



Global Compact
Network Georgia

CIVIL SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals



The Study was conducted by global research and consulting company ACT on behalf of Global Compact Network Georgia with financial support from the Swedish Government.

Foreword by

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK GEORGIA



We at the Global Compact Network Georgia strive to create an enabling environment to learn, share experience and partner with like-minded organizations. We are local multi-stakeholder platform, of the UN Global Compact initiative, with the goal of mobilizing a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the world we want to live in.

Global Compact Network Georgia facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships that benefit both businesses and the society in which they work. Being a UN initiative, we promote globally recognized framework of standards that combine international experience with a local touch.

Apart from engaging with the business sector, the network and its host organization Civil Development Agency (CIDA), have been working closely with the Government of Georgia, non-governmental organizations, media and academic institutions to support the process of implementation of Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in Georgia.

As a result of our cooperation with Government of Georgia, new policy framework was adopted to promote and incentivize responsible business conduct and business involvement in implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Georgia as well as all stakeholders that were involved in this process, for their effective and cooperative partnership over the past few years. Although we have moved forward towards our mutual goals, there is still work that needs to be done.

One of the challenges we observe in the country, is lack of data, of the full picture on the progress of implementation of SDGs by major stakeholders in Georgia. In the beginning of 2020, as a member of SDG Council, GCNG approached the Government and made a proposal to compile data on implementation of SDGs by Georgian businesses and non-governmental organizations for the UN Voluntary National Review on SDGs by Georgia. With invaluable support from the global research and consulting ACT and Innova LLC, we managed to collect information on the best practices in Georgia from target sectors, also observe the trends, opportunities and challenges inherent in implementing the Agenda. The present report does not reflect the practices of the entire sector, rather, it pinpoints good examples from a number of leading non-governmental organizations on their contribution to larger, shared goals.

Now, more than ever, it is important to engage the all major stakeholders, including business and non-governmental organizations, and promote responsible conduct in Georgia and worldwide. The global crisis of COVID-19 has shown us the importance of social welfare and how interlinked it is with the economic prosperity. It has shown us the steep price of the reluctance to consider societal and environmental needs. Therefore, it is critical for businesses, the government and civil society to stand together and invest in a sustainable future!

Salome Zurabishvili

Executive Director
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CONTENTS

2	Acronyms
3	Background
4	Research Goals and Objectives
4	Research Design and Methodology
5	Executive Summary
9	The Contribution of Civil Sector to SDG Implementation: Research Findings
9	I. Human Capital Development and Social Welfare
9	a) Eradication of poverty and social inclusion
17	b) Healthcare system
20	c) Education
25	Economic Growth
25	a) Energy accessibility and environment
28	b) Growth
32	c) Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure
34	d) Responsible Production and Consumption
36	e) Sustainable urbanization
38	III. Democratic Governance
38	a) Equality
47	b) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
51	IV. Partnerships for the Goals
54	V. Activities Undertaken During the New Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic
56	Conclusion
56	General highlights
57	Human capital development and social welfare:
57	Economic growth
58	Democratic governance
59	Annex: List of Organizations Involved in the Qualitative and Desk Studies

ACRONYMS

AA	Association Agreement
CENN	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
CIDA	Civil Development Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSRDG	Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
EMC	The Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center
ENPARD	European Neighborhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
EPRC	European Policy Research Center
EU	European Union
GCNG	Global Compact Network Georgia
GFA	Georgian Farmers Association
GYLA	Georgian Young Lawyers Association
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IDFI	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSGF	Open Society Georgia Foundation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TI	Transparency International
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Background

On September 25, 2015 the United Nations adopted a resolution entitled "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and approved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Agenda includes 17 goals and 169 targets, which are united in five main areas (5P):

People	to eradicate all forms of poverty and hunger and to assure dignity and equality for all people in a healthy environment;
Planet	to prevent the destruction of the Earth through actions like the sustainable management of natural resources, climate change prevention, and more;
Prosperity	to provide the possibility of a successful life for every person;
Peace	to create a peaceful, just and inclusive society free from fear and violence;
Partnership	to promote a global partnership to achieve goals (SDGs).

In order to coordinate and monitor the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Council of Public Administration Reform and Sustainable Development Goals was established in Georgia in 2017. It is chaired by the Head of Government Administration in Georgia. The council consists of representatives from central state institutions such as the Civil Service Bureau, the National Statistics Office and various ministries. The Council has established 4 thematic working groups: (1) social engagement; (2) economic growth; (3) democratic governance; (4) sustainable energy and environmental protection.

Because Sustainable Development Goals are unlikely to be reached from solely government efforts, the involvement of both the business sector and civil society are crucial. Representatives of non-governmental and international organizations, as well as government agencies, are all integral elements to the effective functioning of the thematic working groups in the Council of Public Administration Reform and Sustainable Development Goals.

Currently, there is no consolidated database of information in Georgia regarding the measures the business and non-governmental sectors are taking toward implementing the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, CIDA / Global Compact Network Georgia (GCNG) within the framework of the project "Leadership for Sustainable Development in Georgia", supported by the Swedish Government, aims to involve businesses and civil society organizations in the SDG dialogue and collect, process, and analyze information on the progress made by the private and non-governmental sectors in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda in Georgia.

In 2016, the Government of Georgia presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the UN Economic and Social Council. In July 2020 the second VNR was presented at the HLPF. Aside from the Government's progress in implementing Agenda 2030, as a result of the support from CIDA/GCNG, the final report includes information on private sector contributions towards the implementation of SDGs in Georgia as a separate document.

All of this information will eventually be placed on the online public platform of SDG Compass. This platform will be launched by the GCNG in 2021.

Research Goals and Objectives

This document's main goal is to evaluate the status of the civil sector's implementation of SDGs and describe the concrete contributions that constitute this implementation.

In order to achieve this goal, the following objectives have been identified:

- ▶ To research the progress and activities carried out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the direction of human capital development and social welfare;
- ▶ To research progress and activities carried out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the direction of economic growth;
- ▶ To research progress and activities carried out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the direction of governance.

Taking these research results into account, GCNG will be better equipped to plan and organize specific activities to increase the effectiveness and overall quality of the outcomes.

Research Design and Methodology

Based on the goals and objectives of the project, a relevant and comprehensive research methodology has been developed: the combination of desk research and more traditional quantitative and qualitative research methods. The present report includes information collected from both desk research, qualitative and quantitative studies.

The ***desk research*** examined the annual reports of selected non-governmental organizations published between 2018-2020. Within this framework, the research team studied the organizational activities of 6 different NGOs.

The ***qualitative research*** obtained comprehensive information about how non-governmental organizations were implementing SDGs. While undertaking fieldwork for the qualitative research, the organization Analysis and Consulting Team (ACT) contacted preliminarily selected non-governmental organizations. Overall sampling of the qualitative research, including desk research and in-depth interviews, was 18 non-governmental organizations. The average duration of each interview was 50 minutes.

The ***quantitative research*** was carried out at the final stage of the research's implementation. It aimed at validating the findings already obtained through the qualitative research and measuring the targets of each of the SDGs to generate statistical information about the SDG implementation by non-governmental organizations in Georgia. The research covered 106 NGOs in total operating in Georgia (of which 58.5% are based in Tbilisi and 41.5% in different regions of the country). Noteworthy, 10% of inquired organizations were members of the CSR Club and 5.7% of organizations were the members of the GCNG.

Executive summary

The overall purpose of the research was to obtain information about the implementation of the SDGs in the non-governmental sector. The research was carried out within the frame of the project "Leadership for Sustainable Development in Georgia", which is being implemented by the CIDA/GCNG and funded by the Swedish Government.

The corresponding report follows the structure of the main report submitted by the Government of Georgia and covers the following topics:

To research the progress and activities carried out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the direction of **human capital development and social welfare**;

To research the progress and activities carried out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the direction of **economic growth**;

To research the progress and activities carried out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the direction of **democratic governance**.

The research was carried out with a combination of qualitative and quantitative studies. At the stage of the qualitative research, two research techniques were applied – desk research and in-depth interviews. In the framework of the desk research, the annual reports of CSOs were analyzed; while the in-depth interviews helped the research team to obtain more detailed and in-depth information about the content of projects and organizational practices. The quantitative research obtained the representative data about the activities implemented in frames of each of the SDGs and surveyed 106 organizations throughout the Georgia.

The first chapter of research covers the most social goals of SDGs. Based on the qualitative and quantitative findings, the research mapped the general trends in the direction of human capital development and social welfare. The quantitative research findings found that the most prevalent activity under **Goal 1** – No poverty – was the provision of free consultations for the vulnerable groups for the purpose of their economic empowerment (58.5%), which was followed with the delivery of different thematic trainings (52.8%) and social policy monitoring and advocacy (51.9%).

It worth noting the delivery of trainings was also considered and frequently mentioned under the **Goal 2**. According to the statistics, 22.6% of surveyed organizations have delivered trainings specifically around agricultural issues. Besides the agricultural trainings, the research team explored the three major trends that took place within the Goal 2 in a two-year period. The biggest share of organizations had worked with the government to raise the food safety standards in Georgia (19%) and carried out capacity building activities in order to inform farmers about the implemented changes (19%). The third tendency within the Goal 2 was laboratory testing of different products and evidence-based advocacy (10.4%). It is worth noting that some activities discussed under the Goal 1 and 2 cannot be categorized under one single goal. One such activity mentioned, first during the qualitative research, was the provision of small grants programs. Based on the qualitative and quantitative studies, small grant programs aimed at strengthening vulnerable groups (29.2%), farmers (22.6%), entrepreneurs (25.5%) and social entrepreneurs (22.6%) through financing their small business initiatives and ideas.

Within **Goal 3** of SDGs, the qualitative research findings showed that the activities implemented under this goal aimed at increasing access to healthcare services. According to the quantitative research, the biggest share of organizations has contributed to the goal through the organization of activities promoting a healthy lifestyle (50.9%). The next significant activity under this goal was the provision of a corporate insurance system for staff and families (30.2%); and the third most prevalent activity was the implementation of projects/programs about women's health and reproductive health issues (29.2%). Besides the general trends, the qualitative research explored very interesting cases which are mentioned and recognized in the report, including the rehabilitation of people with addiction problems and different infectious diseases.

With regard to **Goal 4** of the SDGs, the research made one general observation. Non-governmental organizations are more proactively contributing towards the realization of Goal 4 through activities carried out within the organization compared to their external activities; according to the quantitative research findings, 56.6% of NGOs reported the provision of professional development opportunities for staff and financing of trainings, while 46.2% of organizations mentioned the delivery of trainings about their main strategic direction for the different target groups; for instance, NGOs working in the field of human rights have worked with different stakeholders to raise their awareness in this particular field, other organizations working in the field of agriculture delivered the agricultural trainings to farmers and NGOs connected to gender equality and women rights delivered trainings specifically around these topics. It is noteworthy that 16% of organizations delivered such trainings for the business sector and 21.7% of organizations delivered such trainings for the media sector. Such cross-sectorial cooperation patterns were mentioned during the qualitative research too.

The second chapter of research covers Goal 7, 8, 9, 11 and 11, which are connected to economic development and growth. According to the findings, the biggest share of organizations have contributed to these goals through the following activities:

(1) the protection of labour rights through the creation of a safe working environment for staff and the provision of decent working conditions, (2) supporting economic growth through the promotion of (social) entrepreneurship with small grants and (3) implementation of environmental activities through cleansing and planting campaigns; even though the latter has the highest frequency among above-mentioned activities, it was not as sustainable and consistent as the campaigns were more or less short-term and fragmentary. In addition, the quantitative research provided the representative data about each goal and informed the report about major tendencies.

Within **Goal 7**, three major tendencies were observed: (1) implementation of awareness raising and capacity building activities (20.8%); (2) energy efficiency policy advocacy and monitoring (14.2%); (3) promotion of clean energy sources in their offices (8.5%).

In terms of the implementation of **Goal 8**, the quantitative research clarified three major tendencies: (1) promotion of youth employment within the NGOs and offering a flexible schedule to students/young people (38.7%); even though this was the most frequent activity among NGOs, the percentage of young employees aged (18-25) was still relatively low (10%). (2) The second tendency of Goal 8 was the provision of decent working conditions for the employees and the existence of a mechanism that ensures equal remuneration for equal work (33%). (3) The third most prevalent activity within Goal 8 was the promotion of entrepreneurship (25.5%) and/or social entrepreneurship (22.6%). Besides the major developments, the qualitative research has explored several significant cases and activities which were measured during the quantitative stage and obtained significant frequency too. The first such activity was supporting the green and eco-entrepreneurship (17.9%), and the development of sustainable tourism (27.4%).

With regard to the remaining goals of chapter 2, several organizations mentioned their activities within **Goal 9** during the qualitative research, which were measured by quantitative instrument. According to the findings, two major activities were observed within Goal 9: (1) implementation

of projects focused on the development and renovation of public infrastructure (23.6%); (2) facilitation of infrastructural projects in frames of legislative initiatives/projects and mediation (13%). As it was already mentioned the most prevalent tendency within **Goal 11** were the cleansing (37.7%) and planting (34%) campaigns. Besides these two activities, a significant number of organizations reported that their office infrastructure is adapted to the needs of people with disabilities and contribute to the development of public infrastructure in order to make them safer for pedestrians and adapted to the needs of peoples with disabilities.

In terms of **Goal 12**, the non-governmental organizations made contributions on the part of sustainable consumption. According to the qualitative and quantitative research findings, 43.4% of organizations developed a practice of recycling paper materials; 28% of organizations attempt to reduce plastic consumption in the offices; 26% of organizations mentioned that they supported the development of a waste management system and infrastructure in Georgia. In the end, 11% of organizations advocated for the reduction of harmful chemicals in production processes.

The third chapter of the research covers Goal 5, 10, 16 and discusses the issues of equality and institutional development. Based on the qualitative and quantitative research findings, the research team made one general observation. Organizations from the field of governance tend to support gender equality through advocacy and monitoring, while organizations from the socio-economic field are inclined to support equality through economic empowerment and capacity building activities. In terms of tendencies within **Goal 5**, the most prevalent activity was the incorporation of gender equality principles in the Code of Ethics of organization (64%). In addition, 50.9% of organizations contributed through the delivery of trainings to women for their economic empowerment. Among the surveyed organizations, 37.7% of NGOs reported the delivery of trainings specifically about underage marriage, forced marriage, domestic violence and gender equality. Besides the most common tendencies, the qualitative research explored interesting cases which


were measured during the quantitative stage. Correspondingly, 34.9% of organizations mentioned that they are engaged in gender equality policy advocacy and 31.3% of organizations have mechanisms for the monitoring of sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination within the organization. The provision of small-grant programs was applied by the organizations working in the field of gender equality and women rights too. 30.2% of organizations delivered small-grant programs for the female entrepreneurs, 27.4% of surveyed organizations provided free legislative services to the women. At the end, 24.5% of organizations reported that they have projects that aim to fight against the "Glass Ceiling".

Within **Goal 10**, the most frequent activity was incorporation of anti-discrimination and anti-harassment principles in the Code of Ethics of organization (40.6%). 31.1% of organizations reported that they provide equal employment opportunities for everyone. Moreover, out of surveyed organizations, 24.5% mentioned that they provided the equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities within and/or outside the organization and 28.3% of organizations mentioned their project activities that support the IDPs and people living close to the conflict line through additional services and projects that are tailored to their needs.

In terms of the implementation of **Goal 16**, the following findings have been made: (1) 20.8% of organizations contributed to this goal through the provision of free legal services for different target groups; (2) 24.5% of organizations reported engagement in the judicial reforms; 17.9% of organizations mentioned that they had special services and programs for the people living close to the conflict regions. Out of the targets of Goal 16, the less implemented activities were in the fields of trafficking, organized crime and corruption.

The last **Goal 17** of the SDGs refers to cross-sectorial cooperation. The research findings show that NGOs cooperate with different sectors in frames of joint projects and initiatives. According to the quantitative research findings, NGOs implemented joint projects with NGOs (60.4%), the government (39.6%), academic institutions (31.1%), businesses (22.6%) and the media sector (17%)

during the two-year period. Besides their own initiatives and project activities, the NGOs evaluated the existing cooperation mechanisms between the sectors. The biggest share of organizations neutrally evaluated the mechanism; it is noteworthy that the estimate of organizations assessing the mechanism negatively is higher (25.8%) than of those which have a positive outlook (11.4%). The organizations assume that some actions need to be taken in order to increase efficiency. The participants of qualitative and quantitative studies have therefore issued three major recommendations:



Provision of more information about the SDGs and implementation mechanisms for the stakeholders including state institutions, business community and general population;

More proactive cooperation between sectors in order to make existing projects more comprehensive and systemic (efficient utilization of resources);

More engagement from the business sector with regard to the SDG implementation.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SECTOR TO SDG IMPLEMENTATION:

Research Findings

This section summarizes the engagement of the non-governmental sector and its contributions towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The information is grouped around three major thematic directions, presented and discussed in separate sub-sections. The first sub-section is focused on human capital development and social welfare and generally reviews the contribution of the civil sector towards goals 1, 2, 3 and 4. The second sub-section provides a detailed review of economic growth and covers the SDGs that are directly or indirectly connected to issues of economic development and sustainable growth (goals 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12). And lastly, the third sub-section discusses the issue of democratic governance, which covers the efforts made by the non-governmental sector towards gender equality, social inclusion and companies' management practices (Goals 5, 10, 16).

Each sub-section presented below provides a brief overview of the particular activities undertaken by the organizations within broad thematic areas and specific SDGs (where possible) and describes how the CSOs engage in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country.

I. Human Capital Development and Social Welfare

a) Eradication of Poverty and Social Inclusion

The first two goals of the sustainable development agenda are no poverty and zero hunger. The activities and efforts undertaken in service of these two goals can be diverse, target different segments of the population and give opportunities to organizations of all profiles to have their say, and make a genuine contribution. The first goal of the 2030 Agenda – No Poverty – can be implemented through the following measures / activities:

- ▶ Supporting the policies that aim to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere;
- ▶ Reducing, at least by half, the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to particular national definitions;
- ▶ Supporting the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable;
- ▶ Ensuring that all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance;
- ▶ Building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme weather events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters;
- ▶ Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions;
- ▶ Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication.

