Annual Report

Support to the Rural Development in Georgia – ENPARD IV

**Reporting Period:
1 December 2022 – 30 September 2023**

**Tbilisi
October 30, 2023**

Project Data

Reporting Period	1 December 2022 – 30 September 2023
Donor	EU, UNDP, and Estonian Government
Country	Georgia
Project Title	Support to the Rural Development in Georgia (ENPARD4)
Project ID (QUANTUM Project ID) (QUANTUM Award ID and Description) UNDP Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	Project ID 00113522 Output 00111647 Contributing Outcome: UNSDCF/CPD 2021-2025: Outcome 3: By 2025, all people without discrimination benefit from a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economy in Georgia. CPD Output 3.2: Sustainable and inclusive rural and agriculture development and improved livelihoods. SP 2022-2025 Output 2.3 Responsive governance systems and local governance strengthened for socio-economic opportunity, inclusive basic service delivery, community security, and peacebuilding. Indicative Output(s) with gender marker: GEN2
Implementing Partner(s)	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA
Project Start Date	1 December 2022
Project End Date	30 November 2025
[2023 Y] Annual Work Plan Budget	USD 730,363.52

Revenue received	• Regular USD
	• Other
	    o Donor (ESTDEV) - 42,643.92 USD
	    o UNDP TRAC - 42,300.02 USD
	    o EU funding - 820,155.90 USD
	• Total - 905,099.84 USD

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List of Abbreviations

AGEA	Agenzia per le Erogazioni in Agricoltura
ARDSG	Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia
CC	Civic Committee
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CM&ES	Common Monitoring and Evaluation System
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement
EIEC	Environmental Information and Education Center
ENPARD	The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
ERDN	European Rural Development Network
ESC	ENPARD Steering Committee
EStC	ENPARD Stakeholder Committee
ESTDEV	Estonian Centre for International Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GALAG	Georgian Association of Local Action Groups
GoG	Government of Georgia
GRDN	Georgian Rural Development Network
HCM	Human Capital Management
HRIS	Human Resource Information System
HRM	Human Resource Management
IACC	Inter-Agency Coordination Council
IRDG	Improving Rural Development in Georgia
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LAG	Local Action Group
LEADER	A French acronym meaning Links between actions for the development of the rural economy.
LEPL	Legal Entity of Public Law
LFA	Less Favored Area
L&G	Learning and Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEPA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
MRDI	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure
MESD	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
NNLE	Non-entrepreneurial Non-commercial Legal Entity
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRN	National Rural Network
PAR	Public Administration Reform Support Project
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PSE	Private Sector Engagement
RD	Rural Development
RDA	Rural Development Agency
RDAP	Rural Development Action Plan
RDS	Rural Development Strategy
RDP	Rural Development Programmes
RM	Risk Management
SRDG	Support to the Rural Development of Georgia
TWG	Thematic Working Group / or Technical Working Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNPDS	United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development

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1/ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "Support to the Rural Development in Georgia" (SRDG) project under ENPARD IV continuous to contribute to the enhancement of EU-like Rural Development policy, institutional strengthening of public institutions on the national and municipal levels and builds divers platforms for the stakeholder/beneficiaries' engagement and participation in the policy decision-making process.

In 2023, SRDG substantially expanded work on the draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development of Georgia as a result of which, on September 21, the first discussion at the Agrarian Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia approved the legislative proposal for further legal proceedings. The draft law establishes a legal framework for the development of the sector and determines policy objectives as well as programming, implementation and financing arrangements, and institutional structure and introduces new integrated digital technologies such as Farmer's Registry, Land Parcel Identification System, etc.

SRDG has been instrumental in providing continuous support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) and its subordinate bodies in the process of setting up the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). Support is provided by reiterating firm commitment in the draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development (Chapter IV), by putting IACS and its sub-systems such as Farmer's Register, Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and Application Programme Management (APM) System on the road map of IPARD/EU compliance activities (Action Plan Goal-4), and by fostering partnerships with the National Agency of Public Registry, Public Service Development Agency and the Digital Governance Agency of the Ministry of Justice.

SRDG continued its support to the development of the Civic (Monitoring) Committee which brings together government and civil society organizations as partners at the national level and provides a platform for CSOs to present their views on the rural and agriculture development policy in Georgia. In 2023, 8 CSOs become new members of the committee.

MEPA, with SRDG support, continued a constant discourse and advocacy to reach an agreement with IACC member line ministries on the developed LAG eligibility assessment criteria and the proposed delivery model, known as the "decentralization of project selection competence at the LAG level". The state-funded programme (pending government approval) is based on LEADER/CLLD as a method of delivering support to rural areas through local partnerships/local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, in which, at the decision-making level neither public authorities, as defined in accordance with national rules, nor any single interest group represents more than 49 % of the voting rights in line with Articles 32 and 34 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

Development of concrete actions with ministries and agencies (such as the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure's: Mountains Development Fund, Rural Development Agency, Skills Agency and other institutions) to consider the needs of the rural population with migration background has been started. To further advance the services of local governments for the reintegration of migrants in rural communities, the analysis of potential services was conducted, and the project team is starting to work with local governments to support the sustainable reintegration of migrants. Furthermore, mechanisms for skills development, employment and entrepreneurship support to returnee migrants were developed and at the initial stage, the mechanisms for employment and entrepreneurship will be implemented.

Mapping and assessment of the development of enabling infrastructure in Guria and Imereti regions (at the initial stage) was completed, as the project seeks to promote new potential solutions for improving rural infrastructure, as well as supporting mechanisms for resilient and sustainable rural livelihoods and have at least 25 rural infrastructure projects developed with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders. Following the mapping and assessment, the project starts facilitating and ensuring that: at least 10 rural infrastructure projects (in total, on the municipal level) are developed (by local authorities) with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders in at least 2 municipalities of Guria and 4 municipalities of Imereti region.

The project intends to make state services more accessible for particularly disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas, including by encouraging capacity and diversity of public services for the rural population in an inclusive manner (with specific emphasis on the needs of youth, women, migrants, newcomers, returnees, IDPs, and ethnic minorities). To this end, the project started partnering with the Public Service Hall (PSH) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia to improve the accessibility of public services in disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas (in the focal regions) for rural population (including rural youth, women, and other groups). Through this partnership key outputs include design/redesign at least 5 PSH (State) services for increased accessibility for underrepresented groups; design/redesign at least 3 PSH (state) services in an inclusive manner.

In cooperation with the National Forestry Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia SRDG launched forest registration (inventory) and management plan (Stage 1) for the state forest within the administrative boundaries of Oni municipality on an approximate area of 60,000 ha. Additionally, the Environmental Information and Education Center (EIEC) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, capacitated 12 young forest engineers/taxators through the training programme on "forest inventory and registration" to be later employed by the National Forestry Agency in forest inventory works.

2/ CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Rural development policy and institutional context have evolved significantly over recent years to become a fully-fledged state policy in Georgia. The pursuit of integration into the EU in the field of agriculture and rural development, through policy development and comprehensive reform, has been anchoring significant, endogenously determined transformation towards social, environmental, and economic sustainability in agriculture and rural areas.

Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia provides the country's vision for the years 2021-2027 in key areas of rural development – growth and diversification of local economies, improvement of social and public services, increase of employment and sustainable use of national resources. With an emphasis on compliance with the EU's common agriculture policy and governance framework, the project plans to help improve policy alignment and setting up of more adequate organizational capacities, including by introducing a large number of new binding rules and work processes to ensure engagement with Civil Society, promoting/institutionalizing bottom-up approaches and delivery mechanisms.

Maximizing the reform effort and minimizing non-compliance with the EU common agriculture policy (CAP) framework as the front and centre of the Project support is underpinned by the fundamental characteristics of national ownership, institutional change, inclusive engagement with rural stakeholders and openness.

The national strategy 2020+ demonstrates further the scale and ambition of the rural development 'doctrine' grounded on the successful European practice; the rural development policy implementation emphasizes the importance of the governance structures that ensure a comprehensive stakeholder engagement at a national level and the role of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture as a key driver of intergovernmental work providing leadership and support to successful partnerships. To this end, public sector capacities will need further advancement towards improved harmonization and coordination of actions through stronger policy framework conditions and governance systems.

Since the project started, there have been certain positive trends in the rural context of Georgia, namely, the unemployment rate in rural areas has decreased by 2.5 percentage points, average monthly income per household in rural areas has increased by 25% (reaching 1534 GEL), the share of the rural population living under the absolute poverty line is decreased by 0.7 percentage points. Importantly, Georgia's inflation rate has also decreased significantly and reached 0.9% (as of September 2023). However, depopulation widens and reinforces regional disparities. Georgia's population is increasingly concentrated near urban centres (the urbanization rate has further increased by 1% since the project's launch), leading to regional disparities in revenues, income, house prices and the quality of living. Shrinking regions often do not have functioning real estate markets, which makes it difficult for people to move between regions, reinforcing regional disparities and chronic labour shortages. Policy planning, strategic sectoral initiatives and development strategies are all governed separately at the national level. This leads to a lack of policy coherence, inefficient service and infrastructure networks as well and uncoordinated spending at the national and municipal levels. Voluntary co-operation between municipalities is rare.

As of September 2023, Georgia has experienced strong growth in construction at 15.1% and services at 10.2%. The growth in services is mainly due to an increase of 14.0% in wholesale and retail trade, 15.7% in accommodation and food services, 44.2% in information and communication, and 17.2% in arts, entertainment, and recreation, mostly due to a recovery in tourism. Despite the rapid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, adverse effects of external shocks (such as Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan) in conjunction with fewer migrants' arrivals and receding financial inflows, challenge the resilience of rural communities that are largely dependent on agriculture - more than a third of all workers are engaged in low-productivity agriculture.

3/ OUTCOME RESULTS

Outcome 1. Improved rural development governance system for integrated and effective policy development and implementation.

Indicator 1.1 Level of operational efficiency and organizational effectiveness of MEPA, RDA and other IACC member ministries and agencies in producing Rural Development related outputs.
Target: 1.1 At least 2 new components of management and control system requirements established in RDA in compliance with IPARD requirements (2025)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 25%

Indicator: 1.2 Compliance of the Action Plan of Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2021-2027 to new EU CAP and IPARD policy objectives and policy measures.
1.2 At least one EU CAP and IPARD compliant measure adopted and operational (2025)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 25%

Institutional reforms in agriculture and rural development are essential as Georgia is making strides towards European integration. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) with the support of the European Union in Georgia (EU-ENPARD) and the UNDP Georgia SRDG project has been providing support towards necessary actions aimed at increased institutional and legislative compatibility with the EU in the field of Agriculture and Rural Development

In 2023, SRDG substantially expanded work on the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development of Georgia as a result of which, on September 21, the first discussion at the Agrarian Issues Committee approved the legislative proposal for further legal proceedings. The draft national law establishes a legal framework for the development of the sector and determines policy objectives as well as programming, implementation and financing arrangements, and institutional structure and introduces new integrated digital technologies such as Farmer's Registry, Land Parcel Identification System, etc.

SRDG has been instrumental in providing continues support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and its subordinate bodies in the process of setting up the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). Support is provided by reiterating firm commitment in the draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development (Chapter IV), by putting IACS and its sub-systems such as Farmer's Register, Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and Application Programme Management (APM) System on the road map of

Figure 1 IPARD Workshop for RDA

IPARD/EU compliance activities (Action Plan Goal-4), and by fostering partnerships with the National

Agency of Public Registry, Public Service Development Agency and the Digital Governance Agency of the Ministry of Justice.

The renewed mandate of the Reform Working Group chaired by the first deputy minister of environmental protection and agriculture illustrates shared understanding between the Ministry and its subsidiary authorities and steers it towards broader transformation of the rural development policy management model into the first EU-accredited institutional set-up at a national level. SRDG support has shown good results in adhering to the most important requirements of accreditation such as competency-clarity-control, segregation of duties and the 'four-eyes' principle as well as in raising awareness and the level of knowledge of employees of partner agencies.

SRDG continued its support to the development of the Civic (Monitoring) Committee which brings together government and civil society organizations as partners at the national level and provides a platform for CSOs to present their views on the rural and agriculture development policy in Georgia. In 2023, 8 CSOs become new members of the committee.

Figure 2- Civic Committee Meeting

MEPA, with SRDG support, continued a constant discourse and advocacy to reach an agreement with IACC member line ministries on the developed LAG eligibility assessment criteria and the proposed delivery model, known as the "decentralization of project selection competence at the LAG level". The state-funded programme (pending government approval) is based on LEADER/CLLD as a method of delivering support to rural areas through local partnerships/local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, in which, at the decision-making level neither public authorities, as defined in accordance with national rules, nor any single interest group represents more than 49 % of the voting rights in line with Articles 32 and 34 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

As the SRDG project plans to promote knowledge and skills on sustainable rural development approaches including LEADER through GRDN, the objective is to launch an online Foundation Course on Rural Development which will provide an opportunity for participants to learn and acquire knowledge required for the promotion of integrated and inclusive rural development in Georgia. SRDG prepared Technical Specifications to ensure that the eLearning platform provides an engaging and interactive platform (web application) for eLearners to access high-quality and engaging educational content with a modular structure, illustrations, infographics, audio narration, voiceovers, quizzes, and a certification test. The open course is intended for participants working in rural development, agriculture projects, government institutions, CSOs, private and research institutions, social innovators and entrepreneurs.

Outcome 2 Improved rural services, and infrastructure, empowered rural women and inclusive rural development.

Indicator: Average monthly income per household in rural areas (excludes income from property disposal, borrowing and dissaving).
Target: In 2025 (GEL) - Kakheti – 992; Guria – 865; Imereti – 1094; Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti – 1091
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: N/A

As the project plans to improve inclusive rural development by considering the needs of the population with migration background (such as newcomers, migrants, IDPs, Georgian citizens returning from abroad and ethnic minorities), concrete opportunities for designing/redesigning state programs to address the needs of the population with migration background were identified. The development of concrete actions with ministries and agencies (such as the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure's: Mountains Development Fund, Rural Development Agency, Skills Agency and other institutions) to consider the needs of the rural population with migration background has been started. To further advance the services of local governments for reintegration of migrants in rural communities, the analysis of potential services was conducted, and the project team is starting to work with local governments to support sustainable reintegration of migrants. Furthermore, mechanisms for skills development, employment and entrepreneurship support to returnee migrants were developed and at the initial stage, the mechanisms for employment and entrepreneurship will be implemented.

