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**EU AND UND JOINT PROGRAMME – HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL – PHASE II
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINALPROGRAMME NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM 1 DECEMBER 2020 TO 30 APRIL 2024**

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <p>Programme Title: Human Rights for All – Phase II</p> <p>Programme Number - ENI 2020/418-101</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00125426</p>	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p><i>Country/Region: Georgia</i></p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results: Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia, the UN 2030 Agenda, recommendations of the UN Human Rights bodies, Outcome 1, Outputs 1.2 and 2.3 of the UNSDCF 2021-2025</p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <p>The Programme is directly implemented by UN agencies – UNDP and OHCHR in partnership with the following institutions: Administration of the Government of Georgia, the Parliament of Georgia, the State Inspector's Service, the Personal Data Protection Service, the Special Investigative Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the Labour Inspection Office, Civil Service Bureau, the Public Defender's Office, Legal Aid Service, Georgian Bar Association, Local Self-Governments, civil society organisations and academia.</p>
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD 2,988,954</p> <p>MPTF / Joint Programme Contribution: by UNDP - USD 1,647,953 by OHCHR - USD 1,042,105</p> <p>Agency Contribution by UNDP - USD 181,936.33 by OHCHR - USD 116,959.06</p> <p>TOTAL: USD 2,988,954</p>	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration - <i>41 months</i> Start Date - <i>01.12.2020</i></p> <p>Original End Date - <i>30.11.2023</i></p> <p>Actual End date - <i>30.04.2024</i></p> <p>Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its (their) system? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Expected Financial Closure date: 30 April 2025</p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Evaluation Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Evaluation Report - Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Nino Jomarjidge ○ Title: Project Manager a.i., UNDP ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP ○ Email address: nino.jomarjidge@undp.org

Abbreviations and acronyms

AoG	Administration of the Government of Georgia
AP	Action Plan
CAO	Code of Administrative Offences
CCG	Criminal Code of Georgia
CEC	Central Election Commission
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CoE	Council of Europe
CPCG	Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSB	Civil Service Bureau
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CwDs	Children with Disabilities
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EU	European Union
GBA	Georgian Bar Association
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GYLA	Georgian Young Lawyers' Association
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
HRS	Human Rights Secretariat
LAS	Legal Aid Service
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex
LIO	Labour Inspection Office
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
LRPD	Law of Georgia on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
LSGs	Local Self-Governments
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MRDI	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NHRI	National human rights institution
NHRS	National Human Rights Strategy
NHRSAP	National Human Rights Strategy Action Plan
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPDs	Organisations of persons with disabilities
PDO	Office of the Public Defender of Georgia
PDP	Personal data protection
PDPS	Personal Data Protection Service
POG	Prosecutor's Office of Georgia
PUNOs	Participating UN organisations

PwDs	Persons with disabilities
PwMD	Persons with mental disabilities
RC	UN Resident Coordinator
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIS	Special Investigative Service
SMR	Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality
SO	Specific Objective
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UN CRPD	United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. “Human Rights for All – Phase II”, a joint initiative of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN), achieved tangible results over its life cycle. The Joint Programme successfully accomplished 11 and partially met two intended targets out of the overall 17 targets set under 12 Specific Objectives and sub-outcomes, while four targets were not met.¹ Furthermore, 26 out of 32 targets set for 19 outputs were fully completed, surpassing expectations in several areas and contributing to enhanced human rights protection in Georgia. Four output targets were partially met, while two targets were not met due to external factors beyond the project's control or a lack of available data to fully measure the progress. A detailed breakdown of each indicator, along with the reasons for unmet targets for Specific Objectives/sub-outcomes and outputs are reviewed in detail in the report below.
2. The turbulent political environment compounded by both internal and external factors, setbacks in democratic reforms and in the protection of fundamental human rights, as well as controversial legislative initiatives restricting the operations of civil society organisations (CSOs) and media, have shaped the human rights scene in Georgia. Recognizing that human rights are the crux of the political processes, these developments substantially affected the Joint Programme’s implementation pace and strategy. This necessitated flexibility and agile management strategy to navigate a constantly evolving operational landscape. It also required the delivery of multi-faceted interventions for advancing the human rights agenda in Georgia for alignment with international human rights standards.
3. Despite the suboptimal environment for achieving its ambitious objectives, the Joint Programme yielded the following key results:
 - Created an instrumental human rights framework by supporting the development/implementation of nine national human rights policy documents with a participatory process, most notably, the National Human Rights Strategy for 2021-2030 (NHRS) and its Action Plan for 2023-2024 (AP).
 - Supported the Government in developing and submitting the report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) after nearly 18 years of delay.
 - Advanced the very first elaboration and presentation of the concept of the new Code of Administrative Offences (CAO) by the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Issues.
 - Bolstered personal data protection (PDP) by supporting the adoption of the new Law on Personal Data Protection in adherence to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), developing eight guidelines/knowledge building materials, and capacitating 388 data collectors and data processors.
 - Strengthened Personal Data Protection Service (PDPS) and its predecessor – State Inspector’s Service in upholding its oversight mandate in the sphere of PDP, by developing five internal strategies and methodologies, capacitating 81 of its representatives, and facilitating its outreach to 100,000 data subjects.
 - Supported the ongoing process of legislative reform in the sphere of criminal justice aimed at the separation of prosecutorial and investigative powers by facilitating discussions and advocacy efforts with key stakeholders, culminating in the successful submission of the draft law to Parliament.
 - Advanced legislative and policy reforms to combat ill-treatment and torture through a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach that engaged key state actors and ensured active CSO involvement. Facilitated that every alleged victim of torture and ill-treatment has effective and unhindered access to case materials generated by the Special Investigative Service of Georgia (SIS), while ensuring proper classification of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.
 - Strengthened duty-bearers by mainstreaming human rights standards into their practice and service delivery, through developing 17 guidelines, internal documents/strategies and manuals.

¹ *Sub-outcome 3A.a. Rate of implementation of the PwD-related action plans:* neither the Government’s annual reports on implementing the AP for the Rights of PwDs nor the Parliament’s conclusions on reports included an assessment of the implementation rate of PwD-related APs. Therefore, due to the absence of relevant sources, it was challenging to measure the achievement of this target for this sub-outcome. *Sub-outcome 3B.b. The status of Chapter on LGBTQI of the NHRS AP:* the 2024-2026 AP for the NHRS was adopted in December 2023. Despite the Joint Programme’s advocacy efforts, LGBTQI+ remains excluded from the AP. Hence, the sub-outcome 3B.b. The status of Chapter on LGBTQI of the NHRS AP remains unmet. *SO4.a. and SO5.a:* in agreement with the EU, the decision was made not to conduct the human rights survey initially planned in the project document to assess public perception of human rights protection in the regions and general awareness. Although alternative surveys from other institutions were analysed to gauge progress on this indicator, the lack of sufficient data made it impossible to fully measure progress, resulting in the indicator not being achieved. More detailed information on the reasons and justifications for not meeting the targets are provided below in paragraphs 112 and 124 and in the logframe under Specific Objective 4.a. and Specific Objective 5.a Sub-outcome 3A.a. and Sub-outcome 3B.b.

- Fostered reflection of the international human rights standards and best practices in national legislative frameworks and practices by developing 20 analytical documents/ad hoc reports.
 - Accelerated the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) through creating/strengthening one Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism, three Consultative Councils on Persons with Disabilities at the central level, and one independent monitoring mechanism of the Convention. Capacitated over 90 Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to meaningfully engage in public decision-making and monitor disability rights.
 - Substantially elevated the Public Defender's Office's (PDO) human rights oversight and awareness-raising mandate by developing its institutional strategy on disability issues, three monitoring methodologies, two special reports, capacitating its 129 staff members, and facilitating in-person information meetings, reaching in total over 600 persons in 36 municipalities.²
 - Enhanced capacities and expertise of over 1,300 duty-bearers and 800 representatives of specialized groups (e.g. teachers, media representatives, legal professionals) to effectively uphold human rights and deliver inclusive and respectful services.
 - Stimulated oversight of human rights and data-driven advocacy, by capacitating 11 CSOs through sub-grants, empowering 106 CSO representatives through knowledge building activities, developing one monitoring methodology, 35 thematic and five shadow reports for human rights treaty bodies.
 - Fostered localization of human rights through increasing capacities of 127 representatives from 63 local self-governments (LSGs)³ facilitating inclusive local budgeting and programming by creating guidelines and supporting the creation of pioneer and replicable municipal services through a comprehensive needs assessment process.
 - Strengthened over 600 youth, including persons with disabilities (PwDs) and ethnic minorities, to engage in the protection and mainstreaming of human rights.
 - Promoted human rights culture among rights-holders to effectively claim their rights through a rigorous human rights awareness campaign, including leveraging media platforms successfully reaching 1.3 million individuals.
4. The Joint Programme's continued efforts have collectively contributed to the Outcome 1 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025. The Joint Programme supported the implementation of obligations under the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia, commitments undertaken under the UN 2030 Agenda, and recommendations of the UN and other bodies in the field of human rights. The Joint Programme's achievements have also made a direct and significant contribution to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially 3, 5, 10 and 16, coupled with human rights priorities set in the national policy documents.

I. Purpose

5. The Joint Programme was designed to tackle the prevailing human rights challenges in the country and provide a comprehensive response to them. The overall objective of the project, to ensure that all citizens of Georgia, and primarily those in vulnerable environments, enjoy better protection of their human rights, is aligned with the national priorities enshrined in the Constitution and major policy documents of the country, as well as with the international obligations of Georgia, including EU-Georgia Association Agreement, SDGs, and UN human rights treaties. To achieve the overall objective, the participating UN agencies (PUNOs) worked to realise five specific objectives:
- Specific Objective 1: Relevant public bodies (duty-bearers) develop, implement and monitor national human rights policy and related frameworks.
 - Specific Objective 2: Law enforcement and human rights protection bodies effectively implement their duties related to policymaking and enforcement with due oversight and transparency.
 - Specific Objective 3: The human rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations are recognised in law and protected in practice.
 - Specific Objective 4: Local authorities more effectively protect the human rights of all citizens, primarily those in vulnerable situations and minority groups.

² More detailed information regarding the activities carried out in support of the PDO and coordination/synergies with the other EU-funded project in support of the PDO are provided below in paragraphs 20, 21, 87 and 152.

³ All municipalities except for Tbilisi municipality took part in the capacity building initiatives. A list of participating municipalities is enclosed as Annex 1.

- Specific Objective 5. Citizens are informed on, favourable to, and supportive of human rights for all and efforts to protect them.
6. To achieve the objectives of the Joint Programme, UNDP and OHCHR, in close collaboration with central and local authorities, inter alia, focused on supporting the implementation and monitoring of national human rights policy and related frameworks, improvement of the independent investigation of crimes committed by law enforcement officials, combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment, protection of personal data, addressing challenges to the protection of human rights in the regions of Georgia including human rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations such as LGBTIQI+ and PwDs, while also raising awareness of human rights among rights-holders.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

i) Narrative reporting on results

Specific Objective 1: Relevant public bodies (duty-bearers) develop, implement and monitor national human rights policy and related frameworks.

Indicator: Rate of implementation of human rights-related policy documents and action plans

7. The legislative framework, institutional setup, and vibrant civil society provide Georgia with a certain level of preparedness for advancing democratic and rule of law reforms. Nevertheless, in recent years, the country has become increasingly fragile, experiencing political upheavals, deep polarisation, and setbacks in democratic reforms and the protection of fundamental human rights. Recent developments, particularly the government's efforts since 2023 to pass controversial draft laws, for example on 'Transparency of Foreign Influence',⁴ have intensified the already strained relationships between the government and civil society, subsequently hindering dialogue and engagement with duty-bearers on critical human rights issues. This has resulted in a shrinking space for CSOs, especially those working on human rights and LGBTIQI+ issues.
8. In addition to the internal turmoil, Georgia continued to face significant external challenges. The protracted war in Ukraine has dramatically increased Georgia's political, social, and security fragility. These external factors together with internal challenges continued to influence the country's governance and development trajectory, along with the legislative and policy frameworks governing human rights.
9. These developments have impacted the project throughout its duration, resulting in delays in the development and implementation of the national human rights policy and legislative frameworks. Despite the turbulent political environment and setbacks encountered, the Joint Programme has accomplished substantial results that have contributed to the achievement of the Specific Objective 1. In particular, as a result of the Joint Programme's efforts with the EU's support:
 - a) Two human rights strategies – the National Human Rights Strategy for 2022-2030 and the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration⁵ along with three APs were developed resulting in the **enhancement of national human rights policy and legislative frameworks.**
 - b) The capacity and knowledge of 107 representatives of duty-bearers at the central level were improved and **state institutions were equipped with skills and expertise to develop and implement human rights policies.**
 - c) **A dialogue between state institutions and CSOs was fostered** to support the participatory development of human rights policy documents and legislative changes, specifically on the Code of Administrative Offences (CAO) (see more below output 1.4) and the separation of investigative and prosecutorial functions (see more below output 1.3). The expected result was to support a more inclusive and transparent process in the development of these legislative changes, ensuring that human rights considerations were incorporated into key policy areas.
 - d) **Draft legislation on the separation of investigative and prosecutorial functions was refined.**
 - e) **Efficient systems for monitoring, evaluation and the accountability of duty-bearers were established by capacitating the PDO staff** (in total 129 employees) in specific areas of human rights and developing three monitoring methodologies. In addition, the oversight missions and data-driven advocacy efforts of CSOs were bolstered by capacitating CSOs and creating a guideline tool for consistently monitoring the policy documents.

⁴ The law on Transparency of Foreign Influence aimed to create a registry and label non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and media outlets as "agents of foreign influence". The government reintroduced the law on 3 April 2024, and it was subsequently adopted in June 2024, however, this occurred beyond the project operational framework.

⁵ Annex 2, the National Human Rights Strategy for 2022-2030; Annex 3, the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration.

- f) Eight reports / analytical documents were developed to **embed Georgia's international commitments, recommendations, and best practices in national policy and legislative frameworks and practices.**
10. Although the first NHRS came to an end in 2020, the adoption of the next strategy faced significant delays being only approved on 22 March 2023 with the accompanying AP finalized on 28 December 2023. Furthermore, Parliament has postponed the reform of the CAO, with no progress made in that area. On a positive note, with the support of the Joint Programme, the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality (SMR) successfully adopted the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration for 2021-2030, along with the corresponding APs for 2021-2022 and 2023-2024. The implementation rate for the 2021-2022 AP stands at 81.4%, while the implementation rate for the first year of the 2023-2024 AP is 60.4%. Therefore, the overall target for **the Specific Objective 1 indicator can be considered achieved.**

Output 1.1. Capacities of selected state institutions strengthened to develop and implement human rights policy documents

Indicator 1.1.a. Status of NHRS APs.

Indicator 1.1.b. # of existing and new HRS staff trained under a new requisite CD programme (incl. coaching, mentoring, training)

11. To shape a solid human rights framework, the Joint Programme facilitated the development and implementation of the human rights policy documents and guidelines, coupled with strengthening the capacities of the Human Rights Secretariat (HRS) to streamline the human rights-based approach (HRBA) and other core principles into policy planning and programming. As a result of the Joint Programme's efforts, two human rights strategies, namely, the NHRS and the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, along with three APs were developed and adopted, the engagement of CSOs was facilitated and the capacities of all HRS's staff (7 persons, 5 women) to implement a rights-based approach and mainstream the equality principle in human rights policies and actions were enhanced, **leading to the achievement of both final targets and output.**
12. **The NHRS for 2022-2030 and its AP for 2024-2026:** Since the conclusion of the first NHRS for 2014-2020, the Joint Programme has consistently supported the executive and legislative branches to develop the second Strategy, representing a unified framework for enhancing the national system of fundamental human rights, and institutional democracy in the country.
13. Further, the Joint Programme provided technical and legal assistance to the Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG) and the Parliament to develop and adopt the NHRS for 2022-2030 through expert advice and engagement with civil society. The Strategy, adopted by the AoG on 5 September 2022 and endorsed by the Parliament on 22 March 2023, introduced a HRBA, covering a wide range of human rights under each priority spanning from political, civil, economic and social rights. In addition, the Strategy included a specific goal dedicated to the effective protection of human rights during states of emergency or other extraordinary situations, such as pandemics. The Joint Programme's analytical documents, compiling the range of recommendations adopted by UN treaty and charter-based bodies as well as Council of Europe (CoE) institutions, studies dedicated to the assessment of the efficacy of Georgia's pandemic response in 2020 and the associated human rights restrictions, were instrumental in shaping this aspect of the Strategy.
14. Following the Strategy adoption, the Joint Programme facilitated a dialogue between CSOs, PDO, and the executive and legislative branches through roundtables and working meetings to ensure a participatory drafting process for the NHRS AP for 2024-2026. In particular:
- On 3 February 2023, the first coordination meeting for developing the National Human Rights Action Plan was held at the Government Administration. This meeting brought together international organizations and over 80 CSOs. During the meeting, the AoG outlined the steps, timeframe, and modalities for drafting the Action Plan.⁶
 - On 6 June 2023, with support from the Joint Programme, the Public Defender of Georgia organized a discussion between AoG and national CSOs. The meeting addressed evolving challenges in human rights protection, specific steps planned by the Georgian Government, and recommendations from key CSOs. Participants also emphasized the importance of developing the Action Plan in a timely and participatory manner.⁷

⁶ Social media [post](#) of the Human Rights Council on the coordination meeting with CSOs regarding the AP for 2024-2026.

⁷ Social media [post](#) of the Human Rights Council on the meeting with the PDO and CSOs to discuss human rights issues, 6 June 2023; see also, social media [post](#) of UNDP on Dialogue for Human Rights, 9 June 2023 and social media [post](#) of the PDO, 6 June 2023.

- During 6-7 December 2023, a working meeting was convened at the initiative of the Prime Minister's adviser on human rights issues, with support from the Joint Programme and the EU representation. This meeting involved state agencies and civil society representatives who discussed the 2024-2026 Action Plan. During the session, CSO representatives presented their suggestions for concrete activities to be included in the Action Plan.⁸
15. The Joint Programme also concentrated its efforts on targeted advocacy to ensure alignment between the activities incorporated in the AP and Georgia's commitments to implementing recommendations from various international human rights treaty bodies. To this end, the Joint Programme analysed the NHRS vis-à-vis recommendations issued to Georgia by 20 distinct treaty bodies and other international human rights instruments, identifying key areas to be reflected in the AP for effective implementation of the NHRS. Furthermore, the Joint Programme facilitated regular meetings between CSOs, including regional CSOs, regarding the AP development process and later supported 24 CSOs in consolidating their recommendations on activities to be incorporated into the AP on different human rights issues pertaining to their respective fields of work and advocating for their incorporation in the AP.
 16. As a result of the collective advocacy efforts by the Joint Programme, international partners, and CSOs, the right to adequate housing was integrated into the AP, an important accomplishment, especially given its initial absence in the Strategy. Several other recommendations, mostly those related to the rights of PwDs, were also reflected in the AP. However, other critical issues, such as the challenges faced by LGBTQI+ community, effective protection of privacy, independence, and impartiality of the judiciary, remain overlooked in the final AP. Overall, despite weaknesses, the Strategy and its AP contain some positive elements concerning civil, political, economic, and social rights, making it an important tool for implementing the human rights standards enshrined in the Constitution.
 17. **The 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and its APs for 2021-2022 and 2023-2024:** Throughout the project, the Joint Programme continued its assistance to the SMR in implementing the State Strategy, along with its APs, to promote equality and non-discrimination, particularly for ethnic minority groups. In pursuit of this goal, the Joint Programme facilitated discussions between 72 individuals (48 women) from SMR, PDO, National Minorities Council, CSOs, and national minorities, ensuring an inclusive and participatory drafting process for 2023-2024 AP. In addition, a report was developed to assess the attitudes and needs with regard to the Azerbaijani-language newspaper "Gurjistan" and the Armenian-language newspaper "Vrastan", published and disseminated in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. This research served as a basis for the SMR to evaluate the potential for promoting and enhancing these newspapers, as well as design specific activities aimed at improving access to media and information for ethnic minority groups. Furthermore, with the Joint Programme's support, the SMR enhanced media literacy, and fostered an equitable environment through knowledge building activities targeted at ethnic minority groups (see also para. 136 below).
 18. The Joint Programme assisted Georgian authorities in developing the state report for the UN CESCR being overdue for almost 18 years. To this end, the assistance for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) was two folded: 1) strengthening the capacity of MFA in developing the report and 2) hiring expert to develop and polish the final version of the Government report. In December 2022, Georgia has submitted the report to the UN CESCR.