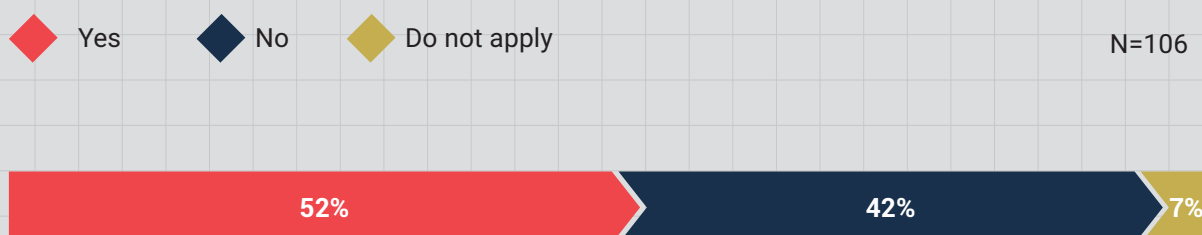
According to the qualitative research findings, the non-governmental organizations with different backgrounds and fields of operation have made a genuine contribution to the implementation of the SDGs in Georgia. The actions undertaken under Goal 1 and 2 by CSOs can be divided into three parts: (1) the first group of organizations were engaged in advocating social assistance/economic policy monitoring and their actions were more interconnected to Goal 1; (2) the second group of organizations were engaged in educational activities and aimed to enrich their skills/capacities which would enable them to engage in economic activities; (3) the third group of organizations were more focused on food safety issues and were working with governmental institutions and farmers to enforce food safety standards in Georgia. Aside from the three basic groups, some particular cases were also identified by the research. Usually, organizations that did not have projects/programs that directly targeted vulnerable groups and whose field of operation was not connected to food safety or agriculture, support the empowerment of vulnerable groups through their major activities, which are governmental (economic/

social) policy monitoring and advocating campaigns. Noteworthy is that organizations operating in the field of human rights might propose free professional services to vulnerable groups that are directly connected to their protection and empowerment.

If the qualitative stage informed the research about the content of contribution, the quantitative research has measured the activities and targets of Goal 1 and 2 by providing generalized information about the intensity and scope of the above-mentioned trends. With regard to the first trend observed during the qualitative research, the quantitative research findings showed that the social policy monitoring and advocacy was the third most common activity under Goal 1. According to the findings, 55 out of 106 (51.9%) organizations carried out social policy advocacy and monitoring measures in 2018-2020 (See Chart 1). It is worth noting that the efforts from these 55 organizations are very robust and sustainable, as in a majority of cases the activities were carried out multiple times or regularly throughout two years (85.5%).

CHART 1.

Supporting and empowering socially vulnerable groups through social policy advocacy and monitoring



Besides the quantitative data, the qualitative research provided additional information about the content of activities. The next paragraphs of the research introduce the cases of interviewed organizations from the qualitative research which was implemented within Goal 1.

Transparency International (TI) was in the first group of organizations. It pursues the monitoring and advocacy of economic and social policy, which indirectly contributes to the goal of eliminating poverty.



„One of the directions that we look at is the system of social assistance, the fairness of the state`s economic policy, how fair is the planning and implementation of social assistance. Of course, we look from the anti-corruption angle... elimination of corruption in a social and economic system is directly connected to the end of poverty“.

Transparency International

The main activity of **EPRC** is the creation of policy documents and providing recommendations to the state authority about reforms, programs, and more. Overall, the fundamental function of the organization is to advocate for economic policy reform and the improvement of economic conditions for all citizens.

Open Society – Georgia Foundation (**OSGF**) does not have direct economic strengthening programs; however, the organization actively works and advocates on issues of inequality and homelessness. With regard to the other project activities of OSGF, the organization was financing projects that aimed at women's empowerment and supported entrepreneurship until 2018. At the moment, the main activity of the organization is creating policy documents and developing recommendations for the state. The second group of organizations was more actively engaged in educational activities and trainings for the vulnerable part of the population. According to the qualitative research findings, the trainings under Goal 1 and 2 mostly refer to the economic empowerment of vulnerable groups through teaching them the basics of accounting, budget management, and entrepreneurship. The aim of these activities was to assist them with self-employment. In addition, some organizations have delivered trainings that aimed to teach them how to prepare grant applications. Frequently, vulnerable groups do not have enough skills and knowledge to engage in grant competitions or economic empowerment programs provided by CSOs and international programs. NGOs attempted to fill in this gap and supported the target group with awareness raising and capacity building activities.



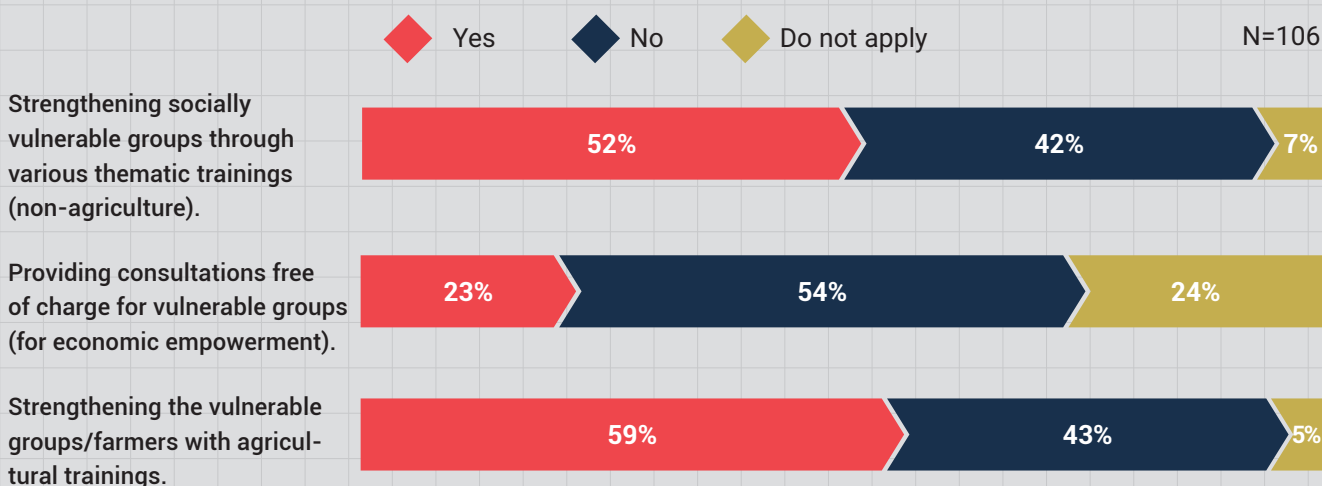
„The organization developed projects that aimed to teach the population how to manage business, write a grant proposal, the stages of project implementation. We have also financed small grants for economic empowerment. Specifically, for young people the organization provided trainings about budget management and entrepreneurship“.

NGO

The quantitative research findings have illustrated that the delivery of different thematic trainings was the second most prevalent activity under Goal 1 and 2 only following the provision of free consultative services for the vulnerable groups (See chart 2). According to the statistics, 56 out of 106 organizations (52.8%) delivered trainings to the different target groups for the purpose of their economic empowerment; among the interviewed organizations, 47 out of 56 have answered that the activities were

carried out multiple times or were regular events. In the majority of cases, the organizations managed to deliver trainings to less than 60 individuals during the last two years. The research has explored the cases where outreach was 500 to 1000, 1000 to 5000 or more than 10000 individuals during the last two years; however, such a scope of trainings does not constitute the overall trend of this component. A relatively small number of organizations carries out trainings in the field of agriculture. Only 24 out of 106 organizations answered that they have carried out trainings in the field of agriculture during the last two years. 19 out of 24 organizations have indicated that the trainings were carried out multiple times or regularly which implies the sustainability of efforts. Similar to other trainings, most frequently the scope of action was less than 80 individuals in 2018-2020. In some particular cases, the scope could reach 200-500 or about 4000 individuals in a two-year period. However, like the previous activity, this was not the major trend taking place.

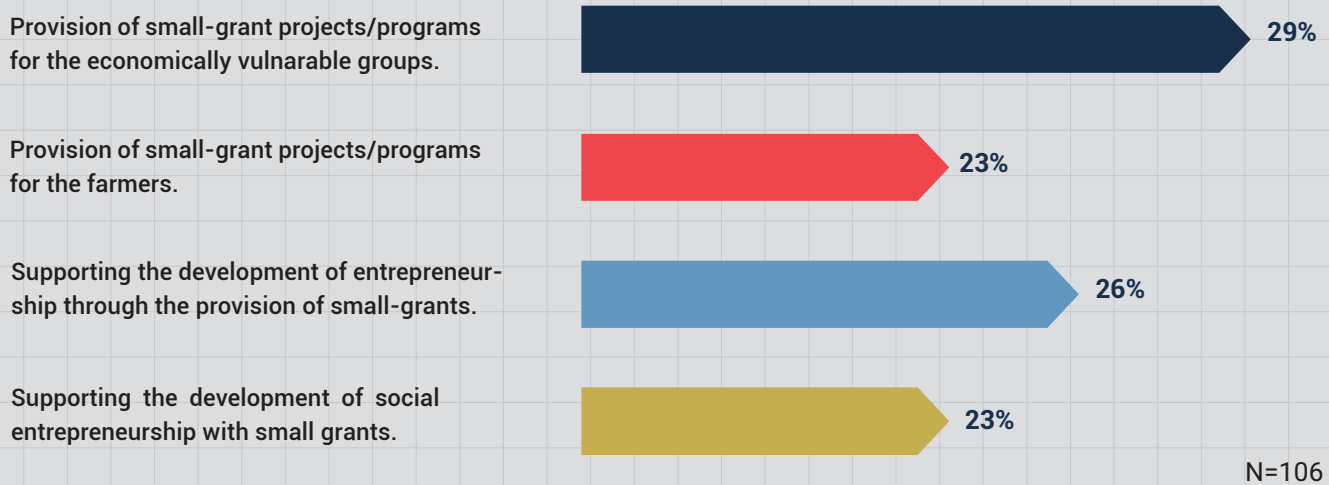
CHART 2.
Strengthening vulnerable groups through awareness raising activities



One frequently mentioned activity under Goals 1, 2 and 8 was the provision of small grant programs for the population and/or vulnerable groups. The quantitative research evaluated if the NGOs provided small grants to the population and what scope the activities had. During the quantitative research, 31 out of 106 organizations (29.2%) mentioned that they provided small grant programs specifically for vulnerable groups (under Goal 1). It is noteworthy that the frequency of this activity is relatively higher than activities under Goal 8. According to the estimates of Goal 8, 27 out of 106 organizations (25.5%) supported the development of entrepreneurship and 24 out of 106 organizations (22.6%) supported the development of social entrepreneurship/enterprises; both of these activities are implemented through the small grant programs. Most frequently, less than 20 small grant projects were issued per organization in a two-year period. This tendency is the same for each Goal and had no exceptions in cases where the scope was higher. Under Goal 2, 24 out of 106 organizations (22.6%) provided small-grants for the farmers (see chart 3).

CHART 3.

The implementation of small-grant programs by non-governmental organizations in 2018-2020



During the qualitative research, two significant cases were observed with provisions of small-grant programs for different target groups, which were connected to the targets of Goal 1 and 2. **CSR DG** has contributed to the implementation of Goal 1 through projects undertaken under three major directions: the protection of consumers rights, the development of CSR direction among the business companies, and the support of social enterprises. The organization believes that these three directions are fundamental to strengthening vulnerable groups. It attempts to find solutions to the most important social and environmental problems that are both not in the direct interest of business and the government does not have enough resources to develop solutions. The Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (**CENN**) actively works on environmental issues. However, organizations also support vulnerable groups through capacity building and provide small-grants to finance business initiatives.



„The organization does not focus directly on poverty eradication and ending hunger. Though, it has projects in the villages that finance different projects; in addition, it supports vulnerable groups with educational activities which promote their economic empowerment“.

CENN

Goal 2 of SDG is zero hunger. During the qualitative research, the respondents from different organizations discussed their efforts in developing food safety standards in Georgia. The organizations mentioned two types of activities: (1) cooperation with farmers/governments in order to improve the food safety standards and raise awareness about related issues; (2) the laboratory inspection of different products and evidence-based advocacy campaigns. The quantitative research findings measured these findings. As a result of the research, 20 out of 106 organizations (18.9%) are working with governments in order to improve food safety standards and farmers to raise awareness about corresponding changes (See chart 3). In addition, a majority of organizations have answered that the efforts were frequent in nature or regular. With regard to the second activity under this goal, 11 out of 106 organizations (10.4%) answered that they have carried out the laboratory testing of different products during the last two years. Out of these 11 organizations, 5 organizations answered that the efforts were carried out several times or on a regular basis, while 6 organizations answered that only once during the last two years was an action carried out (See table 1).

CHART 4.

Contribution to Goal 2 through working on the food safety issues

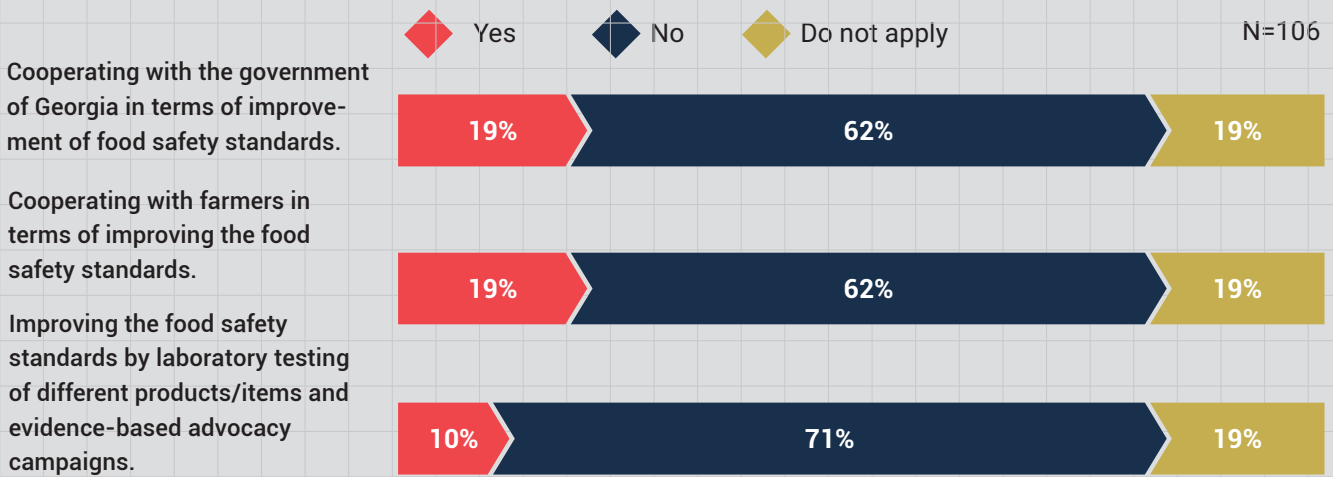


TABLE 1.

Contribution to Goal 2 through working on food safety issues

STATEMENT(S):	Frequency of efforts throughout the last two years		
	Once	Multiple times	Regularly
Cooperating with the government of Georgia in terms of improvement of food safety standards	35 %	35 %	30 %
Cooperating with farmers in terms of improving the food safety standards	30 %	50 %	20%
Improving the food safety standards by laboratory testing of different products/items and evidence-based advocacy campaigns	54.5 %	36.4 %	9.1 %

The remaining part of the chapter presents astonishing examples of organizations from the qualitative stage of research, which have made genuine contributions to Goal 2.

Best Practice

EFFORTS OF CIDA/GCNG TOWARDS THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2018–2020 CIDA/GCNG has carried out projects that directly support the goals of No Poverty and Zero Hunger. Namely, the organization supported farmers, as well as female and young entrepreneurs in their activities. Besides this, CIDA/GCNG held public discussions regarding rural development in Georgia to inquire about the priorities of civil society and to contribute to Georgia's Rural and Agriculture Development Strategy 2021–2027. In five regions of Georgia, CIDA/GCNG gathered local municipality representatives, LAGs, CSOs and businesses to discuss existing challenges and opportunities in Georgia's rural development. The discussion participants received information about the ongoing and planned state-funded programmes in rural regions, stressing the role of local institutions and the public in determining development priorities as well as supporting and monitoring their achievement. Some of the issues discussed at the meeting referred to economic and employment opportunities, local business development and the effective protection of the environment and natural resources. At the end of the project CIDA/GCNG staff prepared an advocacy manual for rural and inclusive development.



The organization working on road safety mentioned their research that measured the composition of lead in products, food and toys used by children. Based on the outcome, the organization had consultations with governmental institutions and consequently some products were taken out from the market. The representative of the organization mentioned that they are still working on food safety issues.



„In 2018, we had a research which measured the lead composition in the environment and food products. This research was conducted within the frames of a clean air campaign... we measured the composition of lead in food, spices and toys... we have also worked with state institutions and created working groups. We still work in this direction. As a result of this research, some products have been banned and are not in production anymore“.

Organization working on road safety

Georgian Farmers' Association, with the support of USAID "Zrda Activity in Georgia" has developed a local standard GeoGAP for primary agricultural products (initially for fruits and vegetables). During the Covid-19 pandemic, GFA started to negotiate with distribution companies and stakeholders in order to purchase agricultural products from farmers.

Best Practice

CONTRIBUTION OF CSRDG UNDER GOAL 2

CSRDG has three main directions that are responsible for the implementation of Goal 2: the community development program, consumers' rights protection program, and the social entrepreneurship program. (1) Under the community development program, CSRDG implemented projects that support rural communities in developing agricultural production. The organization provides different types of services that are tailored to the needs of particular communities. The projects carried out under this program can have different goals including capacity building, the improvement of rural infrastructure and equipment procurement for farmers. In the framework of this program, the organization implemented two projects in 2017; namely, "Optimal use of local resources and potential for the rural development in the Keda municipality" and "Development of self-government in highland settlements through the support of entrepreneurship". Both of them directly serve Goal 2 of the SDG. (2) Under the consumers' rights protection program, the organization held different types of seminar trainings, and printed informational leaflets about food safety and legislative amendments. Under this program, CSRDG has created an online platform – momxmare-beli.ge – which contains the compiled information about the food safety standards and the situation in the country. Since 2019, the organization has been implementing the project „Increasing the level of product safety in Georgia“ within which CSRDG carried out laboratory inspections of particular products and advocated for solutions. In addition, the organization implemented two projects in 2019 with the aim of supporting food safety legislative amendments taking place in the country. Through these projects, the CSRDG also facilitated the alignment of Georgian legislation to EU norms and the implementation of the Association Agreement. (3) The third pillar of Goal 2 is social entrepreneurship. Within this program, the organization attempts to solve the most severe social problems through economic assistance and facilitates the creation of viable social enterprises.

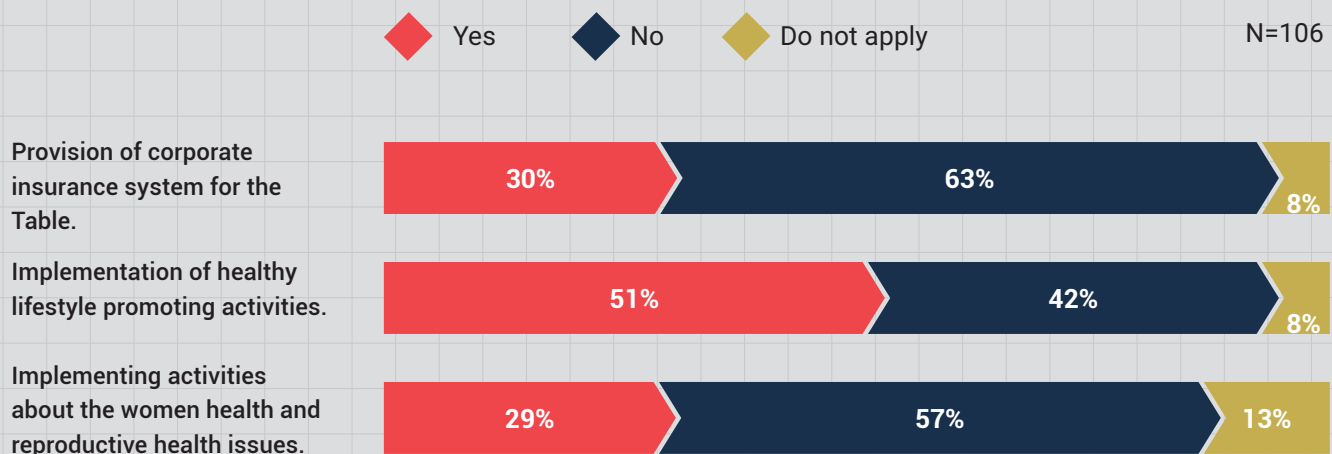


b) Healthcare system

The third goal of the SDG is Good Health and Well-Being for all. Non-governmental organizations, based on their mandate and working directives, carried out different activities that directly or indirectly contributed to the implementation of this goal.