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Figure 3 Workshop - Unlocking The Inclusive And Sustainable Growth Potential Of Rural Areas.

instruments have been identified and are being validated.

The project intends to make state services more accessible for particularly disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas, including by encouraging capacity and diversity of public services for the rural population in an inclusive manner (with specific emphasis on the needs of youth, women, migrants, newcomers, returnees, IDPs, and ethnic minorities). To this end, the project started partnering with the Public Service Hall (PSH) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia to improve the accessibility of public services in disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas (in the focal regions) for rural population (including rural youth, women, and other groups). Through is partnership key outputs include design/redesign at least 5 PSH (State) services for increased accessibility for disadvantaged groups; design/redesign at least 3 PSH (State) services in an inclusive manner for disadvantaged groups.

Outcome 3: Sustainable Use of Forest Resources and Improved Environmental Protection and Climate Action.

Indicator: # of hectares of forest areas using sustainable management plans in Imereti and Racha regions. Target: At least 100 000 ha of forests using improved management practices in Imereti and Racha regions (2025).
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 10%

Under previous phase of ENPARD, the UNDP implemented project "Improving Rural Development in Georgia" supported the forest inventory process and elaboration of management plans for three forest sites: Lagodekhi forest site (21116 ha), Dedoplistskaro-Sighnaghi (24183 ha) and Tetritskaro sites (54717 ha) as well as for three protected areas: Tetritskaro (Algeti National Park - 8769 ha) Akhalkalaki (Javakheti Protected Area - 3089 ha), and Lagodekhi (Lagodekhi Protected Area - 21807 ha). UNDP continues to support forest inventory process and elaboration of forest management plans for selected forest areas in ENPARD IV target regions. Under current phase of ENAPRD, in cooperation with the National Forestry Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Terms of Reference were elaborated for the preparation of forest registration (inventory) and management plan (Stage 1) for the state forest within the administrative boundaries of Oni municipality on an approximate area of 60,000 ha. Respective consultants (forest engineers and GIS specialists) have been selected who will be engaged in the implementation of the stage 1 works.

In addition, in cooperation with the Environmental Information and Education Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, a practical component of the professional training programme on "forest inventory and registration" was implemented. 12 young forest engineers (4 women) were trained who will be later employed by the National Forestry Agency in forest inventory works.

4/ OUTPUT RESULTS

Output 1.1. Advanced institutional and technical capacities of MEPA and IACC and its working groups in rural development planning and implementation.

Indicator: 1.1.1/a Inter-agency coordination established for forming functional IACS in RDA (Yes/No)
Target: 1.1.1/a Inter-agency working group established involving RDA, National Wine Agency, National Food Agency, National Agency for Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring as well as the National Agency of Public Registry under the Ministry of Justice (2023)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 100%

Indicator: 1.1.1/b Capacities of staff of MEPA and other national authorities involved in the implementation of ARD Strategy.
Target: 1.1.1/b IACS roadmap and action priorities adopted, and implementation started. (2024)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 50%
Target: 1.1.1/c MEPA staff training plan developed (2024)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 50%
Target: 1.1.1/d Formal trainings and on the job trainings of MEPA are delivered (2025)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 50%

Indicator: 1.1.2 Improved application processing and management in RDA (Yes/No).
Target: 1.1.2/ Application Programmes Management System (APMS) fully developed and operationalized in RDA (2025)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 50%

In February, SRDG launched a new consultation with MEPA and IACC on advancing work towards necessary actions aimed at increased legislative compatibility with the EU in the field of Agriculture and Rural Development; Following the recurring series of meetings, at the request of MEPA, SRDG substantially expanded support on the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development of Georgia.

In June, the legislative proposal was sent to the Agrarian Issues Committee of the Parliament by MEPA. On September 21, the first discussion at the Agrarian Issues Committee approved the draft law for further legislative process with minor modifications. The purpose of the draft national law is to establish a legal framework for the development of the sector and determine policy objectives, programming, implementation and financing arrangements, institutional structure, data exchange and information systems (annex #4.1: Draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development).

On May 31, the rural development policy management and institutional Reform Working Group - MEPA discussed the three-year reform plan and the progress report, which describes to what extent it has been implemented and what remains to be done (annex #4.2: RDA Progress Report. March. 2023), the working group approved the proposed amendments and renewed action plan (annex #4.3: Renewed Action Plan, February. 2023; annex #4.4: Written Account of the Meeting) successful implementation of which is essential for sectoral policy integration in advance of accession and compliance with the EU CAP requirements.

The renewed mandate of the Reform Working Group (annex #4.5: Order №2-315-17/05/2023) illustrates shared understanding between the Ministry and its subsidiary authorities and steers it, all through the iterative design-application-learning-adjustment process, towards the broader transformation of the rural development policy management model into the first EU accredited institutional set-up at a national level.

Figure 4 IPARD Workshop for RDA

4/04/2023) and Paying Agency.

SRDG support has shown good results (in adhering to the most important requirements of accreditation such as competency-clarity-control, segregation of duties and 'four-eyes' principle as well as in rising awareness and the level of knowledge of employees (annex #4.6: MTR – Midterm Review of the Reform Action Plan Implementation). The current governance designates the roles and responsibilities that relate to the way functions are exercised by the Ministry and its subsidiary bodies which are carried out with due regard to the respective mandate of the Managing Authority (annex #4.7: Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Department. Order №2-174-

The renewed mandate of 5 Thematic Working Groups within RDA signifies the reform priority for transforming the Agency into an accredited Paying Agency, adhering to EU standards – 1. Administration and payments 2. Monitoring and control 3. Integrated administration and control system 4. Human resources development and capacity development and 5. Communication and public relations (annex #4.8: Order №1-6/246-28/04/2023). With UNDP support, thematic working groups have made great progress as regards of development of RDA and awareness of EC requirements for IPARD.

Based on the assessment (annex #4.9: Report) on whether the current institutional reform priorities are sufficient to remedy the deficiencies and address existing capacity gaps, including working arrangements and conformity procedures, in the process of accreditation as an IPARD Paying Agency, SRDG has provided support to RDA in preparation of the Manual for the Preparation of the Accreditation Documentation (annex #4.10: Manual for the Preparation of Accreditation Documentation) and continues support in the process of drafting detailed written procedures of work and work-flow covering the basic functions of project approval, grant contract award, authorization of payments and execution of payments, on-the-spot control, debt recovery, internal audit, HRM and employee training plan for all departments included in the processing of beneficiary applications and payment claims.

SRDG has been instrumental in providing continues support to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and its subordinate bodies in the process of setting up the IACS. Support is provided by reiterating firm commitment in the draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development (Chapter IV), by putting IACS and its sub-systems such as Farmer's Register, Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and Application Programme Management (APM) System on the road map of IPARD/EU compliance activities (Action Plan Goal-4), and by fostering partnerships with the National Agency of Public Registry, Public Service Development Agency and the Digital Governance Agency of the Ministry of Justice.

In May-June, SRDG closely with international experts from North Macedonia and Latvia conducted engaging discussions and workshops, covering a broad range of topics. Some highlights include:

- Establishing stronger interagency partnerships for seamless collaboration.
- Strengthening the segregation of duties to enhance transparency and accountability.
- Exploring automatized business processes and digital technologies to boost efficiency.
- Implementing robust Human Resource Management systems.
- Applying the '4-eye principle' for meticulous selection and approval of project proposals.
- Expanding cooperation with Paying Agencies of EU Member States and candidate countries.

In addition, a presentation on fraud has been delivered to participants of the workshop sessions to increase awareness of possible risks. These discussions have been fruitful, fostering knowledge sharing, innovation, and best practices to guide the reform. On 7-8 June, as a result of training for representatives of MEPA, RDA and the National Agency for Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring, knowledge on the above-mentioned topics improved by 33%. 94% of the participants consider using the knowledge gained during the training (annex #4.11: Training Report).

Figure 5 Training/Workshop for Authorized Users of Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation System of 2021-2027 Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy.

On August 7-8, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, with the support of SRDG, conducted the regular meeting of the Civil (Monitoring) Committee (under IACC), which brings together government and civil society organizations as partners at the national level with more than 30 member civil/non-governmental organizations. The meeting provided an opportunity for all participants to reflect on the achievements made thus far, identify areas that require further attention, and explore potential cooperation opportunities. Representatives of the Ministry presented new measures and partner CSOs presented their views on the actions to be considered in the 2024-2027 National Strategic Plan of Agriculture and Rural Development. 8 CSOs became new members of the committee (annex #4.12: Written Account of the Meeting).

On May 4-5, 2023, SRDG as a response to the request of MEPA (Policy Coordination and Analysis Department) delivered training to IACC working group members - authorized users of the electronic M&E system of 2021-2027 Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy to identify challenges and shape recommendations for the effective operation of the (M&E) System. The training served as an important source of information to identify needs, challenges, as well as gaps in
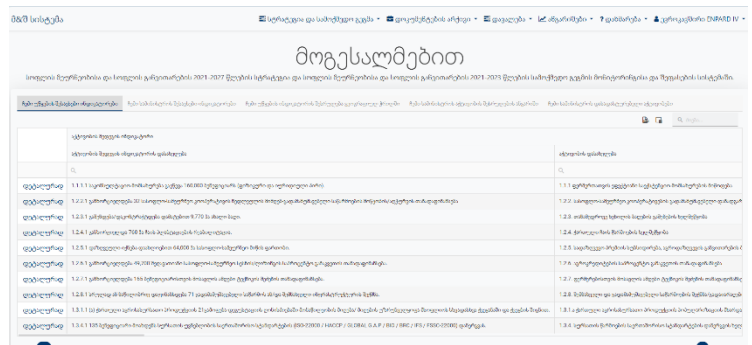

Figure 6 M&E System of the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy for 2021-2027 and Action Plan for 2021-2023.

knowledge (both conceptual and practical). The pre/post-testing conducted during the meeting revealed gaps in knowledge regarding data disaggregation as more than half of the participants did not know what the "monitoring data" represents and how the disaggregated data could properly be provided through the M&E system, what is the procedure for the data provision. Other particularly challenging issues identified during the testing were related to the role of authorized users (including during the data validation procedure) as well as the structure of a narrative report. The pre-and post-test analysis revealed that 19 participants (15 female) (95%) improved their knowledge. The average knowledge improvement was 20%, while 2 participants demonstrated a knowledge improvement of over 40%. The knowledge improvement rate was slightly higher among participants aged 30 or over (compared with the 14-29 age group) and among female participants (annex #4.13: Training Report).
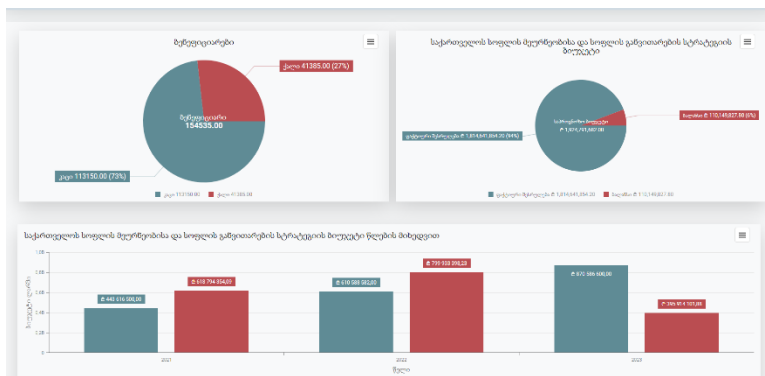
Figure 7 M&E System of the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy for 2021-2027 and Action Plan for 2021-2023.

Meanwhile, the project takes a step ahead in closely looking at the IACC working group training needs for April- June 2023 regarding the ARDSG/ARDAP M&E system to elaborate on the Training of trainers (ToT) program and conduct ToT for the MEPA's Policy Coordination and Analysis Department and LEPL Information and Education Centre staff. The training needs assessment uncovered that while there is a need to improve M&E system navigation/practical skills, training is not considered a preferred method to fill the knowledge gaps. Training was named as "time-consuming" as the representatives of

IACC institutions highlighted a "lack of time" to participate. Moreover, as the features (tabs/buttons, etc.) of the system are considered "easily forgettable", workshops twice a year (semiannually) would be more appropriate than training. In addition, workshops could also serve as a platform for dialogue, where the members of the IACC working group could discuss pending questions/issues and share ideas/information. Regarding the guidelines, the interviewees noted that the documents should be concise and various visualization tools and techniques (such as diagrams, and infographics) should be employed. "Short video tutorials" and the guidelines were also named "effective" to improve the quality of reporting (annex #4.14: Training Needs' Assessment and updated guidelines).

As a result of the training needs assessment in cooperation with the web developer the technical updates have been provided to the ARDSG/ARDAP M&E system (https://mes.mepa.gov.ge/) and a process of recording short video tutorials started.

Output 1.2. Strengthened bottom-up and area-based approach in Rural Development policy development and implementation.

Indicator: 1.2.1 LEADER approach institutionalized and integrated into RD programming (Yes/No).
Target: 1.2.1/a LEADER focal point at MEPA established (2025)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 100%
Target: 1.2.1/b Selection criteria for LAGs and local development strategies developed and approved (2023)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 70%
Target: 1.2.1/c State support programme designed and adopted (2023)
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 70%

MEPA, with SRDG support, continued a constant discourse and advocacy to reach an agreement with IACC member line ministries on the developed LAG eligibility assessment criteria and the proposed delivery model, known as the "decentralization of project selection competence at the LAG level". The state-funded programme (pending government approval) is based on LEADER/CLLD as a method of delivering support to rural areas through local partnerships/local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, in which, at the decision-making level neither public authorities, as defined in accordance with national rules, nor any single interest group represents more than 49 % of the voting rights in line with Articles 32 and 34 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (annex #4.15: LEADER/CLLD state programme common provisions document to be adopted by the Government Decree).

