, and who tend to inform other men farmers of the neighborhood. Women are usually excluded from these communications and mobilization channels because they are less likely to be regarded as farmers in their own right. Furthermore, women are only between 9 and 25 percent of employees of rural advisory services in the Shida Kartli region, which reinforces the consideration of extension service channels as "masculine" domains. This low access to information, knowledge and agricultural innovation hinders, in turn, women's economic opportunities.

- *Women's access to new technologies, machinery and agricultural inputs is lower compared to men*

According to official sources, women and men from rural areas (villages) have similar access to computers and the Internet. However, in family farming practice, men are usually involved in agricultural activities that require technology and machinery, and women are mostly involved in manual and labor-intensive work. Women have less access to labor-saving technologies partly because of the widespread stereotype that machinery is a "man's thing" and because women have limited access to finance and decision making.

The same happens in accessing irrigation, pesticides, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. Because men are regarded as decision-makers and those responsible for dealing with providers, women experience de facto barriers in accessing these resources.

- *Women's limited access to ownership of land and other property*

The lack of land registration limits women's access to governmental subsidies, credit and grant schemes that operate in the regions because of lack of collateral. More importantly, limited access to land (or any other property) ownership and registration also diminishes women's status in and outside the family. It has been demonstrated that women who own property are less likely to suffer from domestic abuse, as they have a way out.

⁴⁰ GeoStat (2021). *Women and Men in Georgia / Statistical Publication, Tbilisi, 2021.*

https://www.geostat.ge/media/41855/WOMEN-AND-MEN-IN-GEORGIAN_-2021.pdf

⁴¹ FAO (2018). *Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia – Country Gender Assessment Series.* Rome, pp. 80.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ad43affd-9e14-41ce-96c7-e9b84edf5709/content>

- *Women's limited access to large, more profitable and wholesale markets*

Wholesale marketing is mostly associated with men while retail and small marketing is associated with women. Women have less access to mobility and means of transportation, including trucks, and usually can only carry small amounts of products. As a result, they mostly only have access to local markets. Women usually sell milk, vegetables and fruits, including berries and other non-wood forest products. These are usually products that women produce or collect themselves. Men are mostly associated with selling meat. Women are perceived as better sellers due to the stereotype that women have better communication skills than men.

- *Women's underrepresented in cooperatives, both as members and as chairpersons*

The Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of Georgia⁴² aims to promote women's social and economic advancement. However, gender equality considerations are not systematically mainstreamed in other laws and decisions. There are programs focusing especially on women's participation, but they are insufficient. Women only make up 25 percent of all farmers' cooperative members according to the latest data. As of 2018⁴³, out of 2 106 cooperatives, only 100 (4.7 percent) were headed by women.

- *Reoccurring gender imbalances in food and nutrition security*

Access to diverse, high-quality food is problematic especially in remote settlements due to poor infrastructure. Even though women generally buy and cook food for their family, they consume food with lower nutritional value than men do. This has direct effects on women's health conditions, preterm complication and mortality as well as newborn and infant health conditions.

- *Poor rural infrastructure, limited access to transport and modern energy supplies*

Poor public transport and infrastructure are reflected in a lack of regularly scheduled public transport to villages and smaller towns, the lack of lighting, bus stops, commuter information, pedestrian crossings and road signs. This restricted mobility also poses other burdens on women, from limited access to social services including medical services to access to administration, information and decision-making.

- *Poor housing impact on rural women's workload*

Since domestic activities are socially linked with female gender roles, infrastructural development (e.g., women's lower access to transportation and mobility) and the low level of modernization of households, including access to domestic appliances, create and increased burdens for local women. Women are also severely affected by water restrictions as they are responsible for fetching water when there is no centralized water supply. This adds an extra burden to their workload.

⁴² Government of Georgia (2019). Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia for 2021-2027 and its Action Plan for 2021-2023.

<https://eu4georgia.eu/wp-content/uploads/Agriculture-and-Rural-Development-Strategy-of-Georgia-2021%E2%80%932027.pdf>

⁴³ FAO (2018). Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia – Country Gender Assessment Series. Rome, pp. 80.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ad43affd-9e14-41ce-96c7-e9b84edf5709/content>

- *Access to basic energy recourses as well as modern energy services for rural women*

Other health hazards arise from the fact that women do most of the cooking. They are exposed to large amounts of smoke and particulates from indoor fires and suffer from a number of respiratory diseases. Unequal gender relations limit women's ability to participate and voice their energy needs in decision-making at all levels of the energy system.

- *Low level of access to rural finance*

Women's access to financial resources is dependent on women's access to the property in rural areas (villages). Due to limited or no access to land and other property, women cannot participate in some of the agricultural funding schemes and are not always eligible for bank loans. Women are less likely to be registered as property owners, whether of land, houses, or capital equipment, leaving them at a significant disadvantage. For the same reason, funding schemes in rural areas (villages) are less accessible for women except for the cases when women are the target.