The qualitative and quantitative research identified several findings that illustrate a candid contribution to Goal 3 of the SDG. According to the findings of the quantitative research, the most prevalent activity under this goal was organizing activities that promote a healthy lifestyle; 54 out of 106 interviewed organizations (50.9%) answered that they have organized activities promoting a healthy lifestyle throughout the last two years (See chart 5). The second most prevalent activity was the provision of a corporate insurance system for staff and families. According to the findings, 32 out of 106 organizations (30.2%) provided such provisions to their employees. The third prevalent activity was the implementation of projects/programs about women's health and reproductive health issues. According to the statistics, 31 out of 106 organizations (29.2%) have implemented such activities and in majority of cases (77.5%) the efforts were carried out multiple times or on a regular basis. They were more or less permanent activities in 2018-2020 and reached various beneficiaries who were in need of such efforts. In the vast majority of cases, 25-100 individuals per organization have been covered under this activity. In individual cases the coverage of activities was up to 1500 and around 5000 individuals per organization.

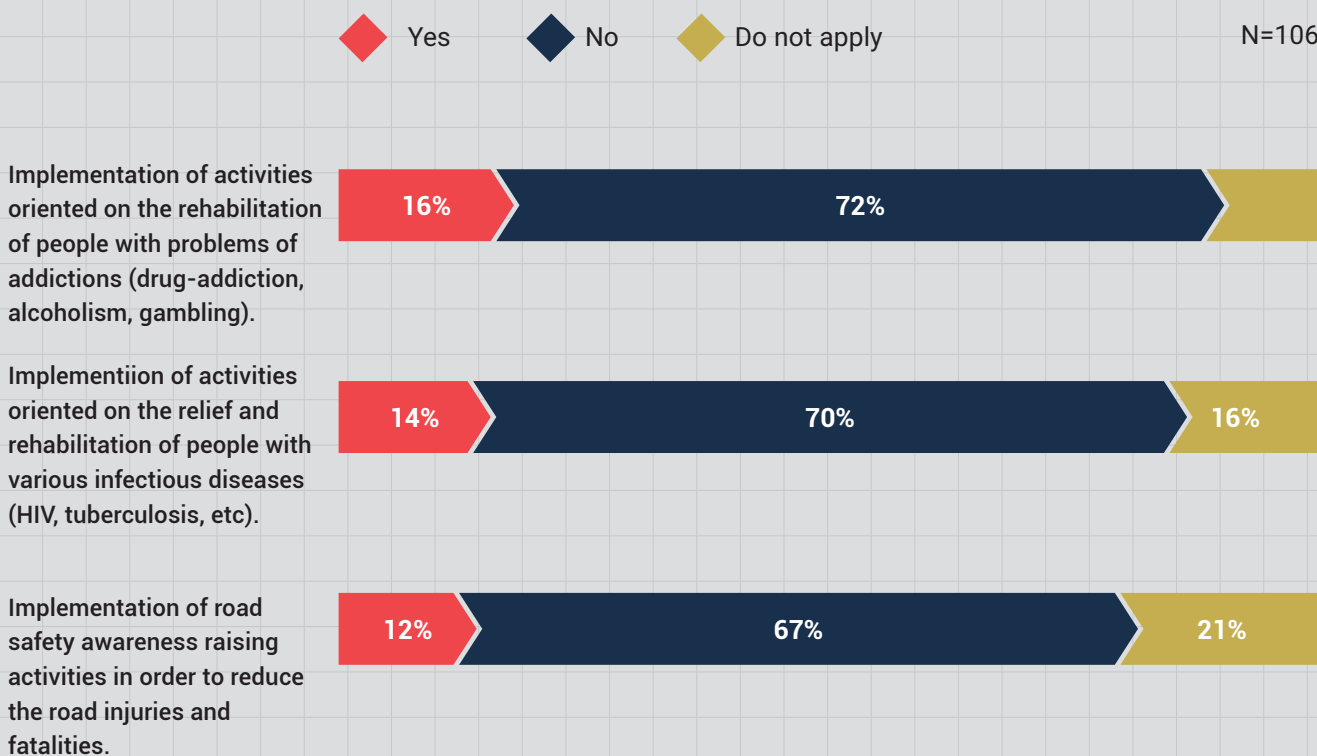
CHART 5.
The most prevalent activities under Goal 3 among the non-governmental organizations



Besides these three major activities, the qualitative research findings give us more information about other types of contributions too. According to the findings, 17 out of 106 organizations (16%) made contributions by implementing programs focused on the rehabilitation of people with addiction problems (drug-addiction, alcoholism, gambling) (see chart 6); in a majority of cases, such activities were carried out multiple times or regularly. 15 out of 106 organizations (14.2%) made contributions via the implementation of activities focused on the relief and rehabilitation of people with various infectious diseases (HIV, tuberculosis, etc.). In a majority of cases the measures were implemented multiple times or regularly and the most frequently scope reached 50-100 individuals per organization. It is noteworthy that the quantitative research found out three cases where the scope of activity covered 600-700, 6000 and even 30,000 individuals. 13 out of 106 organizations (12.3%) contributed towards Goal 3 through the implementation of road safety awareness by promoting and organizing activities for the purpose of reducing the road fatalities. Events carried out under latter activity in majority of cases were single campaigns with no sequence or follow up. In most cases however, the campaigns covered 30-50 individuals per organization. In case of two organizations the scope of activity covered 3000-3500 individuals for each organization.

CHART 6.

Contribution of non-governmental organizations to the Goal 3



Cases from the organizations interviewed during the qualitative research are presented below.

Transparency International contributes to Goal 3 by implementing main organizational activities. Namely, they monitor the governmental healthcare system, universal healthcare program, and the practice of its implementation, as well as observe the operation of the hospital sector, insurance and pharmaceutical business. The aim of advocating and policy monitoring activities is to evaluate fairness of policy and overall inclusion. With regard to the research activities under CSOs, the aim of the activity is to evaluate the accessibility of services and medicine under current business practices.



„In 2011, we researched the insurance sector, pharmaceutical market and hospital sector. The research evaluated if there were possible cartel deals in the pharmaceutical market... the research aim was to identify the possible barriers to competition; such obstacles make medical service and medicines less accessible for the citizens“.

Transparency International

OSGF organization has a gym in the office and a yoga trainer comes three times per week to the office to provide yoga sessions to staff.

The organization working on road safety created activities which united environmentally and physically healthy lifestyle choices. They have organized events to promote these two goals in the Georgian community. The target groups for such activities are often young people of school age and students.



„We annually organize events related to road safety and observe global days, for instance a day without a car... which attempts to popularize walking. I think it is a good activity that promotes a healthy lifestyle... we also have [other events] like earth day, clean air day and so on... [in the frame of] the day without a car... we have a procession in the capital. We walk with bikes in particular areas of the city“.

The Organization Working on Road Safety

Best Practice

THE EFFORTS OF THE ASSOCIATION HERA-XXI IN DIRECTION OF REPRODUCTIVE AND WOMEN HEALTH ISSUES

The qualitative research covered several organizations which operate in different fields. One of the participant organizations was the association **HERA-XXI** which works in the field of gender equality and women's health issues. The organization works with different target groups at many levels and advocates for female healthcare, reproductive health and gender equality. The organization actively carries out educational activities about reproductive health and works with many stakeholders at different levels. The work is carried out in both formal and informal settings. They actively work with schools and give trainings to young people and teachers. They train and teach teachers how to provide the information about reproductive health to their students. In addition, the organization implements the "project of equal educator" which unites trained volunteers who disseminate information among their peers about reproductive health. The same organization provides not only projects and education activities, but the services to their beneficiaries. Namely, it provides free face to face or online consultations about family planning. The target group of these activities is mainly young people, but any group can benefit from the service. According to the respondent, the consultation service is becoming more and more popular among young people as they receive response without additional expenses and feel safe due to the confidentiality. In terms of Goal 3, the organization works with partner hospitals in different regions and trains their staff according to the national guidelines. The target groups for this activity are gynecologists and family doctors. Under this program, the organization representatives teach specialist consultation techniques. Moreover, they have additional trainings for family doctors about the family planning. Last but not least, the organization carries out studies about reproductive health and works actively at the regional level. Namely, they work with local governments and advocate on behalf of reproductive health issues at the municipal level too.

c) Education

The fourth Goal of SDG is Quality of Education. With regard to the implementation of this goal, the Global Compact Network Georgia has identified the following aspects which are of great importance in practical application:

- ▶ **Promoting university and vocational education;**
- ▶ **Ensuring the professional development of employees;**
- ▶ **Creating accessible educational services;**
- ▶ **Promoting financial education;**
- ▶ **Development of professional skills for young people and promoting employment.**

According to the qualitative and quantitative research findings, education was one of the most frequently applied goals by the NGOs. A big share of organizations participating in quantitative and qualitative research mentioned that they have implemented the educational activities throughout the last two years. During the qualitative stage of the research, two main observations have been made: (1) the

activities under Goal 4 are interconnected to the activities within Goal 1, 2 and 8, as the learning process gradually leads and aims to improve the well-being of people, strengthen and empower different vulnerable groups, and achieve higher economic growth. Hence, the awareness raising activities and trainings discussed within other goals are directly or indirectly contributing to Goal 4 too.



„We have a project that supports vocational education, promotes work-based learning activities and contributes specifically to the implementation of goal 4. We supported inmates receiving vocational education. Green-houses were built in the penitentiary systems, where inmates grow flowers which are then sold and money returned back to them... We also train farmers in different directions. 150 female farmers from different fields were selected... we delivered different trainings for them, for instance - proposal writing, business management, various technical skills and so on“.

Georgian Farmers Association (GFA)

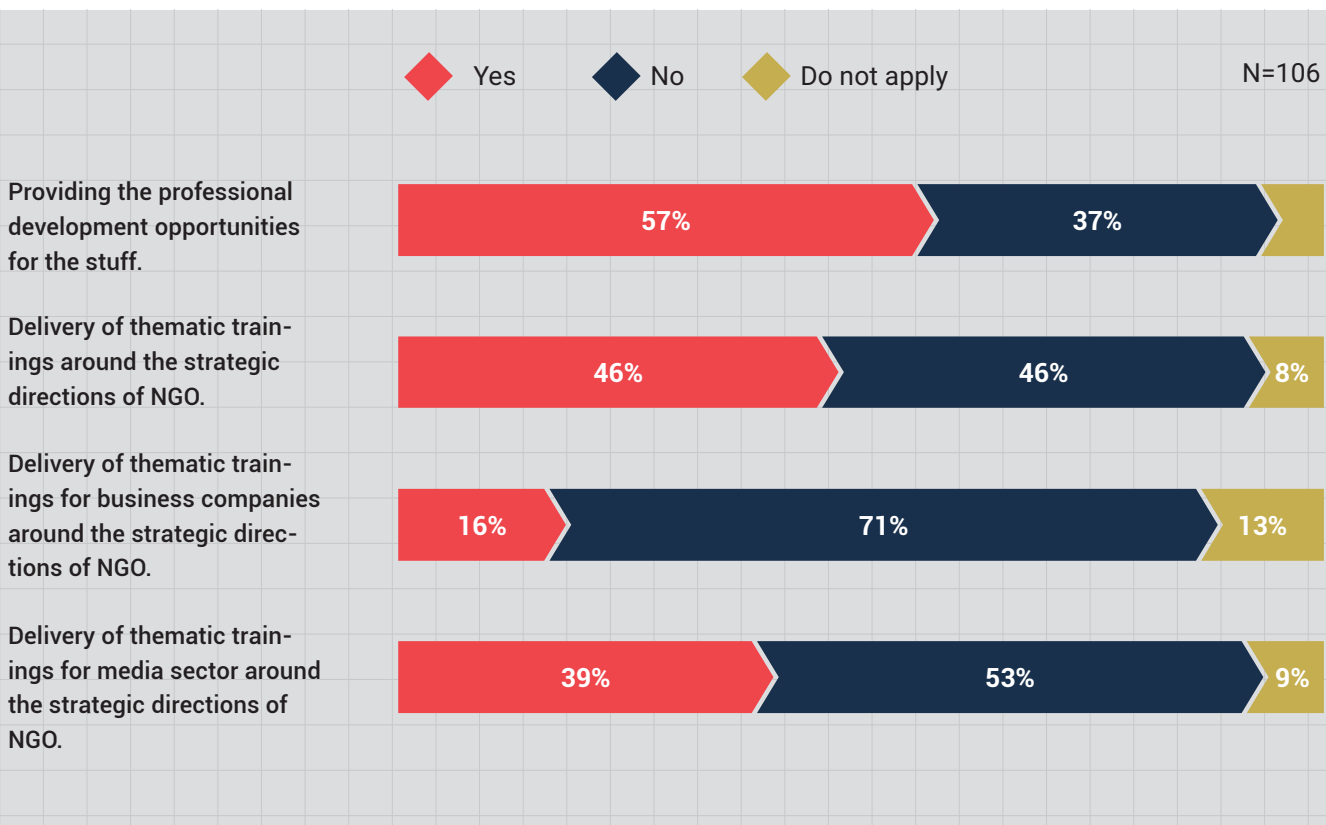
(2) Organizations interviewed during the qualitative stage mentioned that they organize educational activities within and outside the organization. According to the quantitative research findings, estimates show that a bigger share of NGOs focus more on the development of their own staff than on the external capacity building and awareness raising activities. 60 out of 106 organizations (56.6%) mentioned that they provide their staff with professional development opportunities and finance trainings for them in line with necessities (See chart 7). Noteworthy is that in 80% of cases such activities are carried out multiple times or on a regular basis and therefore common practice among functional NGOs. With regard to the scope of activity, in a majority of cases up to 10 employees were retrained in one organization during the last two years. In individual cases the scope of activity reached 500 or 1000 individuals per organization. In terms of external educational and capacity building activities, 49 out of 106 organizations (46.2%) mentioned that they delivered different thematic trainings about the strategic directions of the organizations during the last two years. In addition, 87.8% of surveyed organizations mentioned that the corresponding activities were carried out multiple times or on a regular basis throughout the last two years. In the majority of cases, such trainings covered up to 12 or 25-50 individuals per organization. In the case of 3 organizations, the scope of activity was 1000-2000 individuals in two years, while 1 organization reported the engagement of approximately 10 000 individuals in the trainings.

During the qualitative research, several organizations mentioned that they had experience working with business and the media sector in terms of Goal 4 of the SDG and delivered different thematic trainings for them. Noteworthy is that the qualitative research has measured these practices. According to the estimates, 17 out of 106 organizations (16%) throughout Georgia had delivered the thematic trainings for the businesses around the main strategic working directions of their own NGO (see chart 7). The same activity was carried out by 23 out of 106 organizations (21.7%) throughout Georgia for the representatives of media (See chart 7). Even though the estimate is not high, the research findings indicate the sustainability of the implemented efforts. Consequently, a majority of organizations carried out the awareness raising activities with business or the media sector multiple times or on a regular basis. Noteworthy is that the trainings for the business sector had bigger outreach than trainings with representatives of the media sector. According to the data, in a majority of cases, trainings of the business sector covers about 20-100 individuals per organization, while the trainings with media most frequent-

ly reached 25-50 representatives per organization. During the quantitative research, 1 organization reported the involvement of approximately 5000 representatives of business companies in the trainings, which is the highest indicator of this activity; Among organizations delivering trainings for media sector, the highest rate of outreach was reported by 1 organization and amounted about 500 individuals.

CHART 7.

Contribution of non-governmental organizations to Goal 4 of SDG



During the qualitative research, several outstanding cases and contributions have been observed among the interviewed NGOs. The corresponding sub-chapter aims to introduce these cases to the interested audience as well as recognize the efforts and contribution by the NGOs.

Best Practice

AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY CIDA/GCNG UNDER GOAL 4

The **CIDA/GCNG** has supported the implementation of Goal 4 through various awareness raising activities. (1) The organization delivered trainings about the modern tools of business administration, marketing strategies and public outreach to residents of the municipalities on the border of Georgia and Azerbaijan. The activity was directed to raise awareness and support the economic empowerment of people residing in rural areas. (2) CIDA/GCNG provided farmers from various regions with trainings on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). During the trainings, the farmers received information about the DCFTA and were educated on European standards of primary pro-

duction and regulations in the field of food and agriculture. (3) More trainings on financial education were delivered for Agro Entrepreneurs in cooperation with the National Bank of Georgia. The goal of the program was to encourage entrepreneurs working in the agricultural sector to identify the most suitable financial product based on the needs and capabilities for their business and make the right financial decisions. They were introduced to specific tools on business management and learnt to determine the short-term or long-term needs of the business and its competitiveness. (4) In cooperation with partner organizations, CIDA/GCNG conducted research about the effectiveness of vocational education and employment programs for persons with legal trouble or criminal records. The purpose of this research was to assess the effectiveness of vocational education and employment programs for people in such circumstances. The research provided an overview of the current situation on the labor market in Georgia, the current state of vocational education and ongoing reforms (including Dual Education and its related international experience), as well as existing employment programs. (5) The organization implemented the project which supported the financial education and development of women entrepreneurs. (6) In order to promote and raise awareness of corporate sustainability issues in Georgia, the organization launched the Corporate Sustainability Academy which will offer certified courses to the interested ones; CS Academy already held the first pilot certificate course in 2019.



„Motivation of the involvement of beneficiaries in educational programs is low due to factors such as the fear of beneficiaries towards the learning and teaching process coming from the lack of general education, employment prospects and distrust towards the penitentiary system. The main obstacle to the employment of former inmates is the existing social stigma; most of the employers are not willing to employ a person with a criminal past, regardless his profession or qualification“.

CIDA/GCNG

Transparency International mentioned that they cooperate and sometimes work with academic institutions. The aim of cooperation is to deliver public seminars to students about the issues of their work, like governance and anti-corruption policy. Aside from the academic institutions, TI cooperated with the media and business sectors too. Namely, they have delivered trainings for the media sector. They also have cases of cooperation with businesses. In this way, they provided trainings for some representatives of the sector about the risks of corruption and anti-corruption mechanisms. The same organization, like many others, provides internship opportunities for students.