In cooperation with GALAG, SRDG provided **technical assistance to MEPA in preparation of guidelines to support LAGs in the process of implementation of the delegated competences once the national LEADER programme is approved by the government**; these include 1. Administrative implementation procedures on project selection (annex #4.16: Project Selection by LAGs - guideline); 2. Guidance on the design and implementation of LEADER Local Development Strategy including essential content of LDS such as SWOT analysis, intervention logic following the SMART convention, innovation and cooperation and LDS

Figure 8 Civic Committee Meeting

monitoring and evaluation (annex #4.17: LDS Design and Implementation - guideline); and 3. Written procedure on performing ex-ante/ex-post on-the-spot checks and control of beneficiary applications and selected projects where LAGs have such delegated competency by the Rural Development Agency (annex #4.18: OTS Rules and Procedures to be carried out by LAGs).

SRDG continues to support MEPA's Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Department Actions which is designated as the National Support Unit for the **Georgian Rural Development Network (GRDN)** in promoting the online platform, preparing new publications and facilitating knowledge exchange between partners and stakeholders involved in rural development policy implementation: public authorities, economic and social partners, civil society, and community groups; its core purpose is to highlight good practice and encourage innovative projects across the entire country. In March 2023 and in June 2023, 2 new publications were added now available in Georgian: "CAP 2023-27 – 28 CAP Strategic Plans at a glance" and "Long-term Vision for Rural Areas" https://grdn.ge/en/publications/97.

The work has started to promote knowledge and skills on sustainable rural development approaches including LEADER through GRDN. The project has ensured consensus on the design and launch an online Foundation Course on Rural Development which will provide an opportunity for participants to learn and acquire knowledge required for the promotion of integrated and inclusive rural development in Georgia that covers the needs and existing gaps of disadvantaged groups. Specifically, SRDG has prepared Technical Specifications to ensure that the eLearning platform provides an engaging and interactive platform (web application) for eLearners to access high-quality and engaging educational content with a modular structure, illustrations, infographics, audio narration, voiceovers, quizzes, and a certification test.

The open course is intended for participants working in rural development, agriculture projects, government institutions, CSOs, private and research institutions, social innovators, and entrepreneurs as well as the general public. Web application essentials will be provided including the domain address that learners will use to access the course by linking and framing it with grdn.ge website and provide a reliable hosting service where the web application will be stored and accessed (annex #4.19: Terms of Reference Full-Stack Developer of the eLearning Course on Rural Development).

Output 2.1. The needs of the population with a migration background are addressed in the state programs.

Indicator: 2.1.1 Number of state programs (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that support advanced inclusive rural development by considering the needs of the population with migration background.
Target: 2.2.1/ At least 6 state services considering the needs of the population with migration background (2025).
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 30%

Figure 9 Workshop - Unlocking The Inclusive And Sustainable Growth Potential Of Rural Areas.

To enhance the effectiveness and coherence of migrant integration and needs response policies and facilitate the process of (re) development the state services support advanced inclusive rural development by considering the needs of the population with migration background, a study on Analysis of Policy and Institutional Framework for Improved Integration of People with Migrant Background in Georgia was conducted (annex #4.20: Study on Integration of People with Migration Background). As a result, concrete needs and opportunities for designing/redesigning state programs were identified. This has further informed the development of concrete actions with ministries and agencies (such as the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure's: Mountains Development Fund, Rural Development Agency, Skills Agency and other institutions) to consider the needs of the rural population with migration background in their programming activity. The agency which will integrate the needs of rural population with migration background in their services and programs will be the Rural Development Agency with which the process is starting (annex #4.21: The needs of the population with migration background in the state programs of Rural Development Agency (RDA)).

The project team coordinates the activities with IOM to avoid any overlaps. To further advance the services of local governments for the reintegration of migrants in rural communities, the analysis of potential services was conducted (annex #4.22: Potential services for migrants' integration by local governments). As a result, the project team is starting to work with local governments to support the sustainable reintegration of migrants on the avenues of entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities; job search assistance and skills training programs; connecting returnee migrants with community organizations

and networks; and promoting participation in community events and cultural exchanges. In total, over 30 potential local services were identified that local governments can incorporate into their existing programs. In the coming months, local governments will be selected from the target regions and will commence the process of designing/redesigning their services in consideration of the returnee migrant needs. This will be further followed by the process of ensuring that local strategies (MDPs, medium-term budget priorities, etc.) include the migrants in their community needs.

Furthermore, mechanisms for skills development, employment and entrepreneurship support to returnee migrants were developed. The mechanisms are based on the pillars of improving employability (e.g., basic employability support (information; counselling; basic training), facilitating employment (e.g., job matching), creating jobs (e.g., supporting growth for decent jobs). Based on these mechanisms, the project is starting the process of working on an implementation of support to skills development, employment and entrepreneurship for returnee migrants on a local level. At the initial stage, the mechanisms for employment and entrepreneurship will be implemented.

Output 2.2. New potential solutions for improving rural infrastructure, as well as supporting mechanisms for resilient and sustainable rural livelihoods promoted.

Indicator: 2.2.1 Number of rural infrastructure projects (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that are developed with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders (e.g., youth, women) in the focal regions, following substantial support from the ENPARD IV RD program.
Target: 2.2.1 At least 25 rural infrastructure projects developed with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders (2025).
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 30%

Mapping and assessment of the development of enabling infrastructure in Guria and Imereti regions were completed (annex #4.23: Infrastructure Mapping-Assessment Report). The mapping has revealed that the whole process of infrastructure planning is fragmented and lacks efficiency while there is no comprehensive and holistic approach to this. The management of a growing number of initiatives and stakeholders involved requires additional efforts to make the process more effective and achieve synergies and complementarities among various policies, strategies and programmes. There is also a lack of coordination between central and local level stakeholders, including representatives of public and private sectors, as well as a lack of coordination in elaborating strategic documents and development plans. This creates obstacles to synergies in implementing municipal and/or regional infrastructure projects. Other challenges include inconsistency of budget documents and priorities; non-availability of medium-term budgets and absent or weak inclusion of rural communities in infrastructure projects design, planning and implementation. To this end, the project team is in the process of selecting a contractor (annex #4.24: ToR - Supporting local governments in inclusive infrastructure development planning in Guria and Imereti regions) that will promote active engagement of groups of stakeholders (with a special focus on disadvantaged groups such as youth, women, minorities) in the design of the local infrastructure projects in Guria and Imereti regions. Specifically, selected contractors should facilitate and ensure that: at least 10 rural infrastructure projects (in total, on a municipal level) are developed (by local authorities) with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders in at least 2 municipalities of Guria and 4 municipalities of Imereti region.

Conceptual PPP opportunities for co-designed infrastructure projects in rural areas were also developed and mechanisms for engagement in the co-design of the infrastructure projects in the municipalities were

identified (annex #4.25: PSE report). Local governments in target regions utilize different forms of participatory democracy, including those that are applied to discuss the municipality's development strategies, mid-term development priorities and plans, annual budget, budget for infrastructure and selection of the infrastructure projects, however, in reality, these mechanisms are not actively engaged private sector. In municipalities where the private sector is engaged in policy-dialogue, including discussion on investments in infrastructure, such dialogue is not institutionalized and involves a limited number of private sector representatives. The private sector is not considered by the municipalities as an important stakeholder in local policy development, and decision-making on public infrastructure investments similar to residents, CSOs and local community groups. In turn, the private sector has limited interest in engagement with municipalities. They have low trust in municipalities; and do not believe that their engagement with municipalities will bring results, partially because of local governments' inability to follow private sector initiatives. Therefore, the project starts the following to strengthen PSE in the selection and co-design of infrastructure projects, with the final goal to increase private investments into public infrastructure through public-private partnership, through (1) Increasing the number of private sector actors engaged in the dialogue; (2) Building trust and motivation for private sector to participate in the dialogue through result-oriented actions; (3) Creating mechanisms for structured and institutionalized PSE in infrastructure development; and (4) Support capacity building of all actors involved in public-private dialogue to develop PPPs at local level. To this end, the project starts supporting local authorities and the private sector to identify priorities and interests for co-designed infrastructure projects within existing PPP platforms or through the establishment of a new platform for dialogue.

The project also seeks to pilot innovative financing and funding instruments for rural infrastructure. To this end, the relevant instruments have been identified (annex #4.26: Developing new financing instruments for rural infrastructure), incl. better management and use of existing infrastructure assets; adopting user charges, while maintaining accessibility; diversifying the investors in local government infrastructure; enhancing the use of subnational state-owned enterprises for infrastructure delivery; building local government investment capacity, etc. The process of validating the innovative mechanisms with stakeholders is in progress and the upcoming period first pilot programs will be introduced.

Output 2.3. Accessibility of public services improved for disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas.

Indicator: 2.3.1 Number of state services (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that are designed/re-designed in an inclusive manner (reflecting needs of disadvantaged groups) and to have improved accessibility (particularly for disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas.
Target: 2.3.1/a At least 9 state services designed/re-designed for increased accessibility (2025).
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 30%
Target: 2.3.1/b At least 6 state services designed/re-designed in an inclusive manner (2025).
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: Not started.

To improve the accessibility of public services in disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas, the project is partnering initially with the Public Service Hall (PSH) of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The agreement (annex #4.27: Letter of Agreement between UNDP-PSH) with PSH has been finalized, and endorsed by the government of Georgia and at this stage is in the process of issuance of the special decree by the Prime Minister. Afterwards, the agreement will be signed by the parties. PSH will work together with the project team and will: design/redesign at least 5 PSH (State) services for increased accessibility for

disadvantaged groups; design/redesign at least 3 PSH (State) services in an inclusive manner for disadvantaged groups; have 80 of operators of Public Service Hall trained in sign (gesture) language training; have additional 150 Public Service Hall operators trained in effective communication training for the service of persons with disabilities; have at least 8 branches with appropriate equipment to provide service to disabled and illiterate persons; and develop at least 10 videos on frequently asked questions considering the needs of people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

Output 3.1: Support Sustainable Forest Management

Indicator: 3.1.1 Number of additional Forest Engineers trained and hired by National Forestry Agency (gender disaggregated).
Target: 3.1.1/ At least 20 additional Forest Engineers trained and hired by National Forestry Agency to conduct forest management inventory field works (2025).
Achievement as of 30.09.2023: 50%

In cooperation with the National Forestry Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Terms of Reference were elaborated for the preparation of forest registration (inventory) and management plan (Stage 1) for the state forest within the administrative boundaries of Oni municipality on an approximate area of 60,000 ha. The 1 stage of work will cover:

Figure 10 Training "Forest Inventory and Registration"

1. District network - a set of districts will be depicted on cartographic material, where each district will be assigned a corresponding number. The numbering of the districts will be produced within the framework of forestry from the northwest to the southeast.
2. State forest areas will be divided and numbered into discitis per the current legislation, using a topographic map, grove plan and aerial photo, independently within the framework of forestry, where the boundaries of the districts will remain mostly unchanged.
3. The boundaries of the state forest of the areas within the administrative boundaries of the municipality will be specified following Article 19 of Resolution N496 of October 6, 2021, of the Government of Georgia "On Approving the Provision on Granting, Termination of Forest Status and Establishing and Correcting/Amending Forest Boundaries.

Respective consultants - lead forest engineer, forest engineer and 4 GIS specialists have been selected who will be engaged in the implementation of the works of stage 1.

In addition, in cooperation with the Environmental Information and Education Center of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, a practical component of the professional training programme on "forest inventory and registration" was implemented. 12 young forest engineers (4 women) were trained and will be later employed by the National Forestry Agency in forest inventory works (annex #4.28: Training Report (EIEC)).

Figure 11 Training "Forest Inventory and Registration"

Practical activities included the teaching of the following topics (both theoretical and practical teaching was carried out using the "Forest Taxation Manual", please see annex #4.28):

- Contour decoding of aerial photographs.
- Orientation to the site through aerial photographs, topographic maps, and forestry maps of forest stand plans.
- Taking sample areas (circular, Bitterlich method).
- Field work - instruction - about the safety of field work and the rules for using timber measuring inventory.
- Forest inventory/timber measurement.
- Taxation of the forest, determining the height index, filling in the tax card, and determining the average tax rates using afforestation materials.

5/ Impact on Gender Equality

During the reporting period, the SRDG under outcomes 2 and 3 signed agreements with ESTDEV and Public Service Hall to increase outreach to the rural population and provide new services and opportunities for the development, particularly for rural women, and disadvantaged groups in the target regions. Additionally, the project continues to collect sex-disaggregated data through various events and activities. Under the partnership with ESTDEV, at least 200 rural women will receive direct support for increased entrepreneurial activities and employment in non-agriculture sector, mechanism for increased participation of rural women in LAGs will be developed, at least 2 RDA (Rural Development Agency) programs will incorporate gender mainstreaming aspects and rural women entrepreneurs' network will be established.

9 events (meetings (5), workshops (1) and trainings (3) reached 231 participants, where women were 126 (55%), and men 105 (45%). Meanwhile, three trainings to improve the knowledge and skills of the State Authority representatives in M&E, IPARD procedures and Forest Management took place, where overall 54 attendees participated, out of which 32 were women (59%) and 22 men (41%). Notably, more than 90% of training participants improved their knowledge and skills.

