

The header features a decorative background with seven vertical bars of varying heights and colors (blue, red, blue, red, blue, red, blue). Each bar contains a white icon: a dove with an olive branch, a female symbol with an equals sign, a dove with an olive branch, a female symbol with an equals sign, a dove with an olive branch, a female symbol with an equals sign, and a dove with an olive branch. A white box with the text "IN BRIEF" is positioned over the second bar from the left.

IN BRIEF

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE UN WOMEN GEORGIA PROJECT “ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN GEORGIA”

WHAT’S THE PROJECT ABOUT?

Implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda in Georgia seeks to advance **gender equality and achieve full, equal, direct and meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes, as well as in crisis response and recovery, and to support social cohesion and sustainable peace in the country**. Funded by the UK Government and implemented by UN Women Georgia from November 16, 2020, to March 31, 2025, the project aimed to contextualize and localize the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the country through both top-down and bottom-up interventions, engaging state and non-state actors. Designed in close alignment with the 2020-2021 UNSCR NAP 1325, it supported development and implementation of the 2022-2024 NAP 1325 developed in the scope of the project. Aimed at achieving transformative changes in the government’s efforts to implement the WPS agenda, the project promoted mainstreaming of human- rights based, gender equality approaches and gender justice in peace and security processes and institutional practices. To achieve these transformative objectives, UN Women partnered with many governmental institutions, international NGOs and think tanks working on peace and security issues. The key government partners included the Government Administration (specifically the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence), the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia, the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality (SMR), the Ministry of Defense (MoD), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the State Security Service (SSS).

To enhance participation of IDP and conflict- affected women in formal and informal peace processes and to support localization of the WPS agenda and NAP 1325 at the local governance level, UN Women partnered with the IDP Women’s Association “Consent”, the Women’s Information Center and the Women’s Fund “Sukhumi” to work in 17 municipalities most effected by conflict and displacement in the regions of Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli, Imereti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, including the villages that are adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines (ABL) with Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia.

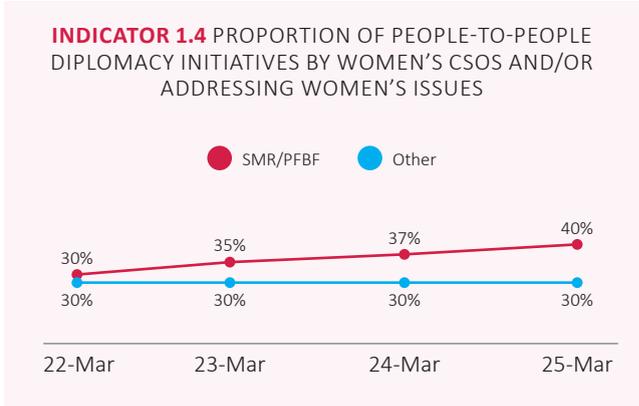
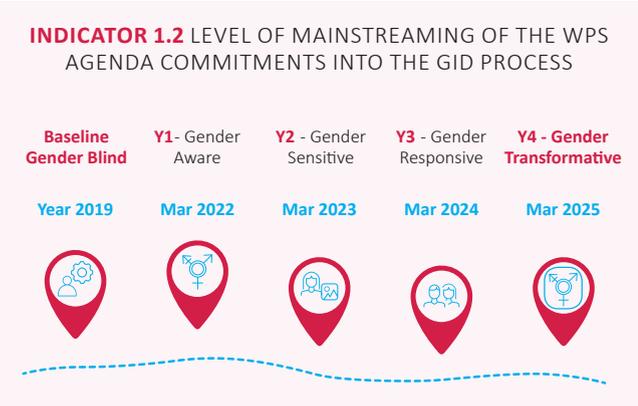
HOW WAS THE EVALUATION CONDUCTED?