Output 1.2. Effective monitoring and communication tools, including focal points system, for NHRS and AP in place and operational.

Indicator 1.2.a. Quality of NHRSAP monitoring/implementation reports

Indicator 1.2.b. Status of guidelines for PDO on monitoring human rights situation (in selected fields)

19. Given the pivotal role of the PDO in overseeing and safeguarding human rights, the Joint Programme has dedicated substantial resources to bolstering its capacity and monitoring function in specific human rights. Furthermore, the Joint Programme has improved the capacities of state institutions to streamline HRBA and other core principles into policy planning and programming. The Joint Programme also supported the development of effective tools for monitoring the NHRS and APs. Hence, with the Joint Programme's support, efficient systems for monitoring the accountability of duty-bearers were established, **leading to the achievement of this output.**
20. **Capacity and tools of the PDO to monitor human rights advanced:** In the context of enhancing the monitoring function of the PDO and strengthening its human capacity, the Joint Programme prioritized knowledge building activities tailored to the professional development needs of PDO staff. Throughout Phase II, with the Joint Programme's support, 129 PDO representatives increased their capacity on a wide range of human rights, including

⁸ Social media [post](#) of the Human Rights Council on the meeting with CSOs to discuss the AP for 2024-2026, 8 December, 2023.

environmental and health-related issues, monitoring of outpatient mental health services, the practice of the Constitutional Court and its critical judgments on equality, the right to dignity, and freedom of religion and practical aspects of monitoring, reporting and documenting human rights violations of persons deprived of liberty on the basis of the 2022 revised edition of the Istanbul Protocol: Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.⁹

21. Following the training on outpatient mental health services, the Joint Programme supported the development of a methodology for monitoring outpatient mental health services to help the PDO evaluate existing services and identify discrepancies with international human rights standards to improve service delivery. Furthermore, with the Joint Programme support, two methodologies for monitoring inclusive education at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the situation at schools specialized in supporting children with disabilities (CwDs) were developed, contributing to special monitoring reports (see also para. 87 below). Hence, **the final target of the second indicator was achieved.**
22. **Capacity of state institutions to safeguard human rights bolstered:** In Phase II, the Joint Programme focused on developing an effective monitoring system by enhancing the capacity of state institutions to implement a rights-based approach and mainstream equality principle in policy planning and programming. As part of this initiative, 49 civil servants (42 women / 7 men) from various government agencies improved their knowledge and understanding of international and regional human rights standards, including HRBA and prohibition of discrimination, which in long-term will facilitate coordination of actions aimed at implementation and monitoring of NHRS and APs within responsible state institutions.
23. Furthermore, to animate monitoring tools for preventing discrimination in employment and labour relationships, the Joint Programme in partnership with the Labour Inspection Office (LIO), developed the guiding principles for preventing racial, ethnic and religious discrimination in labour relations, to combat discriminatory practices experienced by women and minority groups, including at the workplace, as highlighted by the Joint Programme commissioned study “Headscarf in the Daily Lives of Muslim Women”. Based on the developed guiding principles, 51 LIO staff (24 women) enhanced their capacity to effectively handle cases of racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination and ensure a discrimination-free working environment. This development interventions also echoed the 2022 Concluding Observations by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which underscored the need for the systematic capacity development of the LIO to address racial discrimination.¹⁰
24. These initiatives are expected to facilitate the long-term coordination of actions within responsible state institutions toward the monitoring of NHRS and APs as well as contribute to the implementation of these policy documents and recommendations treaty bodies and Georgia’s international commitments.
25. **Advocacy and monitoring of human rights situation by CSOs advanced:** Acknowledging the pivotal role of CSOs in monitoring the human rights situation, the Joint Programme directed its efforts towards empowering CSOs in monitoring human rights policy documents. As part of this initiative, a comprehensive methodology for monitoring the implementation of NHRS and AP was developed, and 13 CSOs acquired knowledge on the use of monitoring tools based on this guideline. The tool, inter alia, integrates HRBA, gender equality and social inclusion principles to ensure that policies and programs are human and gender responsive, subsequently incorporating cross-cutting issues while monitoring human rights environment.
26. Due to the delayed adoption of the Strategy and the AP, which occurred near the end of the project, the AP implementation report is expected to be developed in 2025, making it impossible to assess the quality of the implementation report at this time. However, as outlined above (paragraph 25) a monitoring tool for CSOs was developed to ensure consistent and result-oriented monitoring of the NHRS and the AP. Following the development of this tool, utilizing the methodology for monitoring the implementation of NHRS and AP, the Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association (GYLA), with the Joint Programme support, produced a report on the implementation of labour and environmental rights in the Human Rights Strategy, alongside recommendations for activities to be included in the NHRS AP for the effective realisation of these rights. The guideline and report produced have contributed to monitoring the policy document and will support coherent and impact-driven monitoring of the

⁹ In agreement with the EU, the training on practical aspects of monitoring, reporting and documenting human rights violations of persons deprived of liberty on the basis of the 2022 revised edition of the Istanbul Protocol: Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was conducted in partnership with the EU initiative “Support to the Public Defender’s Office,” implemented by DAI.

¹⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Concluding observations on the combined ninth and tenth periodic reports of Georgia, CERD/C/GE0/CO/9-10, 13 December 2022, available at: <https://rb.gy/aj94w>

NHRS and AP in the future. However, since the AP's implementation report is not yet available, the target for **the first indicator should be considered only partially met.**

Output 1.3. Criminal Justice Reform Council supported with special emphasis on the separation of investigative and prosecutorial functions.

Indicator 1.3.a. Status of draft legislation on separation of investigative and prosecution functions

27. Despite efforts to improve criminal justice reform, the separation of investigative and prosecutorial functions remained unaddressed. In practice, investigators are dependent on prosecutors, who exert control over nearly all investigative actions, effectively serving both as prosecutors and investigators. This dual role often created conflicts of interest and undermined the effectiveness of investigations. The existing legal framework has been identified as a significant challenge, as it failed to grant investigators sufficient independence to lead investigations and make decisions.
28. To address these challenges, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) launched the Investigation System Reform in 2018, proposing amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia (CPCG) to separate investigative and prosecutorial powers. This reform concept was positively assessed by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) in 2019.¹¹
29. Building on this development, throughout Phase II, the Joint Programme has consistently supported the law enforcement bodies for the clear delineation of investigative and prosecutorial functions to enhance the quality and efficiency of Georgia's criminal justice system.
30. **The quality and efficiency of Georgia's criminal justice system were improved through the development of a draft law, culminating in its presentation to the Parliament of Georgia:** To enhance the quality of investigations, improve the efficiency of investigative and prosecutorial activities, and ensure the independence of investigations, the Joint Programme supported the development of a concept paper that analysed gaps in the CPCG and redefined the roles of investigators and prosecutors.
31. The concept paper shared with the MIA and other law enforcement bodies. In response, the MIA drafted legislation on the separation of powers. However, this draft did not fully align with the recommendations of the Venice Commission, or the vision outlined in the concept paper. Consequently, from 2022 to 2023, the Joint Programme continued to collaborate with the MIA and other relevant ministries to refine the draft legislation, providing expert opinions and facilitating both internal discussions among state actors and external consultations with CSOs. These multistakeholder discussions brought to light flaws in the draft, including potential challenges the investigative process might face post-separation.
32. As a result of targeted advocacy, the draft law incorporated some of the Joint Programme's comments, leading to improvements compared to the initial version. However, the final version presented to Parliament in 2023 did not gain full support from CSOs, as their concerns raised during working meetings were not addressed.¹² Consequently, the **target for this indicator** - developing draft legislation that reflected the input of all major stakeholders, including CSOs - **was only partially met.**

r, Output 1.4 Selected chapters of the Administrative Offense Code drafted (OHCHR)

Indicator 1.4.a. The relevant articles of the Administrative Offences Code on Right to Liberty and Security and the Right to Fair Trial are not in line with international standards

33. Georgia continues to retain its CAO, which is from 1984 and remnant of the Communist style of justice from the Soviet era. This outdated legal framework has long been criticized by both international and national organizations for failing to meet international standards, particularly in ensuring fair proceedings, equality of arms, and adequate protections for defendants comparable to those accused of criminal offences under the Criminal Code of Georgia (CCG).
34. **Critical gaps in the Code of Administrative Offences were addressed, enhancing its alignment with international standards:** Throughout Phase II, efforts were concentrated on drafting selected chapters of the CAO to address critical gaps related to the right to liberty, security, and a fair trial. The Joint Programme worked closely

¹¹ Venice Commission Opinion on the Concept of the Legislative Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code Concerning the Relationship Between the Prosecution and the Investigators, 15-16 March 2019, [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD\(2019\)006-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD(2019)006-e)

¹² Among other CSOs, the Social Justice Center (SJC) and the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) raised critical concerns during the working meetings.

with the Legal Committee of the Parliament of Georgia to advocate and move the reform forward. To this end, the Joint Programme provided the Parliament with two essential studies¹³ on the differentiation of criminal and administrative charges and proceedings to perfect the vision of the draft law that the Committee of Legal Issues has elaborated before the launch of this project.

35. The first study examined the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), identifying criteria for distinguishing between criminal and administrative offenses and underscoring the need for greater procedural guarantees in certain cases. The second study offered a comprehensive gap analysis of Georgian legislation, including domestic court decisions on imposition of administrative detention, alongside a comparative analysis of national regulatory framework with universal and regional standards.
36. Following the development of the relevant studies, in cooperation with the Committee of Legal Issues of the Parliament of Georgia, the Joint Programme facilitated multi-stakeholder discussions with legislative, governmental institutions and CSOs to address the key challenges in the current version of the CAO, particularly concerning the enjoyment of fundamental rights, such as the right to liberty and security and the right to a fair trial, safeguards against ill-treatment and arbitrary actions by the law enforcement officers and align them with international standards.
37. Through the Joint Programme's support, the Parliamentary Committee on Legal issues has elaborated and made the very first presentation in 2021 of the concept of the new CAO placing special attention on the ways to tackle the challenges related to administrative detention and fair trial guarantees in the process of administrative arrest/detention.
38. To date, primarily due to shifts in the parliamentary agenda, the concept has not been translated into the draft law, nor has it been reviewed or agreed upon by all major stakeholders, as initially outlined in the project targets. However, the investment of resources and the facilitation of multistakeholder discussions have helped maintain the relevance and momentum of the topic, **resulting in only partial fulfilment of the target.**

Output 1.5. Knowledge on human rights issues of the civil servants and MIA increased

Indicator 1.5.a. Knowledge of civil servants with special focus on MIA and Police Academy increased

39. Initially, output 1.5 aimed to enhance human rights knowledge broadly among civil servants by developing a Human Rights Curricula. The Joint Programme coordinated with the HRS to develop a mandatory training program for civil servants. Although negotiations were held with the HRS, an agreement could not be reached regarding the inclusion of sections on the prohibition of discrimination and the right to equality for LGBTQI+ individuals. Excluding these key aspects, as requested by the HRS, ultimately undermined the relevance and impact of the entire activity. Hence, the Joint Programme redirected our resources to support the Legal Aid Service (LAS) and the MIA **leading to the achievement of target of the indicator.**
40. This redirection aimed to strengthen LAS's mandate to protect the rights of victims of ill-treatment, ensuring the effective use of the project's resources amidst ongoing challenges. To this end, in partnership with LAS, the Joint Programme developed an educational module on Mechanisms for Responding to Torture and Inhuman Treatment, including topics on internal and international mechanisms for addressing torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, focusing on specific contexts such as psychiatric institutions, correctional facilities, penitentiary institutions, and police practices (see para. 53 under output 2A.1 for further details).
41. Furthermore, to increase PwDs' access and respect in the criminal justice system, including by ensuring a disability-inclusive investigation process, the Joint Programme developed the training module on disability rights and communication standards for patrol officers of the MIA (see para. 89 under output 3.A.2. for further details regarding the trainings conducted based on the module).

Specific Objective 2: Law enforcement and human rights protection bodies effectively implement their duties related to policymaking and enforcement with due oversight and transparency.

Indicator: Specific Objective 2.a. Proportion of law enforcement officers formally investigated for cases of alleged abuse.

Indicator: Specific Objective 2.b. Ratio between the applications and inspections

¹³ Annex 3, ECtHR Case law on criminal charges and administrative violations; Annex 4, Legislation regarding misdemeanours in selected European states.

42. In the context of strengthening independent oversight mechanisms, the State Inspector Service,¹⁴ the institution mandated to investigate alleged human rights violations committed by law enforcement officials and entrusted with the oversight of personal data protection, was the central beneficiary and the critical counterpart of the Joint Programme. However, in December 2021, the Parliament of Georgia abolished the State Inspector's Service in an expedited manner, without inclusive and transparent discussions, despite strong criticism from national and international partners. This led to the formation of two new institutions: the Special Investigative Service (SIS) and the Personal Data Protection Service (PDPS).
43. In response to these developments, the Joint Programme, in consultation with the EU, shifted its focus in 2022 towards observing and assessing the activities of these newly established institutions to navigate the remaining contribution meaningfully and identify the potential areas of engagement, while in 2023, the Joint Programme renewed cooperation with both institutions. Although the sudden abolition of the State Inspector Service caused delays and necessitated adjustments to the planned interventions, the Joint Programme still achieved significant results aligned with Specific Objective 2.
44. Notably, the Joint Programme's support was instrumental in the adoption of a new Law on Personal Data Protection on 14 June 2023,¹⁵ which introduces new privacy regulations and obligations nationwide. In addition, the institutional development and capacity building of PDPS and its predecessor (PDP component) was promoted by developing/upgrading five policy documents and delivering capacity building opportunities for its 81 representatives (50 women).
45. The Joint Programme also facilitated enhanced cooperation between the PDPS, civil society, LGBTQI+ communities, and ethnic minority groups on PDP issues. Furthermore, throughout Phase II, the Joint Programme capacitated organisations collecting and processing personal data to implement the PDP legislation effectively and safeguard data privacy, resulting in 388 representatives from data processors and data collectors enhancing their knowledge of the PDP, including the new regulations, through 18 educational and capacity building activities.
46. Alongside the establishment of a robust legislative framework to promote data privacy in Georgia, there has been a notable increase in the number of applications submitted to the PDPS. In 2019, the State Inspector Service received 422 applications and conducted 156 inspections, resulting in an application-to-inspection ratio of 2.71. During the first six months of 2024, following the adoption and enactment of the new law, the PDPS received 1,235 applications and conducted 93 inspections, leading to a ratio of 13.27. Additionally, the number of consultations provided on personal data processing has also risen substantially.¹⁶ **Thus, the overall target of the second indicator can be considered as achieved.**
47. Between April 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, the SIS initiated investigations in 11.6% of cases, in particular, 212 out of 1,831 notifications of alleged crimes under its mandate. In 2023, this figure rose slightly to 11.8%, with 265 investigations initiated out of 2,245 notifications related to alleged ill-treatment crimes. As a result, by 2022, the proportion of law enforcement officers formally investigated for alleged abuse had increased by 1.4 percentage points, and by 2023, the increase was 1.6 percentage points compared to 2019. Data for 2024 is not yet available. According to the SIS 2023 report, a significant proportion of notifications received by the SIS, in particular, 46% of the 2,245 notifications did not contain the signs of the crime and lacked sufficient evidence, which partly explains the limited increase in the proportion of law enforcement officers formally investigated for alleged abuse and the initiation of fewer formal investigations. Despite this explanation, available data indicates only a modest rise from 2019 to 2023. Therefore, **the target for the first indicator**, which was set at a 7% increase in investigations, **should be considered partially met.**

Output 2A.1. Relevant policies and draft legislation for combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment developed based on the needs assessment in place, capacity of relevant institutions strengthened

Indicator 2A.1.a. Status of needs assessment of regulatory framework on torture and other forms of ill-treatments

Indicator 2A.1.b. Status of policy and legislative framework for more independence and effectiveness of SIS is drafted

48. Under this output, the Joint Programme adopted a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing ill-treatment, engaging with Inter-Agency Council on Combatting torture and other forms of ill-treatment, law enforcement agencies, the SIS (and its predecessor the State Inspector's Service), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), LAS and other stakeholders.

¹⁴ Successor to the Office of Personal Data Protection since 2019.

¹⁵ The initial version of the Law was developed with the JP's support within the Human Rights for All – Phase I. The new Law was enacted on 1 March 2024.

¹⁶ Statistics: provided consultations in 2021 – 3444, provided consultation for 9 months of 2022 – 2868, in 2023 – 5106.

Although the abolition of the Service in 2021 caused delays and required adjustments to the planned interventions, the Joint Programme's multi-stakeholder approach supported **successful achievement of this output**.

49. **Regulatory framework on combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment upgraded:** Through collaborative efforts, the Joint Programme facilitated the development of a comprehensive study on torture related articles¹⁷ and based on the findings, developed a definition for specific articles on torture and ill-treatment under the CCG¹⁸ and facilitated multistakeholder discussions with 16 state institutions, the PDO, and CSOs, culminating in the SIS adopting formal guidelines for classifying torture and ill-treatment on July 31, 2023. This critical achievement enhances clarity within Georgian law but does not fully meet the long-standing recommendations from the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, as it requires changes at the legislative level. However, the internal regulation improvements within the SIS represent a significant success, as such regulations had not existed before. Consequently, **the target of the second indicator was partially met**.
50. Furthermore, SIS has adopted internal guidelines to ensure that every alleged victim has effective and unhindered access to the case files generated by the SIS. While existing legislation (CPCG) provides the right to access only to those who have been awarded with the status of the victim, SIS provides access without formal recognition of the person as a victim. This echoes long standing problem of access to the case files for potential victims of torture identified by the ECtHR in set of cases (so called Tsintsabadze group cases comprising 23 cases).
51. To bolster the SIS's role as an independent investigative body in line with Georgia's international human rights obligations, the Joint Programme also conducted an assessment identifying gaps in its investigative mandate and proposed legislative reform to tackle identified deficiencies. The study was completed, and the legislative package developed and submitted to the Parliament, thereby **achieving the target for the first indicator**.
52. The Joint Programme also supported the Inter-Agency Council on Combatting Torture under the MOJ in development of an AP for combating torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment for 2022-2023 and its implementation through delivering trainings for Penitentiary doctors (see also para. 55 below). Furthermore, throughout Phase II, the Joint Programme has numerous attempts to implement activities aimed at monitoring the implementation of the AP by the Inter-Agency Council and advocating for its meetings. Unfortunately, the MOJ, being vested with the secretarial functions of the Council, has not convened the Council meetings for last three years.
53. **Capacity and knowledge building of state institutions to prevent and combat torture and other forms of ill-treatment enhanced:** Utilizing the educational module on Mechanisms for Responding to Torture and Inhuman Treatment developed under output 1.5, the Joint Programme conducted knowledge building activities, including a Training of Trainers (ToT) for LAS lawyers, followed by training sessions for a larger group of legal practitioners. As a result, 70 lawyers (45 women) enhanced their knowledge on these critical issues.
54. Moreover, multiple awareness-raising activities were held for LAS lawyers, whose role is crucial in defending victims of torture and ill-treatment. Joint Programme assisted LAS in organizing a stakeholder meeting with the SIS and the PDO, so called Bench Bar, to discuss the prohibition of torture, address regulatory gaps, and improve protections for victims. Furthermore, the support included organizing two bench bars on the prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment, which brought together opinions from various state institutions and contributed to advancing legislative changes.
55. The capacity to prevent and combat torture and other forms of ill-treatment was also enhanced through supporting training for doctors in penitentiary institutions. The programme focused on documenting injuries to identify possible torture and other forms of cruel treatment, on the basis of the Istanbul Protocol, contributing to the implementation of the MOJ's AP for combating torture. In total, 39 doctors (32 women) were trained.
56. Furthermore, throughout the project cycle, 128 (32 women) investigators and middle management of the MIA gained knowledge on a wide range of human rights, including international standards on search and seizure, detention, prohibition of torture, right to life, and prohibition of discrimination.
57. **Independent monitoring of the SIS's investigation mandate was strengthened** through enhanced cooperation between the SIS and the PDO to combat ill-treatment. To this end, regular discussions were held to analyse both the legal and practical aspects of the SIS mandate, particularly in relation to investigating crimes committed by law enforcement officials. These discussions facilitated the exchange of information on detention cases and addressed

¹⁷ Annex 5, Research on Torture related articles.