Training Name	Number of Events	Number of Participants	Number of Women	Number of Men	Number of Age Group − 14-29	Number of Age Group − 30+
Training for Authorized Users of Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation System of 2021-2027 Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy	1	21	16	5	2	19
Respective MEPA/RDA staff Training in IPARD/EU-compliant RD policy and institutional framework	1	21	12	9	4	17
Forest Inventory and Taxation (Practical Component)	1	12	4	8	9	3
Subtotal	**3**	**54**	**32**	**22**	**15**	**39**
Meeting Name	**Number of Events**	**Number of Participants**	**Number of Women**	**Number of Men**	**Number of Age Group − 14-29**	**Number of Age Group − 30+**
IACC meetings	2	57	32	25		57
Civic (monitoring) Committee Meeting	1	38	22	16		38
ENPARD IV Steering and Stakeholders' Committees Meetings	2	49	19	30	3	46
Subtotal	5	144	73	71	3	141
Workshop Name	**Number of Events**	**Number of Participants**	**Number of Women**	**Number of Men**	**Number of Age Group − 14-29**	**Number of Age Group − 30+**
Unlocking The Inclusive And Sustainable Growth Potential Of Rural Areas	1	33	21	12	2	31
Subtotal	1	33	21	12	2	31
Total	**9**	**231**	**126**	**105**	**20**	**211**
Percentage count			**55%**	**45%**	**9%**	**91%**

6/ The SRDG Results Framework / Annual Target-Based Performance Assessment:

Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators (with Baselines & Indicative Targets)	Annual Target for 2023	Annual Targets' Achievement Rate[1]	Comment on Annual Target Achievement	Means of Verification
Outcome 1: Improved rural development policy and governance system for integrated and effective policy development and implementation **Indicator 1.1** Level of operational efficiency and organisational effectiveness of MEPA, RDA and other IACC member ministries and agencies in producing Rural Development outputs. **Baseline (year and value):** 2020, 1.1/a RDA reform action plan adopted, and implementation started. 2020, 1.1/b Inter-agency Coordination Council established and functioning 2021, 1.1/c MEPA's procedures as managing authority (MA) established. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 1.1 At least 2 new components of management and control system requirements established in RDA in compliance with IPARD requirements.	**Annual Target 1.1|2023:** A conceptual outline and framework of new components for management and control requirements compliant with IPARD requirements drafted and agreed with MEPA / RDA.	60% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	A package of proposals has been developed to be accepted and officially approved by MEPA. Final discussions are planned for 20 October – 3 November.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of components of management and control system requirements introduced in RDA
Output 1.1: Advanced institutional and technical capacities of MEPA and other competent national authorities as regards rural development. **Indicator 1.1.1** (responds to target: 1.1.1a) Inter-agency coordination established for forming functional IACS in RDA (Yes/No). **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 1.1.1/ Inter-agency coordination on IACS not existent. **Final Target (year and value):** 2023, 1.1.1/an Inter-agency working group established involving RDA, National Wine Agency, National Food Agency, National Agency for Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring as well as the National Agency of Public Registry under the Ministry of Justice.	**Annual Target 1.1.1a|2023:** Inter-agency working group established involving RDA, National Wine Agency, National Food Agency, National Agency for Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring, as well as the National Agency of Public Registry under the Ministry of Justice	50% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	The renewed mandate of 5 Thematic Working Groups established illustrates shared understanding between the Ministry and its subsidiary authorities. Possibility to include NAPR pending approval.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; Official MEPA decrees establishing a working group and IACS roadmap and action priorities.

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[1] 1. Achieved (100%)
2. Partially Achieved (1%-50%)
3. Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)
4. Not Achieved (0%)
5. Not started (0%)
6. Suspended (0%)

Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators (with Baselines & Indicative Targets)	Annual Target for 2023	Annual Targets' Achievement Rate[1]	Comment on Annual Target Achievement	Means of Verification
Indicator 1.1.1 (responds to target: 1.1.1b) Inter-agency coordination established for forming functional IACS in RDA (Yes/No) **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 1.1.1/ Inter-agency coordination on IACS not existent. **Final Target (year and value):** 2024, 11.1.1/b IACS roadmap and action priorities adopted, and implementation started.	**Annual Target 1.1.1b|2023:** IACS roadmap and action priorities drafted and agreed with MEPA and RDA	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	Will be achieved completely before the end of 2023.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; Official MEPA decrees establishing a working group and IACS roadmap and action priorities.
Indicator 1.1.2 (responds to target 1.1.2a) Capacities of staff of MEPA and other national authorities involved in the implementation of ARD Strategy)**Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 1.1.2/a Training plan on the alignment with EU requirements is not existing.**Final Target (year and value):** 2024, 1.1.2/a MEPA staff training plan developed.	**Annual Target 1.1.2a|2023:** MEPA staff training needs' initial plan drafted and agreed.	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	The Staff Training Plan for 2024-2025 was elaborated and agreed during the training workshop planned for 26-29 October.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; MEPA staff training plan, relevant official legal documents – decrees etc.
Indicator 1.1.2 (responds to target 1.1.2b) Capacities of staff of MEPA and other national authorities involved in the implementation of ARD Strategy) **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 1.1.2/b No specific targeted formal trainings / on the job trainings. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 1.1.2/b Formal trainings and on the job trainings of MEPA are delivered.	**Annual Target 1.1.2b1|2023:** 30% average knowledge increase of respective MEPA/RDA staff in IPARD/EU-compliant RD policy framework	50% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	Training workshop planned for 26-29 October	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; MEPA staff training plan, relevant official legal documents – decrees etc.
	Annual Target 1.1.2b2|2023: 30% average knowledge increase of respective IACC and Civic Committee/RD policy stakeholders in IPARD/EU-compliant RD policy framework.	25% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	Training of respective IACC and Civic Committee/RD policy stakeholders in IPARD/EU-compliant RD policy framework is planned in November	
Indicator 1.1.3 Improved application processing and management in RDA (Yes/No) **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 1.1.3 APMS system not in place. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 1.1.3 Application Programmes Management System (APMS) fully developed and operationalized in RDA.	**Annual Target 1.1.3|2023:** Technical specifications of the Application Programmes Management System (APMS) elaborated.	100% Achieved (100%)		SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; Official MEPA/RDA decrees establishing APMS in RDA
Outcome 1: Improved rural development policy and governance system for integrated and effective policy development and implementation **Indicator 1.2** Compliance of the Action Plan of Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2021-2027 to new EU CAP and IPARD policy objectives and policy measures. **Baseline (year and value):** 2019, 1.2 Action Plan 2021-2023 is adopted.	**Annual Target 1.2a|2023:** New EU CAP and IPARD compliant measure agreed with MEPA	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	It was agreed that one measure should be selected by MEPA and implemented in line with IPARD requirements.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of components of management and control system requirements introduced in RDA
	Annual Target 1.2b|2023: An existing programme ARDSG action plan for 2024-2027 redesigned to align with EU CAP and IPARD programme and measure	25% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	The choice of existing national measures in Georgia presents a strong linkage with the EU-level CAP objectives and measures. Measures to	

Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators (with Baselines & Indicative Targets)	Annual Target for 2023	Annual Targets' Achievement Rate[1]	Comment on Annual Target Achievement	Means of Verification
Final Target (year and value): 2025, 1.2 At least one EU CAP and IPARD compliant measure adopted and operational.			become eligible in the first place under the IPARD programme have been identified but the process to achieve the target will require more time and effort to have implications on the design approach of the Action Plan.	
	Annual Target 1.2c|2023: ARDSG/ARDAP M&E system incorporated into the training system of the LEPL Environment Informational and Education Center	80% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	The focus group meeting with IACC's working group revealed no need for a separate training program regarding the M&E system. Logically, it was decided to design short video tutorials and upload them into the M&E system for WG members' access and usage. The group recommended conducting meetups per report twice a year.	
Output 1.2: Strengthened bottom-up and area-based approach in Rural Development policy development and implementation. **Indicator: 1.2.1** (responds to target 1.2.1a) LEADER approach institutionalized and integrated into RD programming (Yes/No) **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 1.2.1 LEADER approach is not institutionalized. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 1.2.1a LEADER focal point at MEPA established.	**Annual Target 1.2.1a1|2023:** MEPA/RDA and programme stakeholders' (LAGs) capacities in programming and implementing an area-based bottom-up approach strengthened. 25% average knowledge improvement in LEADER/CLLD delivery incl. M&E	0% Not Achieved (0%)	Capacity-building interventions can effectively take place after LEADER CLLD State-Support Programme is accepted and officially approved (creating an enabling environment for results-oriented interventions)	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; official decrees providing evidence.
	Annual Target 1.2.1a2|2023: MEPA / RDA designed an operational framework of the LEADER/CLLD approach.	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	Operation framework is elaborated. Final approval is expected before the end of 2023.	
Indicator: 1.2.1 (responds to target 1.2.1b) LEADER approach institutionalized and integrated into RD programming (Yes/No)**Baseline (year and value).** 2022, 1.2.1 LEADER approach is not institutionalized.**Final Target (year and value):** 2023, 1.2.1/b Selection criteria for LAGs and local development strategies developed and approved.	**Annual Target 1.2.1b|2023:** Selection criteria for LAGs and local development strategies developed and approved.	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	Criteria are developed, adoption is expected before the end of 2023.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; official decrees providing evidence.

Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators (with Baselines & Indicative Targets)	Annual Target for 2023	Annual Targets' Achievement Rate[1]	Comment on Annual Target Achievement	Means of Verification
Indicator: 1.2.1 (responds to target 1.2.1c) LEADER approach institutionalized and integrated into RD programming (Yes/No) **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 1.2.1 LEADER approach is not institutionalized. **Final Target (year and value):** 2023, 1.2.1/c State support programme designed and adopted.	**Annual Target 1.2.1c|2023:** LEADER/CLLD State support programme designed and adopted.	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	The Programme is ready to be approved by the Government before the end of 2023.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; official decrees providing evidence.
Outcome 2: Improved rural services, infrastructure, empowered rural women and inclusive rural development **Indicator:2.1** Average monthly incomes per household in rural areas (excludes income from property disposal, borrowing and dissaving). **Baseline (year and value):** 2020 (GEL) - 2.1 Kakheti – 928; Guria – 809; Imereti – 1023; Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti – 1020. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, (GEL) – 2.1 Kakheti – 992; Guria – 865; Imereti – 1094; Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti – 1091.	GeoStat does not provide targets for indicators.	N/A	Achievement of the indicator will be tracked annually in the second quarter of the following year., approximately in May 2024.	National Statistics Office of Georgia (GeoStat).
Output 2.1: The needs of the population with migration background considered in the state programs. **Indicator: 2.1.1** Number of state programs (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that support advanced inclusive rural development by considering the needs of the population with a migration background. **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 2.1.1 zero service.**Final Target (year and value)**: 2025, 2.1.1/ At least 6 state services considering the needs of the population with a migration background.	**Annual Target 2.1.1|2023:** Needs of the population with migration background studied, as well as the mechanisms of addressing those needs through state programs on national and local levels. Design/redesign of public programs/services initiated.	100% Achieved (100%)		SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of state programs.
Output 2.2: New potential solutions for improving rural infrastructure promoted, as well as supporting mechanisms for resilient and sustainable rural livelihoods. **Indicator 2.2.1** Number of rural infrastructure projects (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that are developed with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders (e.g., youth, women) in the focal regions, following substantial support from the ENPARD IV RD program. **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 2.1.1 zero rural infrastructure. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 2.2.1 At least 25 rural infrastructure projects developed with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders.	**Annual Target 2.2.1a|2023:** The rural infrastructure projects mapped.	100% Achieved (100%)		SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of rural infrastructure projects.
	Annual Target 2.2.1b|2023: Engagement mechanisms identified, and piloting initiated.	100% Achieved (100%)		

Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators (with Baselines & Indicative Targets)	Annual Target for 2023	Annual Targets' Achievement Rate[1]	Comment on Annual Target Achievement	Means of Verification
Output 2.3: Accessibility of public services improved for disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas. **Indicator 2.3.1** (responds to target 2.3.1a) Number of state services (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that are designed/re-designed in an inclusive manner (reflecting needs of disadvantaged groups) and to have improved accessibility. **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 2.1.1 zero state service. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 2.3.1/a At least 9 state services designed/re-designed for increased accessibility.	The process of designing/re-designing of PSH (State) services for increased accessibility for vulnerable groups initiated.	100% Achieved (100%)		SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of state services.
Indicator 2.3.1 (responds to target 2.3.1b) Number of state services (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that are designed/re-designed in an inclusive manner (reflecting needs of disadvantaged groups) and to have improved accessibility. **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 2.1.1 zero state service. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 2.3.1/b At least 6 state services designed/re-designed in an inclusive manner.			**Note:** The annual target will be defined in the fourth quarter of 2023, since the contract with Public Service Hall was signed on 5 October 2023.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of state services.
Output 2.4: Empowered rural women. **Indicator 2.4.1** Number of rural women supported for increased entrepreneurial activities and employment in non-agriculture sector. **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 2.4.1 zero rural women. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 2.4.1 At least 200 women in rural areas received support for increased entrepreneurial activities and employment in non-agriculture sector.			**Note:** Activities are planned to be started in 2024.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports. The list of beneficiaries.
Outcome 3: Improved environment protection, sustainable use of natural resources, and climate action. **Indicator 3.1** # of hectares of forest areas using sustainable management plans in Imereti and Racha regions. **Baseline (year and value):** 2021, 3.1 Zero ha. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 3.1 At least 100 000 ha of forests using improved management practices in Imereti and Racha regions.	**Annual Target 3.1|2023:** Technical requirements forests using improved management practices in Imereti and Racha regions outlined, and first steps taken.	50% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	Activity will be completed by the end of 2023.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; National Forester Agency (NFA) and Agency of Protected Areas (APA) Data management and shp files.
Output 3.1: Forest Engineers skills development programme is institutionalized under MEPA. **Indicator 3.1.1** Number of additional Forest Engineers trained and hired by National Forestry Agency (gender disaggregated). **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 3.1.1 40 forest	**Annual Target 3.1.1a|2023:** First stage of Forest Inventory in Oni Municipality conducted.	50% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	Terms of Reference of the first stage of works has been elaborated covering up to 60,000 ha of forests in Oni municipality. Respective consultants have been selected and	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of Forest Engineers.

Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicators (with Baselines & Indicative Targets)	Annual Target for 2023	Annual Targets' Achievement Rate[1]	Comment on Annual Target Achievement	Means of Verification
engineers. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 3.1.1 At least 20 additional Forest Engineers trained and hired by National Forestry Agency to conduct forest management inventory field works.			the first stage of work will be finalized before the end of 2023.	
	Annual Target 3.1.1b|2023: New Forest engineers selected and trained.	100% Achieved (100%)		
	Annual Target 3.1.1c|2023: Eco-tourism potential in target regions exploited.	0% Not Achieved (0%)	This activity has been postponed to the year 2024 since new Local Actions Groups have not yet been formed in ENPARD IV target regions. Involvement of LAGs in this activity is of crucial importance.	
Output 3.2: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency market development for reducing pressure on forest resources and creation of alternative livelihood opportunities at Rural Areas. **Indicator 3.2.1** Number of Renewable Energy Communities established in focal regions. **Baseline (year and value):** 2022, 3.2.1 zero Renewable Energy Community. **Final Target (year and value):** 2025, 3.2.1 At least one Renewable Energy Community established.	**Annual Target 3.2.1a|2023:** A concept of Renewable Energy Community elaborated.	10% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	Involvement of LAGs in this activity is of crucial importance. At this stage a consultant is selected, however major activities will be implemented once new LAGs are formed in ENPARD IV target regions.	SRDG/ENPARD4 project reports, including SRDG/ENPARD4 M&E system data; annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E system data and implementation reports; # of Renewable Energy Communities.
	Annual Target 3.2.2b|2023: Households and businesses accessibility of bank financing for EE/RE technologies exploited.	10% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	Involvement of LAGs in this activity is of crucial importance. At this stage a consultant is selected, however major activities will be implemented once new LAGs are formed in ENPARD IV target regions.	

7/ CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Outcome 1. Improved rural development governance system for integrated and effective policy development and implementation.

The experience so far shows that key challenges for an efficient and effective RD governance system in Georgia are (1) shared, realistic and internalized purpose of RD (incl. policy objectives and focus), (2) clear delineation of the scope of RD (incl. demarcation with other sectoral/multisectoral strategies to form integrated approach), and (3) a clear allocation of responsibilities and authorities. Other challenges include for example the difficulty for MEPA (and other ministries) to embrace evidence-based policy making. Project interventions shall provide resources for reducing, if not eliminating, the institutional bottlenecks to the synergistic design, delivery and M&E of the rural development strategy and action plan. At the same time, capacity development associated with the rural development concept in Georgia can appear technical but is ultimately political. Efforts to enhance institutional capacity must be served by addressing both internal and external factors, strictly speaking, both functional (getting the job done) and political (getting power right and accommodating interests) dimensions of capacity.

To uncover the drivers of capacity and overall workplace behavioral change, the technical support must continue tracking the status of institutional arrangements (to address unclear roles and responsibilities among the different layers of the government involved in rural development, not comprehensive HRM, operational framework and business processes); leadership (primacy will be given to national ownership, political interest in maintaining or changing the status quo); accountability (to address anecdotal evidence or widespread but not comprehensive evidence of policy oversight and transparency); and knowledge (to address limited technical capacities and understanding of good practices in rural development for coping with agri-environmental and forest-related issues, biodiversity, promoting and developing a concept of non-farm rural enterprise development engaging largely rural human resources, especially, youth and women.

Capacity development interventions shall be built around three core areas: (1) efficiency of policy instruments and other formal means by which the lead ministry (MEPA) and IACC member institutions guide action to achieve the stated objectives; (2) effectiveness of organizational arrangements that institutions involved in delivering RDP adopt to achieve stated objectives; and (3) level of existing versus desired knowledge-based technical capacities as relates to rural development functions across various public agencies. The actions foreseen by the project interventions shall also emphasize the need to strengthen local governance mechanisms to achieve a higher impact on LEADER groups and rural community voice mechanisms in general.

Other important aspects:

a. **Flexibility -** A more flexible project approach will allow us to better respond to emerging needs.
b. **Sectorial approach -** Different professions and sectors have different needs and challenges and the private sector is represented by different professional organizations, and social partners.
c. **Focus beyond agriculture** – Farmers and public institutions involved in administering the rural development sector need additional skills beyond standard agriculture skills.
d. **Trust, empowerment & ownership -** handing over responsibilities, tasks and finances to the national and regional players.

e. **Monitoring –** progress of the interventions with the semi-annual and annual adjustment/fine-tuning of the programs and sub-programs.
f. **Coordination and visibility** – Key factors of success of the project interventions both on the national and regional levels.

Outcome 2 Improved rural services, and infrastructure, empowered rural women and inclusive rural development.

On the development of the state programs (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that support advanced inclusive rural development by considering the needs of the population with migration background: based on the earlier studies of IOM, consultations with stakeholders (MRDI, MEPA, MOESD and of the ministries), it was determined that: (1) most effective manner to incorporate needs of rural population with a migration background is worked individually with each governmental agency on specific programs; (2) the definition of " rural population with migration background" can vary across the spectrum of state programs, considering specifics of each state program. On private sector engagement in rural infrastructure development: The pre-requisite for increasing the role of the private sector in the selection of infrastructural projects is the creation of a well-structured format for public-private dialogue, including consultations on infrastructural projects, and a high degree of its legitimacy. The Investment Council www.investorscouncil.ge under the Government of Georgia can be selected as a model of local PPDs. Representatives of relevant departments of the City Hall and City Council, representatives of business entities operating in the municipality, development partners, and non-governmental organizations, if desired for transparency of the process, can be invited as permanent and non-permanent member of the PPD formats for PSE engagement in municipalities. Preferably, such PPD platforms would also be supported by a secretariat, which would ensure the preparation of discussion topics, dissemination of information to members, etc. To ensure broad representation of the private sector and increase confidence in the PPD format, it is recommended that the private sector is represented not by individual business entities, but by business associations. Although local business associations are less developed in the majority of municipalities, it is possible and preferable to include national-level business associations, which unite businesses of different fields and/or sizes, in deliberative formats. Furthermore, there can be several innovative instruments for funding and financing rural infrastructure that are feasible for Georgia's local context, incl. better management and use of existing infrastructure assets; adopting user charges, while maintaining accessibility; diversifying the investors in local government infrastructure; enhancing the use of subnational state-owned enterprises for infrastructure delivery; building local government investment capacity. In addition, based on the project studies, feasible new models to support skills development, employment and entrepreneurship support to returnee migrants can be implemented, incl. basic employability support (information; counselling; basic training)), facilitating employment (e.g., job matching), creating jobs (e.g., supporting growth for decent jobs).

8/ SRDG Communication and Visibility
Social network data analysis

The project continues intensely and actively outreach to various target groups and the general population of Georgia to communicate the main message of rural, economic development, involvement of the diverse groups of stakeholders, direct or indirect beneficiaries, and socially vulnerable groups do Not Leave Anyone Behind. Social networks of UNDP Georgia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), including implementing partners are covered with the SRDG events. The main social network used during the reporting period was Facebook and the data below presents an audience reach, likes, shares, etc.:

Facebook Data from UNDP Georgia, MEPA and Implementing partners pages

Bar chart values:
- Number of People Reached: 46.844
- Number of Likes: 595
- Number of Shares: 144
- Number of Views: 487.497
- Number of Impressions: 976
- Number of Engagement: 97
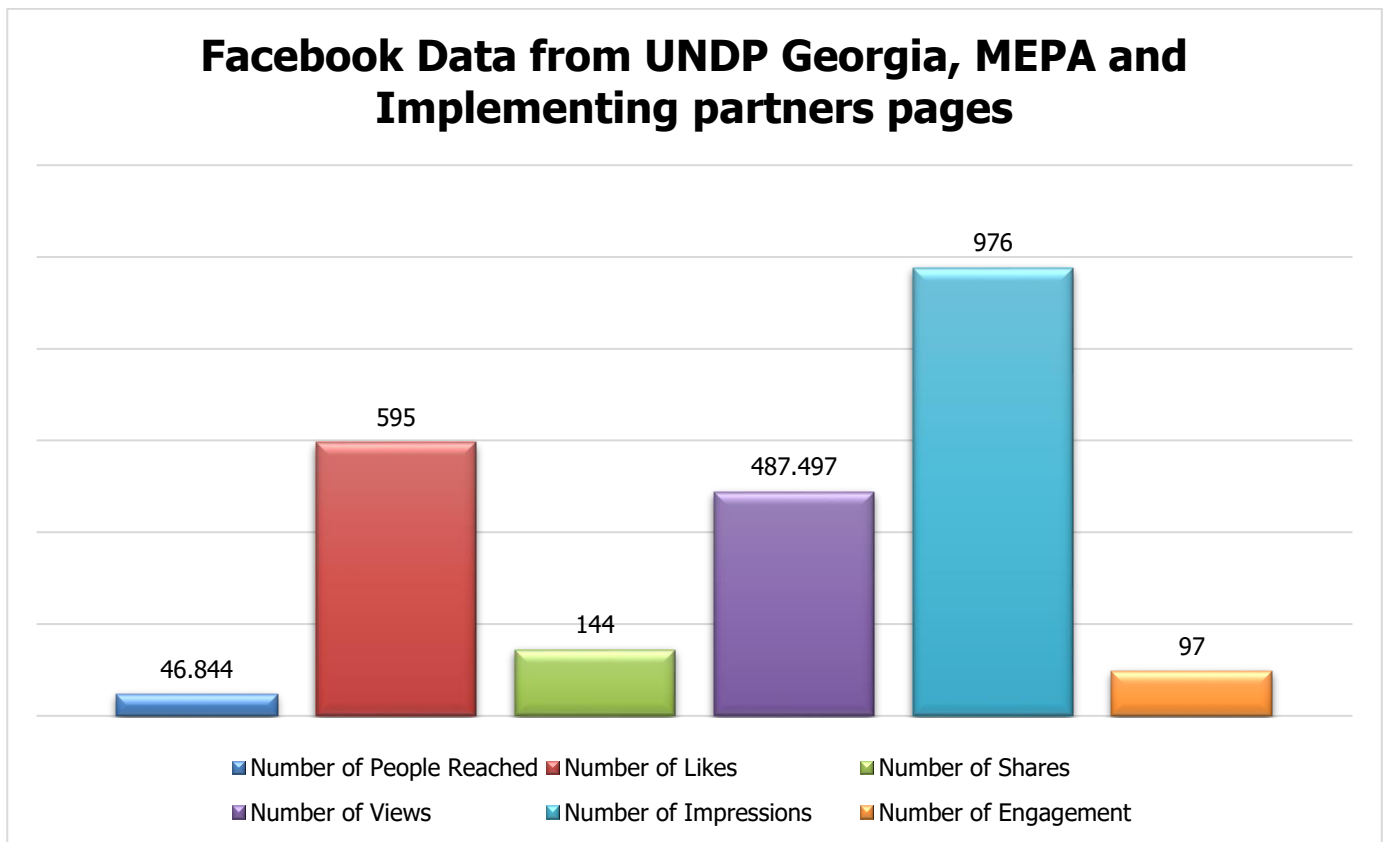
Media coverage analysis

The project conducted the vocational retraining program - Forest Inventory and Taxation (practical component) on 3-7 July 2023, an event was aired through 2 TV channels and 3 Information. A detailed list of the media outlets is provided below:

- BusinessPressNews - https://rb.gy/f5ly0
- Rustavi 2 - https://rb.gy/9w12w
- InterPressNews - https://rb.gy/7v26c
- News hub - https://shorturl.at/puL48
- Euronews Georgia - https://shorturl.at/ioyC8

ENPARD 32nd Steering Committee Meeting – 27 September 2023

- MEPA Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MEPAGeorgia/videos/2158641487659502 - viewed 412, likes 32.
- MEPA Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MEPAGeorgia/posts/pfbid02Y31myHCdPojKJGPaxYbneAyyzBVT9nwx9VgBZ2iSxNj7X2u7rwpacfQkbQshKsGUl - likes 67, shares 17

Civic Committee Working Meeting – 7-8 August 2023

- MEPA Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/MEPAGeorgia/posts/pfbid0a6bmcRY1Pj8rsj38FT7HS23DuQJoevDpB5WEaLHweAYaGhHY7Ui4pnzeDAUfvCnpl - likes 70, shares 20.
- MEPA Facebook Page: https://fb.watch/nIIAuQkf-Z/ - likes 40, views - 666.

Unlocking the Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Potential of Rural Areas – 4 July 2023

- UNDP Georgia Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/UNDPGeorgia/posts/pfbid0Kifwx624CfRaw2F6oujDEUJnK3m9MJTSSYe39z2huwhMuBRmWeFepqj8ipK6xsHEl - 976 impressions, 97 engagement, likes 19, shares 5.
- MEPA Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MEPAGeorgia/posts/pfbid0BWxETGPnDuEageEFfWEnnUpmZd8fDT9KhfpTAf1BeU19A85HS4dkLNjB6nyg1bJYl - likes 82, shares 5.

Vocational retraining program - Forest Inventory and Taxation (practical component) - 3-7 July 2023

- EIEC Facebook page: https://shorturl.at/hoV24 - people reached 4848, likes 50, shares 4, views 6,010.
- EIEC Facebook page: https://shorturl.at/KPS24 - people reached 6,469, likes 39, shares 9, views 7,253.
- EIEC Facebook page: https://shorturl.at/ijwyS - people reached 40,375, likes 226, shares 88, views 68,244.
- EIEC website: https://eiec.gov.ge/ - https://rb.gy/m7z1d
- EIEC website: https://eiec.gov.ge/ - https://shorturl.at/fSUY9
- BusinessPressNews - https://rb.gy/f5ly0
- Rustavi 2 - https://rb.gy/9w12w
- Tbilisi State University - https://rb.gy/v6x1h
- Georgian Technical University - https://shorturl.at/buvFQ
- InterPressNews - https://rb.gy/7v26c
- News hub - https://shorturl.at/puL48
- Euronews Georgia - https://shorturl.at/ioyC8

ENPARD 31st Steering Committee Meeting – 28 June 2023

- MEPA Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MEPAGeorgia/posts/pfbid0BWxETGPnDuEageEFfWEnnUpmZd8fDT9KhfpTAf1BeU19A85HS4dkLNjB6nyg1bJYl - likes 60.

About ENPARD Programme in Georgia

- Rustavi 2: სოფლის მეურნეობის გამოწვევები-ნოდარ კერესელიძე; ბიზნესი რუსთავი2 ზე-2023.02.06 - YouTube
- Ajara TV: https://www.facebook.com/AjaraTV/videos/1075873766732787
- EuroNews Georgia Facebook page: https://fb.watch/nIHziKzKtx/ - likes 952, views 103000.
- EuroNews Georgia TV: განახლებადი მომავალი (euronewsgeorgia.com) – views 43.