The evaluation was conducted by the team of international and national consultants from December 2024 to March 2025. It was conducted according to the UN standards and integrated participatory and human rights and gender equality responsive approaches to ensure that all categories of beneficiaries of the project including those in most vulnerable situations could contribute to evaluation findings. The project was evaluated against the standard criteria of **relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, efficiency, sustainability with conflict sensitivity and inclusivity** added as crosscutting issues. The evaluation methodology was theory-based and included both qualitative and quantitative methods such as desk review, interviews and focus group discussions, and an online survey. In total, 170 respondents participated in interviews and focus groups discussions, out of them, 90 percent constituted IDP and conflict- affected women from 17 municipalities targeted by the project.

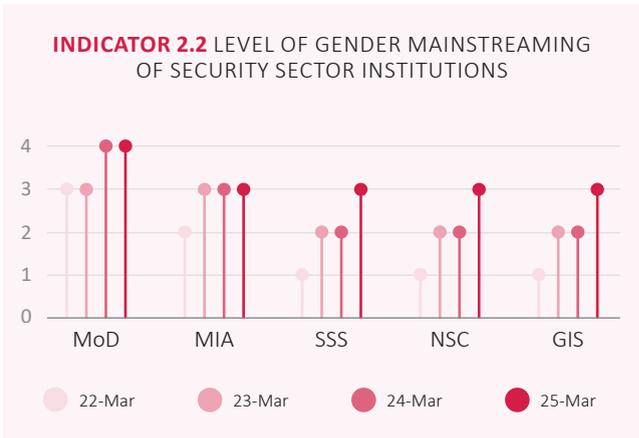
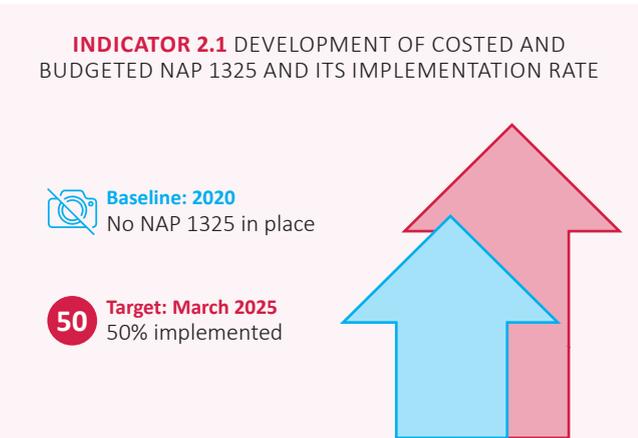
WHAT DID THE EVALUATION FIND?

- The project strategies were most relevant to increase meaningful participation of IDP and conflict-affected women in peacebuilding and ensure that state institutions systematically collect information and data on needs of women and integrate them into policy and programme development; due to the project support and capacity development, 700 women participated in the Geneva International Discussions, Incident Reporting Mechanism meetings and in the annual Open Days where they could voice the needs of IDP and conflict-affected women and propose solutions;
- By supporting implementation of the 2022-2024 National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, the project addressed critical gaps in implementation of the previous plan such as lack of motivation among states institutions resulting in formal implementation of institutional gender equality strategies, lack of coherent integration of the WPS into local governance plans to address IDP and conflict-affected women's needs in the conflict resolution and post-conflict recovery and development, and limited participation of conflict-affected women in shaping coherent policies that target peace and security in the communities on both sides of the ABL.
- Establishment of the Women, Peace and Security Task force under the UN Gender Theme Group and the Network of Women and Youth Ambassadors increased visibility of the WPS interventions and provided ample opportunities for women's CSOs and for 256 IDP and conflict-affected women to participate in peace and security processes at the national, regional and international levels;
- To ensure mainstreaming of WPS agenda into state agencies responsible for NAP 1325, 247 officials (152 women, 95 men) enhanced their knowledge on WPS issues and improved their skills of mainstreaming the Agenda in their institutions; several institutions like the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) made significant strides in developing and implementing gender equality policies, career development opportunities for women, development of sexual harassment prevention mechanisms and improvement of collection of disaggregated data; nevertheless, challenges remain in terms of addressing gender stereotypes and resulting in underrepresentation of women in senior leadership positions.
- Implementation of the project had positive impact on increased gender sensitivity of peace formats (GID and IPRM) and participation of women's CSOs and IDP and conflict-affected women in shaping peace and security processes. In terms of achievement of longer-term changes, some positive tendencies may be acknowledged in relation to increased participation of women in leadership roles in security institutions and some line ministries. As for the impact on resilience of IDP and conflict-affected women, it would be impossible to measure the impact from the project due its limited scope of interventions to target multidimensional issues of security such as gender-based violence, lack of education and economic opportunities and of access to resources such as land, water and infrastructure.