¹⁸ Annex 6, Formulation of article 144¹.

issues highlighted in the Public Defender's Annual Report to Parliament, promoting greater accountability and oversight.

58. **The policy vision of state authorities regarding the rehabilitation of torture victims was significantly improved:** The Joint Programme facilitated working meetings that led to the establishment of the Victims' Rights Protection Unit within the SIS, which is tasked with supporting citizens in accessing SIS services and providing ongoing assistance. Additionally, recognizing the state's obligations in prohibiting torture, the Joint Programme prepared a comprehensive study on the rehabilitation of torture victims. This study examined rehabilitation issues, outlined international and regional standards, and reviewed models from other countries for reforming the Rehabilitation System for Victims of Torture in Georgia. The findings, discussed with 14 stakeholders from various state institutions, informed the MOJ's policy decisions, paving the way for reforms to Georgia's rehabilitation system for victims of torture.

Output 2A.2. SIS investigation capacity is strengthened

Indicator 2A.2.a. # of the SIS staff and investigators who attended education activities on combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including study visit

Indicator 2A.2.b. Status of Institutional Development Plan of SIS

59. The Joint Programme provided comprehensive support for institutional development and capacity building in investigation of alleged human rights violations by law enforcement officials to both State Inspector's Service and later to its successor SIS. This support strengthened the investigative capacity of the institution, **contributing to the achievement of the output.**
60. **Institutional development of the SIS was enhanced:** The Joint Programme assisted the State Inspector's Service in development of a draft version of a unified institutional strategy with a subsequent AP plan covering its all directions, including the investigation of alleged crimes committed by law enforcement officials. However, the Service was dissolved before the adoption of the Strategy. After the renewal of cooperation with the SIS, the Institutional Development Plan for 2023-2028 was elaborated and approved, **leading to the achievement of the target for the second indicator.**
61. To further support institutional strengthening and evidence-based practices, the Joint Programme developed ten studies/guidelines to enhance the effectiveness of the SIS's investigation mandate. These include:
1. Guidelines on communication techniques on methods for engaging with witnesses, victims, or complainants with psycho-social and intellectual impairments.¹⁹
 2. Study on international standards on the use of force in policing of demonstrations and Instructions on the use of force and identification of police special forces (so-called RoboCop).²⁰
 3. Study on ECtHR's recent case-law (since 2015) on ill-treatment in prisons, including inadequate medical care in prisons and prisoner deaths.²¹
 4. Study on international practices on monitoring covert investigative activities.²²
 5. Study on operation-investigative practices, comparing laws, and practices in countries with similar criminal justice systems to Georgia.²³
 6. Study on international practices, systems, and policies on preventive measures and mechanisms against ill-treatment.²⁴
 7. Study on gaps in Counterintelligence Legislation and the mandate of Operative Technical Agency.²⁵
 8. Study on the international standards and practices on the use of handcuffs by the police.²⁶
 9. A methodology guideline on questioning of police officers.²⁷
 10. Roadmap - Challenges of SIS and its successor.²⁸

¹⁹ Annex 7. Guidelines on communication techniques - persons with psycho-social and intellectual impairments.

²⁰ Annex 8, Study on the use of force in the policing of demonstrations; Robocops.

²¹ Annex 9, Study of ECHR case law on Ill-treatment at penitentiary institutions.

²² Annex 10, Study on international experience on monitoring covert investigative activities.

²³ Annex 11, Study on operation-investigative practices.

²⁴ Annex 12, Study on international practices of preventive measures and mechanisms against ill-treatment.

²⁵ Annex 13, Study on gaps in Counterintelligence Legislation and the mandate of Operative Technical Agency.

²⁶ Annex 14, Study on the international standards and practices on the use of handcuffs by the police.

²⁷ Annex 15, A methodology guideline on questioning of police officers.

²⁸ Annex 16, Roadmap - Challenges of SIS and its successor

62. The capacity building of the SIS was enhanced despite the challenges posed by its abolition. Initially, the target was to train all investigators and at least 30 additional staff members. However, the abolition led to uncertainty regarding the number of investigators throughout the project cycle, and the separation of the SIS's predecessor resulted in employee turnover. Nevertheless, the Joint Programme successfully trained 42 out of 52 staff members of SIS on topics such as the classification of crimes related to torture and ill-treatment for investigators, as well as effective communication and the fundamentals of ill-treatment standards and international practices for operational staff. Among the 42 individuals trained, 27 were investigators, while 15 persons, of which 14 were women, were hotline operators, receptionists, and members of the victims' protection unit. As a result, **the target of the first indicator was partially met.**

Output 2B.1. Tools/procedures to ensure effective realisation of data protection function of selected state institutions upgraded and functional

Indicator 2B.1.a Status of a new SIS Institutional Development Strategy

Indicator 2B.1b % of SIS/PDPS staff trained in newly adopted legislation

63. The transformation of the Office of Personal Data Protection into the State Inspector's Service in 2019 necessitated organizational and procedural support for the newly formed entity to build on and reinforce the prior achievements of the Office, among others, and ensure the effective functioning of the newly created institution. The Joint Programme provided multi-faceted support in institutional development and capacity building in the sphere of PDP to both State Inspector's Service and later to its successor PDPS to implement its critical oversight mandate. These supportive efforts were especially exigent against the backdrop of the newly adopted PDP law, requiring institutional and capacity adjustments of the PDPS in alignment with the new regulations. As a result of the Joint Programme's support to the institution, tools, and procedures to ensure the effective realisation of data protection function were upgraded during Phase II, **leading to the achievement of this output.**
64. **Policy documents of SIS/PDPS (PDP component) for the effective realization of data protection developed/upgraded:** As a result of the Joint Programme's efforts, a robust policy framework was developed for the State Inspector's Service to ensure the effective realisation of its mandate in the sphere of personal data protection. Specifically, the following policy documents were developed/upgraded: 1) a draft version of a unified institutional strategy with a subsequent action plan covering all directions of the SIS; 2) a human resource management strategy and policy to improve performance and manage its human capital efficiently; 3) a new methodology for personal data collection tools, incorporating best practice analysis; 4) an internal communication strategy to enhance institutional and structural coordination.
65. Following the establishment of the PDPS in 2022, the Joint Programme enhanced its tools and methods for inspection techniques by upgrading the instruction on inspection techniques and methods, along with recommendations for improving the existing Order №04, 2 March 2022, "On the Approval of the Rules for Assessing the Lawfulness of Personal Data Processing" in alignment with the new PDP Law.
66. Even though a new Strategy was developed for the State Inspector's Service, the institution was dissolved before the Strategy could be adopted. The PDPS has not utilized the previous version of the Strategy and has yet to adopt a new one. Consequently, due to external factors beyond the project's control, **the final target for the first indicator could not be fully achieved.**
67. **Capacity of SIS/PDPS (PDP component) bolstered:** To realize output 2B.1, apart from the institutional development of the SIS/PDPS (PDP component), the Joint Programme targeted its capacity building. As the adoption of the new law on PDP was prolonged and it was only adopted in June 2023 and entered into force on 1 March 2024, the Joint Programme directed its efforts for the SIS/PDPS capacity building in other areas. As part of this initiative, overall, 81 (50 women) SIS/PDPS representatives, out of which 52 were unique individuals, enhanced their knowledge in strategic document development and management, data collection methodology, and the best international practices employed by institutions overseeing personal data collection, **leading to the achievement of the overall target of the second indicator.**
68. **Cooperation between the PDPS, civil society, and minority groups enhanced:** Furthermore, the Joint Programme supported the PDPS in improving the partnership with civil society and minority groups through organizing in-person information meetings on PDP. The meetings served as an important platform for engagement with Tbilisi-based and regional CSOs, ethnic minority groups, and the LGBTQI+ community. In total, 25 participants were equipped with knowledge about the PDPS mandate and engaged in discussions regarding current challenges in personal data protection and ways of future cooperation for ensuring a continuous exchange of views.

Output 2B.2. Organisations collecting and processing personal data have better capacity to implement PDP legislation

Indicator 2B.2.a. # of data processors and collectors trained on the newly adopted PDP regulations

Indicator 2B.2.b. # of education activities for data processors and data collectors concerning newly adopted PDP regulations

69. Despite significant improvements in PDP in recent years, especially at the legislative level, various challenges remained in the realm of safeguarding personal data, including at the institutional, policy, and practical levels stemming from the lack of sufficient knowledge among the data processors and data subjects. In pursuit of the introduction of new regulations and obligations nationwide under the newly adopted law, the interest in the PDP has significantly increased among data processors/data collectors and data subjects. Hence, throughout Phase II, the Joint Programme focused on strengthening PDP among data processors and data collectors through various knowledge building initiatives, **leading to the achievement of this output.**
70. **Capacity of data processors and data collectors enhanced:** To lead evidence-based advocacy and tackle the challenges identified in the study on the state of personal data protection of the LGBTQI+ community in Georgia (for further details regarding the study see para. 98 below), the Joint Programme issued two sub-grants to the Rule of Law Center and the Association of Law Firms of Georgia to empower data controllers and data subjects and enhance compliance with personal data protection standards.
71. Within this initiative, six guidelines and tools were developed for stakeholders, including private institutions, health sector representatives, lawyers, investigators, and LGBTQI+ community members on personal data processing.
72. In addition, education and capacity building activities were offered to various target groups. In particular, a total of 388 representatives of data processors and data collectors, including the private sector, lawyers, medical institutions, CSOs, LGBTQI+ organisations, and business representatives, have acquired knowledge on PDP standards and the new PDP law through 18 education and capacity building activities. This significantly exceeded the original targets of 100 trained individuals and 5 awareness meetings, surpassing them by threefold. Bearing in mind the significant interest among lawyers in the newly enacted PDP law, as well as the ongoing need for the continuous awareness-raising of legal professionals, the UNDP's other project – [Improving the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for All](#) – introduced and discussed the guidelines developed for lawyers during a training session for the Legal Aid Providers' Network in December 2023.
73. In addition, in terms of knowledge building activities, two handbooks were developed to amplify awareness among public and private institutions and the general public. The first handbook covered recent judgments and decisions of the ECtHR related to PDP, while the second evaluated the processing of personal data in relation to public information requests aiming to facilitate a better understanding of legal norms and practices.

Specific Objective 3: The human rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations are recognised in law and protected in practice at the national level.

Indicator: Specific Objective 3.a. Status of National Mechanism for PwDs.

Indicator: Specific Objective 3.b Level implementation of State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration 2021-2025.

74. Under the framework of Specific Objective 3, the Joint Programme has made notable progress in advancing the human rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations, such as PwDs, LGBTQI+ individuals, and ethnic minorities. Through institutional development, capacity building, and policy advocacy, the Joint Programme has strengthened state institutions and CSOs (including OPDs), improved regulatory frameworks, empowered rights-holders, and facilitated better service delivery to PwDs by pursuing the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle. Additionally, capacity building initiatives for state institutions and CSOs have helped shape inclusive policies and protect the rights of people living in vulnerable environments, ensuring their needs are systematically addressed.
75. The Joint Programme strategically focused on empowering PwDs as distinctly disadvantaged groups in Georgia. As part of this initiative, the Joint Programme has increased their access to government programs and mental health services, inter alia, by advancing capacities and supporting PwDs' participation in decision-making through consultative platforms. Most notably, the Joint Programme supported the establishment and effective functioning of the Inter-Agency CRPD Coordination Committee (established in 2021) and its PwD Consultative Council (created in 2022) to increase the implementation of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (LRPD) and the CRPD, **successfully achieving the target of the first indicator.**

76. The Joint Programme also significantly contributed to advancing the rights of ethnic minorities and other specialized groups, through promoting civic equality and integration. The progress is evidenced by the implementation rate of the APs for the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, which was 81.4% for the 2021-2022 AP²⁹ and 60.4% of the 2023-2024 AP completed in 2023, with the remaining activities either initiated or in progress in 2024, **leading to the achievement of the second indicator.**³⁰
77. The LGBTQI+ community in Georgia remains one of the marginalized groups, facing significant legislative and practical challenges. Security threats from radical groups and inadequate preventive mechanisms from law enforcement, as seen during the 2021³¹ and 2023³² Pride Month attacks, hinder their civil and political rights, including freedom of assembly and expression. Discrimination also affects the realization of their economic and social rights, with 17.1% of civil servants unwilling to work with LGBTQI+ individuals, according to a - commissioned study by the Joint Programme.³³ Despite Joint Programme's advocacy, these issues were excluded from the NHRS and its AP, creating a major policy gap. To this end, Joint Programme made continuous efforts to substantially tackle the prevailing challenges, including facilitating dialogue between the LGBTQI+ community and law enforcement authorities. While Joint Programme's interventions led to some progress, the government substantially rolled back on upholding the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals, especially after the completion of the Joint Programme, culminating in the adoption of the anti-LGBTQI+ legislative package, in September 2024.³⁴

Output 3A.1. Capacitated state institutions implement and monitor Law on Disability and CRPD with focus of post-pandemic needs.

Indicator 3A.1.a. Status of procedures to support implementation and monitoring of the LRPD and CRPD.

Indicator 3A.1.b. # of persons benefiting from mental health services through primary care piloted in Tbilisi.

78. Under output 3A.1, the Joint Programme focused on strengthening the capacity of state institutions to effectively implement and monitor the LRPD and the CRPD, with a particular focus on addressing post-pandemic needs. Key initiatives were undertaken to support the implementation and monitoring of these legal frameworks, yielding the following major results:
- One Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism and three Consultative Councils to bolster national implementation, in line with the CRPD article 33 were created/strengthened.
 - Access to mental health services, for over 700 individuals was increased.
 - CRPD standards were mainstreamed at the policy level and regulatory framework on PwDs to ensure its compliance with the LRPD and CRPD was improved by developing two strategic documents pertaining to PwD rights and refining one regulatory framework.
 - Inclusive delivery of crucial services for PwDs was enhanced in seven sectors (emergency service, employment, and labour relations, notary services, primary health care, social work, education, driving licensing) by creating protocols, guidelines, and comparative analysis for duty-bearers.
 - PDO's monitoring and awareness-raising mandate on CRPD and LRPD was enhanced, inter alia by improving its institutional strategy, strengthening its PwDs Consultative Council, developing two specific reports, and facilitating in-person information meetings, reaching in total, over 600 persons in 36 municipalities.
79. Hence, as a result of the Joint Programme's efforts, state institutions experienced significant improvements in their capacity to implement and monitor the LRPD and CRPD. This also led to better integration of PwD-related issues into policies and the creation of a more coherent and transparent regulatory framework, **leading to the achievement of this output.**
80. **The establishment and strengthening of CRPD coordination mechanisms and PwD consultative councils** across various government bodies have significantly improved coordination for effectively implementing the CRPD

²⁹ 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, 2021-2022 AP implementation report for 2022,

https://smr.gov.ge/uploads/Files/2022/2022_wlis_samoqmedo_gegmis_shesrulebis_angarishi.pdf

³⁰ 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, 2023-2024 AP implementation report for 2023,

https://smr.gov.ge/uploads/Files/2023_%E1%83%AC%E1%83%9A%E1%83%98%E1%83%A1_%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%92%E1%83%90%E1%83%A0%E1%83%98%E1%83%A8%E1%83%98/samoqalaqo_tanasworobisa_da_integraciis_2021-2030_wlebis_saxelmwifo_strategiis_2023_wlis_samoqmedo_gegmis_shesrulebis_angarishi.pdf

³¹ Agenda.ge, 53 journalists attacked by right-wing activists protesting Tbilisi pride today, <https://agenda.ge/en/news/2021/1856#gsc.tab=0>

³² BBC, Georgia Pride festival in Tbilisi stormed by right-wing protesters, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-66145898>

³³ UNDP, Perceptions of Civil Servants on Human Rights and Gender Equality, <https://www.undp.org/georgia/publications/civil-service-research>

³⁴ OC media, Georgian parliament adopts homophobic laws, <https://oc-media.org/georgian-parliament-adopts-homophobic-laws/>

and LRPD, ensuring meaningful participation and policy influence of PwDs. The Joint Programme supported the creation of the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee for CRPD implementation in November 2021 and its PwD Consultative Council in February 2022, as well as the formation of PwD Consultative Councils within the MOJ and the MIA to promote meaningful PwD participation in the policymaking process, **leading to the achievement of the first indicator**. Utilizing the multi-pronged approach, Joint Programme's supportive efforts in promoting, upholding, and monitoring CRPD and LRPD, have proliferated different domains pertinent to disability inclusion.