Under the social entrepreneurship program, **CSR DG** has cooperated with Ilia State University and introduced a new course – social entrepreneurship. The aim of cooperation was the popularization and development of the field of social entrepreneurship in Georgia. Besides, the textbook on social entrepreneurship – the social entrepreneurship handbook – and several other publications were also issued.

IDFI made contributions to Goal 4 through the elaboration of internal and external activities. Namely, the organization creates professional development opportunities for the staff and delivers trainings for the general population with different targeted groups. In addition, the same organization mentioned internship as one of the ways for young people to gain experience and education simultaneously. The respondent mentioned that they support skill enhancement and the education of young people through offering internship opportunities.



„We cooperate with other non-governmental organizations and media... we had trainings for the journalists... we had cases of delivering trainings for the business about the prevention of corruption... We have internship programs once in every three months... we announce [internship programs] every three months... we give a certificate after the completion of the internship“.

Transparency International



„We have internship programs and frequently interns stay with us as full-time workers.... We frequently have trainings for the journalists, students and other stakeholders about the topics, which are connected to our main strategic directions...“

IDFI

II. ECONOMIC GROWTH

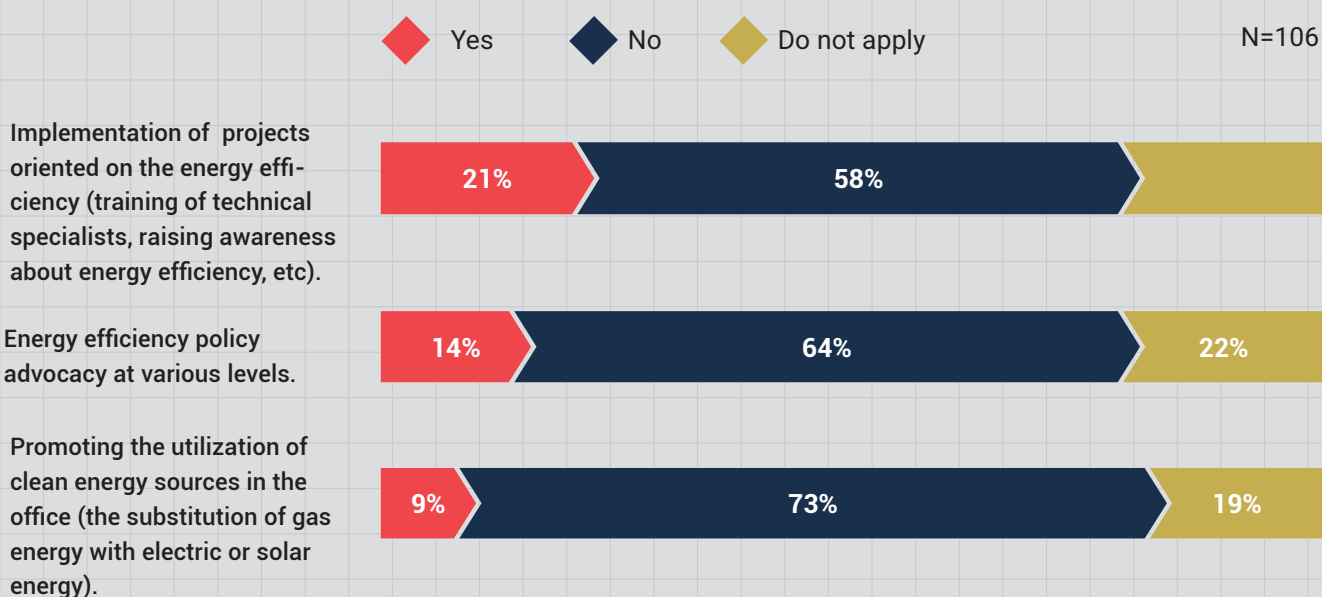
a) Energy Accessibility and Environment

The seventh Goal of SDG is Affordable and Clean Energy. According to the qualitative and quantitative research findings, this goal was not the direct focus of the NGOs; however, the research has managed to observe some trends taking place within it. Based on the qualitative research findings, three major patterns of implementation were observed: (1) awareness raising and capacity building activities; (2) energy efficiency policy advocacy and monitoring; (3) promotion of clean energy sources in their offices. The quantitative research measured the corresponding findings. According to the findings, the most prevalent activity among the NGOs in terms of Goal 7 was the implementation of projects oriented to capacity building activities and retraining of technical specialists. According to the estimates, 22 out of 106 organizations (20.8%) have made contributions through the capacity building activities (See chart 8). Noteworthy is that 45.4% of organizations carried out the activities on a regular basis or multiple times during the last two years; while 54.5% of organizations mentioned that activity was a single event without sequence. With regard to the coverage of activities, the majority of organizations reported that their projects covered 50-100 individuals. Besides this general trend, 2 surveyed organizations reported that their activities were pretty large-scale and managed to reach 2000-5000 individuals during the last two years. The second most prevalent activity was the energy efficiency policy advocacy. According to the estimates, 15 out of 106 organizations (14.2%) made contributions through policy advocacy. The majority of organizations (66.7%) mentioned that their activities were carried out multiple times or on a regular basis. Only 33.3% of surveyed organizations implemented single policy advocacy activities. The third and less prevalent activity was promoting the utilization of clean energy sources in the offices (substituting the gas energy with the solar or electric energy). Only 8.5% of organizations have indicated the adoption of this practice. With regard to the latest activity, many organizations from the qualitative research expressed the willingness to adopt clean energy practices in the offices; the respondent from IDFI explained that NGOs rent offices in the apartments and business centers. If they had their office in private homes, they could use alternative energy sources e.g., solar panels for the office.

„If we had our office in the private home, we could use the solar panels... it is not only up to us to apply this activity... we do not have it, but of course, it is very important subject“. IDFI

CHART 8.

The implementation of Goal 8 among non-governmental organizations



It worth noting the qualitative research has discovered organizations which support the implementation of Goal 7 with their humble efforts. The corresponding research aims to introduce their efforts to a larger audience. The remaining part of this sub-chapter presents the organizations and their contribution to this goal; they constitute great cases and good practices, which should be applied in the future too.

Best Practice

THE RETRAINING OF TECHNICAL SPECIALIST AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES.

The European Policy Research Center (**EPRC**) was the only non-governmental organization which had activities about the energy sector. The organization held several conferences about energy consumption. In addition, EPRC has also carried out local capacity building activities. They have sent local architects to Sweden in order to help them acquire knowledge and experience about the planning of energy supplies during construction; in a long-term perspective, efforts lead to the efficient usage of energy sources.

Transparency International does not have these types of direct projects. However, under their main field of activity, they monitor the implementation of energy policy and conflict of interest in this field. Hence, they still relate to the field through the anti-corruption activities and monitor the government programs that aim to develop affordable and clean energy sources in Georgia.



„If there are cases of conflict of interest, we look through this angle [energy sector]“.

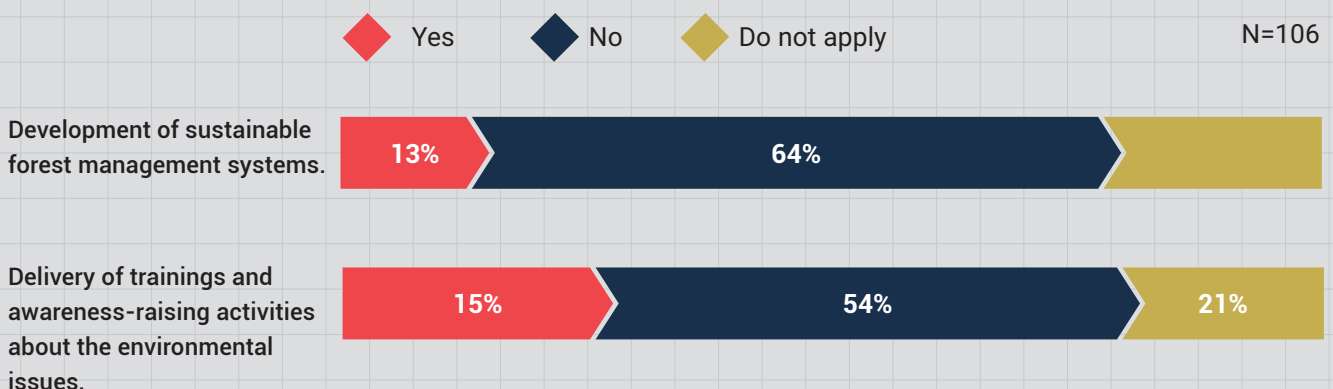
Transparency International

The representative of organizations working in the field of human rights have underlined that they do not have a project regarding the development of energy sources and this sector; however, they indirectly connect to the field in case their direct work relates to the construction of Hydroelectric stations. During the qualitative research, some organizations discussed the energy efficiency in connection with environmental issues. As energy efficiency has a direct environmental impact, the respondents frequently connected Goal 7 to Goal 15. During the qualitative research, the organizations shared their best practices that promoted energy efficiency and/or contributed to environmental protection. For instance, **CENN** dedicates the whole focus to the sustainable management of forest resources. In addition, organization supports the development of alternative energy sources in order to reduce deforestation. **CIDA/GCNG** implements the project "Leadership for Sustainable Development in Georgia". In the framing of it environmental issues are one of the priority directions. The organization supports this goal through awareness-raising activities, trainings, advocating, mentoring of the business sector and so on. During the second stage of research, these activities were measured throughout Georgia. Accord-



ing to the estimates, 14 out of 106 organizations (13.2%) work on the development of a sustainable forest management system (see chart 9); hardly more than half of the surveyed organizations mentioned that activity was carried out multiple times or regularly. 27 out of 106 organizations (25.5%) reported the delivery of trainings and awareness raising activities about the environmental issues. The vast majority of organizations mentioned that the activities were consistent and were implemented multiple times or regularly. With regard to the scope of activities, in the majority of cases the 1000-2000 beneficiaries were covered per organization. Noteworthy is that 7 of the inquired organizations reported the engagement of 1000 to 2000 beneficiaries in the awareness-raising activities, which is the highest indicator of the activity.

CHART 9.
The contribution of non-governmental organizations to Goal 15



b) Growth

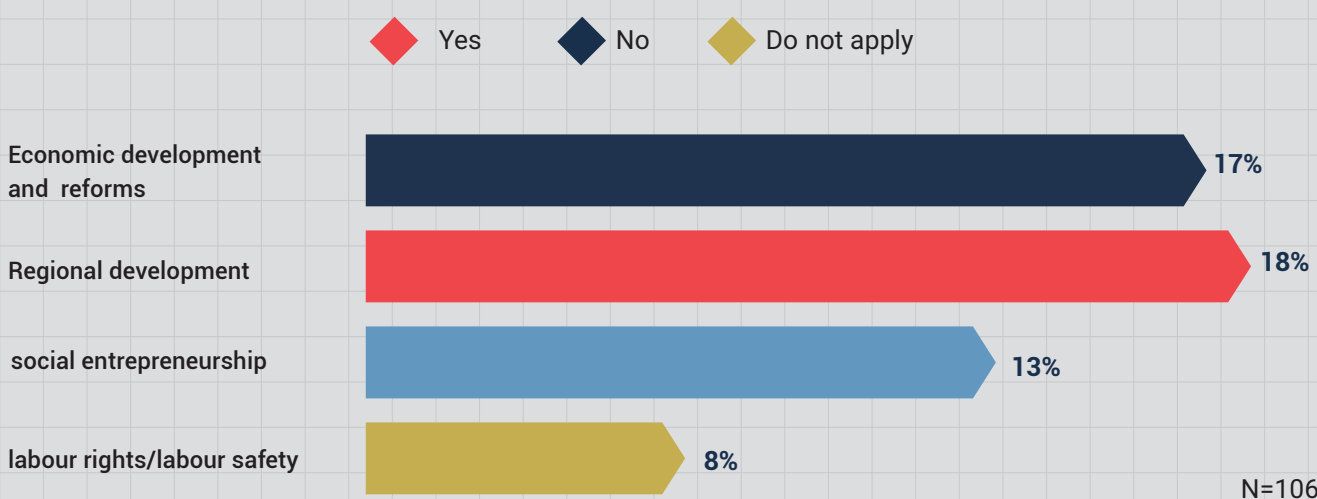
Goal 8 of SDG is Decent Work and Economic Growth. The UN Global Compact has compiled guidelines for the business sector on how to implement the applicable goal in practice. Namely, the organizations engaged in the application of SDG goals in the daily activities can boost implementation through:

- ▶ Promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services;
- ▶ Improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead;
- ▶ By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value;
- ▶ By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training;
- ▶ Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour; Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers;
- ▶ By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products;
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

The participants of the qualitative and quantitative research have mentioned activities related to the above-mentioned recommendations. According to the general estimates of the quantitative research, a significant amount of surveyed organizations answered that the issues of Goal 8 are integrated into their strategic directions. According to the statistics, 16% of organizations mentioned that they work in the field of economic development and reforms, 17.9% of surveyed organizations work on regional development, 13.2% of organizations work on the social entrepreneurship and 7.5% of organizations work on the issues of labour rights/labour safety (See chart 10). All above-mentioned issues are the subject of Goal 8.

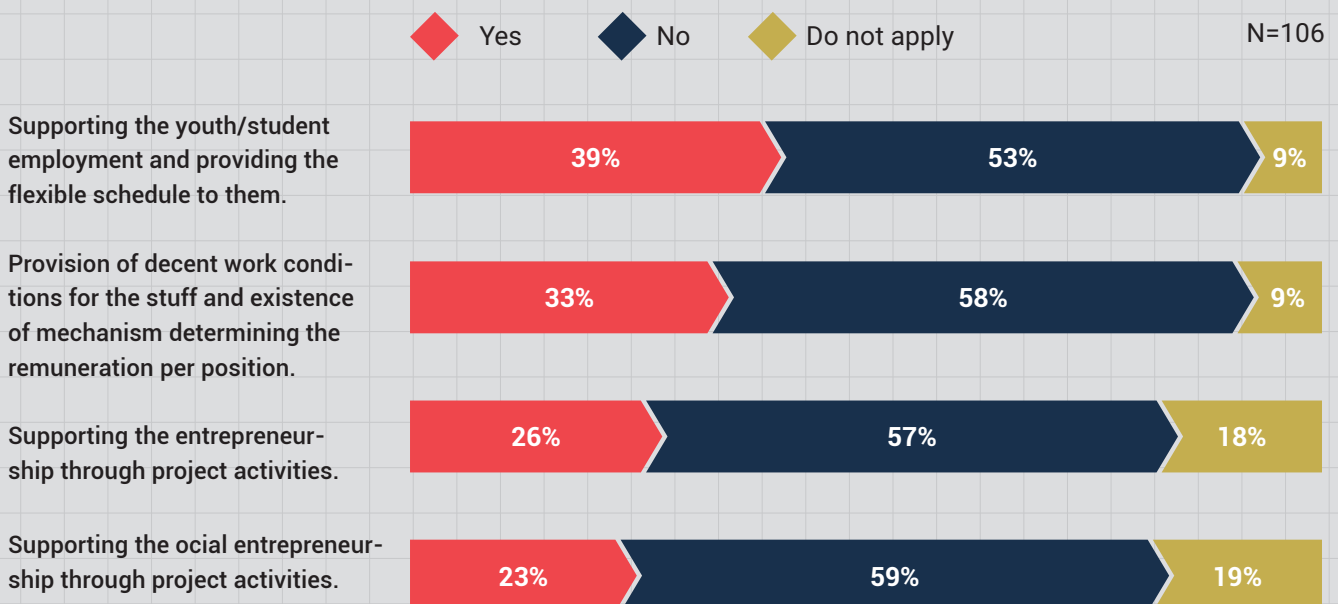
CHART 10.

The strategic directions of organizations in line with Goal 8 (at the level of strategic directions)



In addition, the research findings show that organizations may not prioritize economic development as their strategic direction, but they still might be implementing programs and project that directly or indirectly contribute to Goal 8. Quantitative research has explored the four major trends within the Goal 8. The most common activity under the Goal 8 was the supporting the youth employment within the organization. 41 out of 106 organizations (38.7%) stated that they support the youth/student employment and provide the flexible schedule to them. In majority of cases, the youth employees represent less than 10% of staff. The second most prevalent activity under this goal was the provision of decent work conditions for the staff and existence of mechanism determining the remuneration per position. According to the findings, 35 out of 106 organizations (33%) mentioned that they had such mechanisms in the organization. The next prevalent practice of Goal 8 was the promotion of entrepreneurship (25.5%) or/and social entrepreneurship (22.6%) (See chart 11). In majority of cases, the projects that supported the entrepreneurship or social entrepreneurship was carried out multiple times or regularly during the last two years. According to the qualitative research findings, NGOs frequently introduce the small grant programs in order to finance the entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs. The quantitative research figured out that in most cases, organizations funded 1-5 entrepreneurship/social entrepreneurship projects in 2018-2020 in frames of small grant programs. Noteworthy, some surveyed organizations have mentioned that they have financed more than 100 entrepreneurship projects in a two-year period. The scale of these singular programs is outstanding, however, they were random cases and not the prevalent practices observed.

CHART 11.
Contribution of non-governmental organizations to Goal 8



Besides the generalized information of the quantitative research, the qualitative research has explored various organizations from different fields. The remaining part of this sub-chapter introduces the endowment of interviewed organizations and their cases.

Best Practice

Transparency International contributed to this goal by providing decent working conditions for its staff. In addition, the organization provides employment opportunities not only in Tbilisi, but in other regions of Georgia too. They also have three regional offices. The organization has written documentation stating the guidelines for remuneration. According to the in-depth interview, the organization provides equal payment for equal work and “all of this, starting from remuneration to the Code of Ethics is written in the documents, most of which are publicly available and minimize the possibility of subjective decision-making in this regard.” It is worth noting that the organization provides professional and personal development opportunities for the staff.

During the interview, one of the non-governmental organizations mentioned that they put particular emphasis on the development opportunities for the staff. According to the in-depth interview, there are some free trainings and the employees of the organization often attend them. However, the organization cannot provide finances for the other trainings. In addition, the organization attempts to create a safe working environment for its staff.

According to the in-depth interview carried out with the representative of **CENN**, the organization is actively engaged in the economic strengthening and empowerment activities. It actively works with women and helps them to strengthen. The activities of the organization also extend to small entrepreneurs, including the encouragement of green entrepreneurship and the financing of projects, as well as the current project (along with the ENPARD). The organization helps the population in Tsalka and Keda start small businesses, the representatives of the organization are involved in both the project creation and implementation process.

The organization working in the field of human rights implements Goal 8 at two levels – they have internal and external activities. In terms of internal direction, the organization provides equal pay for equal work. Namely, they try to ensure that wages do not differ between managers, researchers and lawyers. In addition, in terms of remuneration, the organization has a bonus system and they also prioritize helping employees with any economic problem. As for external activities, it is mainly advocacy and the elaboration of alternative policy documents. The work of the organization is particularly focused on the mining and industrial regions (Chiatura, Tkibuli, etc.). The organization supports these regions through the elaboration of alternative development plans for those regions which could be addressed by the corresponding authorities. During the quantitative research, only 6.6% of interviewed organizations have mentioned the implementation of activities that aimed to elaborate the alternative economic development policy plans.