- *Roles in crop agriculture*

Both women and men are major contributors to crop production in Georgia as in other countries of the region. The primary annual crops grown on agricultural holdings are maize, haricot beans, potatoes, vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, red beets, cabbages, capsicum and paprika peppers, garlic, dry onions, green onions, greens, carrots, eggplants and other vegetables. Annual crops also include wheat, barley, oats, maize, melons, hay from perennial grasses and hay from annual grasses. As far as permanent crops go, agricultural holdings primarily produce fruits (grapes, apples, pears, quinces, plums, cherries, walnuts, other fruits). Regarding time use, the crop value chain is slightly more dominated by men (98.15 days a year) than women (84.29 days a year)⁴⁴. While women are mostly engaged in producing substance crops for home consumption, men are responsible for cash crops due to its specificity (e.g., mechanization, traveling long distances and dealing with providers and middle persons are associated with masculine gender roles). Pest and disease management are also viewed as men's tasks. Women are responsible for buying, sowing and sorting and are heavily engaged in the manual harvesting of crops.

- *Rigid gender-based roles*

Men in Georgia are stereotypically expected to be the main breadwinners, providers and protectors of women and the family. These masculine gender roles - often associated with alcohol, tobacco consumption and risk-taking behaviours - put pressure on men, leading to frustration when these social expectations are not fulfilled.

- *Data gaps on gender issues in agriculture and rural development*

⁴⁴ UN Women (2016). Georgia: Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Local Development Systems.
<https://dSPACE.nplg.gov.ge/bitstream/1234/156815/1/GenderAssessmentOfAgricultureAndDevelopmentSystems.pdf>

Availability of sex-disaggregated data at the national level has increased in recent years. Since 2011, Geostat has regularly collected sex-disaggregated data in health, education, social protection, labour, income and expenditure, entrepreneurship, crime and representation in the institutions of governance policy areas. These statistics are presented in the Geostat annual publication “Women and Men in Georgia”⁴⁵. Despite the progress being made, there are still areas where accurate and reliable gender-sensitive data and gender-specific indicators are needed.

Recommendations for Advancing SLM and LDN in Gori Municipality through Gender-Responsive Approaches

As of 2021, women comprised more than 53% of the total population in Georgia⁴⁶. According to the Georgia ranked 61st of 189 countries on the United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Index (HDI) 2020⁴⁷.

2020 Human Development Report by UNDP⁴⁸, Georgia has improved its Gender Development Index (HDI) rating, securing the 60th spot globally. Georgia's HDI stands at 0.814 with a marginal decline from its 2019 value of 0.816.

Like many other countries worldwide, Georgia has yet to fully regain its pre-pandemic development levels. When accounting for societal inequality, Georgia's Inequality-adjusted HDI experiences a reduction of 10.6 percent, settling at 0.728. While this reflects a slight improvement from 2015, when Georgia’s HDI lost 12.5 percent to inequality, Georgia's decline in HDI is still noticeable compared with other countries in the Eastern Europe region. Gender Inequality Index (GII) that measures disparities across reproductive health, empowerment, and labor market participation, ranking Georgia 69 out of 166 countries with a GII value of 0.283 in 2021, Georgia has demonstrated steady progress in reducing gender inequalities since 2009. However, recent years have seen a slight regression, with Georgia GII rising to 0.287 in 2021.

These indicators suggest that Georgia, including the **Gori Municipality**, generally demonstrates relatively equitable gender conditions, which provides a favorable foundation for addressing gender-related issues and promoting further progress.

There is a need to contribute directly and indirectly to enhance the status of women by strengthening their capacity to participate in decision-making processes and engage in SLM/LDN. These efforts have the potential to improve their economic well-being.

⁴⁵ GeoStat / *Women and Men in Georgia* / Statistical Publications.

<https://www.geostat.ge/en>

⁴⁶ GeoStat (2021). Population of Georgia (as of 1 January 2021). [online]: <https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/41/population>

⁴⁷ UNDP (2020). Human Development Report 2020 /UNDP, New York, 2020. available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdr2020.pdf>

⁴⁸ UNDP (2021). The 2020 Human Development Report. <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdr2021.pdf>

Rural areas (villages) in Georgia, similar to the **Gori Municipality**, are experiencing population decline primarily due to a lack of economic opportunities and jobs. This migration trend affects both men and women, with approximately 56% of migrants being men and 44% women in 2021.

There is a need to consider this demographic dynamic and address migration-related challenges by fostering local opportunities for both men and women.

The key areas in agriculture, and in particular in SLM/LDN have to be strategically targeted with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment to ensure that SLM/LDN contributes effectively to community well-being. In **Gori Municipality**, more than 52% of the total population are women, and they are disproportionately affected by agricultural land degradation due to their significant yet underrecognized roles in SLM.