81. **Access to mental health services was increased**, through improving the regulatory framework, capacitating health professionals, and mainstreaming psycho-social support in primary health care services, with a focus on mental health support for persons with mental disabilities (PwMD). As part of this initiative, 60 primary healthcare doctors (58 women) enhanced their knowledge on mental health services, resulting in over 700 PwMD benefiting from proper psycho-social support services. Hence, **the second indicator was successfully achieved**, significantly exceeding the initial target of 100 PwMD.
82. **Regulatory framework on PwDs to ensure its compliance with the LRPD and CRPD was improved** by developing two strategic documents pertaining to PwD rights and creating protocols, guidelines, and comparative analysis for duty-bearers resulting in enhanced inclusive delivery of crucial services for PwDs. Specifically, the Joint Programme supported the development of the new national Strategy on Mental Health for 2022-2030, which was adopted by the Government, in January 2022 and the guideline for the State Care Agency on assessing the needs of persons with psycho-social needs by social workers. Furthermore, in the framework of the Joint Programme's sub-grant the Global Initiative on Psychiatry – Tbilisi Fund created institutional mechanisms for the integration of mental health services into primary care through developing relevant protocols and policy papers. This exemplifies the project's commitment to addressing post-pandemic challenges, while further ensuring access to quality psycho-social support services.
83. **To accelerate progress in inclusive educational practices for PwDs**, the Joint Programme supported development of the Inclusive Education Strategy for 2022-2030 and its Action Plan for 2022-2023, putting special emphasis on inclusive practices at early and pre-school and higher education levels. The Joint Programme also supported the Ministry of Education and Science to develop a program for the certification of sign language interpreters based on international standards and best practices.
84. **Improved access to emergency services for PwDs** was instituted by supporting the Emergency Situations Management Agency of the MIA in developing the guideline on measures oriented towards meeting the needs of PwDs in emergencies. This was also echoed by MIA embedding a specific goal to create an emergency management system adapted to the needs of PwDs in its 2022 AP on the Protection of PwDs' Rights and bolstering the capacity of the Emergency Situations Management Agency's staff on PwDs rights in its 2023 AP. To support the MIA in implementing its 2023 AP, the Joint Programme assisted the Ministry in addressing legislative gaps that hinder deaf individuals from obtaining B-category driving licenses unless they use hearing aids. In this context, the Joint Programme developed a comparative analysis of international standards and best practices to promote independent living and improve access to transportation for PwDs. In October 2024, the MIA refined the regulatory framework, allowing deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to obtain driving licenses and drive B-category vehicles (cars), thereby promoting independent living and improving transportation access for PwDs.³⁵
85. For **advancing employment and labour rights for PwDs**, the Joint Programme supported the LIO in creating a practical guideline for employers, employees, and labour inspectors to ensure reasonable accommodation in the workplace, fostering inclusive labour practices in both the public and private sectors.
86. In partnership with the Notary Chamber of Georgia, the Joint Programme spearheaded the development of guidelines for notaries **to ensure the provision of inclusive notary services for PwDs**, while safeguarding their legal capacities in accordance with the CRPD.
87. **PDO's mandate as the National Independent Mechanism to Promote, Protect, and Monitor the implementation of the LRPD and CRPD, was enhanced** through multi-pronged initiatives. As part of the strengthening institutional and human capacities of the PDO to monitor the implementation of the LRPD and the CRPD, with the Joint Programme's support, the PDO developed the new Strategy and AP for 2022-2024 for its Department of the Rights of PwDs, with the active participation of PwDs/OPDs. As underlined above, the Joint Programme also supported the PDO in monitoring the CRPD implementation by assessing the situation at resource

³⁵ Order 01-6/N-No. 134 of the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Protection on the approval of the health requirements necessary for driving mechanical vehicles and the procedure for its inspection, available at: <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/1593566?publication=0>

schools, specialized in supporting CwDs and the implementation of inclusive education at the higher educational level. Subsequently, PDO developed special reports overviewing the monitoring findings of the schools specialized in supporting children with disabilities and higher education institutions. The Joint Programme also supported the functioning of the PwDs Consultative Council of the PDO to ensure their meaningful participation in the monitoring ensuring regular discussions of the PDO with its Consultative Council and capacity building initiatives for them. As part of this initiative, Consultative Council members gained knowledge on the social model and deinstitutionalisation. The Joint Programme also supported the PDO in promoting CRPD among key duty-bearers and rights-holders in the regions, facilitating in-person information meetings with the representatives of the unions of kindergartens, territorial services of the state care and social service agencies, educational resource centres, parents, primary health care institutions and PwDs councils established under the LSGs, as well as LSGs, reaching in total, over 600 persons in 26 municipalities. This advocacy and awareness-raising work also enabled the Joint Programme to create a space for discussion between eight pilot municipalities and the PDO to discuss legal gaps concerning protecting the right to housing of PwDs and the ways forward.

Output 3A.2. Capacity development programme (incl. Coaching, mentoring, training) for state agencies, OPDs and NHRI, designed and implemented (and evaluated in terms of acquired and applied competence).

Indicator 3A.2.a. # of capacity development programme for state agencies and OPDs developed.

Indicator 3A.2.b. # of PwDs and their representative organisations that participated in knowledge building activities.

88. **Over 1,000 duty-bearers, legal, and other key professionals significantly enhanced their capacity on disability-related issues** through 13 distinct targeted capacity development programmes, fostering a deeper understanding of disability rights and promoting disability-inclusive policymaking. These capacity building efforts directly engaged PwDs and reached across multiple sectors, ensuring better access to public services and justice processes for PwDs. Thus, **the output 3A.2. together with both indicators can be considered as achieved**, significantly exceeding the initial targets of two capacity programmes and 50 PwDs and their representatives.
89. **To increase PwDs' access and respect in the criminal justice system, including by ensuring a disability-inclusive investigation process**, the Joint Programme provided tailored training sessions to law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and lawyers. To this end, 12 representatives of the MIA were trained through ToT; later transferring the knowledge to 40 heads and deputy heads of the criminal and patrol police units of the MIA, who improved their ability to uphold the rights of PwDs and adopted enhanced communication standards. Furthermore, utilizing a training module on disability rights and communication standards developed for patrol officers of the MIA under output 1.5. over 600 patrol police officers have been equipped with more profound knowledge and a nuanced understanding of disability rights and communication through 24 training sessions. The need for these interventions was further highlighted by an incident that occurred in Tbilisi, during the project implementation, when the patrol police officer insulted the PwD revealing human rights challenges within the law enforcement system.
90. Furthermore, 39 representatives of the staff of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia (POG) underwent training on disability rights and communication standards. These knowledge building initiatives also contributed to the implementation of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) recommendations to Georgia, which emphasized the need for continued training of law enforcement bodies.³⁶
91. Recognizing the crucial role that lawyers play in facilitating access to justice for PwDs, the Joint Programme focused its efforts on strengthening their capacity. As part of this initiative, 17 legal professionals from the LAS and the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) deepened their understanding of both international and national standards on disability rights and explored the challenges PwDs in Georgia face in securing access to justice. The Joint Programme also developed the training module for the National Forensics Bureau, the government forensic agency providing independent examination services in fields such as medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and biology and increased the capacity of 40 employees of the Bureau on communication standards with PwDs.
92. **To foster inclusive and equitable elections**, a total of 46 Central Election Commission staff (34 women) received training on disability rights and communication standards.
93. **To encourage inclusive recruitment practices and advance labour rights for PwDs**, Joint Programme provided tailored training sessions to civil servants. A total of 32 representatives (30 women) from human resources units

³⁶ Concluding observations on the initial report of Georgia, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 18 April 2023, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FGEO%2FCO%2F1&Lang=en

across various governmental bodies were trained on inclusive recruitment and labour rights for PwDs. To further assist the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) in promoting these practices, an online training program was developed, creating a lasting knowledge resource on inclusive recruitment and employment practices, in partnership with the UNDP's other project – [Supporting Public Administration Reform](#).

94. To support LEPL Agency for State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking in **upholding the rights of CwDs living in small family-type facilities and shelters**, the Joint Programme collaborated with the NGO "MAC Georgia" and provided targeted training sessions to overall 100 caregivers, personnel (83 women) of small family-type facilities and shelters for CwDs, acquiring knowledge on managing children's challenging behaviours. As part of this initiative, the Joint Programme further bolstered the capacity of 40 social workers working at the State Care Agency on PwD's rights.
95. **To enhance access to revenue services for PwDs**, 40 employees of the Revenue Service, a LEPL under the Ministry of Finance, strengthened their capacity by receiving training on psychological aspects and communication standards for interacting with PwDs.
96. Recognizing that PwDs are best positioned to offer valuable insights and expertise, they were actively involved as co-experts in many of the capacity building initiatives, helping to showcase inclusive and accessible approaches. In addition, the Joint Programme facilitated capacity building efforts for OPDs, PwDs, and their representatives advancing their capacities in employing international mechanisms to protect disability rights. In addition, to educational activities, Joint Programme supported direct communication of OPDs with the CRPD, through supporting an onsite visit for OPD representatives to sessions of UN CRPD held on 9-10 March 2023 in Geneva. During these sessions, which focused on the discussion of Georgia's first report on the UN CRPD implementation, representatives (3 women / 1 man) of OPDs conveyed their perspectives and opinions to Committee members in line with the guiding principle of disability rights protection – "Nothing Without Us". Overall, 91 OPDs, PwDs, and their representatives **were empowered with CRPD monitoring and advocacy skills**. The Joint Programme also played a crucial role in developing and submitting a confidential alternative report on Georgia's initial report to the UN CRPD, ensuring that OPDs/PwDs perspectives are reflected in the report.

Output 3B.1. Recommendations on improvement of policy and legislation concerning minorities and people in vulnerable situations drafted for government institutions.

Indicator 3B.1.a. Status of recommendations to address challenges faced by LGBTQI+ people, national and ethnic minorities.

Indicator 3B.1.b. # of Ad Hoc reports (explanatory notes/commentary) on implementation of international and regional human rights standards on minorities developed.

97. **To enhance expertise and promote data-driven advocacy on the rights of minority and vulnerable groups**, the Joint Programme facilitated the development of 35 thematic reports by CSOs and two ad hoc reports based on the request of the state institutions. These documents provide critical insights and analyses, serving as a foundation for informed advocacy efforts and policy recommendations aimed at protecting and advancing the rights of these communities. Thus, **the output 3B.1, together with both indicators can be considered as achieved.**
98. **The right to privacy of minority and vulnerable groups** was promoted through multiple interventions. The inaugural study on the state of personal data protection for the LGBTQI+ community in Georgia was conducted, offering an in-depth analysis of prevalent practices concerning the safeguarding of LGBTQI+ individuals' personal data. This comprehensive study identifies critical gaps and provides targeted recommendations for public agencies, as well as the civil and private sectors, to enhance existing standards (for more details, regarding the development of relevant guidelines for various sectors based on this study, see para. 70 above). The findings from the study led to sectoral inspections to address identified deficiencies. The additional report "Brief Overview of Recent Developments in the Field of Personal Data Protection" was developed to address the ramifications of the legislative and policy changes on personal data protection, including for individuals from minority and vulnerable groups.
99. **For holistic examination of the human rights landscape on minority and vulnerable groups**, 28 thematic reports were developed by CSOs with Joint Programme support, compiled in three unified comprehensive reports examining human rights in various domains. More specifically, in 2022, one unified report was prepared by different CSOs on 12 human rights topics; in 2023, one unified report prepared by different CSOs on nine human rights topics and in 2024, one unified report was developed consisting of seven reports on different human rights issues. Additionally, the study "Headscarf in the Daily Lives of Muslim Women" was developed, which examines the challenges and perceptions faced by Muslim women wearing headscarves in various settings, such as work,

education, and other social spaces (see also para. 23 above). Utilizing the methodology for monitoring the implementation of NHRS and AP, the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), with the Joint Programme support, produced a report on the implementation of labour and environmental rights, alongside recommendations for activities to be included in the NHRS AP for the effective realisation of these rights.

100. **State institutions have improved their understanding and insights on the rights of minority and vulnerable groups** through two ad hoc reports. Following a request from the SMR, a comprehensive report was developed to assess the attitudes and needs surrounding the Azerbaijani-language newspaper “Gurjistan” and the Armenian-language newspaper “Vrastan”, both of which are published and distributed in regions with high concentrations of ethnic minorities (see also para. 17 above). Furthermore, a separate report titled Georgia’s COVID Response: Lessons Learned and Recommendations for the Future was commissioned by the AoG, which examined the obstacles encountered by various minority and vulnerable groups during the pandemic (see also para. 13 above).
101. **For comprehensively addressing the needs of PwDs and modernizing services**, Joint Programme supported the development of the needs assessment of PwDs to promote the development of a personal assistant municipal program in Signaghi (see also para. 119 below). Additionally, an initial assessment of peer support services in mental health was developed, overviewing the needs of beneficiaries.
102. **To promote inclusiveness and non-discrimination in medical services through social work**, the Joint Programme supported the Georgian Association of Social Workers in delivering educational programs for social workers and management personnel in medical institutions. A total of 49 participants (46 women) were trained to improve the quality of social work and patient-centred care. These training sessions were tailored to address the challenges and needs identified by research on the role and responsibilities of social workers within medical institutions, also conducted with the support of the Joint Programme. In addition, with the Joint Programme’s efforts, 19 healthcare professionals (17 women) also gained an understanding of Trans Inclusivity and Trans Competence to facilitate reducing negative prejudice against transgender people and increasing access to health services and other social benefits.
103. **To enhance the quality of judicial procedures for rights-holders**, the project initiated a series of advanced training courses for duty-bearers and legal professionals. With the Joint Programme’s support, in collaboration with the High School of Justice, a total of 50 assistant judges from the Common Courts enhanced knowledge on litigation practices and the standards of the ECtHR and UN Treaty bodies. In a parallel effort, 20 practicing lawyers also received training on these topics. Furthermore, with a commitment to fostering sustained expertise, the project supported the European Center for Education in developing a comprehensive guidebook titled "Litigation before the ECtHR and UN Treaty bodies." This guide aims to equip lawyers with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective litigation within these international mechanisms.
104. **Facilitating dialogue to uphold the right to assembly for LGBTQI+ individuals**. The Joint Programme facilitated a series of meetings between law enforcement and the LGBTQI+ community, creating a platform for dialogue to ensure the safety of the community members in the run-up and throughout the pride celebrations. While these meetings led to the peaceful celebration of Pride Month in 2022, there has been a stark rollback in 2023, substantially limiting the right to assembly for LGBTQI+ individuals.

Output 3B.2. Capacitated NGOs/community organisations prepare shadow reports and submit complaints before the local and international bodies or submit amicus curiae on issues related to national minorities and have the capacity and engage in the protection of the rights of minorities and persons in vulnerable situations.

Indicator 3B.2.a. # of NGO shadow reports prepared.

Indicator 3B.2.b # of local NGO representatives trained on the rights of minorities and persons in a vulnerable situation.

Indicator 3B.2.c. # of grants for local NGOs to promote the protection of the rights of minorities and persons in vulnerable situations with a focus on the elimination of discrimination.

105. Acknowledging the critical role of CSOs in advancing and overseeing human rights, the Joint Programme strategically concentrated on enhancing the capabilities and tools of these organizations through a multifaceted approach, **subsequently fully meeting the output and all three indicators**.
106. **Overall, 93 CSO representatives³⁷ increased their expertise and capacities**, for effective litigation, oversight, and advocacy of human rights, exceeding the initial target of 80 CSOs. More specifically, 30 local CSOs working

³⁷ Annex 17, List of training sessions conducted for civil society organisations by the Joint Programme with the support of the European Union.

on protecting the rights of PwDs, LGBTQI+, and ethnic minorities were strengthened in strategic planning, strategic development, monitoring, and evaluation of national human rights policy documents. Additionally, 50 CSO representatives gained knowledge on legal and procedural aspects of submission of individual complaints to UN Treaty Bodies and the ECtHR, shadow reports, and communications to UN mechanisms, such as the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council with particular focus on regions. Furthermore, 13 CSO representatives (9 women) enhanced their capacity to submit alternative reports to UN human rights treaty bodies, with a specific focus on the CESCR.

107. **Five alternative human rights reports were prepared and submitted to UN Human Rights treaty bodies by seven CSOs,**³⁸ which enhanced their capacity to prepare the shadow reports with the support of the Joint Programme. Two CSOs submitted two alternative reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the CERD, bringing the attention of the international mechanisms to shortcomings in certain practices. Five CSOs submitted three alternative reports to the UN CESCR, drawing the attention of the Committee to deficiencies in the realization of economic, social, and cultural rights among ethnic minorities, conflict-affected populations, PwDs, LGBTQI+ individuals, and children.
108. **Eleven sub-grants were issued to regional and Tbilisi-based NGOs for elevating effective oversight of human rights, creating inclusive services, and promoting human rights culture,** with a particular focus on the protection of the rights of minorities and persons in vulnerable situations. More specifically, three grants were awarded to NGOs based in Batumi and Samtskhe-Javakheti which contributed to enhancing awareness of LGBTQI+ rights, combatting stigma and stereotypes, and promoting knowledge of sexual and reproductive health. Additionally, ethnic minority representatives gained knowledge about their civic rights, available healthcare services, and legal resources through these grants. The sub-grant issued to the Association of Socially Helpless Therapy of Signaghi Region - Qedeli contributed to the empowerment of PwDs, through promoting the development of a personal assistant municipal program in Signaghi. The sub-grant issued to the NGO Together for Real Changes contributed to increasing awareness of the local population residing in four municipalities of Georgia - Ambrolauri, Oni, Tsageri, and Lentekhi, on the rights of PwDs and available services/mechanisms supporting their social inclusion.
109. At the central level, the sub-grant issued to the Queer Association – Temida contributed to empowering trans and non-binary people by introducing them to labour opportunities and non-discriminatory approaches at workplaces and increasing sensitivity to trans issues in workplaces and society. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information received a grant to prepare a shadow report evaluating personal data protection under the NHRS, which included an assessment of recent developments. The sub-grant to the GYLA enhanced CSO involvement in NHRS AP development and their ability to monitor human rights policies, improving government accountability. For more details about three other sub-grants see paras. 70-72 and 82 above.

Specific Objective 4. Local authorities more effectively protect the human rights of all citizens, primarily those in vulnerable situations and minority groups.

Indicator: Specific Objective 4.a Extent to which people consider that HRs are protected in regions

110. The 2021 municipal elections occurred amid a highly polarized environment, shaped by an ongoing political crisis that affected the electoral process itself but also had a lasting impact on the subsequent composition and functioning of LSGs. As a result, the implementation of activities related to LSGs in 2021 and the early months of 2022 was significantly hindered. Additionally, the limited willingness of LSGs to collaborate with the Joint Programme further delayed the progress of the project, prolonging the implementation of the planned interventions. Another challenge was the frequent turnover within central government institutions responsible for human rights policies, which led to delays in implementing certain activities, since the interventions required coordination between central and local authorities, while the high turnover complicated this process and slowed progress.
111. Despite encountering challenges, to ensure the effective protection of human rights at the local level, the Joint Programme worked to bolster the capacity of local authorities to integrate human rights standards into local governance and implement initiatives targeting minorities and vulnerable populations and facilitate the translation and implementation of national human rights policy and legislative framework into local practices. As a result,
 - a job description for human rights focal points at the municipal level was developed which in long term would facilitate the introduction of the human rights focal points system at the LSGs.

³⁸ Annex 18, Alternative reports submitted to UN Human Rights treaty bodies by seven CSOs.

- LSGs' capacity for mainstreaming the rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations into local policies and practices strengthened through bolstering the knowledge of 127 local civil servants (74 women) representing 63 municipalities (out of 64)³⁹ and creating three knowledge building materials reinforcing human rights at local levels.
112. Initially, the Joint Programme planned to conduct a human rights perception survey in 2023 to measure awareness of human rights among the general public, including at the local level. However, in alignment with the EU, it was decided not to proceed with the survey, acknowledging that the prevailing political tensions may render the results less reflective of reality. Instead, the Joint Programme analysed alternative human rights surveys conducted by different institutions to measure progress against this indicator. For instance, the 2023 National Democratic Institution's survey, *Taking Georgians' Pulse*, revealed that 33% of respondents felt that the human rights situation had improved. While this provides some insight into public perceptions, the Joint Programme acknowledges that **the data is insufficient for fully measuring progress against the established target**, due to the absence of broader relevant sources.

Output 4A.1. Pilot Programme on human rights focal points at LSG launched

Indicator 4A.1.a. Status of jobs description for HR focal points

113. With the decentralisation reform, the LSG acquired a broad mandate for safeguarding and promoting human rights, especially social and economic rights. The NHRS for 2022-2030, developed with the Joint Programme's support, also highlighted the increased mandate of the municipalities, noting the importance of implementation of appropriate measures at both levels to effectively protect human rights and produce full-fledged public services. Yet, despite the expanded mandate, the knowledge, understanding and capacity of LSGs to deliver human-centred services remained low.
114. To better understand the needs of LSGs in safeguarding human rights, the Joint Programme conducted onsite working meetings with representatives of Tsageri, Oni, Ambrolauri, Lentekhi, and Lagodekhi municipalities along with the report on human rights situation with a particular focus on ethnic and religious minorities, PwDs, and LGBTQI+ community in eight target municipalities (for more details, see output 4A.2. below). As revealed during these meetings, LSGs lacked a dedicated structural unit or personnel responsible for human rights issues to coordinate relevant measures, analyse domestic legislation in relation to international standards, and address human rights concerns at the municipal level.
115. In response, the Joint Programme developed a concept paper and generic job description for human rights focal points to support LSGs in implementing their functions and mainstreaming human rights, including disability rights and gender perspectives, into local programming and planning. The document delineates the responsibilities of potential focal points based on the information gathered from interviews and focus-group discussions with municipal representatives.
116. While it is essential for LSGs to appoint officials dedicated to promoting human rights at the local level, the job description development process and consultations with the AoG revealed a certain level of reluctance among LSGs. Challenges also emerged in identifying individuals with the requisite expertise and qualifications at local levels. In 2024, the Joint Programme continued engaging with stakeholders to ensure piloting the human rights focal points system within LSGs, however, the turbulent political environment and shifted political priorities complicated further advocacy efforts. Hence, although **the target for this indicator was met** with the development of a job description, the Joint Programme's progress toward fully achieving the output was hindered by external factors beyond the project's control.