9/ Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Project Management and Cost Efficiency

The project implements 22 activities and 58 sub-activities to achieve planned outputs (8) and outcomes (3). All activities realized in rural communities of the 4 target regions of Georgia (Kakheti, Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi & Kvemo Svaneti and Guria), expect activities that were under output 1.1 and 1.2 which covered the whole country.

UNDP applies a mix of contractual modalities, selecting suppliers (companies and national and international consultants) through open selection procedures to implement the planned activities. Additionally, the project uses the competencies and technical skills within the mandated government institutions (Estonian Centre for International Development (ESTDEV), Agriculture Registers and Information Board (Paying Agency) of the Republic of Estonia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Regional Development & Infrastructure,

IRDG/UNDP Suppliers Number per Contract Type	All (International / Local)
Contract for Civil works	N/A
Contract for Goods and/or Services	N/A
Individual Contract (IC)	17
Letter Of Agreement (LoA)	2
Low-Value Grant Agreement (LVG)	N/A
Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA)	1
Grand Total	**20**

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development) and other national agencies to implement project activities wherever possible. These institutions are the Rural Development Agency, National Forestry Agency, Agency for National Protected Areas Agency, Public Service Hall, and Environmental Education and Information Centre (EIEC), which have a special role in implementing the project activities under the UNDP contractual modalities.

SRDG International and local suppliers involved in activities implementation:

IRDG/UNDP Suppliers for 2018-2022	International	Local
Contract for Civil works		
Contract for Goods and/or Services		
Individual Contract (IC)	3	14
Letter Of Agreement (LoA)	1	1
Low-Value Grant Agreement (LVG)		
Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA)		1
Grand Total	**4**	**16**

Project Management Governance and Coordination

The Project Steering Committee: The project is implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with full UNDP Country Office support in close partnership with MEPA. UNDP is responsible for the execution of all the project activities and provision of inputs, including implementation of all support services and management of all project funds. As a coordination mechanism a project Steering committee composed of representatives from EU Delegation, UNDP, EstDev and Agriculture Registers and Information

Board of Estonia, MEPA will be used. The main purpose of the project steering committee is to engage relevant stakeholders and may invite external experts as observers for example from other UN bodies or EU Member State development agencies or NGOs active in the domains relevant to rural development.

Donor/Implementing partner: Estonian Centre for International Development (ESTDEV), Agriculture Registers and Information Board (Paying Agency) of the Republic of Estonia. **ESTDEV** is responsible for implementing selected activities of Output 1 - Improved Rural Development Governance System for Integrated and Effective Policy Development and Implementation and of Output 2 - Improved Rural Services, Infrastructure, Empowered Rural Women and Inclusive Rural Development and Output 3 - Sustainable Use of Forest Resources and Improved Environmental Protection and Climate Action.

Through the partnership with the Estonian Development Cooperation, the project will provide Estonia's knowledge and experience in implementing Rural Development policies to respective stakeholders in Georgia to bottom-up policy making and implementation, institutional and governance framework. The project will use Estonian experts in cooperation with the partner organization ESTDEV, particularly on the topics related to LEADER/CLLD institutionalization, Rural Development governance structure and institutional development.

Coordination with ENPARD and other partners: UNDP collaborated closely with FAO, MEPA, and the EU, working in conjunction with a Steering Committee and Stakeholder Committee meetings to offer comprehensive guidance and decision-making support throughout the ENPARD IV projects. These platforms serve as effective mechanisms for ensuring seamless information exchange and coordinating the various activities of ENPARD IV stakeholders, thereby preventing any duplication or overlap in their efforts (annex #4.29: Minutes of ENPARD IV 31st Steering and Stakeholders' Committee Meetings).

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The project's progress and performance are tracked through quarterly (progress) and annual narrative (interim) reports. Along with monitoring output and outcome implementation, the project introduced annual targets to follow up activities and sub-activities in the annual work plan (for more details, please see annex #3). The project M&E system, quarterly and annually, collects data on 22 activities/58 subactivities and 24 annual targets on output/outcome levels' achievements (see pages: 20 - 25), which helps the project management better comprehend the project performance. Annually, the project updates the outcome and impact indicators implementation rate as well.

In the framework of IRDG/ENPARD III, as a direct response to the recommendation made by the EU ROM Evaluation Mission[2] conducted on 24/07/2020, the project M&E system has been built. For the project M&E system to enable regular collection, analysis, and report of evidence-based statistical and technical data, including training and other incentives, equipment and complementary materials, and baselines/end lines, the undergoes renewal processes to respond new SRDG project. Soon, the project M&E system can be accessible at the following address: https://srdgmes.mepa.gov.ge/.

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[2] ROM Mission Recommendation: The project's monitoring system should be developed to enable regular data collection, analysis, and development of results-oriented reporting, as well as infographics to be shared during the ENPARD Steering Committee, Stakeholder Committee meetings and in visibility materials. The system should be linked to the Ministries' online system to consolidate the rural development data.

10/ Financial Report

First Interim FINANCIAL REPORT
ENI/2022/438-215 "Support to the Rural Development in Georgia (ENPARD IV)"

	EU installments	EUR	USD	UNXRATE	Average rate
Contract n°: ENI/2022/438-215					
Contract name: "Support to the Rural Development in Georgia (ENPARD IV)"	1st installment (Dec-2022)	769,306.23	820,155.90	0.938	
Implementation period of the contract: 1 Dec 2022 - 30 Nov 2025	Total	769,306.23	820,155.90		0.94
Reporting Period: 1 Dec 2022 - 30 Sept 2023:					

Costs	Budget for the Action				2022			2023			Total (Dec 2022 - 30 Sept 2023)					Commitments as of Sept 30	Total Expenditure and commitments		Forecast till 30 Sept 2024	
	Unit	# of units	Unit value (in EUR)	Total Cost (in EUR)	# of units	Unit value (in USD)	Total Cost (in USD)	# of units	Unit value (in USD)	Total Cost (in USD)	# of units	Unit value (in USD)	Total Cost (in USD)	Unit value (in EUR)	Total Cost (in EUR)	USD	USD	EUR	USD	EUR
1. Human Resources **																				
1.1 Salaries (gross salaries including social security charges and other related costs, local staff)																				
1.1.1 Technical																				
1.1.1.1 Local Experts	Per Person /day	595	250	148750	1	815.36	815.36	440	281.963	124063.72	441	283.17252	124879.08	265.61582	117136.58	39602.47	164481.55	154283.69	9550	8957.9
1.1.1.2 International Experts	Per Person /day	250	700	175000	27	676	18252	75	464.10667	34808	102	520.19608	53060	487.94392	49770.28		53060	49770.28	50000	46900
1.1.2 Administrative/ support staff																			0	0
1.1.2.1 Project Manager NPSA10	Per month	36	4400	158400	1	3904.43	3904.43	9	4047.6944	36429.25	10	4033.368	40333.68	3783.2992	37832.992		40333.68	37832.992	48572.333	45560.848
1.1.2.2 Project Admin/Finance Associate NPSA6	Per month	36	2000	72000	1	1805.13	1805.13	9	2209.9567	19889.61	10	2169.474	21694.74	2034.9666	20349.666		21694.74	20349.666	26519.48	24875.272
1.1.2.3 Project Analyst (Inclusive Growth and Development) NPSA9	Per month	36	3500	126000	1	3107.29	3107.29	9	3082.3578	27741.22	10	3084.851	30848.51	2893.5902	28935.902		30848.51	28935.902	36988.293	34695.019
1.1.2.4 Project Analyst (Institutional and Capacity Development) NPSA9	Per month	36	3500	126000	1	3107.29	3107.29	9	3131.3022	28181.72	10	3128.901	31289.01	2934.9091	29349.091		31289.01	29349.091	37575.627	35245.938
1.1.2.5 Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist NPSA9 (50%)	Per month	18	3500	63000	0.5	2637.9	1318.95	4.5	2842.2778	12790.25	5	2821.84	14109.2	2646.8859	13234.43		14109.2	13234.43	17053.667	15996.339
1.1.2.6 Driver/Logistician NPSA2	Per month	36	1050	37800	1	942.73	942.73	9	977.15	8794.35	10	973.708	9737.08	913.3381	9133.381		9737.08	9133.381	11725.8	10998.8
1.1.2.7 UNDP CO ED Team Leader (20%)	Per month	7.2	5000	36000	0.2	6525.2	1305.04	1.8	6105.7611	10990.37	2	6147.705	12295.41	5766.5473	11533.095		12295.41	11533.095	14653.827	13745.289

Budget line	Unit																			
1.1.2.8 UNDP CO ED Programme Associate (10%)	Per month	3.6	2400	8640	0.1	2780.6	278.06	0.9	3174.8667	2857.38	1	3135.44	3135.44	2941.0427	2941.0427		3135.44	2941.0427	1904.92	1786.815
1.1.2.9 UNDP CO Communications Analyst (5%)	Per month	1.8	4000	7200	0.05	0	0	0.45	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0		0	0		0
1.1.2.10 UNDP CO Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (5%)	Per month	1.8	4000	7200	0.05	4357.6	217.88	0.45	4423.8444	1990.73	0.5	4417.22	2208.61	4143.3523	2071.6762		2208.61	2071.6762	2654.3067	2489.7396
1.3 Per diems for missions/travel																				0
1.3.1 Abroad (staff assigned to the Action)	Per diem	75	300	22500	1	0	0		0		1	0	0	0	0		0	0		0
1.3.2 Local (staff assigned to the Action)	Per diem	65	170	11050	1	0	0	9	122.84	1105.56	10	110.556	1105.56	103.70153	1037.0153		1105.56	1037.0153		0
Subtotal Human Resources				999540			35054.16			309642.16			344696.32		323325.15	39602.47	384298.79	360472.26	257198.25	241251.96
2. Travel **																				
2.1. International travel	Per flight	25	750	18750	1	0	0			0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	10000	9379.9999
2.2 Local transportation	Per month	36	700	25200	1	144.88	144.88	9	191.43556	1722.92	10	186.78	1867.8	175.19964	1751.9964		1867.8	1751.9964	10000	9379.9999
Subtotal Travel				43950			144.88			1722.92			1867.8		1751.9964	0	1867.8	1751.9964	20000	18760
3. Equipment and supplies **																				
3.2 Furniture, computer equipment	Per set	10	1587	15870	1	0	0	1	764.44	764.44	2	382.22	764.44	358.52236	717.04472		764.44	717.04472	9000	8442
Subtotal Equipment and supplies				15870			0			764.44			764.44		717.04472	0	764.44	717.04472	9000	8442
4. Project office **																				
4.1 Vehicle costs	Per month	36	350	12600	1	211.75	211.75	9	322.65333	2903.88	10	311.563	3115.63	292.24609	2922.4609		3115.63	2922.4609	3926.58	3683.132
4.2 Office rent 40%	Per month	14.4	7500	108000	1	0	0	3.6	3159.5944	11374.54	4.6	2472.7261	11374.54	2319.4171	10669.318	28600	39974.54	37496.118		
4.3 Consumables - office supplies	Per month	36	200	7200	1	0	0	9	31.872222	286.85	10	28.685	286.85	26.90653	269.0653		286.85	269.0653	430.275	403.59795
4.4 Other services (tel/fax, electricity/heating, maintenance)	Per month	36	1000	36000	1	18.79	18.79	9	839.79	7558.11	10	757.69	7576.9	710.71322	7107.1322		7576.9	7107.1322	4955.61	4648.3622
4.5 Office cleaning services (50%) NPSA1	Per month	18	900	16200	0.5	851.82	425.91	4.5	906.96444	4081.34	5	901.45	4507.25	845.5601	4227.8005		4507.25	4227.8005	11015.112	10332.175
Subtotal Project office				180000			656.45			26204.72			26861.17		25195.777	28600	55461.17	52022.577	20327.577	19067.267
5. Other costs, services**																				
5.1 Publications	Per publication	5	1000	5000	1	0	0	1	4566.63	4566.63	2	2283.315	4566.63	2141.7495	4283.4989		4566.63	4283.4989		
5.2 Studies, research	Per study	3	25000	75000	1	5010.28	5010.28	1	37014.12	37014.12	2	21012.2	42024.4	19709.443	39418.887		42024.4	39418.887	60000	56280
5.3 Evaluation costs	Per evaluation	2	20000	40000	1	0	0			0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0		
5.4 Translation, interpreters	Per person/day	150	350	52500	1	88.2	88.2	45	342.81089	15426.49	46	337.27587	15514.69	316.36476	14552.779		15514.69	14552.779	15000	14070
5.5 Costs of conferences/seminars	Per event	35	2500	87500	11	2958.4091	32542.5	13	2633.3323	34233.32	24	2782.3258	66775.82	2609.8216	62635.719		66775.82	62635.719	33000	30954
5.6. Visibility actions	Per year	3	23480	70440	1	4586	4586	1	45790.26	45790.26	2	25188.13	50376.26	23626.466	47252.932		50376.26	47252.932	15000	14070
Subtotal Other costs, services				330440			42226.98			137030.82			179257.8		168143.82	0	179257.8	168143.82	123000	115374
6. Grants to Responsible Parties and Other Subcontractors																				

Description	Unit	#	Unit cost																
6.1. Estonian Center for International Development (EstDev) - 1 contract				400000			0			0	0		0		0	204340	204340	191670.92		0
6.2. Other Subcontractors - 12 units 25,000 each	contract	12	25000	300000			0			0	0		0		0	133589.24	133589.24	125306.71	150000	140700
Subtotal Grants to Responsible Parties and Other Subcontractors				**700000**			**0**			**0**			**0**		**0**	**337929.24**	**337929.24**	**316977.63**	**150000**	**140700**
7. Subtotal direct eligible costs of the Action (1-6)				2269800			78082.47			475365.06			553447.53		519133.78	406131.71	959579.24	900085.32	579525.83	543595.23
8. Remuneration																				
8.1. % of direct costs - (EU, EstDev share) *				160700			2950.04			28542.13			31492.17		29539.655		31492.17	29539.655	40566.808	38051.666
9. Total eligible costs of the Action (7+8)				2430500			81032.51			503907.19			584939.7		548673.44	406131.71	991071.41	929624.98	620092.64	581646.89
10. Provision for contingency reserve (maximum 5% of 7 'Subtotal of direct eligible costs of the Action')				0			0			0			0		0					
11. Total eligible costs (9+10)				2430500			81032.51			503907.19			584939.7		548673.44	406131.71	991071.41	929624.98	620092.64	581646.89
12. – Taxes - Contributions in kind				0			0			0			0		0					
13. Total accepted costs of the Action (11+12)				2430500			81032.51			503907.19			584939.7		548673.44	406131.71	991071.41	929624.98	620092.64	581646.89