ACHIEVEMENT OF TARGETS UNDER OUTCOME 1



ACHIEVEMENT OF TARGETS UNDER OUTCOME 2



- With support from the civil society, 199 decision-makers at local government and members of the Gender Equality Councils were trained on the issues of gender-responsive policy development, women, peace and security, gender budgeting and advocacy and local municipalities mainstreamed WPS issues into local gender equality plans; however, more efforts are needed to ensure that needs of IDP and conflict-affected women are taken into consideration and the WPS agenda is fully integrated at the local level;
- UN Women ensured sustainability of capacities and WPS platforms by integrating them into new projects and by transferring WPS expertise and methodologies e.g. monitoring of human security approach to CSOs, academic and research institutions; however, support to civil society remains essential in the next phase of the project due to the backlash against human rights and gender equality, polarization of the society and geopoliti-

cal tensions; while several consultative platforms with involvement of women's CSOs became sustainable e.g., at the Office of the State Minister of Reconciliation and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, major concerns are related to sustainability of the Network of Women and Youth Peace Ambassadors and its full engagement in peace and security processes;

- To ensure safe participation of IDP and conflict-affected women in the project interventions, the project integrated the measures that guaranteed confidentiality and non-retaliation of women, particular from Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia; integration of a gender-responsive conflict analysis and a human security methodology to inform grassroots level engagement was most relevant to promote a more coherent approach to solution of complex and interconnected challenges faced by IDP and conflict-affected women in Georgia;

- The project did not employ systematically inclusion strategies (LNOB) such as by age, socio-economic status, disability or other due to the extent of vulnerability of IDP and conflict-affected women in general; at the same time, inclusion of young women was much appreciated by members of women's networks since having mixed groups of women of different age and background helped better prioritize problems and consolidate communities around their solution; pursuing more systematic inclusion based on better disaggregated data by civil society organizations would have been valuable to advocate for policies and measures that reflect the lived realities of affected women.

What may be done to accelerate further the WPS Agenda and enhance participation of women and youth in peace and security processes?

Recommendation 1. Advance Transformative Gender Results in Peace and Security

UN Women should define transformative results aligned with sustainable change, ensuring strengthened partnerships and deeper coordination.

Priority Actions:

- Align project impact with long-term outcomes (e.g., resilience of IDP and conflict-affected communities and durable solutions).
- Promote cross-sectoral collaboration with UN Women programmes (e.g., GBV prevention, environmental resilience).
- Strengthen engagement of state institutions in the upcoming NAP 1325.
- Reinforce and expand the Network of Women and Youth Peace Ambassadors.

Recommendation 2. Empower Grassroots Participation in Peacebuilding

UN Women is encouraged to expand bottom-up, gender-responsive approaches by supporting grassroots women's networks and enabling their leadership in peace and security.

Priority Actions:

- Disseminate social mobilization tools and integrate with existing self-help/advisory groups.
- Define the strategic role of the Women and Youth Ambassadors Network.
- Facilitate access to funding for peacebuilding initiatives in ABL communities.

Recommendation 3. Enhance Evidence-Based and Inclusive Programming

UN Women should clarify the pathways to transformative change and strengthen data, learning, and adaptive programming.

Priority Actions:

- Define indicators of transformative change and empowerment.
- Standardize women- beneficiaries' disaggregated data collection (incl. disaggregated data on education, employment, disability).
- Leverage digital tools for participatory monitoring and adaptive learning.
- Establish a human security baseline in IDP/conflict-affected areas.

Disclaimer: The analysis and recommendations of this report are those of the UN Women Independent Evaluation, Audit and Investigation Service (IEAIS) and do not necessarily reflect the views of UN Women.