Output 4A.2. LSGs have the capacity and coordinate with central authorities for the implementation of HR Policies as well as implement initiatives targeting minorities and persons in vulnerable situations.

Indicator 4A.2.b. # of LSG employees trained in HRs

Indicator 4A.2.c. Status of education materials/manuals concerning mainstreaming rights of minority groups and persons in the vulnerable situation into local policies and practices.

117. Within Phase II, the Joint Programme conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the human rights situation in eight target municipalities (Akhalsikhe, Batumi, Kutaisi, Lagodekhi, Marneuli, Telavi, Tsalka and Zugdidi municipalities), with a particular focus on ethnic and religious minorities, PwDs, and LGBTQI+ community identifying challenges of these minorities together with bottlenecks within the LSGs to better understand their needs.

³⁹ All municipalities except for Tbilisi municipality took part in the capacity building initiatives. Annex 1, a list of participating municipalities.

Following the development of the report, the Joint Programme continued its efforts to engage with these municipalities to address the identified gaps and build the capacity of LSGs to implement human rights policies targeting minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations.

118. As part of this initiative, in cooperation with the HRS and the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), the Joint Programme supported the LSGs in integrating human rights standards in local self-governance and introducing disability-oriented local budgeting in line with Georgia's international commitments through the provision of a comprehensive training programme for local civil servants. The knowledge building activities were based on a guideline on CRPD-friendly budgeting, developed by the Joint Programme. Overall, 127 local civil servants (74 women) representing all 63 municipalities across Georgia enhanced their capacity on these essential topics, **achieving the targets of both indicators.**
119. Furthermore, as noted above, to support LSGs in implementing initiatives targeting minorities and persons in vulnerable situations, the Joint Programme actively supported the Signaghi municipality in developing the personal assistant service by conducting a needs assessment survey and capacity building activities. Since other municipalities face similar challenges in implementing the service of the personal assistant for PwDs, needs identified by the survey, together with the best practices of personal assistant service, were shared and discussed with the representatives of other municipalities from the Kakheti region and the Inter-agency CRPD Coordination Committee to explore the introduction of independent living and personal assistant services in other regions.
120. Furthermore, to analyse the challenges in service delivery, the Joint Programme in collaboration with other UNDP's sister projects conducted a study to explore the citizens' perception of the services provided by municipal and central authorities. The findings offer a strong evidence base for public authorities to prioritize and improve service delivery, particularly at the municipal level and promote awareness of local citizens about the Government's action in this domain. The study also highlights key challenges for minorities and vulnerable groups in accessing services, including issues with service delivery, lack of essential municipal services, poor service quality, accessibility barriers, and limited awareness or use of electronic services. Since the study was finalized in April 2024, the Joint Programme will utilize its results for implementing appropriate interventions within the third phase of the project.
121. In addition, various interventions implemented by the Joint Programme during Phase II in the regions (see relevant paras. 87, 108 and 131) further contributed to strengthening the capacity of LSGs for the implementation of human rights policies and initiatives targeting minorities and persons in vulnerable situations, **leading to the achievement of this output.**

Specific Objective 5. Citizens are informed on, favourable to and supportive of human rights for all and efforts to protect them.

Indicator Specific Objective 5.a Level of awareness of human rights among the general public.

122. The Joint Programme undertook a deliberate and multifaceted effort to elevate public awareness around human rights issues, especially on the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups, while promoting meaningful dialogue among a wide spectrum of stakeholders. A core component of this strategy was to engage diverse audiences, from the general population to more focused groups such as students, legal practitioners, civil society groups, and youth, ensuring a broad-based approach to human rights education.
123. To this end, Joint Programme employed a range of methodologies designed to educate and raise awareness, utilizing targeted campaigns, festivals, forums, and activities tailored to specific audiences. These initiatives were delivered through a combination of in-person activities, traditional media outlets, and modern digital platforms, including social media, thus maximizing reach and engagement. As a result of this comprehensive outreach, **the Joint Programme succeeded in reaching over 1.3 million individuals across various demographics.**
124. Despite Joint Programme's mass-scale reach through human rights awareness activities, it is profoundly difficult to measure its impact on the level of awareness of human rights among the general public. To this end, in coordination with the EU, it was decided to forgo the human rights survey initially outlined in the project document, which was intended to assess public awareness of human rights. Instead, alternative surveys were analysed to overview the context. According to 2024 study, which the Joint Programme conducted in partnership with UNDP's sister projects,⁴⁰ 26.9% of interviewed civil servants are well-informed about human rights and protection mechanisms, while 45.1% have information on human rights but not complete one. Recent surveys do not provide further

⁴⁰ UNDP, Perceptions of Civil Servants on Human Rights and Gender Equality, February 28, 2024, <https://www.undp.org/georgia/publications/civil-service-research>

information on this issue. Therefore, due to the absence of relevant sources, **it is challenging to comprehensively measure the achievement of this target.**

Output 5A.1. Training institutions, including higher education institutions and training centres, have increased capacity to deliver HR courses.

Indicator 5A.1.a. Status of teaching materials on rights of PwDs, LGBTQI+ and national minorities for regional universities in the Georgian language

125. **To improve the quality of human rights education in academic institutions**, the Joint Programme methodically focused on creating knowledge products / specialized teaching materials on human rights, with a particular focus on PwDs, LGBTQI individuals, and ethnic minorities. To this end, a compilation of articles titled "Protection of Human Rights: European Experience and National Challenges" was developed, covering the impact of decisions by the ECtHR and UN treaty bodies (Human Rights Committee, CEDAW, Committee Against Torture, CERD, Committee on the Rights of the Child, and CRPD) on Georgia's legislation and practices. Additionally, it includes an article on labour migration without discrimination. This resource aims to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions and training centres, by ensuring access to quality teaching material for delivering inclusive human rights courses, ensuring a long-term impact across educational platforms. **Therefore, the target for the output indicator is met.**
126. Joint Programme partnered with regional and Tbilisi-based higher education institutions **to elevate human rights knowledge among youth. Overall, 247 young persons were reached through educational activities.** More specifically,
- In 2021, in cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), the project announced the contest dedicated to Human Rights Day for students from regional universities. Selected 14 candidates attended the training on different human rights issues, with special focus on equality and non-discrimination. Event was co-shared between the RC, and the Joint Programme.
 - In 2022 to improve the quality of human rights education in HEIs, the JP's supported series of lectures at Batumi, Kutaisi and Akhaltsikhe State Universities, with 120 students benefitting from the program. The sessions covered international human rights mechanisms, the significance of human rights, the mandate of the national human rights institution (NHRI) in Georgia, and the challenges associated with the promotion and protection of human rights.³⁴
 - In 2022, in collaboration with Kutaisi, Batumi, and Telavi Youth Centres, the Joint Programme provided training programs to 50 schoolchildren on topics such as human rights, equality, civic participation, and the prevention of discrimination. Youth Centres, an initiative of the UN Association of Georgia,⁴¹ are educational and civic spaces serving as service and opportunity hubs freely available to young people across Georgia.
 - In 2023, the Joint Programme also organised public lectures in Tbilisi, addressing topics such as equality, national and international mechanisms, and unexplored subjects like human rights and Georgian literature. These lectures reached 63 individuals (42 women) from various universities and backgrounds.
127. The Joint Programme also partnered with Ilia State University for the Jessup Summer School, emphasizing Human Rights, International Law, and Refugee Law. A 3-day lecture cycle on critical international law branches, with speakers including Judge Joanna Korner of the International Criminal Court and Professor Kevin Jon Heller, was held in collaboration with the Open Society Georgia Foundation and Ilia State University's Law School.
128. **To facilitate intergenerational dialogue on human rights between younger and older generations**, Joint Programme in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, Joint Programme organized a human rights discussion in December 2023,⁴² empowering older individuals to engage in creating public discourse on human rights and discuss strategies for amplifying their voices in public life (out of the 49 participants, 42 were women).

Output 5A.2 Rights-holders have better knowledge of HRs, including anti-discrimination, with special focus on PwDs, LGBTQI+ and national minorities.

Indicator 5A.2.a. Outreach rate of the HR awareness-raising campaigns.

Indicator 5A.2.b. Status of a plan on increasing awareness on IACHR/HRS work and NHRsAP (Yes/No) (UNDP)

⁴¹ Youth Centers, UNAG, available at: https://www.una.ge/Youth_Centers

⁴² Intergenerational Dialogue on Human Rights, December 2023, available at: <https://georgia.unfpa.org/en/news/intergenerational-dialogue-human-rights>

129. **To empower rights-holders to fully exercise their rights and ensure accountability from duty-bearers**, the Joint Programme established a comprehensive and systematic framework for human rights awareness-raising and education. These campaigns **successfully reached over 1.3 million individuals, significantly exceeding the initial output target, surpassing it by tenfold**. Awareness-raising campaign included a series of events shaped around fundamental human rights and freedoms, equality, diversity, and inclusion.
130. **To improve Human Rights knowledge among youth**, Joint Programme, in partnership with the High Council of Justice and other development actors, supported **the Judicial Winter School**, which equipped 25 young people (13 women) with comprehensive knowledge of various human rights topics. Additionally, a five-day nationwide **Human Rights Summer School** was organized in partnership with the Training Centre of Justice of Georgia brought together over 25 young people (16 women; including 10 persons belonging to ethnic minorities), selected among 400 applicants from six universities and 10 faculties. The program featured a diverse array of educational activities, team-building exercises, and cultural events designed to actively engage the participants.
131. **People and Planet Festival** – the Joint Programme organised a festival in Lagodekhi, primarily aimed at promoting human rights among youth. The festival was shaped around the values of human rights, equality, inclusion, climate-smart development, and Georgia’s European aspirations. Hundreds of young people engaged in various human rights educational activities such as outdoor games for youth, a photography masterclass for young visual artists, and a Human Rights Talk on the right to education. Children’s art masterclass featuring street art and graffiti and Boccia games represented by PwD teams from two municipalities were also organized as part of the festival.
132. **Human Rights Talks** series explored and promoted the importance of human rights in Georgia, in partnership with the Union of Tbilisi Museums – Ilia Chavchavadze Literary-Memorial Museum. The HR talks covered a wide spectrum of human rights, including gender equality, environmental justice, freedom of religion, right to education, and freedom of expression engaging persons from all walks of life. In total, seven HR talks were conducted, with one taking place in the region.
133. **Marking Human Rights Week**: Joint Programme strategically leveraged increased attention on human rights, stemming from commemorating International Human Rights Day, and organized a series of events aimed at increasing awareness and building dialogue among different demographics around the values of human rights. More specifically:
- In December 2021, the project organized the Human Rights Forum, which provided a platform for dialogue among representatives from the legislative and executive branches, PDO, international organizations, and CSOs, facilitating an in-depth multi-stakeholder dialogue regarding gender equality, the rights of religious and ethnic minorities, and the LGBTQI+ community.
 - The Human Rights Week in December 2022 included a series of events highlighting Georgia’s progress and challenges in protecting the principles of equality and the rights of the vulnerable – women, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ communities, and ethnic and religious minorities and on the critical importance of societal solidarity. Namely, 1) a multimedia exhibition, “What makes me human?” showcased the artworks of over twenty contemporary Georgian visual artists on pressing human rights issues – inequality, discrimination, exclusion, gender-based violence, and war; 2) A conference “Stand up for Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All”, which created a space for discussion on ongoing reforms on administrative offences regulatory framework and the effective realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights of minority groups – especially the most vulnerable, such as the national and religious minorities and the LGBTQI+ community - bringing together decision-makers, civil society, and human rights defenders; 3) A diversity hackathon, "Hack for Inclusion", on developing innovative solutions for facilitating PwDs access to the environment, in which over 55 schoolchildren and students from all over the country presented smart devices and apps designed to help people with different disabilities to become more active and engaged.
 - In December 2023, the Joint Programme shifted the focus on increasing human rights knowledge and sensitivity among youth, marking Human Rights Day, by celebrating diversity with the young generation through a dynamic **Youth Forum: "The Future of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."** The forum, which commemorated the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, brought together over 100 young people from diverse backgrounds, including girls, ethnic minorities and PwDs from Georgia's Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions. The forum commenced with keynote presentations from the representatives of the EU, the Norwegian Embassy, and leading thematic experts. The speakers provided comprehensive insights into global human rights challenges while exploring innovative solutions with

youth through the lens of emerging generational perspectives, contributing to shaping the human rights discourse for the future.

134. **To transform stigmas and human rights culture around the rights of minority and vulnerable groups,** Joint Programme supported several educational activities. **The World Down Syndrome Day conference: "With Us Not For Us"** was held with Joint Programme's support, aimed at increasing awareness about Down syndrome, fostering understanding, celebrating the accomplishments of people with Down syndrome, and exploring strategies for building a more inclusive world that fully embraces the integration of PwDs into society. Additionally, to raise awareness and promote respect for the rights and dignity of PwDs while combating disability-based discrimination, the Joint Programme developed a Glossary on Disability-Inclusive Terminology. This guidance will further foster the consistent use of respectful and appropriate language when discussing disability-related topics.
135. A strategic workshop with journalists prior to May 17, International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia to increase sensitive reporting around LGBTQI+ issues was also organized. The meeting resulted in an agreement to follow the "no harm" principle, not to "sensationalize" the LGBTQI+ community's problems, and to limit/omit the airspace for far-right groups.
136. **To enhance media literacy, tackle disinformation among ethnic minorities, and foster an equitable environment,** the Joint Programme provided support to the SMR in organising workshops for various target groups with ethnic minority backgrounds to learn about human rights, civil equality, and integration, anti-discrimination, gender equality, the negative consequences of the influence of disinformation on the process of civil integration and ways to prevent their spread. Overall, 139 representatives of media outlets, women, youth, and teachers (104 women) enhanced their knowledge through implemented initiatives.
137. **Celebrating Europe Day:** In May 2023, as part of the Europe Day campaign, Joint Programme promoted human rights and European values using art. A group of esteemed Georgian artists, with support from the Joint Programme, created a remarkable polyptych titled "Connections". This artwork symbolized Georgia's path toward a European future, reflecting ideals of progress, unity, and cooperation. By using art as a means of civic education, the artists delivered a compelling message to the public, celebrating human rights and equality, as part of the fundamental values of Georgian and European societies.
138. **Increasing awareness on IACHR/HRS's work and NHRSAP:** Joint Programme has undertaken multiple activities to build bridges between the human rights secretariat and various stakeholders, especially CSO representatives throughout the development of the NHRS and its action plan, subsequently fostering increased engagement and awareness. However, considering that due to external factors, the NHRS AP was only adopted in December 2023, with some remaining gaps, it was impossible to elaborate a more systemic and comprehensive campaign surrounding the NHRS AP. Therefore, **while the first indicator target is met, the second indicator target for the output has not been met** due to external factors, that were not under the Joint Programme's control.

Output 5B.1. Awareness-raising campaign/knowledge building on PDP, including GDPR and complaint procedure to the SIS designed and implemented

Indicator 5B.1.a. Outreach rate of PDP awareness-raising campaign

139. Despite notable improvements in personal data protection in recent years, awareness among data subjects remained limited. Therefore, throughout Phase II, in partnership with the Personal Data Protection Authority, the Joint Programme promoted public awareness/knowledge building on PDP through targeted outreach efforts for data subjects, **successfully achieving this output.**
140. **PDP ambassadors' network created:** the Joint Programme supported the creation and operation of the "Ambassadors for Personal Data Protection" initiative, in partnership with the State Inspector's Service. This initiative selected motivated students from all regions of Georgia with an interest in PDP. Selected students deepened their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in data protection, data subject rights and data processors responsibilities. Following their capacity building activities, student ambassadors conducted 16 informational and working meetings with students, teachers and young people from various schools, including border regions, raising awareness of 409 participants on PDP.
141. **Awareness of data subjects amplified:** Throughout Phase II, the Joint Programme prioritized awareness-raising activities to cultivate a stronger culture of PDP within society.

142. To this effect, in cooperation with the State Inspector's Service, the Joint Programme organized a series of events during Personal Data Protection Week dedicated to PDP Day, which included meetings with HEIs, a photo contest for school students.
143. Furthermore, to engage younger audiences, the Joint Programme supported the creation of fairy tales on PDP for minors of various age groups. These stories were brought to life through captivating theatrical performances for both children and adults, with the Joint Programme partnering with the PDPS and local municipalities to stage these productions. In Akhaltsikhe and Lagodekhi, municipal theatres effectively conveyed fundamental concepts of data privacy and digital security to diverse audiences through creative storytelling and talented young actors, including individuals from ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities. As part of this initiative, the Meskheta Drama Theatre staged "7 Novels", a play based on fairy tales on data privacy. Later, the Lagodekhi People's Theatre captivated the audience with an educational puppet show titled "How Words Can Harm," featuring puppets to convey important messages about data privacy and digital security.
144. Furthermore, in cooperation with the PDPS, over 2,900 information posters were displayed in municipal transport (buses and trains) across Tbilisi, Batumi, Gori, Rustavi, and Telavi. These transports serve an average of 415,896.32 passengers per day. Although it cannot be confirmed that all passengers saw the posters, their placement in trains ensures a continued opportunity for exposure to PDP content). Moreover, to further educate youth about the significance of personal data protection, their rights, and potential threats, informational and illustrated posters were placed in 2,086 public schools across Georgia, potentially reaching around [567,000 pupils](#), including those from ethnic minority communities, with materials translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. While the Joint Programme cannot confirm that all pupils engaged with the posters, their placement in schools ensures ongoing exposure to the material. In addition, knowledge building activities were also offered to youth, ethnic minorities and LGBTQI+ community members, with 70 participants gaining valuable insights into PDP.
145. Overall, the Joint Programme's awareness-raising and education activities and campaigns on PDP reached over 100,000 persons, **leading to the achievement of the target.** Furthermore, according to the 2023 PDPS report, the Service provided 5,106 consultations in 2023, a significant increase from 3,444 in 2021 and 2,868 in 2022. Additionally, the Service received 526 applications/notifications in 2023, compared to 480 in 2021 and 399 in 2022. While these statistics may not directly measure the public's awareness of the right to privacy and PDP, they suggest an increased awareness of PDP and trust in the PDPS among data subjects, data controllers, and data processors.

Output 5B.2. Specialized groups (journalists, NGOs, LSGs grassroots organizations, lawyers, higher education institutions, with special focus on regions) are capacitated that would enable them to keep SIS under scrutiny (UNDP, OHCHR)

Indicator 5B.2a. # of persons (representatives of journalists, NGOs, LSGs, grassroots organizations, lawyers, higher education institutions with special focus on regions) attending awareness-raising activities (OHCHR)

146. **The knowledge of lawyers was significantly enhanced through training and awareness-raising activities conducted over multiple years**, focusing on issues such as discrimination, hate speech, hate-motivated crimes, freedom of expression, the rights of persons with disabilities, and anti-discrimination. The GBA was a major focus, with training and awareness-raising activities conducted for lawyers over multiple years. In total, 397 GBA defence lawyers (190 women) enhanced their knowledge on issues such as discrimination, hate speech, hate-motivated crimes, freedom of expression, the rights of persons with disabilities, and anti-discrimination. Given that the target for the indicator was at least 270 persons, the project **successfully met this target and achieved the output.**

Qualitative assessment: key partnerships, cross-cutting issues, the importance of UN coordination

147. **A qualitative assessment of the level of overall achievement of the Programme:** The Joint Programme acknowledges that throughout Phase II, it operated within a turbulent political environment, which affected the country's development trajectory resulting in the deceleration of some of the processes. Despite these challenges, the Joint Programme responded with adaptive strategies, demonstrating its flexibility and ability to adjust. As a result, the Joint Programme made substantial progress in implementing project activities and successfully achieved most of its intended outputs, thereby contributing to the achievement of the overall objective. Specifically,
- **Relevance and Alignment:** The Joint Programme has furthered the realization of human rights set out in the international human rights framework and recommendations of the human rights mechanisms. Its objectives

were closely aligned with national priorities, demonstrating relevance to the specific needs of rights-holders, primarily those in vulnerable situations.