IDFI supports economic growth through a variety of activities. First and foremost, the organization creates working opportunities in the country and attracts international grants; second, it creates a decent working environment which is friendly and safe for the staff. The selection of employees is very fair and transparent, and opportunity is given to every interested candidate. In addition, the organization proposes employment opportunities to people with disabilities and contributes to their social inclusion too.



„First, we try to attract international grants, which are then spent in Georgia, and second, employees are provided with decent work conditions and adequate wages... The provisions of an appropriate and safe working environment is written in our charter... Once we had a case when a person with disabilities was employed in our organization, then he/she went abroad to research and our relationship ended ... All vacancy announcements are posted on our website and a completely impartial selection process is carried out“.

IDFI

OSGF has created a comprehensive system where caring for the staff is the priority of the organization. Namely, the organization has allocated space for a fitness room in the office; has created a very flexible system of day-offs; the employees' working hours on Friday are halved, and lunch for the lower segment of workers is free. The organization provides a two-week vacation during the New Year and summer holidays.

With regard to the **EPRC**, their main field of activity is directly connected to providing decent work and economic growth. The organization supports inclusive economic growth through research activity; it organizes conferences; supports capacity building through delivering trainings and financing small grants. Under the small grant activities, the organization purchases the techniques and equipment to support employment. Generally, the organization works with small and medium-sized entrepreneurs and supports their development.

With regard to goal 8, **CIDA/GCNG** has implemented the project "Leadership for Sustainable Development in Georgia" in 2018-2020. In addition, CIDA/GCNG has carried out economic empowerment activities by supporting employment and entrepreneurship. The target groups for such activities were female entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs living in the border regions, as well as former inmates. In addition, the organization actively supports capacity building of its own staff and provides trainings for them that are in service of their professional and personal development. It is worth noting that CIDA/GCNG care about the development of the labour force in the country and they give paid internship opportunities to young people and students. This program helps them gain experience and integrate them into the labour market.

Best Practice

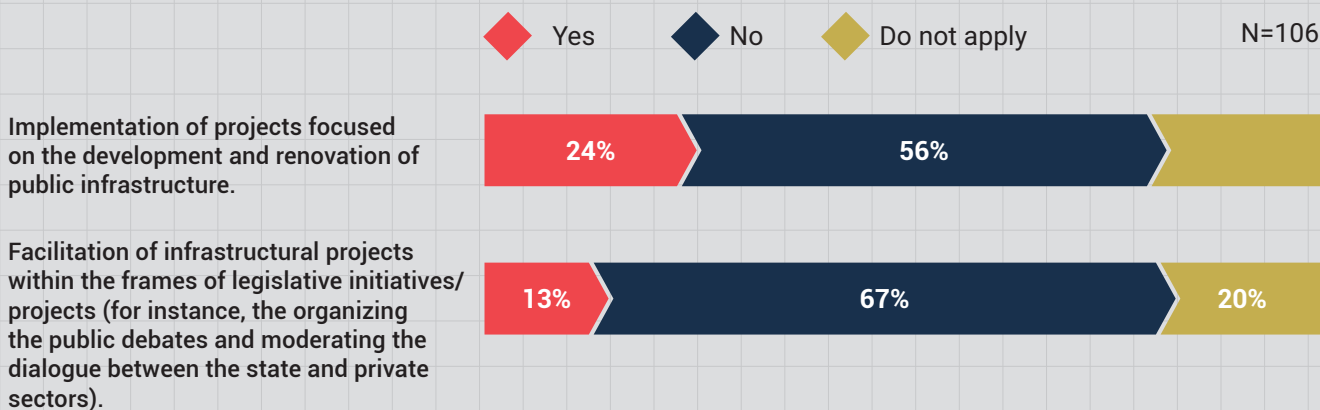
One of the important challenges of **GFA** is to keep a flexible and friendly working environment for employees. This is achieved through providing them with transparent and open communication, discussing the organization's mission and values, preserving a work-life balance and motivation. The organization tries to make employees feel more comfortable and confident about themselves, and supports them in doing their best at work by using a combined reward system for employees, and enforcing intrinsic, as well as extrinsic, motivational practices. The organization's mission is to enhance fair and equal standards, thereby following national laws (about human rights, professional health and safety, working rights, environmental protection and fight against corruption). The organization has a Code of Ethics, Non-discrimination and Anti-harassment regulations, as well as other policies, provide a safe environment, ensuring equal opportunities for each staff member.

CSRDG has contributed to the implementation of Goal 8 with social entrepreneurship program within which the organization carried out various projects in 2017-2020. (1) CSRDG started the implementation of the project "Development of social services based on rights of persons with disabilities and the elderly" in 2019. The project aimed to introduce a rights-based social service model in the entities which provide social services to people with disabilities and elderlies. The project generally aimed to support and advocate for rights-based social service provision at the national level. In order to achieve the main goal, the organization has arranged various trainings and information meetings with social service providers and beneficiaries. (2) In 2016-2019, the organization implemented the project "Social Entrepreneurship - An innovative approach for economic and social changes", which aimed to promote social entrepreneurship, increase CSO capacity in order for them to better achieve social and environmental goals and increase the economic strength of vulnerable groups. (3) Under the community development program, CSRDG has carried out the project "Capacity building of poor communities and small-entrepreneurs engaged in Georgian tourism sector" in 2017-2018. Within the framework of the project, small-scale works were planned around the monuments of cultural heritage in Kakheti and Imereti. The aim of activity was the reduction of unemployment and the provision of additional income for vulnerable households.

c) Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure

Goal 9 of the SDGs is Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. Given the nature of the goal, it is geared toward the business sector more than it is to non-governmental organizations. However, the qualitative and quantitative research findings have indicated that non-governmental organizations from different sectors are also interested in the implementation of Goal 9. It is noteworthy that the qualitative research illustrated that NGOs most prevalently contribute to this goal through projects aimed at the development/renovation of public infrastructure and the facilitation of public debates/discussions around the infrastructural projects at the legislative level. According to the quantitative research findings, 25 out of 106 organizations (23.6%) have mentioned that they implemented the projects that focused on the development and renovation of public infrastructure (See chart 12). Compared to many other activities and goals, the majority of organizations (15 out of 25) answered their efforts were not regular but were carried out multiple times during the last two years. 8 organizations mentioned that their activity was a single event without sequence and 2 organizations answered that they have been carrying out events on a regular basis throughout the last two years. With regard to the second observed practice, 14 out of 106 organizations (13%) mentioned that they facilitated the infrastructural projects within the frames of legislative initiatives/projects and led to the public debates (See chart 12). One half of organizations mentioned that the activities have been carried out multiple times during the last two years, while another half mentioned that it was a single event without extension.

CHART 12. The implementation of Goal 9 by non-governmental organizations



During the qualitative research, the research team explored the projects and activities of interviewed organizations which constitute the good cases and practices thus far which should be applied and extended into the future. The remaining part of this sub-chapter introduces these organizations and their efforts.

The organization working on road safety has contributed to the development of road infrastructure that makes transportation much safer.



„Here we can consider that with the initiative of our organization and then in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the police, we have drawn various pedestrian crossing signs, installed traffic lights, we have changed the road safety infrastructure“.

Organization Working on Road Safety

The **IDFI** has participated in the development of resilient infrastructure through the facilitation of public debates about the draft law which would lead to infrastructural changes.



„We have facilitated the public debates about the draft law prepared by the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure ... The law included regulations against buildings defacing the city's appearance and therefore causing threats to public safety...We organized a public discussion on the draft law and facilitated the process of public-private dialogue“.

IDFI

The **OSGF** mainly works to strengthen community initiatives to work effectively with local municipalities. All of these activities are mainly performed within the framework of advocacy. The organization also funds the project "Droa.ge", a project that allows researchers to tell stories about various civic initiatives in about 100 villages, and then reflect on the reality that has been changed by them.

d) Responsible Consumption and Production

According to the UN SDGs, one of the priorities is Responsible Consumption and Production. In practice, the stakeholders from sectors can align the policies and practices and support the achievement of this goal. In line with UN guidelines, the stakeholders can support and take actions towards this direction:

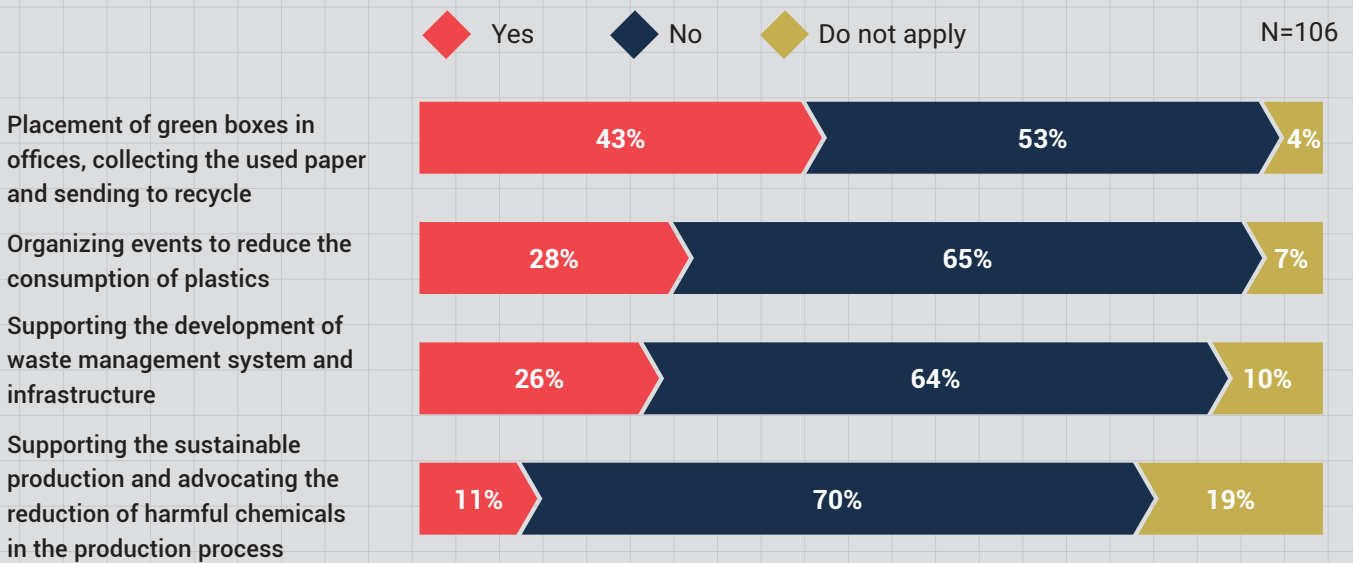
Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries take action with developed countries leading, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries;

- ▶ By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources;
- ▶ By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses;
- ▶ By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release into the air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment;
- ▶ By 2030, substantially reduce waste production through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse;
- ▶ Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle;
- ▶ Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Due to the features of the non-governmental sector, they do not produce products or commodities; hence, they focus more on sustainable consumption than on supporting sustainable production. During the qualitative stage of research, the interviews and desk research have illustrated the various practices which were measured during the quantitative research. The most prevalent activity under Goal 12 was paper recycling. According to the findings, 46 out of 106 organizations (43,4%) have answered that they have practice to gather the used papers and send for the recycling; noteworthy, in vast majority of cases (90%) the actions are carried out multiple times or regularly during the last two years. The second most prevalent practice was the reduction of plastic consumption in the office. During the quantitative research 30 out of 106 organizations (28%) have answered that they have made the efforts in this direction. In 86.7% of cases the actions were carried out multiple times or regularly during the last two years. In addition to these two prevalent patterns, 27 out of 106 organizations (26%) have mentioned that their efforts carried out in 2018-2020 supported the development of waste management system and infrastructure. Besides, 12 out of 106 organizations (11%) have answered that they advocated for the reduction of harmful chemicals in the production processes (See chart 13). Majority of organizations have mentioned that the activity was not just a single campaign, but the efforts were made multiple times or regularly in 2018-2020.

CHART 13.
Contribution of non-governmental organizations to Goal 12



Next to the quantitative data, the qualitative research obtained valuable information about the cases and patterns of organization in terms of implementing Goal 12. The remaining paragraphs of this sub-chapter introduces the compiled information about the activities shared by the organizations during the in-depth interviews.

Transparency International mentioned that they "are working only on paper recycling. The paper used by the office is sorted separately and then sent for recycling."

The organization working on road safety mentioned that they support the production and development of electric cars and transportation. The organization does not have any particular activities in this direction, though they welcome all initiatives that contribute to such innovations.

The organization which works on issues relating to vulnerable communities does not have a separate waste management document, but they have adapted guidelines from their international partner organizations about the recycling of plastic waste. It is worth noting that they have a will to send used papers to recycling facilities and have special bins in order to separate and organize waste. The organization attempts to provide information to the population about alternative ways to utilize plastic.

Best Practice

THE CONTRIBUTION OF CENN TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN GEORGIA

The **CENN** is one of the most active organizations in this direction. Within the framework of the waste management project, the organization cooperated with the state. Under this project the first waste separation document was adopted in Georgia. In addition, CENN actively cooperated with local governments in Tbilisi and Batumi and waste processing organizations in order to increase their capacity in waste processing, separation and utilization. Within the framework of this project, bins were installed for waste separation in Tbilisi and Batumi. The organization has adapted some of the practices in its own offices. Namely, official letters are printed on recycled, used paper and the office is equipped with separate waste bins.

The organization working on human rights issues does not have a document related to waste management. However, they have internal activities that promote the efficient use of resources. Namely, the staff attempts to purposefully use paper resources and use both sides of each page. The organization collects used paper for recycling, and promotes less consumption of polyethylene, electricity, and other similar types of materials.

IDFI has two main activities in this direction. First, the official emails of staff have the following phrase in the signature "Take care of nature, don't print this e-mail "; second, the organization has green boxes where paper generated during the work process are gathered and taken for the recycling.

Georgian Farmers Association applies a green policy which limits the consumption of plastic in the office; in addition, the association has green boxes in the office for paper recycling.

During the in-depth interviews, the respondent from **EPRC** stated that the organization is engaged in the elaboration of an adapted document for waste management, reviews the cases and studies how successful adaptation at the national level was achieved in European countries. Within the office, the paper collection for recycling is applied.

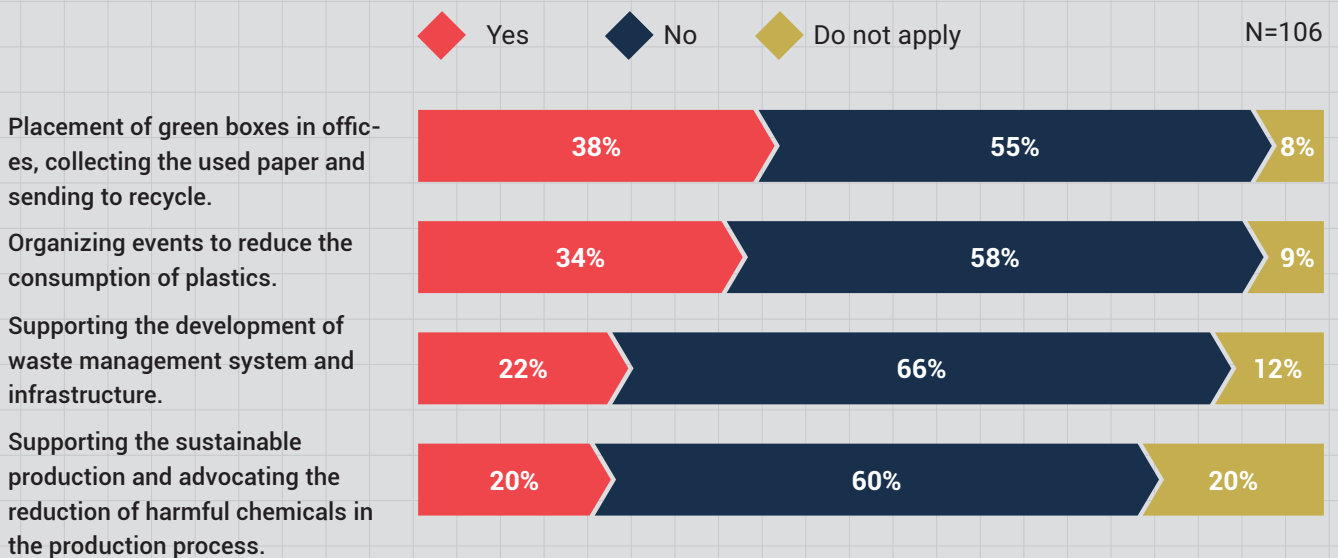
CSRDG has contributed to the implementation of Goal 12 through two projects – "Supporting the local communities and increasing the opportunities in territorial conservation" and "Introduction of alternative methods of organic waste incineration through the reuse and processing of solid household waste"- within which environmental activities were popularized and provided information about the waste management and utilization.

e) Sustainable Urbanization

The SDGs are a response to the modern challenges triggered by this rapid phase of growth and development in which we are living. Due to the high rate of urbanization and accompanying difficulties, Goal 11 of SDGs became Sustainable Cities and Communities. Non-governmental organizations have directly or indirectly contributed to the implementation of this goal. The qualitative and quantitative research findings gave the data, which allows for the analysis of the activities of NGOs under Goal 11. The statistical data obtained from the quantitative research divides the targets of Goal 11 into two groups; there are activities where NGOs made larger contributions and there are issues which received minor attention from organizations. According to the quantitative research findings the most prevalent activities under Goal 11 were the engagement and/or organization of cleansing and planting campaigns; correspondingly, 37.7% and 34% of organizations have mentioned that they have carried out such activities during the last two years (See chart 14). In the majority of cases, the activities were carried out multiple times and only a minor share of organizations responded that they had implemented a single activity throughout 2018-2020. The next prevalent activity under this goal was the adaptation of office infrastructure to the needs of peoples with disabilities. 23 out of 106 organizations (22%) mentioned that their offices are adapted to the needs of peoples with disabilities and they have ramps, elevators, and parking spaces for them. Besides the office adaptation, 21 out of 106 organizations have mentioned that they worked on the development of infrastructure necessary for the pedestrians and peoples with disabilities. The latest was the fourth common pattern of implementation under Goal 11.

CHART 14.

Contribution of non-governmental organizations to the Goal 11



In addition to these four activities, the quantitative research indicated the particular activities that were addressed less frequently. According to the estimates, 10 out of 106 organizations (9.4%) mentioned monitored and advocated for the privatization of green and recreational areas, 7 out of 106 organizations (6.6%) have worked on the development of public transportation system and 15 out of 106 organizations (14,2%) have worked on the projects focused on the rehabilitation of cultural heritage buildings during the last two years. These three activities were the ones which received the least attention from NGOs.

Before the inception of the quantitative research, the qualitative research explored cases from the organizations which had efforts in service of Goal 11. The remaining paragraphs of research present the cases which are worthy of both an introduction and recognition from the reader.

Transparency International has worked on the subject of social inclusion and road safety. The organization has advocated the following issues: creation of adequate infrastructure for pedestrians and people with disabilities, development of modern public transportation, protection of green and ecological areas in Tbilisi, in the framework of the latter component, TI has conducted a research about the privatization of green areas. Aside from active engagement in the capital city, the organization pays attention to the situations in the regional cities and their urban problems.