Women's and men's needs in this context **differ due to their distinct roles** and responsibilities. Women are primarily concerned with securing reliable sources of fodder, improving livestock health, and enhancing productivity to support household nutrition and income. However, they have less access to cropland leasing, land ownership, and financial resources, which limits their participation in SLM decisions and their eligibility for available credit and grant schemes. Consequently, their economic opportunities are constrained, exacerbating poverty and inequality. In contrast, men are more involved in crop growing, market access, and cropland infrastructure-related aspects.

These differences have to be addressed through gender-responsive and transformative approaches that ensure that agricultural activities are tailored to both women's and men's needs and constraints, preventing unintended reinforcement of gender inequities.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets in the municipality will become more productive, sustainable, and resilient to climate change by incorporating gender-responsive and transformative considerations.

In terms of inclusive decision-making and capacity building, active promotion of women's participation in community-level decision-making processes related to SLM is very important by setting a target of at least 50% female representation in local planning activities and training sessions.

Through such activities women may will receive leadership and technical training tailored to their roles in SLM, enhancing their decision-making power and influence. LDN baseline assessment, feasibility studies, and Municipal LDN Strategy will integrate gender-responsive and gender-transformative perspectives. This, in turn, will encourage the active and effective participation of women and reflect their needs throughout the degraded lands restoration activities, emphasizing affirmative action during restoration planning and implementation, supported by gender-responsive and transformative budgeting. Women will particularly benefit from skills development, education, and training, as well as improved access to modern knowledge, which will contribute to increasing both their incomes and social capital.

Additionally, it has to be developed **Municipal Gender-Responsive Communication and Awareness Strategy** to promote SLM/LDN. This strategy has to incorporate gender mainstreaming across knowledge products, including approaches such as engaging both male and female knowledge developers for diverse perspectives, using gender-responsive language and balanced imagery that

portrays women as agents of change, and ensuring content is based on reliable sources and gender-disaggregated data. It will also reference relevant national and international policy frameworks, strategies, and plans.

Municipal gender analysis has to be conducted periodically to provide gender-responsive and transformative recommendations to ensure that gender considerations are properly integrated into SLM/LDN, aligned with national gender equality legislation⁴⁹ and addressing existing gender equality barriers⁵⁰.

Comprehensive Municipal Gender Mainstreaming Activity Plan in SLM-LDN for Gori Municipality has to be also developed, capturing insights from the in-depth gender analysis to empower women and men while achieving gender-equitable outcomes. This plan has to ensure appropriate and equal participation or representation of women and men in decision-making in SLM/LDN activities. It has to also consider women's and men's different needs based on their concerns, experiences (including roles and responsibilities), and constraints, ensuring that proposed activities and approaches lead to gender-responsive results without unintentionally reinforcing gender inequities. The plan has to include specific gender targets to integrate gender considerations into monitoring and evaluation processes. Additionally, gender will have to be properly mainstreamed within the appropriate budget to ensure sufficient financial and human resources are dedicated to gender-responsive activities.

Conclusion

The gender profile of Gori Municipality shows that certain steps have been made to elaborate and implement gender policy: gender equality council has been established, municipal gender equality action plan has been elaborated.

However, it is necessary to make rapid steps to move the practice of gender policy implementation in the municipality to a new level.

First of all, the municipality should ensure regular registry of gender statistics so that while elaborating the municipal policy and programmes/projects it could ensure gender mainstreaming, consider the needs of girls/women and implement local policy that supports gender equality.

It is necessary to elaborate a new municipal plan that would lead to solving the challenges identified by the gender profile of the municipality:

⁴⁹ Gender Equality Act (2010) // Law of Georgia on Gender Equality of 26 March, 2010 (*Official Gazette of Georgia – Legislative Herald of Georgia (LHG)*, web-page: matsne.gov.ge, Ref.: 2844-Is, Registration Code No. 010.100.000.05.001.003.962) - [Unofficial Translation in English]

<https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/91624?publication=9>

⁵⁰ Parliament of Georgia (2018). Gender Equality in Georgia: Barriers and Recommendations.

<https://www.undp.org/georgia/publications/gender-equality-georgia-barriers-and-recommendations-2018>

- Improve the rural infrastructure, especially to ensure water provision in every family, arrange waste management (add garbage bins, increase the frequency of taking out the garbage, make sure everyone takes rubbish to bins, etc.);
- Ensure municipal transport, or to support private companies offer comfortable services to rural population;
- Increase access of the families to kindergardens in every village (add transport wherever necessary);
- Increase access to healthcare services, ensure involvement of rural population in screening programmes, include preventive mechanisms to rural hospital service;
- Improve rural sport infrastructure in a way to ensure girls/women's involvement in sport activities;
- Create spaces for cultural activities in rural areas;
- Create spaces for social gatherings, ensure parks and squares;
- Finance household horticultural programmes by raising knowledge on bio and eco production aimed to increase rural women's income.
- It is important for the Gori Gender Equality Council to study the needs of the population in terms of gender, including persons with disabilities, IDPs and people affected by the conflict, the population living along the so-called administrative border, and to develop municipal programs based on the needs of the population.