- **Impact and Outcome:** The Joint Programme has had a positive impact on both the rights-holders and duty-bearers. Significant progress has been made in strengthening institutional capacities, aligning policy and legislative framework with international standards, and enhancing awareness around the broad spectrum of human rights.

148. **Sustainability of the results:** The programme established a comprehensive foundation for long-term sustainability through its rights-based and participatory framework, ensuring the continuity and scalability of programme achievements. The Joint Programme's efforts to build capacities within national institutions have ensured sustainability, as evidenced by the continuation of initiatives beyond the programme's lifecycle (see para. 150 below). More specifically, the following themes have underpinned the sustainability of results:

- **Stakeholder engagement and ownership:** The relevant duty bearers, PDO, and rights holders have been actively engaged in designing and implementing project initiatives fostering stakeholder ownership over these initiatives, and facilitating partnerships and networks, to ensure multi-stakeholder stewardship on human rights.
- **Building lasting expertise on human rights:** The programme implemented a comprehensive knowledge transfer strategy that extended far beyond traditional capacity-building interventions. By developing knowledge products, methodologies, and SOPs focused on human rights, the programme created a sustainable mechanism for expertise dissemination and facilitated consistent human rights practices. For instance, the guideline on Disability Inclusive Budgeting for Municipalities has equipped local authorities with long-lasting expertise on reflecting disability perspectives throughout budgeting processes. Development of the human rights monitoring methodologies for PDO ensures coherent and sustainable oversight of human rights, without further assistance from the project. Furthermore, by developing the Institutional Development Plan (2023-2028) for SIS, the programme established a sustainable framework for the SIS to uphold human rights independently without further project support.
- **Sustainable advocacy for human rights and CSO resilience:** The Joint Programme incorporated interventions to build the resilience of CSOs, ensuring they remained agile and can advocate and monitor human rights even in fluctuating environments. The JP provided capacity building and resources for CSOs to equip them with the necessary tools and expertise, sustain their mission, and continue human rights oversight and advocacy over the long term. Furthermore, JP strategically targeted rights holders, such as youth, vulnerable groups, and local CSOs in regions, including, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti, Imereti, Adjara, and Racha-Lechkhumi regions to empower local actors, through awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives, to effectively claim their rights and advocate for positive change within their communities.
- **Sustainable policy and regulatory changes:** The Joint Programme's efforts have laid a foundation for long-term sustainability in specific human rights domains in Georgia. A significant milestone was the adoption of the Law on Personal Data Protection in June 2024, following years of advocacy. This new legislation establishes comprehensive privacy regulations and obligations, creating a robust framework for safeguarding data privacy across the country. Additionally, the Programme's support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs led to regulatory reforms allowing deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to obtain driving licenses for B-category vehicles. This change is expected to have a lasting impact, fostering greater independence and enhancing transportation access for PwDs. Another sustainable achievement facilitated by the Programme is the establishment of the long-awaited Interagency CRPD Implementation Coordination Mechanism at the government level, ensuring a structured and coordinated approach to upholding the rights of PwDs in the future. Furthermore, by adopting guidelines for classifying crimes in accordance with international standards and changing regulations to ensure victim access to case files, the SIS has established sustainable internal mechanisms that strengthen human rights protections and enhance investigatory practices.

149. **Key partnerships:** During Phase II, the Joint Programme built and sustained strategic partnerships and effective cooperation with the key stakeholders to achieve its targets. These collaborations with both duty-bearers and rights-holders were instrumental in driving nationwide policy reforms, strengthening the institutional and human capacities of central and local authorities, and advancing the human rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations. Additionally, these efforts helped foster a human rights culture among rights-holders. The success of these initiatives was made possible by the valuable partnerships and collaboration with the following key stakeholders across various levels:

- AoG, a key Government counterpart leading to the development and adoption of NHRS and AP, that created a unified framework for strengthening the national system of fundamental human rights and freedoms and institutional democracy.
- Parliament of Georgia, supporting legal and policy development on human rights and criminal justice.
- PDO, with activities focused on its institutional and capacity development that led to the improvement of its oversight function in specific human rights fields, including disability issues.
- CRPD Coordination Committee, the MIA, the MOJ, and their PwD Consultative Councils, as well as PoG, focusing on their institutional and capacity development that resulted in the inclusion of PwDs in the decision-making process and mainstreaming PwD-related issues in their policies and activities.
- MIA, SIS, MOJ, and the LAS, contributing to the improvement of regulatory framework on ill-treatment and strengthening human capacities.
- SMR, contributing to the development and implementation of the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, along with its APs for 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 to promote equality and non-discrimination, particularly for ethnic minority groups.
- LIO, enhancing its institutional capacity to prevent racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination at the workplace, as well as encouraging inclusive labour practices, inter alia through reasonable accommodation.
- State Inspector's Service/PDPS, leading to the strengthened capacity to effectively fulfil its mandate in the sphere of personal data protection.
- CSB, focusing on bolstering the capacity of human resource unit staff on disability rights to foster the PwDs' employment in civil service and create an inclusive and equal working environment.
- CSOs and OPDs, including grant recipients, promoting recognition and protection of the human rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations, including PwDs, LGBTQI+ persons, and ethnic minorities.
- GBA, leading to the strengthened capacity of the lawyers on human rights issues.
- MRDI and LSGs, leading to the strengthened capacity of municipal authorities to integrate human rights standards in local self-governance and introduce disability-oriented local budgeting.
- Higher education institutions and youth contributing to the improvement of the human rights education quality.

150. **Attracting funding or other resources from other donors:** By the end of 2024, with the support of the EU, UNDP and OHCHR will launch the third phase of the Joint Programme, building directly on the successes of "Human Rights for All – Phase I and Phase II." This new phase will continue to advance the progress made in previous stages, pursuing both ongoing and new objectives. Additionally, several interventions implemented under the Joint Programme have resulted in attracting further funding and/or resources, laying the groundwork for follow-up initiatives supported by other donors and partners, and amplifying the impact of interventions. In particular:

- Following bolstering the PDO's capacity on environmental issues and fostering its growing interest in this area, by the end of 2023, UNDP together with OHCHR and the PDO, initiated the project "Advancing Environmental and Water-related Rights in Georgia," which is a joint initiative of the TriPartite Partnership supporting National Human Rights Institutions (formed by UNDP, OHCHR and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions). The initiative, inter alia, encompasses creating a monitoring methodology, a gender-sensitive questionnaire, and a special report on the right to water. These efforts aim to streamline the PDO's strategic planning, enhance its efforts in this domain and prioritises amplifying awareness of environmental and water-related rights among the local population.
- As noted above, the Joint Programme supported the MIA in advancing the protection of PwDs, including from discrimination and promoting PwDs' participation and, as part of this initiative, over 600 patrol police officers have been equipped with more profound knowledge and a nuanced understanding of disability rights and communication through 24 training sessions. Bearing in mind the effectiveness of the cascade training approach and the need for broader coverage, UNDP's other programme – [Governance Reform Fund](#) – scaled up this initiative. As a result, an additional 1,531 patrol police officers countrywide enhanced their communication skills and understanding of PwDs' rights.
- Building on pivotal achievements of the project in creating/strengthening an Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism for CRPD implementation and three PwD Consultative Councils, the UNDP, OHCHR, and UNFPA have jointly secured funding for implementing the second phase of the UNPRPD programme to solidify these achievements. More specifically, the primary focus of the UNPRPD second phase programme is to replicate the successful practices of the coordination mechanisms created under this project, especially at the local level, and further strengthen these coordination structures and PwD councils at central and municipal levels, amplifying systemic influence and ensuring sustainability.

- Building on the experience of working with youth and elderly, and addressing gaps in knowledge and civic engagement, OHCHR secured funding from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the project *"Support to Georgia's 2024 Parliamentary Elections."* The project, which is implemented jointly with UNDP and UN Women, aims to create a more inclusive, participatory, and transparent electoral environment in Georgia, with a focus on enhancing the political participation and civic engagement of marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- Building on its experience working with vulnerable groups, as well as ethnic and religious minorities, OHCHR secured funding from the German Federal Foreign Office to implement the project *"Strengthening Social Cohesion by Improving Human Rights Protection of Vulnerable Groups."* This project promotes inclusivity and equality through various activities, including summer and winter schools, discussions, and public lectures.

151. **The coordination among two UN agencies:** the effective coordination has significantly enhanced the achievement of results by fostering a collaborative and cohesive approach to addressing complex, cross-cutting issues. Specifically:

- **Leveraging Complementary Expertise:** The joint efforts allowed each agency to contribute its specific expertise and comparative advantage, resulting in a more comprehensive approach to the challenges at hand. This synergy has strengthened the overall capacity to address multifaceted issues such as human rights, governance, and inclusion and accomplish the overall objective of the programme. The team members of the Joint Programme also participated in the work of the UN Country Team Human Rights Working Group, which coordinates the human rights work amongst the UN agencies in Georgia and Georgia UN Disability Inclusion Group. The critical human rights issues were discussed and coordinated within the Groups, enabling the UN Agencies, including PUNOs, to address challenges and advance disability inclusion through the "One UN" approach.
- **Established synergies and optimizing resources:** Coordination among UN agencies has facilitated more efficient use of resources, enabling better allocation of financial and technical support. Furthermore, by aligning priorities and integrating activities, the Joint Programme reduced overlaps, streamlined efforts, and ensured that interventions were complementary, leading to greater coherence in programme implementation.
- **Increased Advocacy and Visibility:** Joint UN coordination bolstered the visibility of programme results, making advocacy efforts more effective at national and international levels. This unified approach helped align programme goals with broader development agendas, such as the SDGs, and strengthened government and stakeholder engagement.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Coordination facilitated stronger partnerships with government institutions, civil society, and international partners, enhancing dialogue and ensuring that the programme's results were sustainable and aligned with national priorities.

152. **Established synergies with other development actors:** The project cultivated strategic synergies with multiple development initiatives, including those funded by the EU, executing joint interventions to maximize resource utilization, leverage specialized expertise, and amplify programmatic outcomes. Specifically, the Joint Programme has implemented collaborative activities with the following initiatives:

- Other EU initiatives, including "Support to the Public Defender's Office (implemented by DAI) coordinating efforts to elevate PDO's oversight mandate.
- EU-funded project entitled "Support to Security Sector Oversight Bodies in Georgia" as part of an international consortium led by B&S Europe, in the course of the "EU for Security, Accountability and Fight against Crime in Georgia (SAFE)" program, to jointly consolidate and strengthen the role and activities of independent oversight bodies in Georgia in line with best EU and international practices.
- EU-funded "Fostering Decentralisation and Good Governance at the Local Level", (implemented by UNDP) to ensure strategic alignment on activities aimed at decentralization of human rights and capacitating local authorities.
- "Supporting Public Administration Reform in Georgia (PAR) - Phase 2", (implemented by UNDP) on capacitating civil servants on human rights.
- Joint Initiative - "Leave no one behind — from policy and principles to practice in disability-inclusive development in Georgia" (implemented by UNDP, OHCHR, and UNFPA) focused on activities advancing CRPD implementation and promoting the rights of PwDs.
- "LEAD: Supporting Leadership, Equality, Advocacy, Democracy in Georgia" (implemented by UNDP) establishing complementarities to empower youth and vulnerable groups.

153. Furthermore, the Joint Programme had active coordination with other initiatives, including USAID's Unity Through Diversity Program (implemented by UNAG) on the rights of minorities and USAID's Civil Society Engagement Program (implemented by East West Management Institute) on empowering CSOs. This coordination prevented redundancy and optimized the allocation of resources across overlapping thematic areas.
154. **Cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on:** The PUNOs furthered the realization of human rights set out in the international human rights instruments and applied universal human rights principles such as equality and non-discrimination, equal participation and inclusion, gender mainstreaming, accountability, and the rule of law throughout the project cycle. The needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups were also prioritized and mainstreamed into the project interventions throughout Phase II. The Joint Programme employed the following cross-cutting approaches in the implementation of the programme to maintain a coherent approach across the outcomes/outputs.
- A. Human Rights-Based Approach:** HRBA was applied to align the Joint Programme implementation with the international human rights framework and the recommendations from human rights mechanisms, particularly, the Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, CRPD, and the CERD, recommendations of the Human Rights Council through the UPR, Special Procedures, and Resolution of the CoE's Committee of Ministers on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Throughout Phase II, the Joint Programme contributed to the implementation of treaty bodies' recommendations and strengthened the capacity and awareness of rights-holders, CSOs, and other professionals, including at the grass-roots level, to effectively claim their rights. In parallel, the Joint Programme enhanced the capacity of duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations, incorporate HRBA into policymaking, and promote their accountability for human rights and commitments.
- B. Leave no one behind:** In line with the LNOB principle, which is the central transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underpins all aspects of the UNSDCF and UN operations, the Joint Programme's initiatives and interventions reached the most vulnerable population without discrimination and promoted the inclusion of vulnerable groups and minorities, including, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTQI+ persons, and older persons.
- C. Disability Inclusion:** The PUNOs applied a twin-track approach of mainstreaming and provided targeted support for disability inclusion during the Joint Programme implementation. This aimed to support the inclusion of PwDs' perspectives and ensure that all activities related to them were implemented in close consultation with PwDs and OPDs, with their meaningful participation, in line with the "Nothing Without Us" paradigm. Furthermore, the Joint Programme directly engaged OPDs/PwDs in programme delivery, as trainers and experts.
- D. Gender equality and women empowerment:** While advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment were not the direct objectives of the Joint Programme, the PUNOs are strongly committed to mainstream gender-related issues in all programmes and project activities. Therefore, gender dimensions were considered and addressed in every stage of an activity, from planning to implementation and dissemination. The Joint Programme's efforts included empowering women from ethnic and religious minorities through educational programs. For example, a women-led grant mechanism in Samtskhe-Javakheti enabled over 1,000 women and girls to enhance their understanding of human rights through seminars. Additionally, cultural and educational events such as exhibitions, workshops, and seminars helped raise awareness among both duty-bearers and rights-holders about a wide range of human rights issues, including gender equality and gender-based violence. Several reports and studies supported by the Joint Programme also addressed systemic barriers and discriminatory practices faced by women in Georgia, while ensuring the collection of sex-disaggregated data throughout the project.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline 2020	Target 2024	Achievement of Target as of 2024 April	Source and mean of verification	Status as of end of project
Impact (Overall objective)	Citizens of Georgia, and primarily those in vulnerable situations, enjoy better protection of their human rights	1/ Ratings in human rights index	World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2020 – 0.61 points; Freedom in the World Report – 61 points	Increase to <0.64 Increase to <2	Rule of Law Index 2023 - 0.60 points Freedom in the World Report – 58 points In 2021, Georgia's Rule of Law index remained stable at 0.61 points, the same as the 2020 baseline. However, in 2022, the score declined by 0.1 points, amid a backsliding in democratic reforms and fundamental rights. The score remained unchanged in 2023, due to ongoing challenges in areas such as democracy, human rights, equality, and social policies (2024 data is not yet available). Similarly, Georgia's overall score in Freedom in the World Report dropped from 61 points to 60 in 2021, and further declined to 58 points in both 2022 and 2023 (2024 data is not yet available).	WJP Rule of Law Index Freedom in the World report	Not met
		2/ Level of public trust towards state institutions	Trust in Patrol police – 64%, PDO – 57%, MIA – 42%, common courts – 35%, PDPI - 26%	Increase at least 5% (each component)	In agreement with the EU, it was decided not to proceed with the human rights survey that was outlined in the project document as a source for assessing public trust in state institutions, including the PDPS and the PDO. As a result, alternative human rights surveys conducted by different institutions were analyzed to measure the progress against this indicator. There is no available data to measure the public trust in state institutions in 2021. However, recent studies provide insights into the situation in 2022 and 2023. In particular, according to the NDI's survey (Taking Georgians' Pulse, 2023), 33% of surveyed individuals believe that the situation has improved in regard to human rights (a considerable increase compared to 22% in 2022). According to the IRI's 2023 public opinion survey among the Georgian population, 67% of individuals reported a positive perception of the police (An increase from 63% in 2022). Available surveys do not provide information on citizens' trust towards PDPS and PDO.	Human Rights Perception Surveys	Partially met (lack of available data to fully measure the progress against the indicator)
	SO1. Relevant public bodies (duty-bearers) develop, implement and monitor national human rights policy and related frameworks (UNDP, OHCHR)	SO1.b. Rate of implementation of human rights-related policy documents and action plans (UNDP, OHCHR)	70% for SMR Strategy AP NHRSA n/a	70%	According to the 2021-2022 Action Plan implementation report for the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, 81.4% of the 134 outlined activities have been implemented. Implementation of the 3 Goals of the AP is also positively assessed by the CSOs. The SMR's 2023-2024 AP implementation report indicates that 60.4% of the Plan was already completed in 2023, with the remaining activities either initiated or in progress in 2024. No CSO reports are available that assess the implementation of the 2023-2024 AP. Given that the SMR successfully implemented the 2021-2022 AP and has already completed 60.4% of the 2023-2024 Plan, the likelihood of reaching the 70% target in 2024 is very high. Therefore, the overall target can be considered as achieved.	SMR implementation reports CSO monitoring reports	Met