„Recently, we had [a research] about air pollution in Poti... ecological issues in the city, the protection of green areas and also we had a research about the privatization of green areas in the city [of Tbilisi] ...“

Transparency International

The organization working on road safety has successfully operated in their main field of work and contributed to the safe relocation of passengers in the city. They made contributions with two activities: (1) the organization contributed to the adoption of the law that made it obligatory to use seat belts during transportation; (2) organization worked actively to prepare the draft law about the use of children's passenger seats.



„We sent recommendations [to the government], we set up joint working groups [with the government], we even worked together in the direction of children's passenger seats and passed the law, even the seat belt law, which was adopted very early, [it was adopted] in partnership with our organization ... the law about seat belts... We are also working on the safety of pedestrians to make way for pedestrians them“.

The Organization Working on Road Safety

One of the NGOs made a contribution through the creation of the first bicycle parking space in Zugdidi. Initially it was not taken seriously, but later on the residents of Zugdidi started to use it regularly.

One of the non-governmental organizations works on housing issues, advocates for resettlement, as well as helps the population obtain better housing through advocacy. Ecology is one of the main topical issues for the organization. Namely, it voices about and advocates to address the ecological problems of Kazreti, Chiatura and Tkibuli. As for cultural monuments, the organization advocated for the local Muslim community to prove that the Mokhe Mosque belonged to them and not to the Orthodox Church. With regard to the infrastructure, they have issued recommendations to state institutions on the provision of adapted administrative buildings.

Under Goal 11, **EPRC** has worked with architects with regard to energy efficient construction. This activity is indirectly bound to the infrastructural issues. The infrastructural development is also a subject of research in the same organization.

III. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

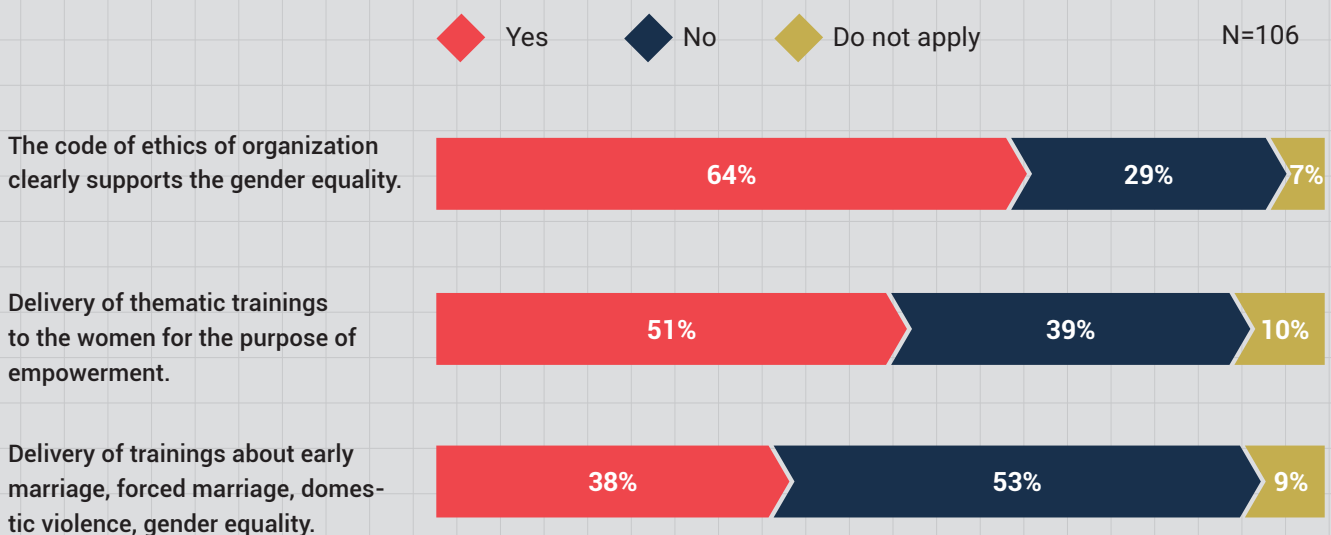
a) Equality

The United Nations, focused on two SDG goals, constitutes the foundations needed for more equal and inclusive world. Under the SDGs, Goal 5 - Gender Equality – and Goal 10 – Reduced Inequality - are the pillars of equality policies and practices. These two goals largely focus on the vulnerable groups and support activities that improve their well-being. Noteworthy is that they are significantly close to the activities carried out under Goals 1 and 2, as the target groups of the projects are the same vulnerable communities; in addition, Goal 3 and Goal 5 are interconnected to some extent when it comes to reproductive health issues; hence, the activities which were discussed and reviewed under Goal 1, and to some extent under Goal 3, could be considered as supporting events that promote equality.

With regard to the equality of state and policy, valuable information was obtained from both the qualitative and quantitative studies. During the qualitative stage of research, the research team made one general observation among all the interviewed organizations. Organizations working in the field of governance tend to support gender equality through policy advocacy and cooperation with stakeholders. While organizations from the socio-economic field on the other hand are more prone to supporting gender equality through economic empowerment activities, the delivery of trainings, capacity building activities, supporting entrepreneurship and providing small-grant programs. With regard to the general information obtained from the quantitative research, 27 out of 106 organizations (25.5%) mentioned that women's rights were one of the strategic directions of organization, 26 out of 106 organizations (24.5%) mentioned that gender equality was one of the priority areas of their work and 20 out of 106 organizations (18.9%) had set the protection of minority rights as the main field of work. These three directions are the direct focus of equality policy (Goal 5, 10).

Besides general information about the strategic directions of organizations, the quantitative research has measured the concrete activities identified during the qualitative stage. The obtained data informs the corresponding research about the major trends and developments that took place among NGOs in 2018-2020 with regard to the implementation of Goal 5 and 10. According to the estimates, the biggest share of organizations (68 out of 106) mentioned that their organization has a code of ethics that supports gender equality (64%). Besides, 54 out of 106 organizations (50.9%) delivered different trainings for women for the purpose of their empowerment, while 40 out of 106 organizations (37.7%) delivered trainings about underage marriage, forced marriage, domestic violence and gender equality (See chart 15). Besides these three major trends, the quantitative research obtained generalized information about the activities that were mentioned during the qualitative research, but due to the relatively low estimates, they cannot be categorized as major trends of Goal 5. According to the findings, 37 out of 106 organizations (34.9%) mentioned that they advocate for gender equality policy at the governmental level, 33 out of 106 organizations (31.1%) have a mechanism within the organization for monitoring sexual harassment and gender discrimination. Noteworthy is that a significant amount of organizations from the qualitative research have emphasized that they had such mechanisms even before the adoption of anti-discrimination laws by the government. 32 out of 106 organizations (30.2%) provided small grants to women and financed business initiatives and 29 out of 106 organizations (27.4%) delivered free legislative consultations and services to women. One of the most interesting findings of the quantitative and qualitative research was the promotion of women in the managerial and decision-making positions. According to the qualitative research, several organizations mentioned that they had activities that promoted the engagement of women in decision-making processes and that they were fighting against the "Glass ceiling". According to the quantitative research, only 26 out of 106 organizations (24.5%) reported actions against the Glass Ceiling throughout the last two years.

CHART 15.
The contribution of non-governmental organizations to the Goal 5

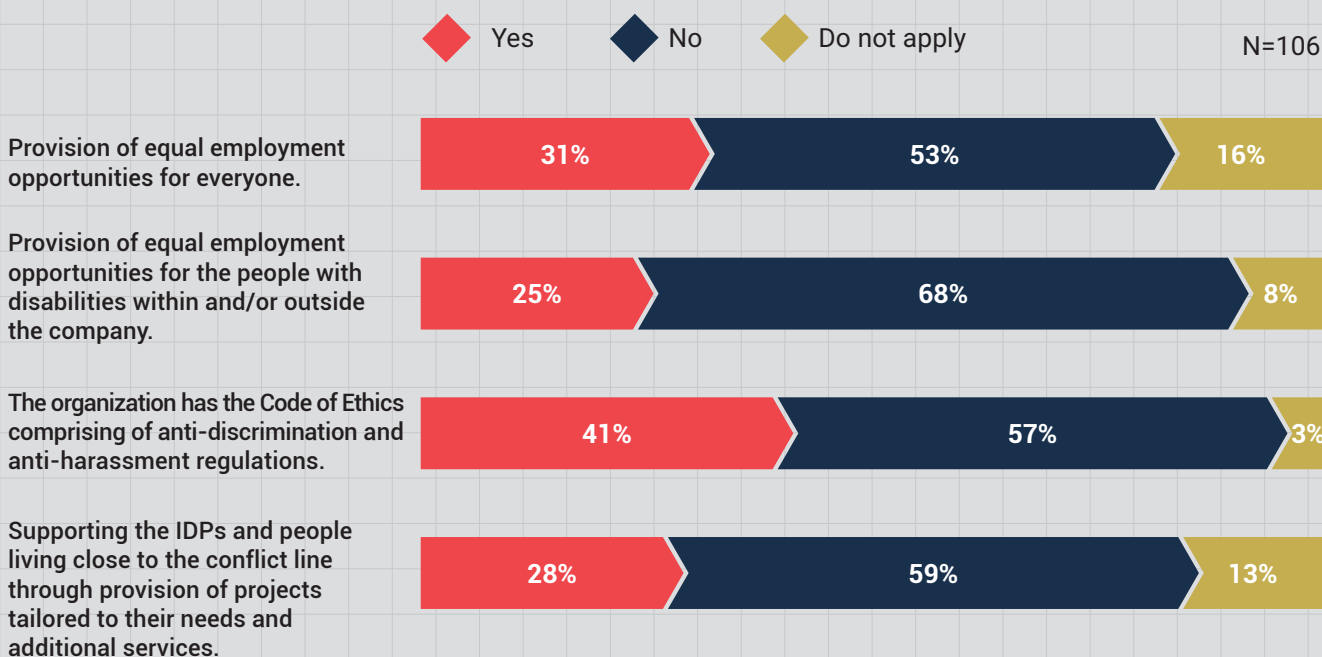


With regard to Goal 10 of the SDGs, the qualitative research obtained the concrete cases of contributions from the organizations, while the quantitative research obtained generalized information about them. The quantitative research findings illustrated the four major trends taking place in 2018-2020 within non-governmental organizations. The most prevalent trend was the integration of anti-discrimination and anti-harassment regulations in the organization's Code of Ethics (40.6%), the second most

wide-spread practice was the provision of equal employment opportunities for everyone; 31.1% of surveyed organizations (33 out of 106) reported the implementation of such practices. Third, 24.5% of surveyed organizations (22 out of 106) mentioned that they provided equal employment opportunities for the people with disabilities within and/or outside the organization. Noteworthy is that a majority of organizations reported that they employed 1-2 individuals during the last two years. In minority cases, organizations have employed 6-12 or 25-30 persons with disabilities. The latter is the highest indicator of the activity. And fourth, 28.3% of organizations (30 out of 106) supported the IDPs and people living close to the conflict line through the additional services and projects that are tailored to their needs. The latest activity was carried out multiple times or regularly during the last two years.

CHART 16.

The contribution of non-governmental organizations to Goal 10



Besides the above-discussed general trends of NGOs, the qualitative research obtained very rich and valuable information about the concrete cases of contributions. The remaining part of this sub-chapter aims to introduce the modest endowment from NGOs participating in the qualitative research and presents the compiled data about the good practices that could be applied and enriched even more in the future.

Transparency International cooperates with governmental bodies to strengthen gender equality in the country. The organization prioritizes working with the Gender Equality Council in the Parliament of Georgia. Even though organization does not have a specific separate program focused on the Goal 5 (gender equality), it is integrated and considered in every project they implement.



„We are cooperating with the Parliament in this direction ... with the Gender Equality Council in the Parliament [of Georgia] and we support the strengthening of the Council ... We do not have a focus on it... but one of the goals of the fight against the corruption is ensuring more equality..“

Transparency International

Similar to TI, gender equality is not the strategic direction of **IDFI**; however, the organization pays close attention to it. During the interview, the respondent mentioned cases that supports Goal 5. In addition, the respondent mentioned that the donors tend to gradually pay more attention to it and integrate provisions for the organizations when issuing new funding. Besides gender equality, the organization promotes and contributes to social inclusion also. The organization supported the adaptation of the parliament building for people with disabilities. In addition, IDFI periodically studies the social assistance system too; namely, they studied assistance given to people repressed during the Soviet times. According to the findings, the social assistance given to this group was incredibly scarce and was not enough to cover their basic needs.



„We recently published a report on gender equality in public service... [one more] research on the deteriorating situation in terms of violence against women during the Covid-19 pandemic. [The research] aimed to identify what are the perils and how they can be eliminated... By the way, we have received request from several funds that when we look for speakers, all members should not be of the same sex and the balance needs to be maintained“.

IDFI



OSGF has underlined that the majority of workers in the organization are women and they have elaborated domestic policies to counter harassment and gender discrimination. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization started to fund a project that aims to eliminate violence against women and the overall negative psycho-social impact of the situation. In cooperation with other organizations, OSGF advocates and implements projects in relation to minority rights; namely, the LGBT community, religious minorities, women, children, and other minorities.

EPRC actively works on female empowerment and the creation of adequate working conditions for women; they target female entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs. They give small grants for the promotion of employment and economic well-being. Aside from that, the organization puts a lot of effort in capacity building and educational activities, delivering a lot of trainings to their beneficiaries.

CIDA/GCNG has carried out several projects and organizational activities which contributed to the implementation of Goal 5. Noteworthy, (1) CIDA was one of the organizers of the global event Ring the Bell for Gender Equality emphasizing the importance of gender equality for economic development and growth. The event highlighted how empowering women can help achieve higher productivity in private companies, ultimately supporting the economy and job creation, raising income, and promoting development. It attracted around 70 representatives from the private sector, government, and international institutions.



„We have been actively working with leading companies to support the incorporation of Women's Empowerment Principles in business operations and interest among businesses is growing rapidly“.

CIDA/GCNG



In addition, (2) CIDA facilitated a working group of Women's Empowerment which united women from the business sector. The organization has carried out the gender assessment of companies engaged in the work of groups through the support of invited consultants. The gender assessment evaluated the empowerment of women in the business sector with the use of the Women Empowerment Principles Assessment Tool developed by the UN Global Compact and UN Women. Based on the research findings, the organization elaborated women empowerment action plans in up to 20 companies operating in Georgia. Besides the cooperation with business companies, (3) the organization held trainings in two regions of Georgia in the framework of cross border cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan. Representatives of civil society, the business sector and local self-governments from Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti and Ganja-Gazakhi region have been acquainted with gender equality and women's economic empowerment issues, the current situation in Azerbaijan and Georgia with regard to the support of women entrepreneurs and violence against women as well as legislative environment and women's empowerment principles. (4) Within the project "Leadership for SDG in Georgia" there is a functioning working group named "Business for Equality". In the framework of this mechanism, the organization attempts to raise the awareness of the business community about gender equality, women's empowerment principles and corporate sustainability issues. (5) The organization has carried out capacity building activities with 20 women entrepreneurs; delivered trainings for them about digital marketing, public speech, financial decision-making and market communication. At the later stage of the project, 10 out of 20 female entrepreneurs received small grants for their businesses. (6) CIDA/GCNG has implemented the project "Joint Action for Women's Economic Empowerment in Georgia" which aimed at the economic empowerment of women. The project was carried out in collaboration with UN Women. (7) The organization also implemented the project "Promoting the Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform", which aimed at supporting reforms and gave recommendations to the central and local governing bodies about the implementation process.

CENN does not have a separate project which focuses on gender equality, but all projects implemented by the organization take into account the gender aspect. The organization supports and encourages women to be empowered, helps with employment and skill enhancement.

One of the interviewed organizations working on issues of vulnerable communities fully focuses on the equality of state and policy. The organization actively works with women, young people, IDPs, and

other socially vulnerable people. They provide both material and educational assistance, as well as legal services, to their beneficiaries. The organization also works on reproductive health and gender equality issues.

The organization working in the field of human rights is also actively engaged in the promotion of gender and social equality. The organization supports women's involvement in politics through encouraging the engagement in the work of local self-governments and elections. The organization has delivered social and economic empowerment trainings for women living in Marneuli. The aim of the training was to encourage engagement in economic activities too. In addition, the staff translates feminist literature, and writes articles in order to initiate discourse on gender issues.

One of the organizations which participated in the desk-research implemented a "social entrepreneurship development program" in 2019. The aim of the program was to improve the financial sustainability of CSOs through development of social entrepreneurship.

GFA supports women's economic empowerment by providing them with knowledge, as well as technical and financial support, and linking them with markets and new possibilities for sustainable economic opportunities. Georgian Farmers' Association provided capacity building for 150 women in five different regions of Georgia by delivering both technical and theoretical knowledge and skills. Beneficiaries will be matched and linked with similar but larger businesses in order to receive support for tapping into new markets and maximizing on all the possibilities for stable development.

Best Practice

THE CONTRIBUTION OF "CONSENT" TOWARDS THE CREATION OF MORE EQUAL ENVIRONMENT IN GEORGIA

The association "**Consent**" works on women's and IDPs rights. The organization implements many projects that target women, IDPs, people living closer to the conflict zones, migrants, former inmates, and more. In order to achieve their major goals, the organization frequently uses the gender approach in the projects and works with both men and women. The respondent from Consent has mentioned that the organization has various projects that support women and IDPs living in the IDP settlements or villages which are close to the administrative line. (1) One of the projects is the creation of women's groups, which work on issues that are of great importance for their community. (2) Aside from the women's groups, the organization has created youth clubs which target women and young people and attempt to raise their awareness about women's rights. (3) The organization provides a free legal service to the vulnerable rural population too. They are particularly active in villages closer to the administrative line, as land registration is a huge problem there. (4) The organization had a resocialization program which focused on those with criminal records and inmates. Under this program, the organization assisted in the employment of more than 200 inmates. (5) The organization works with former emigrants and cooperates with the government of France; Consent financed more than 200 business projects; a majority of the financing went to women. (6) During the qualitative research, the respondent from Consent shared that they work with regional representatives for women's rights; namely, they attempt to raise awareness among men about gender equality and importance of women's engagement. (7) The association Consent is also represented at the Council of Civil Organizations at NATO, which unites the 15 organizations worldwide and works on the issues of women, peace and security. The organization attempts to ensure that the Georgian conflicts are correctly presented and understood by high officials in Brussels.



„The projects we implement are directly oriented to women; sometimes, we attempt to use the gender approach, when we need to work with men too... one of our directions is working with the local governments in order for them to engage women in the decision-making process.... We attempt to create the women`s groups in conflict-affected communities or villages closer to dividing lines, the groups work on the response of community, Covid-19 issues and so on. Until now, we were working on the issues of conflict, security; from now on, we have added sustainability too... it might be climate change... Covid-19... [the peace club] ... one direction is women [issues], the second direction is young people. We attempt to create the peace clubs; such clubs are created in Nikozi, Gardabani, Kintsvisi, Gamnukhuri.... [the young people deliver trainings about] domestic violence, early marriage, popularization of education, conflict, the prevention of covid-19, the social responsibility of young people, etc... In cooperation with other organizations, we have implemented the project in 10 conflict-affected regions, which gave voice to the most vulnerable women. They could connect to the state institutions and report the issues which are important to them... the absence of water, roads, gasification and so on“.