* For budgeting purposes, the indirect cost (remuneration cost) is calculated at 8% of the total eligible direct cost, whereas for the purpose of reporting in a harmonized way to all donors, the costs incurred during the implementation of this specific multi-donor action, the remuneration is calculated exceptionally on the direct actual expenses only, and separately from each donor's expenditure in line with UNDP's accounting rules. The overall remuneration can be higher than 7% (due to the different share of various resources and GMS rates in the Action). However, the remuneration applied to the EU funds will not exceed the agreed 7% in Article 3.2 of the SCs and 16.3 of the GCs. The total amount of the heading 8: EUR 160,700.00 is calculated as follows EUR 2,250,000 (EU funding) * 7% = EUR 157,500.00 + EUR 40,000 (EstDev funding) *8% = 3,200.00

** For the purpose of interpreting clause 11.3 of the General Conditions, the budget heading is understood as 'subototal" 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

	USD	EUR
Expenses (EU) (including commitments) as of 30 Sep 23	922,485.77	865,291.65
Expenses (UNDP) as of 30 Sep 23	68,585.64	64,333.33
Expenses (ESTDev) as of		-
Delivery rate as of 30 Sep 23	112.48%	112.48%

EU Funds Utilization Status

Installments received from EU:	
1st installment (Dec-2022)	769,306.23 €
Total EU installments received:	**769,306.23 €**
Total EU funds spent and committed:	**865,291.65 €**
Balance:	**-95,985.42 €**

Contract number: ENI/2022/438-215
Reporting Period: 1 December 2022 – 30 September 2023

11/ ANNEXES:

Annex #1: Updated Risk Log

Description	Date identified	Political Type	Probability/ Impact	Counter measures / Management response	Assumptions	Owner
1/ Reluctance and inability of individual Ministries and other institutions to collaborate and adopt policy and program solutions proposed by the project	25.07.2022	Political and organizational	I=4 (high) P=2 (low) Status update as of 30.09.2023: Risks did not materialize.	Targeted TA and capacity development measures for replication of best practices of rural development policy. Production of lessons learned of the project and of the results of various rural development activities in regions and municipalities supported through ENPARD programme for informing and supporting the replication and upscale.	Government officials ensure conducive environment, cooperative conditions and are open for further advancement of RD policy-making and institutional development.	Project Manager/ Project Team
2/ High turnover of MEPA/ IACC member Ministries and agencies staff and management that might decrease effectiveness of capacity development measures	25.07.2022	Political and organizational	I=4 (high) P=3 (medium) Status update as of 30.09.2023: Risks did not materialize.	Effective planning and delivery of capacity development measures. Design of regular capacity development interventions targeting stakeholder institutions with due consideration of staff change/turnover	Political situations remain stable, allowing governance systems to function normally.	Project Manager/ Project Team
3/ Decrease of state funding for implementation of national RD funding	25.07.2022	Political and financial	I=5 (very high) P=2 (low) Status update as of 30.09.2023: Risks did not materialize.	Relevant advocacy with national institutions, advocacy for designing multi-year strategy implementation Action Plans and relevant M&E frameworks which will inform the national governments in needed resources.	Adverse economic impact from Russia's war against Ukraine will have low/moderate impact on Georgia's fiscal stability, allowing to maintain adequate level public funding for RD programs. Furthermore, the impacts of COVID-19 (economic, budget sustainability, etc.) are mitigated and	Project Manager/ Project Team

Description	Date identified	Political Type	Probability/ Impact	Counter measures / Management response	Assumptions	Owner
					governance systems and the economy progressively return to normal functional state.	
4/ Failure of local institutions and communities to lead integrated and multisectoral RD development	25.07.2022	Organizational and financial	I=4 (high) P=2 (low) Status update as of 30.09.2023: Risks did not materialize.	Effective capacity development and coordination measures for local level agencies and community groups, allowing improved delivery of rural services, infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and other key interventions in an inclusive matter	Local governments and representations of national governments operations and adequate performance are not challenged. Local communities are motivated and committed to engage/take leaderships for local development	Project Manager/ Project Team

Annex #2: Updated Results' Framework – 30 September 2023:

EXPECTED RESULT	INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE (value and reference year)	FINAL TARGET	Progress[3]	Comment
Impact: Enhanced well-being of rural population by strengthening conditions for more inclusive and sustainable growth	Absolute rural poverty level	GEOSTAT data	In 2020 – 27.5%	In 2025– 25%	N/A	Annual data will be collected in the second quarter of 2024.
1 Outcome: Improved rural development policy and governance system for integrated and effective policy development and implementation	1.1 Level of operational efficiency and organisational effectiveness of MEPA, RDA and other IACC member ministries and agencies in producing Rural Development related outputs	project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports	1.1/a RDA reform action plan adopted, and implementation started. 1.1/b Inter-agency Coordination Council established and functioning 1.1/c MEPA's procedures as managing authority (MA) established	1.1 At least 2 new components of management and control system requirements established in RDA in compliance with IPARD requirements (2025)	25% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
	1.2 Compliance of the Action Plan of Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2021-2027 to new EU CAP and IPARD policy objectives and policy measures.	# of components of management and control system requirements introduced in RDA	1.2 Action Plan 2021-2023 is adopted	1.2 At least one EU CAP and IPARD compliant measure adopted and operational (2025)	25% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
2. Outcome: Improved rural services, infrastructure, empowered rural women and inclusive rural development	Average monthly incomes per household in rural areas (excludes income from property disposal, borrowing and dissaving).	GEOSTAT data	In 2020 (GEL) - Kakheti – 928; Guria – 809; Imereti – 1023; Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti – 1020	In 2025 (GEL) - Kakheti – 992; Guria – 865; Imereti – 1094; Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti – 1091	N/A	Annual data will be collected in the second quarter of 2024.

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[3] 1. Achieved (100%)
2. Partially Achieved (1%-50%)
3. Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)
4. Not Achieved (0%)
5. Not started (0%)
6. Suspended (0%)

3. Outcome: Improved environment protection, sustainable use of natural resources, and climate action	# of hectares of forest areas using sustainable management plans in Imereti and Racha regions.	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports	Zero (2021)	At least 100 000 ha of forests using improved management practices in Imereti and Racha regions (2025)	10% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
1.1 Output: Advanced institutional and technical capacities of MEPA and other competent national authorities as regards rural development.	*1.1.1/a* Inter-agency coordination established for forming functional IACS in RDA (Yes/No)	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. Official MEPA decrees establishing working group and IACS roadmap and action priorities	1.1.1/a Inter-agency coordination on IACS not existent (2022)	1.1.1/a Inter-agency working group established involving RDA, National Wine Agency, National Food Agency, National Agency for Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring as well as the National Agency of Public Registry under the Ministry of Justice (2023)	100% Achieved (100%)	
	1.1.1/b Capacities of staff of MEPA and other national authorities involved in the implementation of ARD Strategy		1.1.1/b Training plan on the alignment with EU requirements is not existing 2022)	1.1.1/b IACS roadmap and action priorities adopted, and implementation started. (2024)	50% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
			1.1.1/c No specific targeted formal trainings / on the job trainings (2022)	1.1.1/c MEPA staff training plan developed (2024)	50% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
				1.1.1/d Formal trainings and on the job trainings of MEPA are delivered (2025)	30% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
	1.1.2 Improved application processing and management in RDA (Yes/No)	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. Official MEPA/RDA decrees establishing APMS in RDA	APMS system not in place (2022)	1.1.2/ Application Programmes Management System (APMS) fully developed and operationalized in RDA (2025)	50% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
1.2 Output: Strengthened bottom-up and area-based approach in Rural Development policy development and implementation	1.2.1 LEADER approach institutionalized and integrated into RD programming (Yes/No)	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. Official decrees providing evidence.	LEADER approach is not institutionalized (2022).	1.2.1/a LEADER focal point at MEPA established (2025)	100% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	
				1.2.1/b Selection criteria for LAGs and local development strategies developed and approved (2023)	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	
				1.2.1/c State support programme designed and adopted (2023)	70% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	
2.1 Output: The needs of the population with migration background considered in the state programs	*2.1.1* Number of state programs (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that support advanced inclusive rural development by considering the needs of	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. # of state programs	Zero (2022).	2.2.1/ At least 6 state services considering the needs of the population with migration background (2025)	30% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	

	the population with migration background					
2.2 Output: New solutions for improving rural infrastructure promoted	2.*2.1* Number of rural infrastructure projects (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that are developed with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders (e.g., youth, women) in the focal regions, following substantial support from the ENPARD IV RD program	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. # of rural infrastructure projects	Zero (2022).	2.2.1 At least 25 rural infrastructure projects developed with active engagement of the diverse groups of stakeholders (2025)	30% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
2.3 Output Accessibility of public services improved for disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas	*2.3.1* Number of state services (as part of the ARDSG AP 2021-2027) that are designed/re-designed in an inclusive manner (reflecting needs of disadvantaged groups) and to have improved accessibility (particularly for disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas*.	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. #of state services.	Zero (2022).	2.3.1/a At least 9 state services designed/re-designed for increased accessibility (2025).	30% Partially Achieved (1%-50%)	
				2.3.1/b At least 6 state services designed/re-designed in an inclusive manner (2025).	Not started (0%)	**Note:** annual target will be defined in the fourth quarter of 2023, since the contract with Public Service Hall signed on 5 October 2023.
2.4 Output Empowered rural women	*2.4.1* Number of rural women supported for increased entrepreneurial activities and employment in non-agriculture sector	Project reports	Zero (2022).	2.4.1/ At least 200 women in rural areas received support for increased entrepreneurial activities and employment in non-agriculture sector (2025)	Not started (0%)	**Note:** Activities are planned to be started in 2024.
3.1 Output: Forest Engineers skills development programme is institutionalized under MEPA	*3.1.1* Number of additional Forest Engineers trained and hired by National Forestry Agency (gender disaggregated)	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. # of Forest Engineers	40 (2022).	3.1.1/ At least 20 additional Forest Engineers trained and hired by National Forestry Agency to conduct forest management inventory field works (2025)	12 new forest engineers trained. 50% Mostly Achieved (51%-99%)	

3.2 Output: Renewable Energy Community concept introduced in Georgia	*3.2.1* Number of Renewable Energy Communities established in focal regions	Government and project reports; Annual ARDSG 2021-2027 and M&E data and implementation reports. # of Renewable Energy Communities	Zero (2022).	3.2.1/ At least one Renewable Energy Community established (2025)	Not started (0%)	**Note:** Activities are planned to be started in 2024.

Annex #3: SRDG Work Plan's Implementation Rates – 1 January – 30 September 2023

#	SRDG Annual Work Plan for 2023	SRDG Project Annual Targets and Activities Implementation Status and Rate			
		SRDG Project Annual Targets and Activities Status	Completion %	SRDG Project Annual Targets and Activities Status (Left to be Achieved)	Comment / Explanation
Outcome 1. Improved rural development governance system for integrated and effective policy development and implementation					
Output 1.1. Advanced institutional and technical capacities of MEPA and IACC and its working groups in rural development planning and implementation .					
Activity 1.1.1. Supporting the ARD administration to align its institutional and legal framework with the respective EU requirements.					
1.1.1.1	Technical assistance to MEPA and selected IACC institutions in building awareness on the accreditation criteria, which are derived from particular primary and secondary draft legislation of the European Parliament and of the Council; TA in required national legislation: Law on Agriculture and Rural Development; Law on General Administrative Procedure, where necessary; Law/Decision for establishment, Organisation and functioning of Rural Development Agency (IPARD Agency), as a Paying Agency; Internal acts of MEPA and the respective Agencies under MEPA bound to the implementation of the agricultural policy.	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
1.1.1.2	Capacity development in the management and control system for the implementation of IPARD - horizontal issues: (a) Manual for the preparation of the accreditation documentation; (b) IPARD compatible mission and vision; rules on the formal designation of MA, PA, NIPAC; CAO; NAO; AA; (c) facilitate decisions based on the analysis of national rural development interventions carried out by MEPA to become more compatible with the general and specific objectives of new CAP 2023-2027 (focus shall be given on respective MEPA and IACC capacity building)	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
Activity 1.1.2. Improving the operational efficiency of MEPA in producing Rural Development-related outputs and organizational effectiveness in anticipating and responding to challenges relating to climate change, inclusive growth and jobs in rural areas.					
1.1.2.1	ARDSG/ARDAP M&E system technical maintenance and support	Mostly implemented (51%-99%)	90,0%	10,0%	
1.1.2.2	ARDSG/ARDAP M&E system software updates in cooperation with MEPA and IACC	Mostly implemented (51%-99%)	90,0%	10,0%	
1.1.2.3	IACC and MEPA strategic and M&E meetups	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	50,0%	50,0%	
1.1.2.4	ToT program elaboration on ARDSG/ARDAP M&E system in line with the M&E Handbook	Mostly implemented (51%-99%)	90,0%	10,0%	