Outcome (s) (Specific objective(s))	SO2. Law enforcement and human rights protection bodies effectively implement their duties related to policymaking and enforcement with due oversight and transparency (UNDP, OHCHR)	SO2.a. Proportion of law enforcement officers formally investigated for cases of alleged abuse (OHCHR)	In 2019 SIS has initiated investigation in 10% of cases, i.e. 145 cases out of 1,417 notifications on alleged crimes under the SIS mandate	Increase of investigations by 7%	Between April 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, the SIS initiated investigations in 11.6% of cases, in particular, 212 out of 1,831 notifications of alleged crimes under its mandate. In 2023, this figure rose slightly to 11.8%, with 265 investigations initiated out of 2,245 notifications related to alleged ill-treatment crimes. As a result, by 2022, the proportion of law enforcement officers formally investigated for alleged abuse had increased by 1.4 percentage points, and by 2023, the increase was 1.6 percentage points compared to 2019. Data for 2024 is not yet available. According to the SIS 2023 report, a significant proportion of notifications received by the SIS, in particular, 46% of the 2,245 notifications did not contain the signs of the crime and lacked sufficient evidence, which partly explains the limited increase in the proportion of law enforcement officers formally investigated for alleged abuse and the initiation of fewer formal investigations. Despite this explanation, available data indicates only a modest rise from 2019 to 2023. Therefore, the target for this indicator, which was set at a 7% increase in investigations, should be considered partially met.	PDO reports Project reports SIS reports	Partially met (due to external factors beyond the project's control)																											
		SO2.b. Ratio between the applications and inspections (UNDP)	2.7	increase by at least 0.2	<p>The data from the 2019 SIS report was retrieved as a baseline for this indicator during the project revision in November 2023. Specifically, in 2019, SIS received 422 applications and conducted 156 inspections, resulting in an application-to-inspection ratio of 2.71. Since then, the ratio has consistently increased, particularly in the first six months of 2024. During this period, PDPS received 1,235 applications and conducted 93 inspections, including 36 planned and 57 unplanned inspections, leading to a ratio of 13.27. This indicates a significant upward trend, with an increase of 10.56 from the baseline to the target. The detailed statistics for each year are presented in the table below.</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Applications</th><th>Conducted Inspections</th><th>Application-to-inspection ratio</th></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>422</td><td>156</td><td>2.71</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>305</td><td>119</td><td>2.56</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>480</td><td>125</td><td>3.84</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>399</td><td>130</td><td>3.07</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>526</td><td>192</td><td>2.74</td></tr><tr><td>2024 (first six months)</td><td>1,235</td><td>93</td><td>13.27</td></tr></table>	Year	Applications	Conducted Inspections	Application-to-inspection ratio	2019	422	156	2.71	2020	305	119	2.56	2021	480	125	3.84	2022	399	130	3.07	2023	526	192	2.74	2024 (first six months)	1,235	93	13.27	Annual reports of PDPS
Year	Applications	Conducted Inspections	Application-to-inspection ratio																															
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	SO3. The human rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situations are recognised in law and protected in practice (UNDP, OHCHR)	SO3.a. Status of National Mechanism for PwDs	National mechanism does not exist	Created and Operational	The Interagency Coordination Committee has been operational since its creation in 2021. In 2022, the Committee also established the Consultative Council composed of PwDs/OPDs and CSOs. Furthermore, two Consultative Councils at the MIA and MOJ were strengthened.	Decree of the Government; minutes of the meetings of the National Mechanism	Met
		SO3.b Level implementation of State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration 2021-2025 (UNDP, OHCHR)	Non-existent	At least 70%	According to the SMR 2021-2022 AP implementation report , the implementation of 134 activities were planned in the AP for the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration, the implementation rate of which is 81.4%. Implementation of the 3 Goals of the AP is also positively assessed by the CSOs. The SMR's 2023-2024 AP implementation report indicates that 60.4% of the plan was completed in 2023, with the remaining activities either initiated or in progress in 2024. No CSO reports are available that assess the implementation of the 2023-2024 AP. Given that the SMR successfully implemented the 2021-2022 AP and has already completed 60.4% of the 2023-2024 Plan, the likelihood of reaching the 70% target in 2024 is very high. Therefore, the overall target can be considered as achieved.	PDO reports; NGO reports	Met
	SO4. Local authorities more effectively protect human rights of all citizens, primarily those in vulnerable situations and minority groups (UNDP, OHCHR)	SO4.a Extent to which people consider that HRs are protected in regions (UNDP, OHCHR)	51% and 49% of Georgians consider that human rights are not protected in cities (other in Tbilisi) and regions	Increase by at least 5%	In agreement with the EU, it was decided not to proceed with the human rights survey that was outlined in the project document as a source for assessing the extent to which people consider that HRs are protected in regions. As a result, alternative human rights surveys conducted by different institutions were analysed to measure the progress against this indicator. According to the NDI's survey Taking Georgians' Pulse conducted in 2023, 33% of surveyed individuals believe that the situation has improved in regard to human rights. Available HR surveys do not provide further information on this issue. Therefore, due to the absence of relevant sources, it is challenging to measure the achievement of this target.	Human Rights Surveys	Not met (lack of available data to fully measure the progress against the indicator)
	SO5. Citizens are informed on, favourable to and supportive of human rights for all and efforts to protect them (UNDP, OHCHR)	SO5.a Level of awareness of human rights among general public (UNDP, OHCHR)	57% of Georgians consider that they are either not informed or slightly informed on human rights and their protection mechanisms	Decrease the share of people who are not informed on HR at least by 5%	In agreement with the EU, it was decided not to proceed with the human rights survey that was outlined in the project document as a source for assessing the level of awareness of human rights among the general public. As a result, alternative surveys were analysed. According to UNDP's 2024 study , 26.9% of interviewed civil servants are well-informed about human rights and protection mechanisms, while 45.1% have information on human rights but not complete one. Available HR surveys do not provide further information on this issue. Therefore, due to the absence of relevant sources, it is challenging to measure the achievement of this target.	Human Rights Surveys	Not met (lack of available data to fully measure the progress against the indicator)

*Other Outcomes (*where relevant)	Outcome 2A. Capacitated SIS and other law enforcement bodies implement relevant national policies and regulatory framework on preventing and responding to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (OHCHR)	2.A.a. Level of compliance of Legislation for combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment complies with international standards	Not-compliant (Definition of torture)	The legislation is in line with international standards	Although the legislation on torture related articles was not amended, it should be noted that the SIS adopted formal guidelines for classifying torture and ill-treatment, which represent a significant success, as such regulations had not existed before.	www.matsne.gov.ge	Partially met (due to external factors beyond the project's control)
		2.A.b. Ratio of prosecutions of the cases investigated by the SIS referred by the Prosecutor's Office to the court	1.7%	Increase at least by 5%	In 2021 - SIS submitted five proposals to the Prosecutor's Office to initiate criminal prosecution. None of these proposals was approved by the supervising prosecutor. Hence, prosecution ratio was 0%. In nine months of 2022 (March 1 – 31 December), the SIS submitted six proposals to the Prosecutor's Office to initiate criminal prosecution. Five of these proposals were approved by the supervising prosecutor and criminal prosecution was initiated, resulting in ratio of 85%. In 2023, SIS submitted two proposals to the Prosecutor's Office and both proposals were approved by the supervising prosecutor, resulting in ratio of 100%.	SIS report	Met
	Outcome 2B. State institutions and organizations collecting, and processing personal data ensure effective compliance with personal data protection provisions (UNDP)	2B.a. Amendments to PDP regulations ensuring GDPR compliance are adopted (UNDP) and implemented	Amendments drafted	Law adopted by the Parliament and implemented	The Parliament adopted the Law on PDP on 14 June 2023, which came into force on 1 March 2024.	www.matsne.gov.ge	Met
		2B.b. # of SIS/PDPS staff, data processors and data collectors trained in PDP (UNDP)	0 as the trainings will target newly adopted PDP regulations	at least 150	Overall, 479 individuals, including 81 representatives of SIS/PDPS staff and 388 data processors and data collectors, were trained on PDP issues, including newly adopted PDP regulations.	Training Programme, LoP of training course, evaluation forms of training course	Met

	Outcome 3A. At the central level, effective mechanisms for protection of rights of persons with disabilities through implementation and monitoring of the new Georgian Law on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UN CRPD are in place and operational (UNDP)	3A.a. Rate of implementation of the PwD-related action plans (UNDP)	0 (the indicator refers to a new action plan that is not adopted)	at least 70% of commitments implemented	In 2022, the Parliament positively assessed the 2021 annual report of the Government on the implementation of the AP on the Rights of PwDs. However, the rate of implementation of the PwD-related APs is not assessed in the Government report or the Parliament conclusion. In 2023, the Parliament positively assessed the 2022 annual report of the Government on the implementation of the AP on the Rights of PwDs. The Government report analyses the activities implemented by ministries, 59 municipalities and up to 20 public institutions. However, the rate of implementation of the PwD-related APs is not assessed in the Government report or the Parliament conclusion. The rate of implementation of the 2024 PwD-related APs is not yet available. Therefore, due to the absence of relevant sources, it is challenging to measure the achievement of this target.	PDO reports; HRC/state institutions' report; UN CRPD report, ECRI report	Not met (lack of available data to fully measure the progress against the indicator)
	Outcome 3B. Effective systems for protection of persons in vulnerable situations and minority groups and promotion of culture of non-discrimination, with special focus on LGBTQI, national and ethnic minorities are in place and operational (UNDP, OHCHR)	3B.a The status of annual Action Plans for the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration 2021-2025 (OHCHR)	Non-existent	3 APs adopted	The SMR adopted the 2021-2022 AP for implementing the Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration in 2021. After its expiration, the 2023-2024 AP was adopted in 2023. Since the SMR adopts two-year APs rather than annual ones, the third AP was not adopted during the project's timeframe.	Decree approving policy; PDO reports; NGO reports	Met
		3B.b. The status of Chapter on LGBTQI of the NHRS AP (UNDP)	AP ends in 2020	AP adopted	The NHRS AP was adopted in December 2023. Despite the Joint Programme's advocacy efforts, LGBTQI+ remains excluded from the AP.	AP	Not met (due to external factors beyond the project's control).

Outcome 4A. Local authorities supported by the Project have capacity and incorporate into local policies and practices national human rights policy (international human rights treaties of Georgia, NHRS, etc.) at local levels in coordination with central authorities⁴³ (UNDP)	4A1.b. # of LSG staff trained on universal and regional human rights standards (UNDP, OHCHR)	0	at least 120	127 representatives (74 women / 53 men) from 63 municipalities trained on HRBA and disability-inclusive budgeting.	Training materials, agendas, LOPs and participants' evaluations	Met
Outcome 5A. Public awareness, understanding on Human Rights Standards and Mechanisms (HRC, HR Strategy and Action plans) is increased and a culture of human rights, a special focus on LGBTQI+, national minorities and PwDs in Georgia is enhanced (UNDP, OHCHR)	5A.a. # of people who is informed on HR and their protection mechanisms (UNDP, OHCHR)	0	at least 50,000	<p>In total, throughout the project, over 1,300,000 persons were reached through HR awareness-raising campaigns. Specifically, In 2021, coverage of the major campaigns and events was provided by over 25 online news and TV agencies. On social media, the related posts gained up to 79,700 impressions.</p> <p>In 2022, coverage of the major campaigns and events was provided by over 30 online news and TV agencies. On social media, the related posts gained more than 20,000 impressions.</p> <p>In 2023, coverage of the major campaigns and events was provided by over 30 online news outlets and TV agencies. On Facebook, the related posts gained up to 1,253,000 impressions, while views on Twitter exceeded 24,000 in 2023.</p>	Media outlets Social media reports LOPs of HR meetings	Met

⁴³ Outcome 4A is closely linked with the activities under outputs 1.1 and 1.2.

	Outcome 5B. Citizens are more aware of their rights related to PDP and protection from ill-treatment and recourse to the SIS for redress, if needed (UNDP)	5B.a. % of people who is aware of the right to privacy and personal data protection (UNDP)	28% of population is aware of right to privacy	Increase by at least 10%	This indicator was planned to be measured by the human rights survey that was later excluded from the scope of the project in agreement with the EU. As there are no other alternative data sources to analyse the progress towards the indicator, the statistics by PDPS were used. In particular, according to the 2023 PDPS report, the Service provided 5,106 consultations in 2023, a significant increase from 3,444 - in 2021 and 2,868 - in 2022. Additionally, the Service received a total of 526 applications or notifications in 2023, compared to 480 - in 2021 and 399 - in 2022. While these statistics may not directly measure the percentage of people aware of the right to privacy and PDP, they may be attributed to the growing awareness of PDP and trust in the PDPS among data subjects, data controllers, and data processors. Furthermore, throughout the project, over 100,000 persons were reached through awareness-raising/knowledge building campaigns on PDP. Consequently, target for this indicator should be considered as achieved.	Perception/a wareness surveys	Met
Outputs	1.1. Capacities of selected state institutions strengthened to develop and implement human rights policy documents (UNDP, OHCHR)	1.1.a. Status of NHRS APs	New Human Rights Strategy for 2021-2030 is being elaborated. Work on APs not started	Developed and approved	Although the first NHRS ended in 2020, the GoG approved the strategy with considerable delay, only in September 2022 while the Parliament approved it in March 2023. The delay in adopting the NHRS also slowed the elaboration of the NHRS AP, which was eventually adopted for the 2024-2026 period in December 2023.	National HRSAP; PDO monitoring report; NGO reports	Met
		1.1.b. # of existing and new HRS staff trained under a new requisite CD programme (incl. Coaching, mentoring, training) (UNDP, OHCHR)	0 as CD programme does not exist	90% of HRS staff members trained on policy-planning human rights standards	In total, 100% of HRS staff members (7 people o/w 5 women) were trained on human rights standards within the following 3 capacity building activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, 24 civil servants (19 women, 5 men), including 3 representatives from the HRS, gained knowledge on HRBA and the prohibition of discrimination. In 2023, 25 civil servants (23 women, 2 men), including 2 representatives from the HRS, improved their knowledge and understanding of HRBA and its application in policy planning and programming. In 2023, 24 civil servants (16 women, 8 men), including 2 representatives from the HRS, gained knowledge on HRBA and disability-inclusive budgeting. 	CD Programme, LoP of training course, evaluation forms of training course	100%

	1.2. Effective monitoring and communication tools, including focal points system, for NHRS and AP in place and operational (UNDP, OHCHR)	1.2.a. Quality of NHRSAP monitoring/implementation reports (UNDP)	The monitoring/implementation reports of NHRSAP is lengthy and descriptive, which lacks analysis and result oriented reporting	The final reports of future APs are concise and includes analysis and result oriented monitoring	Although the first NHRS ended in 2020, the GoG approved the strategy with considerable delay, only in September 2022 while the Parliament approved it in March 2023. The delay in adopting the NHRS also slowed the elaboration of the NHRS AP, which was eventually adopted for the 2024-2026 period in December 2023. Due to the delayed adoption of the Strategy and the AP, the AP implementation report is expected to be developed in 2025 beyond the project closure, making it impossible to assess the quality of the implementation report. However, within the Joint Programme, 1 monitoring tool for CSOs was developed ensuring a consistent and result-oriented monitoring of the NHRS and the AP. Consequently, the target for the first indicator is partially met.	Monitoring Guidelines; Final reports of NHRSAP	Partially met (due to external factors beyond the project's control).
		1.2.b. Status of guidelines for PDO on monitoring human rights situation (in selected fields) (UNDP)	Non-existing	Elaborated	Overall, three guidelines/methodologies prepared for PDO. Namely, one methodology for monitoring outpatient mental health services; one methodology for monitoring inclusive education at Higher Education Institutions, and one methodology for monitoring the situation at resource schools for children with disabilities were developed. Using the latter two methodologies, monitoring at higher education institutions and schools specialized in supporting CwDs was conducted, and special reports were developed in 2024.	Methodologies; annual reports of PDO; annual reports of NHRS and AP	Met
	1.3. Criminal Justice Reform supported with main emphasis on separation of investigative and prosecutorial functions (OHCHR)	1.3.a. Status of draft legislation on separation of investigative and prosecution functions (OHCHR)	Non-existing	Drafted and agreed with and supported by all major stakeholders, including CSOs (Yes)	The draft legislation on the separation of investigative and prosecution functions was developed by the MIA and presented to the Parliament in 2023. The Parliamentary examination is still pending. As a result of targeted advocacy, the draft law incorporated significant feedback from discussions supported by the Joint Programme. However, CSOs did not fully support the version presented to Parliament in 2023. Therefore, the target for this indicator - developing a draft legislation agreed upon and supported by all major stakeholders, including CSOs - was only partially met.	Draft Legislation; Evaluation of CSOs and PDO; SIS report	Partially met (due to external factors beyond the project's control)
	1.4 Selected chapters of the Administrative Offense Code drafted (OHCHR)	1.4.a. The relevant articles of the Administrative Offences Code on Right to Liberty and Security and the Right to Fair Trial are not in line with international standards	The existing draft has not been presented to relevant stakeholders for review and comments	Draft brought in compliance with international standards and agreed with and supported by all major stakeholders, including CSOs (Yes)	The draft of the Code of Administrative Offences prepared by the Parliament has not been finalized, nor has it been reviewed or agreed upon by all major stakeholders, as initially outlined in the project targets. However, the investment of resources and the facilitation of multistakeholder discussions have helped maintain the topic's relevance and momentum, resulting in only partial fulfilment of the target.	Draft legislation	Partially met (due to external factors beyond the project's control)

	1.5. Knowledge on human rights issues of the civil servants and MIA increased (OHCHR)	1.5.a. Knowledge of civil servants with special focus on MIA and Police Academy increased	Not operational	Approved and implemented	The project elaborated the training Module on disability rights and communication standards which was followed with its implementation. The statistics related to the training sessions based on the Training module are provided below under output 3.A.2. Moreover, the project developed a curriculum on torture and ill-treatment for the LAS, followed by a ToT and training sessions. The statistics related to the capacity building activities are provided under output 2A.1.	Curricula, syllabus and handbook and the methodology and learning materials on human rights.	Met
	2A.1. Relevant policies and draft legislation for combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment developed based on the needs assessment in place, capacity of relevant institutions strengthened (OHCHR)	2A.1.a. Status of Needs assessment of regulatory framework on torture and other forms of ill-treatments)	No updated needs assessment	Assessment conducted	A study/assessment on gaps in the investigative mandate was developed, and a legislative changes package was proposed and submitted to the Parliament of Georgia to address these deficiencies and strengthen SIS's role as an independent investigative body.	Assessment Report	Met
		2A.1.b. Status of Policy and legislative framework for more independence and effectiveness of SIS is drafted (OHCHR)	Non-existent	Drafted	To bolster the SIS's role as an independent investigative body in line with Georgia's international human rights obligations, the Joint Programme conducted an assessment identifying gaps in its investigative mandate and proposed legislative reform to tackle identified deficiencies. These amendments were submitted to Parliament, but before their revision, the SIS was abolished. Since the study was completed and the legislative package developed and submitted, the target for the first indicator can be considered as achieved.	Draft legislative amendments ; the SIS strategic development plan	Met
	2A.2. SIS investigation capacity is strengthened (OHCHR)	2A.2.a. # of the SIS staff and investigators who attended education activities on combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including study visit (OHCHR)	44 SIS investigators trained	All investigators and at least 30 other staff members	Throughout the project, 27 SIS investigators and 15 frontline staff (14 women, 1 man), including hotline operators, receptionists, and members of the victims' protection unit, were trained. The abolition of the SIS led to uncertainty regarding the number of investigators throughout the project cycle, and the separation of the SIS's predecessor resulted in employee turnover. As a result, the target of the indicator was partially met.	Education activities (inc. study visit) materials, agenda of meetings, training materials, LOPs, evaluation of participants, study visit report	Partially met (due to external factors beyond the project's control)