IDP Women's Association „Consent“



Best Practice

THE CONTRIBUTION OF GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION IN DIRECTION OF WOMEN`S AND GENDER RIGHTS

Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) has separate programs on women's and gender rights. The organizational efforts of GYLA support gender equality through the following activities: (1) the organization supports awareness-raising activities and organizes meetings with people in order to raise awareness about issues like early marriage, forced marriage, domestic violence, gender equality; within the frames of these activities, GYLA raises awareness about the services women can apply for cases of violence; (2) the organization provides legal service to women in need of such assistance; (3) the organization is engaged in the legislative process and cooperates with state institutions; for instance, the GYLA is actively engaged in the work of the Gender Equality Council in the Parliament of

Georgia. The organization periodically gives recommendations to the Council and institutions; within the frames of cooperation, the GYLA is engaged in the initiative or adoption processes of laws. For instance, the GYLA has contributed to the development of law on sexual harassment, which was adopted by Parliament in 2019. (4) The organization has a separate program that promotes the engagement of women in politics. Within this program, the organization participated in discussions around the parliamentary quotation and participated in the meetings of the task-group. (5) The organization is actively engaged in research work which refers to gender equality and the rights of women; for instance, GYLA recently published 2 studies about the rights of women with disabilities and LGBT rights.



„One of the directions in which GYLA works is towards women's and gender rights. We have implemented the program through EU financing which aimed at the economic empowerment of women. As the organization actively works on the issues of domestic violence and violence against women, it was decided to support the victims of domestic violence who could not afford to get the education and live independently. The organization financed professional trainings for them, the field of research was selected according to the interests of the victim... During the last 2 years, the organization has trained 80 victims... part of them found employment, another part started their own small business activities. At these moments, these people can support themselves and are not forced to return to the same environment“.

GYLA

The Women Information Center is a non-governmental organization that made contributions to Goal 5 of the SDGs. In 2018-2020, the organization carried out several projects that focused on the improvement of women's rights in Georgia. (1) The organization cooperated with 64 local municipalities and governments and they enforced the institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the elaboration of action plans in accordance with amendments in the Gender Equality Law. It is worth noting that these amendments were initiated by the same organization in 2017. (2) In 2019, the organization started the standardization and extension of municipal services - women's rooms. The project was successfully implemented in 29 municipalities; within its frames, a guideline document for the functioning of women's rooms was also adopted. (3) The organization implemented the project - "strengthened women and youth for the building and maintenance of peace"; under this project, the representatives of media and journalists received a training about gender equality, peace, security and the creation of gender-sensitive media products. (4) During the covid-19 pandemic, the Women Information Center, in cooperation with 3 other organizations, made efforts to increase awareness about the services women can apply to in cases of violence.

Women's Fund in Georgia is a local feminist fund, which issues grants for NGOs and initiative groups working on the issues of women's rights. The organization issues more than 50 grants per year. In addition, it has open door grants programs which take project ideas from both organizations and individuals. According to the information received from the in-depth interview, the grantees of the organization develop the projects that target different areas of women's rights. Namely, the organization has funded projects about the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of women, economic

rights, hidden forms of violence against women, rehabilitation and empowerment of women inmates, environmental justice and women's rights, feminist movement building women's labour rights, etc.; aside from that, the organization actively supports individual initiatives and issues grants for female researchers, artists, and more.

One of the directions of the organization is the promotion of activism through the funding of initiative groups; the organization allows the groups to receive funding and implement their ideas. The organization attempts to particularly issue grants for the initiative groups and NGOs working in the regions of Georgia. In addition, the organization delivers training of trainers (ToT) for their grantees, which aims to raise their awareness.

Besides the project funding, Women's Fund in Georgia has other activities that are of great importance and create additional value. The organization supports women's rights defenders with the annual Kato Mikeladze Award and holds an annual feminist festival in regions outside Tbilisi.



„The main goal is support... to give financial support to the women's groups, [organizations] working on women's rights... everything is included in women's rights: reproductive rights, economic rights, development of activism, support of women's movements, violence against women and so on... we have many programs... the green issues are one big direction, the reproductive and sexual rights is another big direction, the interventions in the direction of the violence against women is one big direction, we also have a direction to strengthen the feminist movement; here the individual proposal could also be issues... [we also issue grants for] researchers, female artists, female environmental activists, etc... Besides the funding, we have several activities which are very important for us... I mean the Annual Kato Mikeladze Award for the women's rights activists and the annual feminist festival which is held in regions. We have different trainings for our grantees. This might be Training of Trainers (ToT). We had [ToT] about sexual and reproductive rights in order to have a better legal framework and trainers



which could work from the feminist and human rights perspective. We started the new project funded by the EU about labour rights. It is connected to advocacy and the violation of labour rights. Within this project we already had trainings [ToT], 37 individuals were trained, which delivered the trainings for our other grantees or potential grantees. In addition, we have [training] about the digital and integrated security. As we work with female activists and also LGBT activists, this is very important for them. We deliver the trainings about digital security for our grantees several times per year“.

Women's Fund in Georgia

CSR DG has implemented activities during the last two years that contributed to both Goal 5 and 10. The community development program of CSR DG is directed to the empowerment of female community leaders. In 2017-2020, the organization also implemented the project "Women empowerment for changes" which supported gender equality and the empowerment of women living in rural areas and

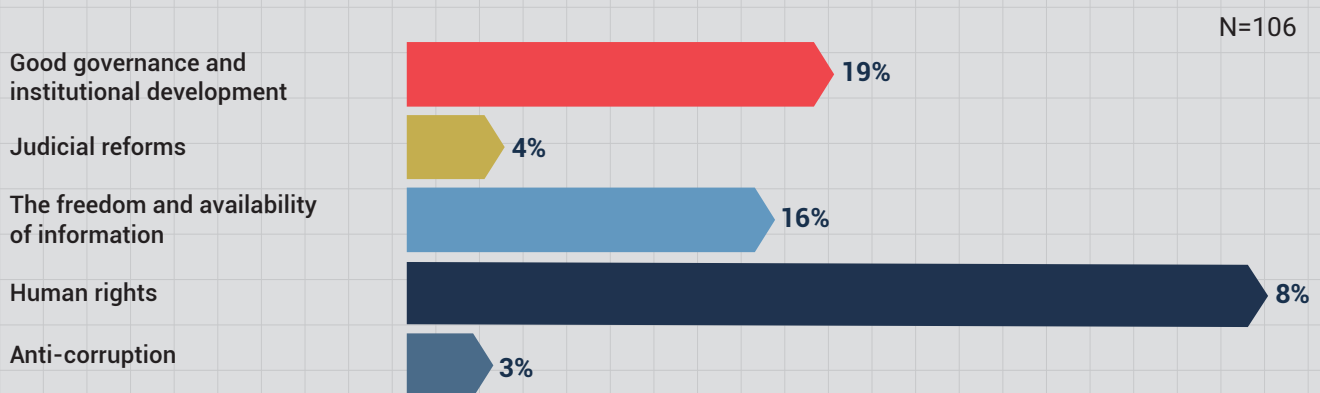
regions. The project achieved this goal through the active cooperation with the local-self-governments, civil sector and local business. CSRDG also has an EU integration promotion program and arranges informational meetings with the regional representatives of CSOs about AA and accompanying obligations. The aim of the project is to increase information about the AA among Georgian population and decrease the gap among the countries. Under this program, the project "Strengthening of Civil Initiative" has been carried out during the last three years with the aim of improving the civil environment in Georgia and strengthening the CSOs. In addition, the Social Entrepreneurship program has been working for years on the legislative initiatives that support the reduction of inequality in the national context. The project "Development of social services based on rights of persons with disabilities and the elderly" is one astonishing example of it.

b) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

One of the significant goals in the operation of NGOs was Goal 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions. The quantitative research obtained generalized information about the share of organizations prioritizing the targets of Goal 16 as their strategic direction. According to the estimates, a significant number of organizations has been actively engaged in the implementation of Goal 16. According to the quantitative research findings, the biggest share of organizations had been working on the issues of human rights (37.7%), good governance and institutional development (18.9%), as well as freedom and accessibility of information (16%). The least amount of organizations was working on the judicial reforms and anti-corruption monitoring and advocacy issues (See chart 17).

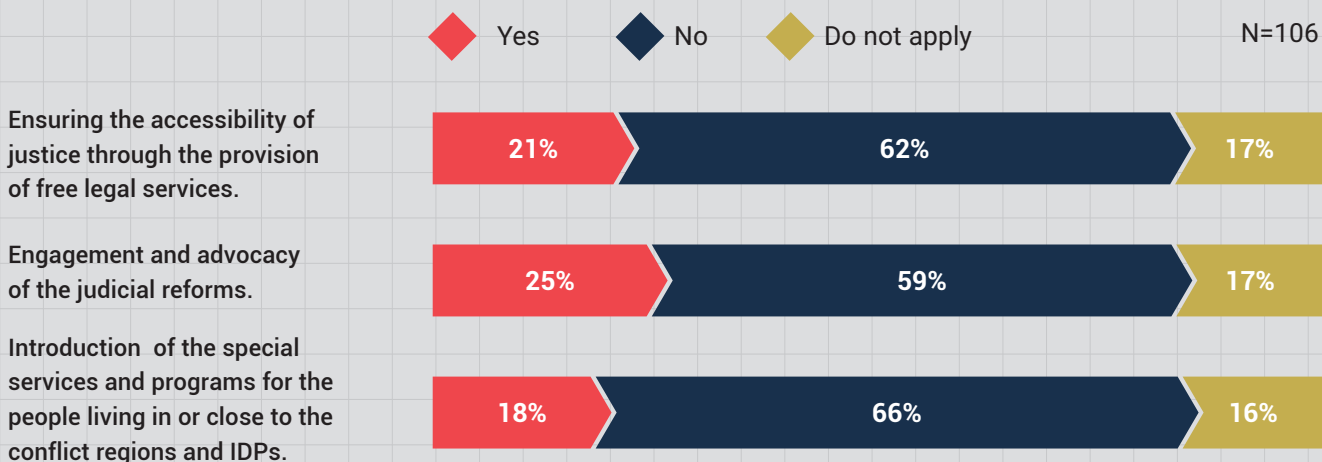
CHART 17.

The strategic directions of non-governmental organizations in line with Goal 16



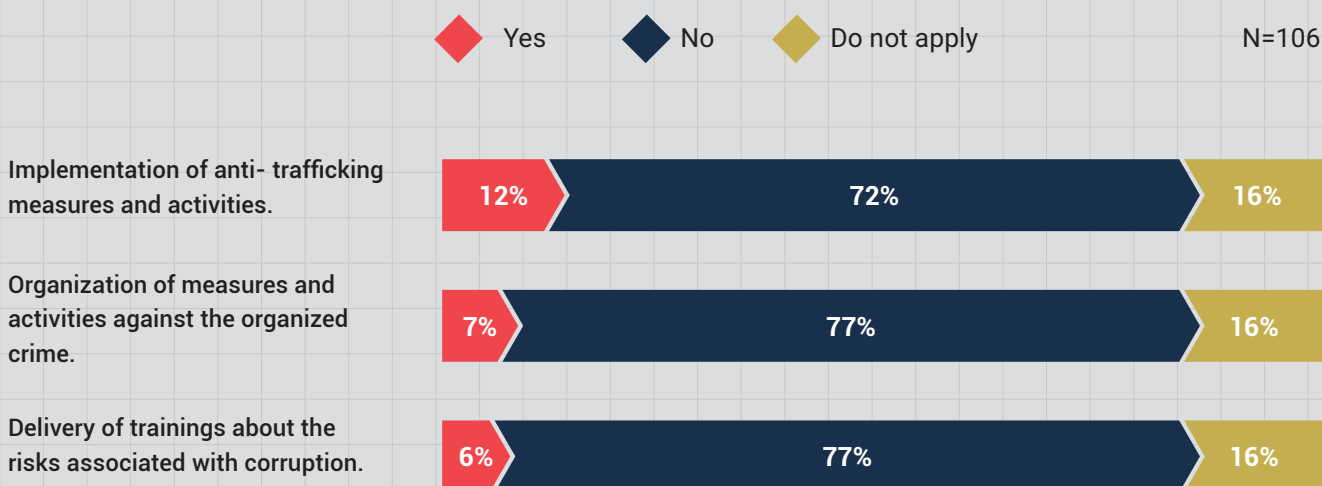
Besides these strategic directions, the surveyed organizations have reported concrete contributions to the targets of Goal 16. According to the quantitative research findings, more than 20 percent of organizations have contributed to Goal 16 during the last two years through the provision of free legal services to different groups (20.8%) and engagement in the judicial reforms (24.5%) (See chart 18). In the majority of cases, the organizations implemented the actions consistently and the efforts were sustainable in this sense. The next trend of Goal 16 refers to the IDPs and situations in the conflict zones. During the qualitative research, the organizations with the focus on the IDPs and populations living close to the conflict zone mentioned that they had special programs for this group. During the quantitative research, this activity was measured. According to the estimates, 17.9% of surveyed organizations mentioned that they had special services and programs for the people living in or close to the conflict regions and for IDPs (See chart 18). Noteworthy is that the findings suggest that projects and effort were sustainable and consistent, as the vast majority of organizations (89.5%) answered that they carried out efforts multiple times or regularly during the last two years.

CHART 18.
Contribution of non-governmental organizations to the Goal 16



With regard to the activities and targets of Goal 16, which are significant in nature but attracted less attention from NGOs, was the implementation of anti- trafficking activities and measures (12.3%); the organization of measures and activities against organized crime (6.6%) and the delivery of trainings about risks associated with corruption (5.7%) (See chart 19). Noteworthy, the anti-trafficking measures and activities were more frequently single activities without any follow up activity (46.2%), while activities against organized crime and corruption were carried more consistently. More than 80% of organizations mentioned that their activities were implemented multiple times or regularly during the last two years.

CHART 19.
Contribution of non-governmental organizations to Goal 16



Besides the quantitative research findings, the qualitative stage informed the research about the content of activities and efforts under Goal 16. The remaining part of this sub-chapter introduces the cases from interviewed organizations to the interested audience.

Transparency International has the following direction: fight against corruption and for a fair court system, fair elections, free media and so on.



„90% of our activities are related to this goal ... the fight against corruption, the fair court system, fair elections, the media and so on“.

Transparency International

During the in-depth interview, the respondent from the organization that works on human rights stated that the organization works directly in service of this particular goal, they provide access to justice for various vulnerable groups (religious and sexual minorities, employees), as well as promote the environmental/ecological issues, etc. Beside the outer direction of the organization's performance, it has inner mechanisms to promote peace and justice within the organization. There is an individual within the organization who is specifically assigned to review employees' complaints and works on their resolution. It has been a year since the organization has been working with the population residing in the conflict zone. The activity is mostly restrained to advocating and giving recommendations to the state about the inclusion and access to services of the population living behind the administrative lines.

IDFI has mentioned that they contribute to strengthening institutions in several possible ways: (1) they work as a "watchdog" organization; (2) support state institutions undertaking reforms; (3) arrange trainings for public servants and support capacity building activities.

OSGF actively works on labor rights. The organization provides free legal services to individuals in cases when their labor rights are violated.

In 2018-2020, **CIDA/GCNG** has implemented several projects that supported institutional development. The first, the organization implemented the Rural Development Advocacy and Civil Society Development Project, which advocated for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at the local and central levels; second, "CIDA/GCNG" supports government institutions in the framework of the project "Leadership for Sustainable Development in Georgia"; third, within the framework of the project "Promoting the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System", CIDA/GCNG shared the recommendations for the local and central bodies of government regarding the implementation of reforms.

The respondent of the **EPRC** stated that the organization has a document that prevents corruption and takes guidelines from the state documentations for anti-discrimination and gender issues. The organization contributes to the implementation of goal 16 with a variety of activities. In terms of democracy and security, they held international conferences with the participation of officials and decision-makers who influence the governing bodies to make steps in regard to the rule of law and democracy. The organization worked on a document on elite corruption related to business harassment. The organization is a member of the NGO Coalition. Through the coalitions, the organization obtains information about unfairness, unlawful conduct and elaborates the response to it.

Women`s Fund in Georgia does not have any separate activity about peace; however, it works on inclusion. The organization supports the inclusion of vulnerable groups through fundraising activities. In addition, the organization has contributed to the creation of policy documents, research and legal service provision. According to the respondent from Fund, they have more advocacy and awareness raising campaigns; compared to the service provision, they need less finances and are easier to organize.



„[We have] Women with disabilities, who received our grants, LGBT women, women with problems of addiction.... We have given lots of grants, including for the elaboration of policy documents, research and direct legal service provision... we have less service provision activities than advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns “.

Women's Fund

Best Practice

THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN INFORMATION CENTER TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE PEACE

The Women Information Center has contributed to Goal 16 through the implementation of projects that supported peace and good governance. Namely, (1) the organization implemented the coalition project "Women and girls for a peaceful society" in 10 municipalities; within the framework of this project, the implementation of resolution 1325 has been started and local groups have been created, which united the representatives of local municipalities, girls and women affected by the conflict, media, teachers, and more. (2) The organization has created women initiative groups close to the administrative line in the village Chorchana. The representatives of initiative groups became members of the gender equality council of the municipality; the members of the initiative were given an opportunity to bring the community problems directly to the decision-makers and contributed to good governance. (3) The organization implemented the project



"Confidence-building among the Population living closer to the administrative line" in Zugdidi, Gali, Tsalenjikha and Gagra. Within the framework of the project the organization studied the priorities and necessities for the population, and started advocacy of the problems with relevant authorities. (4) The organization has implemented two projects that contributed to good governance. Within the frames of this project, 200 public servants received trainings about gender equality, international and local obligations and introducing gender issues to the mainstream.

Best Practice

THE GYLA`S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ENHANCING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN GEORGIA

According to the information received from the interview with the representative of **GYLA**, the organization actively contributes to the institutional development of the country. The organization supports the development of institutions which are directly responsible for justice through monitoring activities; according to the interview, the GYLA monitors the work of the High Council of Justice, court hearings, plenum of Supreme Court of Georgia. The outcomes and findings of the monitoring are published at their web-site and are accessible to every interested individual. In addition, the organization supports the institutional development through the organization of public discussions and initiation of legislative changes. At the end, the organization is actively involved in the research activities. One of the recent publications which relates to Goal 16 is „*The Institutional and Legal Framework of Supreme Court of Georgia*“.



„GYLA implements many projects that are in service of justice; one of them is the monitoring report of the High Council of Justice, which has been published annually since 2015. [Within this project] the monitoring of the work of the Council is carried out, the main findings, shortcomings and positive sides are identified and relevant recommendations are made... We advocate about many important cases... at the moment, the organization is carrying out the monitoring of the plenum of the Supreme Court of Georgia... at the beginning of the year, the report will be published which reflects the problem, the practices of foreign countries... Besides, we initiate the legislative changes... publish the blogs... have small studies... [GYLA] has a program that directly monitors the court hearings... the report [of monitoring] is independent from the monitoring of the High Council of Justice“.