1.1.2.5	Provide ToT on the ARDSG/ARDAP M&E system operations to MEPA's Policy Coordination and Analysis Department and gradual incorporation into the training system of the LEPL Information and Education Centre	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	10,0%	90,0%	The focus group meeting with IACC's working group revealed no need for a separate training program regarding the M&E system. Logically, it was decided to design short video tutorials and upload them into the M&E system for WG members' access and usage. The group recommended conducting meetups per report twice a year.
1.1.2.6	Support MEPA to start preparing for the ARDSG/ARDAP 2021-2023 mid-term report and evaluation.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	It is planned to be started in the fourth quarter of 2023.
1.1.2.7	Provide support in undertaking strategic evaluation of selected programmes (incl. Plant the Future) intended to facilitate legislative and executive actions, consider policy alternatives and to improve selected state programmes compatibility with EU CAP measures	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
Activity 1.1.3 Providing technical assistance to Rural Development Agency to implement all functions as paying agency for Agriculture and Rural Development.					
1.1.3.1	RDA Action Plan review, renewal incorporating recommendations from expert reports in consultation with RDA, Progress Report and adoption of the renewed AP 2023-2025.	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
1.1.3.2	(1) Facilitate decisions regarding the organizational structure of the future IPARD PA, respecting the segregation of duties principle that needs to be fulfilled by beneficiary country for EC be able to – "entrust the budget implementing tasks" under IPA in line with a set of 'accreditation criteria'; (2) Preparation of detailed written work procedures for selected PA departments involved in IPARD implementation: (a) Detailed work procedures – Manuals of procedures and forms used in the application processing; (b) Work-flow explanation (incl. training)	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	50,0%	50,0%	
1.1.3.3	Support the Rural Development Agency in the process of introducing IACS components in accordance with the priorities, RDA/Land Agency Protocol (MoU) and IACS Road Map: roll out of initial Land Parcel Identification System database (incl. training).	Suspended (0%-99%)	10,0%	90,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
1.1.3.4	Technical Assistance to the National Agency for Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Monitoring: mission and mandate, organizational structure, staffing, quality management and accomplishment of organizational goals.	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	25,0%	75,0%	
Activity 1.1.4. Supporting MEPA in Elaboration of the staffing plan of MEPA and RDA and providing respective capacity development activities within MEPA and RDA to reach full functionality.					
1.1.4.1	Series of trainings and workshops for IACC (including Civic Committee), MEPA and the respective Agencies under MEPA bound to the implementation of the agriculture and rural development policy (focus shall be given on measures to be included in the IPARD programme and respective staff capacity building).	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	50,0%	50,0%	
1.1.4.2	Planning a custom-made eLearning Course in Rural Development feature functionality and detailed technical specifications along with UI-UX design requirements; determine the scope and specify the course structure using storyboarding approach.	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	

1.1.4.3	Development of an Open eLearning Course in Rural Development jointly with instructional designers/subject matter experts based on a good theoretical grounding.	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	10,0%	90,0%	
1.1.4.4	Study Tour for IACC member institutions to one of the Balkan States to gain first-hand knowledge about the experience of Candidate/IPARD beneficiary country on the arrangements on union financial assistance to the country under the instrument for pre-accession assistance in the policy area 'agriculture and rural development'.	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Postponed for 2024. Reason: Planning for better results of the study visit.
**Output 1.2. Strengthened bottom-up and area-based approach in Rural Development policy development and implementation.**				
**Activity 1.2.1 Providing capacity development support following the general logic of the EU LEADER/CLLD implementation that is based on a decentralized multi-level governance structure aiming at an integrated rural development with enhanced autonomy at the local level.**				
1.2.1.1	Inception mechanism for LEADER/CLLD national programme: Series of trainings and workshops for public, private and civil sector representatives under the leadership of MEPA, RDA and GALAG bound to the implementation of LEADER/CLLD.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	It is under negotiations and planned to be started in the fourth quarter of 2023.
**Activity 1.2.2 Supporting the development of the National LEADER/CLLD programme in line with the strategic goals of the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2021 – 2027 and ENPARD IV financing agreement.**				
1.2.2.1	Technical assistance to MEPA and RDA in drafting supplementary documentation to the Government Decree on LEADER/CLLD State Support Programme: (1) Detailed rules and procedures on LAG eligibility assessment; (2) Guidance on design and implementation of LEADER LDS (incl. essential content of LDS such as SWOT analysis, intervention logic following the SMART convention, innovation and cooperation and LDS monitoring and evaluation).	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
1.2.2.2	Support in drafting common procedures detailing the LAGs proposed decision-making approach, project development and selection as well as project monitoring and evaluation where LAGs have such delegated competency.	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
**Activity 1.2.3 Enabling the Georgian National Rural Development Network specifically includes support for LAGs to facilitate exchange and learning between all the partners involved in LEADER/CLLD implementation: public authorities, economic and social partners, beneficiaries, and the relevant bodies representing civil society.**				
1.2.3.1	Support in communicating and publicizing the LAG and the LDS aims and achievements effectively; the EU CAP Network activities and knowledge resources; interesting and new policy insights, reports and studies by the Civic Committee member organizations (this shall be consistent with the ARD National Strategic Plan and delivered by the National Rural Network (GRDN)	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	40,0%	60,0%	
**Outcome 2 Improved rural services, infrastructure, empowered rural women and inclusive rural development.**				
**Output 2.1. The needs of the population with migration background addressed in the state programs.**				
**Activity 2.1.1. Enhance effectiveness and coherence of migrant integration and needs response policies through improved coordination across government levels and implementation at the relevant scale.**				
2.1.1.1	An in-depth analysis of policy (incl. identify complementarities across relevant policy sectors) and institutional framework for migrants' integration (incl. mapping of the national and local stakeholders) and recommendations to facilitate coordinated policy and program work for improved integration of people with migrant background	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	

2.1.1.2	Research on socio-economic integration opportunities and mechanisms for migrants and newcomers on local level	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
2.1.1.3	Selection of pilot municipalities and their capacity assessment for integration of marginalized groups, including migrants.	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
2.1.1.4	Study the needs of migrants in target regions	Cancelled (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Canceled after talks with IOM. Much of the study data is already available from various sources.
2.1.1.5	Establishment of local municipal function/co-ordination bodies and consultancy working groups (with inclusion of LAGs, residents with migration background and diaspora communities) for integration of marginalized groups, including migrants	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
2.1.1.6	Advocacy of migrant needs for integration in national level strategies	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	30,0%	70,0%	
2.1.1.7	Support to local authorities to ensure that local strategies (MDPs, medium-term budget priorities, etc.) include the migrants in their community	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
Activity 2.1.2. Advancing capacities and promoting bottom-up initiatives for increased accessibility and diversity of public services for migrants and newcomers.					
2.1.2.1	Research on potential services for migrants' integration and development of municipal proposals	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	100,0%	
2.1.2.2	Design/re-design of first municipal services for migrants' integration (with inclusion of diaspora groups)	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	0,0%	100,0%	
2.1.2.3	Development of standards for services provided for migrants' integration	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
2.1.2.4	Technical assistance to pilot municipal units in the focal regions to enhance their roles in fostering migrant integration and deliver diverse services	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
2.1.2.5	Promotion of migrants' participation in LAGs and their activities	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
Activity 2.1.3. Matching skills with economic opportunities and promotion of social innovation.					
2.1.3.1	Research and design of mechanisms for skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship support to returnee migrants	Implemented (100%)	0,0%	100,0%	
2.1.3.2	Consolations with diaspora communities on mechanisms for skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship support to returnee migrants	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
2.1.3.3	Development of model for database and process for matching between local labor needs and newcomers' skills	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	0,0%	100,0%	
Output 2.2. New potential solutions for improving rural infrastructure, as well as supporting mechanisms for resilient and sustainable rural livelihoods promoted.					
Activity 2.2.1. Development of mechanisms to ensure that sub-national infrastructure investment plans reflect national and sub-national development goals and plans.					
2.2.1.1	Location-based comprehensive mapping of the enabling infrastructure development	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	

2.2.1.2	Supporting local government authorities from the focal regions in the infrastructure development planning	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	40,0%	60,0%	
Activity 2.2.2. Further empower local LAGs for locally generated, owned, and sustained capacity.					
2.2.2.1	Empower local LAGs for locally generated, owned, and sustained capacity.	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024.
Activity 2.2.3. Mobilize private and other actors to diversify sources of funding.					
2.2.3.1	Research on PPP opportunities for co-designed infrastructure projects	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
2.2.3.2	Identification of businesses and BAs in pilot municipalities for potentially being engaged in co-designed infrastructure projects	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
2.2.3.3	Support to local authorities and private sector to identify priorities and interests for co-designed infrastructure projects within existing PPP platforms or through establishment of new platform for dialogue	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
2.2.3.4	Development of concrete co-designed infrastructure projects	Suspended (0%-99%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
Activity 2.2.4. Pilot innovative financing instruments.					
2.2.4.1	Design of conditions in existing infrastructure development programs	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
2.2.4.2	Design of new financing instruments for rural infrastructure	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
Output 2.3. Accessibility of public services improved for disadvantaged, remote and depopulated rural areas					
Activity 2.3.1. Increase access to additional services and capacities of Community Centers.					
2.3.1.1	Conduct sign (gesture) language training for employees of Public Service Hall	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
2.3.1.2	Deliver effective communication training for the services of persons with disabilities.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
2.3.1.3	Integrated business intelligence system for the systematic analysis of data and information received from the branches of Public Service Hall in the regions.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
2.3.1.4	Increase efficiency for conducting the property transaction process for persons with disabilities	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
2.3.1.5	Develop information materials for ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
Activity 2.3.3. Other direct support to Community Centers and vulnerable groups.					
2.3.3.1	Design of capacity building courses for the Community Center's staff in the focal regions to serve persons with disabilities	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
Output 2.4. Empowered rural women (ESTDEV).					
Activity 2.4.1. Support in development of gender-sensitive rural development policies and programs.					
2.4.1.1	Develop mechanism for increased participation of rural women in LAGs.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024

2.4.1.2	Establishing of a working group (under Civic Committee of IACC) to promote concrete policy actions targeted to gender equality in rural areas.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
2.4.1.3	Assessing RDA (Rural Development Agency) programs to reveal opportunities for gender mainstreaming and promoting implementation of those opportunities.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
Activity 2.4.2. Stimulation entrepreneurial activities.					
2.4.2.1	Organizing women entrepreneur role model sessions for rural young women.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
Activity 2.4.3. Support to education, vocational training and building of new skills.					
2.4.3.1	Conducting seminars and mentorship sessions on the use of digital technologies.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
2.4.3.2	Delivery of coding courses for young rural women and promoting STEM education.	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Implementation will start in 2024
Outcome 3: Sustainable Use of Forest Resources and Improved Environmental Protection and Climate Action.					
Output 3.1: Support Sustainable Forest Management.					
Activity 3.1.1. Providing support to the National Forestry Agency (NFA) and/or the Agency of Protected Areas to develop Forest Management Plans with intensive participation of local communities to take into account the livelihood needs and concerns of local communities.					
3.1.1.1	Identification of the implementing partner to provide support to NFA/APA	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
3.1.1.2	Provision of technical assistance to NFA/APA	Implemented (100%)	100,0%	0,0%	
Activity 3.1.2. Promoting VET and employment opportunities related to forest management.					
3.1.2.1	Research and design of mechanisms for skills development, employment support related to forest management	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Planned to be started in the fourth quarter, 2023
Activity 3.1.3 Providing support to eco-tourism development, including forest-related ecotourism, to provide alternative income to rural communities.					
3.1.3.1	Study on eco-tourism development potential in target regions	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Planned to be started in the fourth quarter, 2023
Output 3.2: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency market development for reducing pressure on forest resources and creation of alternative livelihood opportunities at Rural Areas.					
Activity 3.2.1 Supporting EE/RE Local Manufactures or Technology Providers.					
3.2.1.1	Needs assessment of the sector and identification of possible support directions	Not Started (0%)	0,0%	100,0%	Planned to be started in the fourth quarter, 2023
Activity 3.2.2. Providing support to Households and businesses to access bank financing.					
3.2.2.1	Study the challenges and needs of households and businesses in target regions with regard to accessibility of bank financing for EE/RE technologies	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	10,0%	90,0%	
Activity 3.2.3 Supporting establishment of Renewable Energy Communities in target regions.					
3.2.3.1	Study on the EU Renewable Energy Communities concept and provision of recommendations on its application in one of the target regions of ENPARD IV	Partially implemented (1%-50%)	10,0%	90,0%	

Annex #4: List of Publications, Official Acts, and Printed Materials Produced under the Project

4.1   Draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development.
4.2   RDA Progress Report for 2021-2023.
4.3   RDA Renewed Action Plan.
4.4   Rural Development Institutional Development Reform Working Group - Written Account of the Meeting.
4.5   Rural Development Institutional Development Reform Working Group - Order №2-315-17/05/2023.
4.6   MTR – Midterm Review of the Reform Action Plan Implementation.
4.7   Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Department / Order №2-174-4/04/2023.
4.8   RDA Institutional Development Working Group / Order №1-6/246-28/04/2023.
4.9   Manual for the Preparation of the Accreditation Documentation and to provide capacity building services to the Inter-Agency Coordination Council on Agriculture and Rural Development of Georgia for the implementation of IPA/IPARD.
4.10   RDA Manual for the Preparation of Accreditation Documentation.
4.11   MEPA/RDA staff Training in IPARD/EU-compliant RD policy and institutional framework - Training Report.
4.12   Written Account of the Civic (monitoring) Committee Meeting.
4.13   A report of the training for Authorized Users of Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation System of 2021-2027 Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy.
4.14   IACC Working Group M&E Training Needs Assessment Report and Updated Guidelines.
4.15   LEADER/CLLD state programme common provisions document to be adopted by the Government Decree.
4.16   Project Selection by LAGs – guideline.
4.17   LDS Design and Implementation – guideline.
4.18   OTS Rules and Procedures to be carried out by LAGs.
4.19   Terms of Reference Full-Stack Developer of the eLearning Course on Rural Development.
4.20   Study on Integration of People with Migration Background.
4.21   The needs of the population with migration background in the state programs of the Rural Development Agency (RDA).
4.22   Potential services for migrants' integration by local governments.
4.23   Infrastructure Mapping-Assessment Report.
4.24   ToR - Supporting local governments in inclusive infrastructure development planning in Guria and Imereti regions.
4.25   A report - PSE for Better Infrastructure.
4.26   Developing new financing instruments for rural infrastructure.
4.27   Letter of Agreement between UNDP and Public Service Hall (PSH).
4.28   A training report on the Vocational retraining program - Forest Inventory and Taxation.
4.29   Minutes of ENPARD IV 31st Steering and Stakeholders' Committee Meetings.