		2A.2.b. Status of Institutional development plan of SIS	No institutional development plan	Drafted and adopted	The Institutional Development Plan is elaborated and approved for 2023-2028, and the consequent Action Plan for 2023-2024 is elaborated and approved.	Decree on approval of Institutional Development Plan	Met
2B.1. Tools/procedures to ensure effective realization of data protection function of selected state institutions upgraded and functional (UNDP)	2B.1.a Status of a new SIS Institutional Development strategy	SIS strategy ends in 2021	Adopted	A new Strategy was developed for the State Inspector’s Service before its dissolution in December 2021. The PDPS has not utilized the previous version of the Strategy and has yet to adopt a new one.	Decree approving the strategy	Not met (due to the external factors beyond the project’s control).	
	2B.1b % of SIS/PDPS staff trained in newly adopted legislation	0	at least 70% of the SIS staff (responsible for PDP)	As the adoption of the new law on PDP was prolonged, the project directed its efforts for the SIS/PDPS capacity building on other pertinent issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– in 2021, 19 SIS representatives (15 women / 4 men) equipped with theoretical knowledge and practical skills through a ToT programme;– in 2021, 24 SIS managerial staff members (12 women / 12 men) enhanced their knowledge and capacity on management-related issues.– In 2021, 16 SIS managerial staff (9 women / 7 men) participated in a workshop on the strategic document development process.– In 2023, 22 PDPS staff members (14 women / 8 men) were trained on data collection methodology. In total, 81 SIS/PDPS representatives received training. However, 52 of these were unique individuals. By December 31, 2023, 64 individuals were employed at the PDPS. Therefore, a total of 81% of the SIS/PDPS staff received training.	Training materials, LOPs, evaluation of participants.	Met	
2B.2. Organizations collecting and processing personal data have better capacity to	2B.2.a. # of data processors and collectors trained on the newly adopted PDP regulations (UNDP)	0	At least 100 trainees	388 representatives of data processors and data collectors, including the private sector, lawyers, medical institutions, CSOs, LGBTQI+ organisations, and business representatives, have acquired knowledge on PDP standards and the new PDP law through 18 education and capacity building activities.	Training materials, agenda, LoP, evaluation of participants	Met	

	implement PDP legislation (UNDP)	2B.2.b. # of education activities for data processors and data collectors concerning newly adopted PDP regulations (UNDP)	0	At least 5 awareness-raising meetings are conducted with data processors and data collectors	A total of 18 awareness-raising, educational, and capacity building meetings were conducted for data processors and data collectors, including on the newly adopted regulations. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An information workshop for representatives of medical institutions. • Two information workshops for CSOs. • A workshop for the private sector representatives. • A workshop for lawyers. • A training session for the LGBTQI community. • A ToT and 11 workshops for business representatives. 	Meeting materials, agendas, LOPs, meeting minutes	Met
	3A.1. Capacitated state institutions implement and monitor Law on Disability and CRPD with focus of post-pandemic needs (UNDP, OHCHR)	3A.1.a. Status of procedures to support implementation and monitoring of the LRPD and CRPD (UNDP, OHCHR)	Non-existent	Drafted	Status of procedures for CRPD Inter-Agency Coordination Committee drafted and adopted in 2021. PDO strategy and AP for monitoring the PwDs' HR situation adopted in 2022. PwDs' Consultative Council at the PDO supported. PwDs Consultative Councils were created at the CRPD Coordination Committee and the MOJ in 2022.	PDO reports; HRC report; UN CRPD report	Met
		3A.1.b. # of persons benefiting from mental health services through primary care piloted in Tbilisi (UNDP)	0	At least 100 persons engaged in the pilot	Between June 2021 and February 2022, 711 persons received MH services with Joint Programme support. Additionally, Joint Programme supported the development of the National Strategy on Mental Health for 2022-2030 further facilitating improvement of mental health services.	Modified rules and procedures; Pilot assessment.	Met

	3A.2. Capacity development programme (incl. Coaching, mentoring, training) for state agencies, OPDs and NHRI, designed and implemented (and evaluated in terms of acquired and applied competence) (UNDP)	3A.2.a. # of capacity development programme for state agencies and OPDs developed (UNDP)	0	2 capacity development programmes developed	<p>13 distinct capacity building programmes were developed for state agencies and specialized groups to effectively implement and monitor the LRPD and CRPD, capacitating overall 1066 individuals. Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 24 training sessions for over 600 patrol police officers. 2. A ToT for 12 representatives of the MIA. 3. 2 training sessions for 40 criminal and patrol managers of the MIA. 4. Training for 17 lawyers from the LAS and GBA. 5. Training for 40 social workers. 6. 5 Training sessions for 60 primary health care doctors. 7. Two training sessions for 46 staff members of the Central Election Commission. 8. 2 training sessions for 39 representatives of the POG. 9. 4 training sessions for 100 caregivers from small family-type facilities and shelters for children with disabilities and without care. 10. 2 training sessions for 32 representatives of human resources units across various governmental bodies. 11. A training session for 40 representatives of the Revenue Service. 12. An online training programme for HR employees. 13. 2 training sessions for 40 representatives of the National Forensic Bureau. 	Monitoring Strategy of PDO PwD Department; reports of PDO and OPDs	Met
		3A.2.b. # of PwDs and their representative organizations that participated in knowledge building activities (UNDP)	PwDs and their organisations do not have resources for capacity building	At least 50 PwDs and their representative attended education activities	<p>Overall, 91 OPDs, PwDs and their representatives attended education activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, 25 OPDs, PwDs and their representatives attended education activities. • In 2023, 63 OPDs, PwDs and their representatives participated in education activities. • In 2023, 2 PwDs and 1 OPD representative took part in policy dialogues with the UN CRPD. 	Curricula, training agenda, LOP, evaluation of participants	Met

	3B.1. Recommendations on improvement of policy and legislation concerning minorities and people in vulnerable situations drafted for government institutions (OHCHR)	3B.1.a. Status of recommendations to address challenges faced by LGBTQI people, national and ethnic minorities (OHCHR)	Non-existing	Developed	<p>35 reports were developed by CSOs throughout the project, directly or indirectly focusing on the rights of the minority and vulnerable groups. Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report and recommendations for addressing challenges faced by LGBTQI+ people with respect to their personal data processing. 2. The report “Brief Overview of Recent Developments in the Field of Personal Data Protection” (2021). 3. Three annual unified reports consisting of 28 thematic reports focusing on various human rights issues. 4. Study “Headscarf in the daily lives of Muslim women” (2023). 5. Needs assessment of PwDs to promote the development of a personal assistant municipal program in Sighnaghi (2023). 6. Report for Monitoring the Development and Implementation of the National Strategy for Human Rights for 2022-2030 Regarding Labor and Environmental Rights (2023) 7. Initial assessment of peer support service and needs of beneficiaries (2024). 8. Research on the role and responsibilities of social workers within medical institutions. 	Needs assessment report; researches prepared by the project	Met
		3B.1.b. # of Ad Hoc reports (explanatory notes/commentary) on implementation of international and regional human rights standards on minorities developed (OHCHR)	0	Ad hoc reports prepared upon request and justification	<p>Two ad hoc reports were developed based on the request of the state agencies. More specifically:</p> <p>The report assessing the attitudes and needs with regard to the Azerbaijani-language newspaper "Gurjistan" and the Armenian-language newspaper "Vrastan", published and disseminated in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities was developed in 2023 upon the request of the SMR.</p> <p>The report “Georgia’s COVID response: Lessons Learned and Recommendations for the Future” was developed in 2021 upon the request of the Administration of the Government, which, inter alia, analyses challenges encountered by various minorities and vulnerable groups.</p>	Ad hoc reports	Met

	3B.2. Capacitated NGOs/community organizations prepare shadow reports and submit complaints before the local and international bodies or submit amicus curiae on issues related to national minorities and have capacity and engage in protection of rights of minorities and persons in vulnerable situations (UNDP, OHCHR)	3B.2.a. # of NGO shadow reports prepared (UNDP, OHCHR)	0	At least 3 reports for UN HR treaty bodies drafted	<p>A total of five shadow reports were prepared and submitted to UN HR treaty bodies by seven CSOs. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the training sessions, two CSOs submitted two alternative reports in 2022 to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to advocate for the needs of minorities and persons in vulnerable situations. Following the training sessions, five CSOs submitted three alternative reports in 2023 to the UN CESCR, highlighting deficiencies in the realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights among ethnic minorities, conflict-affected populations, PwDs, LGBTQI+ individuals, and children. 	Prepared reports	Met
		3B.2.b # of local NGO representatives trained on rights of minorities and persons in a vulnerable situation (UNDP/OHCHR)	0	At least 80 NGO representatives trained	<p>Throughout the project, 93 NGO representatives were trained on various issues. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, 30 NGO representatives working on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+, and ethnic minorities were trained on strategic planning, strategic development, monitoring, and evaluation of anti-discrimination legislation and mandate and practice of the Public Defender in the fight against discrimination. In 2022, 50 NGO representatives were trained on legal and procedural aspects of submission of individual complaints to UN Treaty Bodies and the ECtHR, alternative reports to UN mechanisms. In 2023, 13 NGO representatives (9 women / 4 men) gained knowledge on the submission of alternative reports and communications to UN CESCR. <p>In addition to NGO representatives, in 2021, 20 licensed and practicing lawyers were trained on specificities of litigation before the UN treaty bodies and the European Court of Human Rights.</p>	Training materials, agendas, LOPs and participants' evaluations.	Met

		3B.2.c. # of grants for local NGOs to promote protection of rights of minorities and persons in a vulnerable situation with a focus on elimination of discrimination (UNDP)	0	At least 4 grants	11 grants were issued to regional and Tbilisi-Based NGOs to promote the protection of rights of minorities and persons in vulnerable situations with a focus on the elimination of discrimination.	Reports of grantees	Met
	4A.1. Pilot Programme on human rights focal points at LSG launched (UNDP, OHCHR)	4A.1.a. Status of jobs description for HR focal points (UNDP)	Non-existing	Developed	The job description is developed.	Orders approving job description; contracts and other documents on appointment of focal points	Met
	4A.2. LSGs have capacity and coordinate with central authorities for implementation of HR Policies as well as implement initiatives targeting	4A2.a. # of LSG employees trained in HRs (UNDP, OHCHR)	288 representatives of LSGs attended HR trainings/education activities within the framework of HR4All (Phase I)	At least 120 representatives of LSGs trained (excluding HR focal points)	127 local civil servants (74 women / 53 men) representing 63 (out of 64) municipalities gained knowledge on HRBA and disability-inclusive budgeting.	Training materials, agendas, LOPs and participants' evaluations	Met

		4A.2.c. Status of education materials/manuals concerning mainstreaming rights of minority groups and persons in vulnerable situation into local policies and practices (Yes/No) (UNDP, OHCHR)	Not developed	Developed	The guideline on CRPD-friendly budgeting for the municipalities to support the LSGs in introducing disability-oriented local budgeting in line with Georgia's international commitments was developed.	Relevant materials/manuals	Met
	5A.1. Training institutions, including HEIs and training centres, have increased capacity to deliver HR courses (OHCHR)	5A.1.a. Status of teaching materials on rights of PwDs, LGBTQI and national minorities for regional universities in the Georgian language (OHCHR) (yes/no)	Non-existing	Developed	A compilation of articles titled "Protection of Human Rights: European Experience and National Challenges" was developed, covering the impact of decisions by the European Court of Human Rights and UN treaty bodies (HRC, CEDAW, CAT, CERD, CRC, and CRPD) on Georgia's legislation and practices. Additionally, it includes an article on labour migration without discrimination.	Training materials	Met
	5A.2 Rights-holders have better knowledge of HRs, including anti-discrimination with special focus on PwDs, LGBTQI and national minorities (UNDP, OHCHR)	5A.2.a. Outreach rate of the HR awareness-raising campaigns (UNDP, OHCHR)	0	At least 100,000 persons	In total, throughout the project, over 1,300,000 persons were reached through HR awareness-raising campaigns. Specifically, In 2021, coverage of the major campaigns and events was provided by over 25 online news and TV agencies. On social media, the related posts gained up to 79,700 impressions. In 2022, coverage of the major campaigns and events was provided by over 30 online news and TV agencies. On social media, the related posts gained more than 20,000 impressions. In 2023, coverage of the major campaigns and events was provided by over 30 online news outlets and TV agencies. On Facebook, the related posts gained up to 1,253,000 impressions, while views on Twitter exceeded 24,000 in 2023.	Media outlets, LoPs of awareness-raising meetings	Met

		5A.2.b. Status of a plan on increasing awareness on IACHR/HRS work and NHRSA (Yes/No) (UNDP)	Non-existing	Developed and implemented	NHRS AP for 2024-2026 was adopted in December 2023. Hence, there was no need to develop a plan for increasing awareness of IACHR/HRS work and NHRSA.	Final plan on increasing awareness	Not met (due to external factors beyond the project's control).
	5B.1. Awareness-raising campaign/knowledge building on PDP, including GDPR and complaint procedure to the SIS designed and implemented (UNDP)	5B.1.a. Outreach rate of PDP awareness-raising campaign (UNDP)	0	At least 50,000 persons	<p>In total, throughout the project, over 100,000 persons were reached through awareness-raising/knowledge building campaigns on PDP. Specifically,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, over 43,000 persons were reached through various awareness-raising campaigns/knowledge building activities on PDP. • In 2023, social media reach: on Facebook, the related posts gained over 12,000 impressions, while views on X (formerly Twitter) exceeded 2,861. In addition, informational and illustrated posters on PDP were placed in 2086 public schools across Georgia, potentially reaching around 567,000 pupils (number of pupils) at public schools (although it cannot be confirmed if all pupils engage with the posters, their placement in schools offers a continued opportunity for familiarity with the content in the future). The information posters were also placed in Tbilisi metro trains, which transport an average of 415,896.32 passengers per day. Although it cannot be confirmed that all passengers saw the posters, their placement in trains provides a continued opportunity for exposure to the content over time. Hence, the target of this indicator should be considered achieved. 	Media outlets, LoPs of awareness-raising meetings	Met

	Output 5B.2. Specialized groups (journalists, NGOs, LSGs, grassroots organizations, lawyers, HEIs, with special focus on regions) are capacitated that would enable them to keep SIS under scrutiny (UNDP, OHCHR)	5B.2a .# of persons (representatives of journalists, NGOs, LSGs, grassroots organizations, lawyers, HEIs, s with special focus on regions) attending awareness-raising activities (OHCHR)	22 persons from NGOs, PO, PDO and MIA were trained within the HR4ALL (Phase I)	At least 270 persons trained	Throughout the project, the knowledge of 397 defence lawyers (190 women / 207 men) on topics such as International Human Rights standards, complaint procedures in times of emergencies, the prohibition of discrimination, hate speech, and hate-motivated crimes was enhanced.	Meeting agenda, LOPs	Met
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iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

155. Although the Joint Programme did not originally include a formal evaluation mechanism, it established regular, institutionalized meetings between the PUNOs to ensure effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities. These meetings served as a key platform for coordinating project interventions, where specific issues were discussed, evaluated, and next steps were agreed upon. This approach fostered coherence across the various project components, allowing for real-time adjustments and refinements. The continuous internal evaluation enabled ongoing learning, ensuring that project interventions remained adaptive and impactful. These reflections and adjustments were documented as "lessons learned," contributing to both the immediate success of the Joint Programme and informing future initiatives. This informal yet systematic method of evaluation created a dynamic feedback loop, enhancing the program's overall effectiveness while maintaining flexibility to respond to evolving challenges.
156. **Challenges encountered during the project implementation:** As outlined above, in recent years, the country has experienced increasing fragility, political upheavals, and setbacks in democratic reforms and the protection of fundamental human rights. As a result, the Joint Programme faced unprecedented challenges due to various internal and external political developments and tensions. Some risks, such as those associated with the 2021 local elections, were anticipated during the project design, while other unforeseen risks emerged during the project implementation.
157. Substantial obstacles materialized in the advancement of the legislative and policy framework governing human rights. Georgia's first NHRS expired in 2020, with anticipation for a new Strategy to be adopted that year. However, the process was protracted. Delays in adopting the NHRS and AP also hampered the performance of other activities contingent to these policy documents, such as the implementation of NHRS and APs, as well as the development of effective monitoring and evaluation systems for state institutions.
158. The Joint Programme also worked with the Committee on Legal Issues of the Parliament of Georgia to advance reforms within the CAO, aimed at upholding fundamental rights such as the right to liberty and security, and the right to a fair trial. Although early progress showed promise, the reform process was later stalled.
159. Another major obstacle was the abolition of the State Inspector's Service at the end of 2021, one of the Joint Programme's primary partners. Its disbandment, criticized for its lack of transparency and consultation, complicated the Joint Programme's efforts, though partnerships were eventually established with its successor institutions, the PDPS and SIS.
160. Furthermore, at the outset of the project, there was an expectation that the new PDP Law would be swiftly adopted. Consequently, the Joint Programme integrated various activities to assist the SIS in implementing the new law, which introduced several enhancements, such as the establishment of personal data protection officers, the broadening of the rights and protection of data subjects, and tighter controls on data processing for direct marketing, increased responsibilities of data processors, and controllers to comply with the new statutory requirements. However, the delay in adopting the new Law impacted the implementation of certain activities under Specific Objective 2.
161. The highly polarized 2021 pre-election period and both rounds of local elections hindered the implementation of the planned interventions. These political challenges, coupled with the limited willingness of LSGs to collaborate with the Joint Programme and frequent turnover within central government institutions, further delayed progress. In addition, as noted above, the Joint Programme developed a concept paper and job description for human rights focal points to support municipalities in mainstreaming human rights into local programming. However, the turbulent political environment and shifted political priorities complicated piloting the HR focal points system at the local level.
162. One of the significant challenges the Joint Programme encountered was the Government's attempt to pass a controversial draft law on "Transparency of Foreign Influence". Although the draft law was withdrawn in 2023, the overall tension between the Government and the CSOs has significantly affected the collaboration and dialogue between the two sides to implement the respective reforms. The government reintroduced the law on 3 April 2024, and it was subsequently adopted in June 2024 further deteriorating the already strained relations, however, this occurred beyond the project operational framework.
163. These developments have impacted the project throughout its duration, resulting in delays in the project implementation. Owing to the above-noted challenges, in consultation with the EU in November 2023, the Joint Programme has undertaken relevant programmatic revisions to ensure the project objective and outcomes were

accomplished. As a result, the project document was updated to adjust to the turbulent and newly emerged reality. Consequently, these revisions ensured the project's objectives were still met, achieving substantial results despite the setbacks.

164. Lessons learned: The most important lessons learned from the Joint Programme are summarized below:

- Unpredictable developments and frequent shifts in the political agenda, along with personnel changes, affected the Joint Programme's progress and effectiveness. Political sensitivity during pre-election and election phases, coupled with heightened scrutiny on human rights, especially for minority groups, reduced operational space due to the sensitive nature of pre-election and election phases. The project team maintained an awareness of changing political dynamics, integrating flexibility into its strategies to align with the evolving climate and priorities.
- Over the recent years, Georgia has shown a gradual decrease in the government's openness towards partnership with CSOs, as exhibited by developments attempting to shrink the civic space. Joint Programme consistently undertook efforts to support CSOs in monitoring the human rights situation and ensure their full participation in the decision-making processes. Consolidation of key actors around human rights and facilitation of dialogue between CSOs and the government was crucial for achieving tangible results, but more concentrated efforts are needed to bridge the strained relationships between civil society and the government, especially on the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups.
- Local governments, now with expanded mandates to uphold social and economic rights, often struggle with limited resources and capacity. Even though Joint Programme provided some targeted support to LSGs to ensure localization of human rights, these efforts were outweighed by the scale of support needed to tackle the local challenges. Therefore, this underscores the continued need for donor support to empower local authorities to effectively address local challenges and promote equitable development.
- HRBA and sensitivity towards minority and vulnerable groups among rights-holders and duty-bearers in Georgia remain low. Significant resources were invested in tailored human rights education and awareness-raising activities. However, continued, unified, and targeted efforts of the international players, government institutions, and civil society are needed for a transformative change in human rights culture.

List of enclosed documents:

1. Annex 1 - a list of participating municipalities.
2. Annex 2 - the National Human Rights Strategy for 2022-2030; Annex 3, the 2021-2030 State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration.
3. Annex 3 - ECtHR Case law on criminal charges and administrative violations.
4. Annex 4 - Legislation regarding misdemeanours in selected European states.
5. Annex 5 - Research on Torture related articles.
6. Annex 6 - Formulation of article 144¹.
7. Annex 7 - Guidelines on communication techniques - persons with psycho-social and intellectual impairments.
8. Annex 8 - Study on the use of force in the policing of demonstrations; Robocops.
9. Annex 9 - Study of ECHR case law on Ill-treatment at penitentiary institutions.
10. Annex 10 - Study on international experience on monitoring covert investigative activities.
11. Annex 11 - Study on operation-investigative practices.
12. Annex 12 - Study on international practices of preventive measures and mechanisms against ill-treatment.
13. Annex 13 - Study on gaps in Counterintelligence Legislation and the mandate of Operative Technical Agency.
14. Annex 14 - Study on the international standards and practices on the use of handcuffs by the police.
15. Annex 15 - A methodology guideline on questioning of police officers.
16. Annex 16 - Roadmap - Challenges of SIS and its successor.
17. Annex 17 - List of training sessions conducted for civil society organisations by the Joint Programme with the support of the European Union.
18. Annex 18 - Alternative reports submitted to UN Human Rights treaty bodies by CSOs.