GYLA

IV. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

According to the qualitative and quantitative studies, the engaged CSOs have shared their vision about the current cooperation mechanisms and prospects of development. During the quantitative research, the surveyed organizations have reported their experience in cooperation with different sectors. According to the information obtained from the quantitative data, the biggest share of organizations had joint projects with representatives of the same sector (NGOs) (60.4%). The NGO sector was followed by the cooperation cases with government (39.6%) and academic institutions (31.1%). According to estimates, the non-governmental organizations have reported the least cases of cooperation and implementation of joint projects with the representatives of media sector (17%). Noteworthy is that the quantity of joint projects implemented through cross-sector cooperation in a two-year period varies from 1 to 10 in the majority of cases. In random cases, it could be even higher. In addition, a majority of organizations which had no experience of joint project implementation expressed willingness to develop joint initiatives with NGOs or representatives of other sectors too.

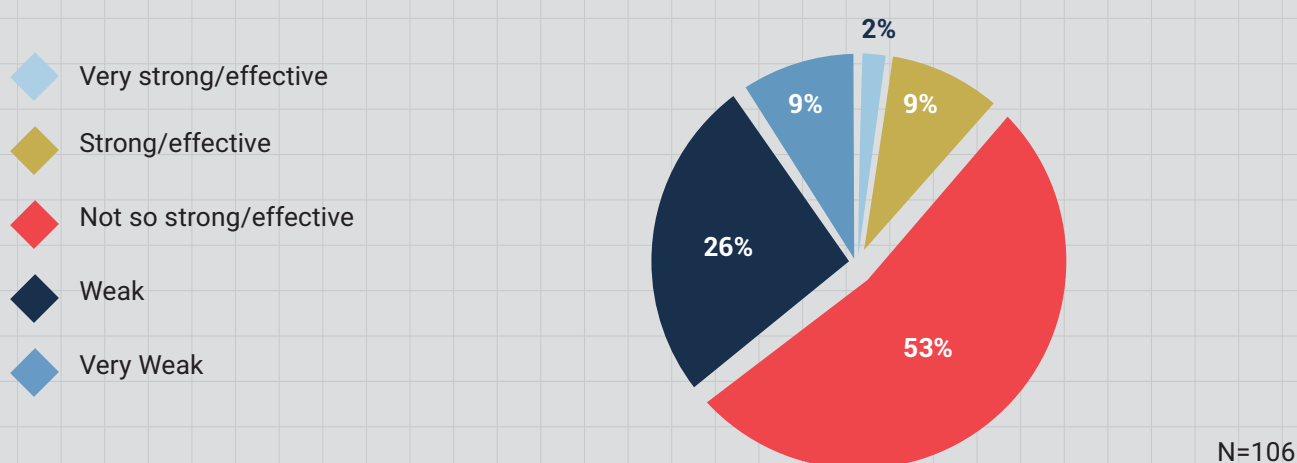
TABLE 2.
Implementation of joint projects/initiatives and cross-sectoral cooperation

Sector	Quantity (n)	Percentage (%)
Non-governmental organization	64	60.4
Government	42	39.6
Media	18	17.0
Academic institutions	33	31.1
Business	24	22.6

Besides cooperation between different sectors, the quantitative and qualitative studies have evaluated existing mechanisms of cooperation. According to the qualitative research findings, CSO representatives think that the current stage of SDG implementation is inefficient. The data obtained from the quantitative research shows that the majority of organizations evaluate existing mechanisms neutrally; 52.8% of organizations think that existing cooperation mechanisms are neither strong nor effective. According to the quantitative research findings, a small share of organizations evaluates existing mechanism positively; 11.4% of organizations gave a positive evaluation, while 25.8% of organizations have a negative outlook.

Due to the relatively less positive outlook on cooperation, the NGOs prioritized the sectors which needs to be strengthened in order to achieve these goals. The priorities of NGOs look like these; the biggest share of organizations believe that strengthening the role of central government (45.3%) and local self-governments (47.2%) needs to be the number 1 priority; 29.2% of organizations prioritized enforcement of the business sector and a relatively smaller share of NGOs (24.5%) emphasized the reinforced role of NGOs in SDG implementation.

CHART 20.
Evaluation of existing cooperation mechanism by NGOs



It is clear that neither qualitative, nor quantitative research participants gave unanimously positive evaluations to existing cooperation mechanisms. Noteworthy is that the qualitative research discussed the reasons behind the inefficiency. Part of the organizations participating in the in-depth interviews assumed that ineffectiveness was coming from the shortcomings of the mechanism itself, while another group of organizations believed that while shortcomings do exist, the inefficiency was sourced from elsewhere. The latter group developed three discourses around the subject:

first and foremost, the representatives of the non-governmental sector assume that the lack of awareness about SDGs and their importance is the paramount reason that obstacles exist in cooperation and implementation. The representatives of the business and NGO sectors are not appropriately informed about the national implementation plans and existing mechanisms.

Second, cooperation is interrupted due to a lack of interest from the business community. The respondents developing this discourse mentioned that business is the more profit oriented sector and they are less willing to engage in processes and formats that do not provide direct benefits to them.

Third, the main reason for inefficiency was the lack of trust among business, state and non-governmental sectors. According to the respondent, the business community and non-governmental sector does not have the trust of the state sector and business sector also does not express much trust to work with CSOs.

Therefore, such conditions limit the opportunities of successful cooperation. Hence, confidence building activities are much needed in order to unite the various sectors in question and bring about visible, tangible changes.

It worth noting that NGOs have additional recommendations about the SDGs and how to make efforts the more effective. Interestingly, recommendations obtained from the quantitative research are mostly similar to the topics issued above. Namely, organizations mostly issue three types of recommendation in frameworks for SDG implementation.

1

NGOs think that more information about SDGs and implementation mechanisms must be provided;

2

there is a need for more cooperation between sectors in order to make efforts more effective and projects more systemic;

3

the sector needs to be more motivated to engage and contribute to the goals.

V. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE NEW CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

During the qualitative research, several organizations reported about their activities during the **COVID-19** Pandemic. Due to its specific nature, it is very difficult to categorize the activities and bind them to concrete goals; however, general observation allows us to state that the activities mentioned within this sub-chapter and category most frequently contributed to the implementation of social goals (Goal 1, 4, 5, 10). The qualitative research explored the interesting cases of contribution which deserves the separate space in the report and recognition on its own account. Even though agricultural issues and Goal 2 of the SDG are strategic directions of **GFA**, the organization introduced the social initiative in light of COVID-19 which was directed to the assistance of vulnerable communities. The chairwoman of GFA along with representatives from the business sector have developed an initiative during the covid-19 pandemic in Georgia. She created the platform "1anoba". The platform cooperates with the private sector and also unites volunteers who help people affected by **COVID-19** and need assistance. The objective of the initiative is to support the most vulnerable population of Georgia – mainly through the provision of free food, medicines and other basic household items. In addition, GFA conducted research to assess the impact of **COVID-19** on Georgian farmers and provided specific recommendations to the government, many of which have been taken into consideration with respective measures taken. In light of the situation created by **COVID-19**, the problem of marketing/selling the product was identified as one of the most acute. Therefore, GFA started negotiations with distribution companies and market networks, which were ready to purchase products from farmers.

During the in-depth interview, the respondent from the association "**Consent**" mentioned their efforts towards preventing the transmission of **COVID-19** among society's more vulnerable groups. According to the respondent, women

suffered more during the pandemic as "generally they are caregivers, they are among the medical staff, they are sellers in the market, pharmacies - they are more exposed to the danger". Due to that fact, they needed some special programs. With regards to the assistance to the IDPs during the **COVID-19**, Consent have carried out disinfection work around the IDP settlements. They also provided medical masks for IDPs, elderly people and other vulnerable groups. Besides this the organization also created the volunteer group, which provided elders with medicine. It is worth noting that Consent has a mobile medical group which has been working with IDPs and conflict-affected communities for 20 years. The groups reach out to the villages and areas where only elders, young mothers, and families with many children, and provide them with free service and medicine.

The representative of the association **HERA-XXI** mentioned that they have created a hot line for the advocacy of women's rights during the Covid-19 pandemic. As of May 2020, the cases showed that many pregnant women were fired from work. Besides the qualitative research findings, the quantitative research obtained representative information about the activities of NGOs in light of pandemic and explored many other patterns of conduct. According to the quantitative research findings, 68.9% of surveyed organizations reported the engagement in the events during the **COVID-19** pandemic. The research findings showed that three patterns of action were mostly applied and widespread among NGOs.

1

The most prevalent activity was the provision and purchase of foals and disinfectants for the vulnerable and socially disadvantaged communities (57.5%);

- 2 The second most widely applied activity was the creation of additional services for school-age children living in socially vulnerable families in order to improve their access to distance learning (32.9%);
- 3 The third prevalent practice was monitoring the cases of increased domestic and other types of violence under the COVID-19 and advocating for the protection of victims' rights.

Noteworthy, these trends were observed during both the qualitative and quantitative studies. In addition, the quantitative research obtained the additional information about new types of activities, which are presented in the Table below.

TABLE 3.
The engagement of NGOs to the activities taking place during the Covid-19

Activity	Quantity (n)	Percentage (%)
Monitoring the cases of increased domestic and other types of violence under the Covid-19 and advocating for the protection of victims' rights	13	17.8%
Helping vulnerable and socially disadvantaged groups with foals and other disinfectants	42	57.5%
Creation of additional services for school-age children living in socially vulnerable families in order to improve their access to the distance learning process	24	32.9%
Activation of the hotline (trust phone)	2	2.7%
Conducting research about the impact of pandemic	2	2.7%
Working on the issues of post-COVID economic condition	2	2.7%
Working as a volunteer at the Red Cross	1	1.4%
Training the guides about the new COVID-19 regulations	1	1.4%
Don't know/difficult to respond	2	2.7%

Conclusion

General highlights

- The research findings indicate the intensive engagement of the NGO sector in the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. According to the qualitative and quantitative findings, the contributions of the studied non-governmental organizations are strongly concentrated around Goal 1, 5, 8 and 16.
- In addition, the quantitative research findings showed that NGOs are very sensitive with regard to the environmental issues. Within Goals 11 and 12, environmental activities (cleansing, planting, recycling) had the highest estimates. Similar estimates were not reported within the environmental goals of SDG (Goals 13,14,15).
- Noteworthy is that the NGO sector is familiar with the SDG agenda - 81% of inquired organizations are aware of SDGs. Even though the projects are not originally bound to the particular sustainable goals, the organizations in question still have a generally clear vision about which goals are being implemented under their organizational activities.
- Even though the projects and other organizational activities were strongly interconnected to the SDGs, research findings show that non-governmental organizations do not refer to SDGs when elaborating new project plans. Findings show that 24.2% of inquired organizations apply SDGs while elaborating new projects, while 50% answered that they do not apply SDGs and project ideas and the organizational agenda is determined by the strategic directions and mandate of the NGO.
- Besides this, research findings suggest that organizations might be contributing to the SDG goals without even realizing it. In addition, their contributions frequently go beyond the strategic directions and directly or indirectly contribute to several goals.
- Noteworthy is that the activities of non-governmental organizations were consistent and sustainable. The majority of activities with minor exceptions were carried out multiple times or regularly throughout the last two years.
- With regard to the outreach of activities, the research findings show that in the majority of cases the scope of activities varied from 1 to 200. However, the research indicated the cases of organizations which had many more resources to cover more beneficiaries and had approximately 1000, 5000, 10000 individuals covered within two years. Hence, the outreach of activities was largely connected to the resources and capacity of the organization.
- Based on the research outcomes, the significant number of inquired organizations believe that current cooperation mechanisms are not effective and lots of efforts from the various sectors are required to be taken.

Human capital development and social welfare:

- One of the priority areas in the agenda of the NGO sector was the assistance and strengthening of vulnerable communities. Based on the organizational agenda, each NGO has their own individual approach. Research findings showed three patterns of support in this regard: (1) support through the advocacy and social or economic policy monitoring, in order to evaluate the fairness of it; (2) delivering trainings that boosts the capacity of vulnerable communities, prospects of self-employment and their active engagement in economic life; (3) the provision of small-grant programs for vulnerable groups and entrepreneurs in order to improve their socio-economic wellbeing.
- Within the framework of Goal 2, the research findings showed two patterns of contribution: (1) the group of organizations have contributed to the development of agriculture through capacity building activities and the provision of technical or financial assistance to farmers, and (2) another group of organizations contributed to the improvement of food safety standards and conditions through the development of local standards and carrying out the laboratory inspection of particular products.
- The biggest share of organizations has incorporated the targets of Goal 3 and 4 in activities implemented within the organization rather than in external measures and activities.
- The organizations value their staff and provide a corporate health insurance system they can engage in. This inter-organizational activity directly contributes to goal 3 of the SDGs. Besides, the organizations working on women's rights and gender equality contribute to the implementation of goal 3 through raising awareness about female healthcare and reproductive health at the national and local levels. In addition, a significant share of organizations is motivated to organize activities that promote a healthy lifestyle in the Georgian community.
- As the organizations actively promote capacity building and awareness raising activities, knowledge sharing and educational activities are an integral component of every project carried out by non-governmental organizations. According to the research's findings, the vast majority of nongovernmental organizations contribute to the implementation of Goal 4 through three types of activities: (1) supporting the development of staff; (2) delivering trainings for the general population, public servants, business and media sectors within the framework of capacity building activities; (3) cooperating with universities in order to select interns or employees and develop new learning programs.

Economic growth

- According to the research's findings, Goal 7 is not among the priorities of the NGO sector. Quantitative research findings show that the estimates of Goal 7 are lowest within the economic component. The qualitative and quantitative research findings show that human capital is valued in the NGO sector and organizations frequently contribute to Goal 8 through the creation of decent working and remuneration opportunities for the staff. Most frequently organizations support the development of the youth force in the country and promote youth employment. Noteworthy is that organizations with an economically strategic direction had

programs that supported entrepreneurship and the creation of social enterprises which directly impacts overall well-being and economic growth.

- Qualitative and quantitative research findings suggest that organizations have developed genuine green policies that supported the efficient use of resources and responsible consumption in offices. Namely, a significant number of organizations has green boxes to gather paper waste and send it for recycling. In addition, some organizations attempt to gradually reduce the use of plastic in their respective offices. It is not surprising that environmental organizations are more proactive in this direction; for instance, CENN worked with the public sector in order to develop the waste management system and infrastructure in the country.

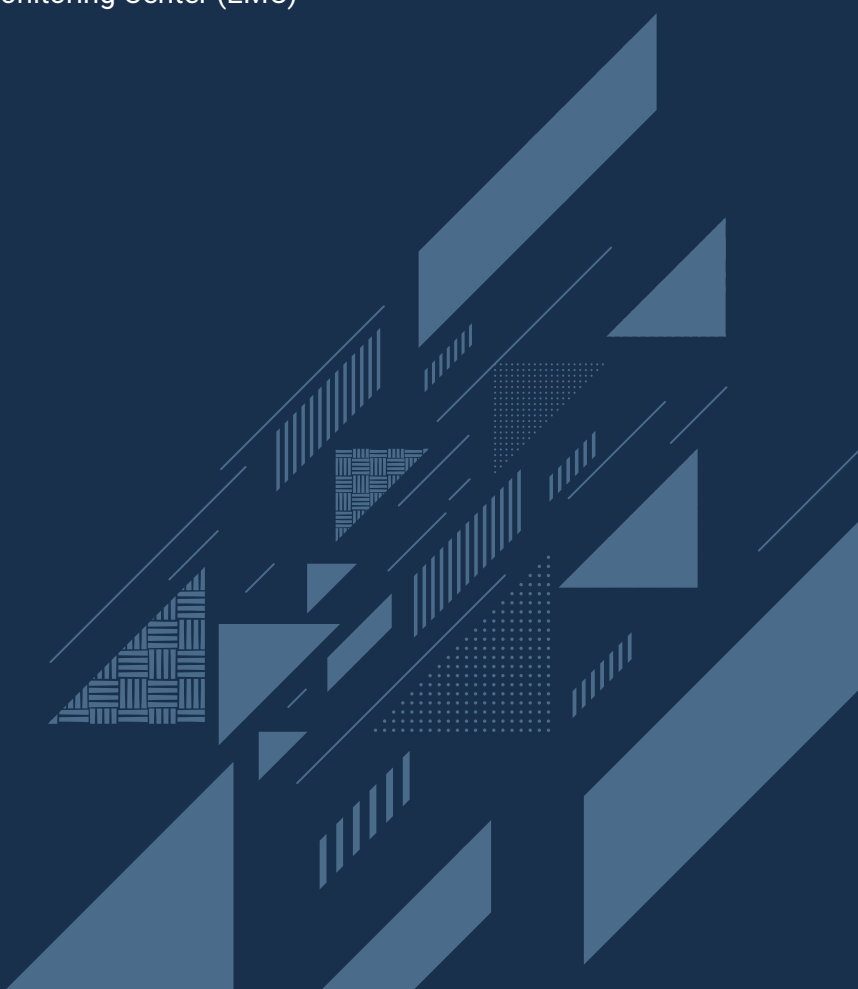
Democratic governance

- According to the research's findings, the organizations put strong emphasis on the equality policy and pay particular attention to it during the implementation of projects. With regard to goal 5 of the SDGs, the research has illustrated two types of contribution and support. First of all, the organizations working in the field of governance tend to contribute more to Goal 16 and the issue of gender equality is indirectly considered in the project plans or design. Second, the organizations working on socio-economic issues put gender equality at the level of strategic direction and therefore make direct contributions to the implementation of Goal 5; namely, they deliver trainings and capacity building activities in order to better understand the concept and importance of gender equality. Besides, some organizations working on women's rights support women's empowerment through small-grants and economic strengthening activities. Noteworthy is that organizations had project activities during 2018-2020, which supported not only women, but those with criminal records, inmates, IDPs and people living close to the conflict zone.
- According to the research's findings, the vast majority of studied organizations were engaged in the implementation of Goal 16 and contributed to the development of state institutions.
- The research findings show that organizations evaluate the existing cooperation mechanism more negatively than positively. In order to make the efforts the more efficient, NGOs think that the role of central and local government should be increased, business should be engaged more intensively and NGOs should be implementing projects with the efficient utilization of resources; for that purpose, organizations can work on the joint projects and initiatives in order to avoid overlap among projects. In addition, the need for more communication and information was also issued by NGOs.

Annex:

List of organizations involved in the qualitative and desk studies

1	Alliance for Road Safety
2	Anika
3	Atinati
4	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)
5	Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG)
6	Civil Development Agency (CIDA)
7	Europe Foundation
8	European Policy Research Center (EPRC)
9	Georgian Farmers Association (GFA)
10	Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA)
11	The association HERA-XXI
12	IDP Women's Association "Consent"
13	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
14	Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)
15	The Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC)
16	Transparency International (TI)
17	Women Information Center (WIC)
18	Women's Fund in Georgia







Global Compact
Network Georgia