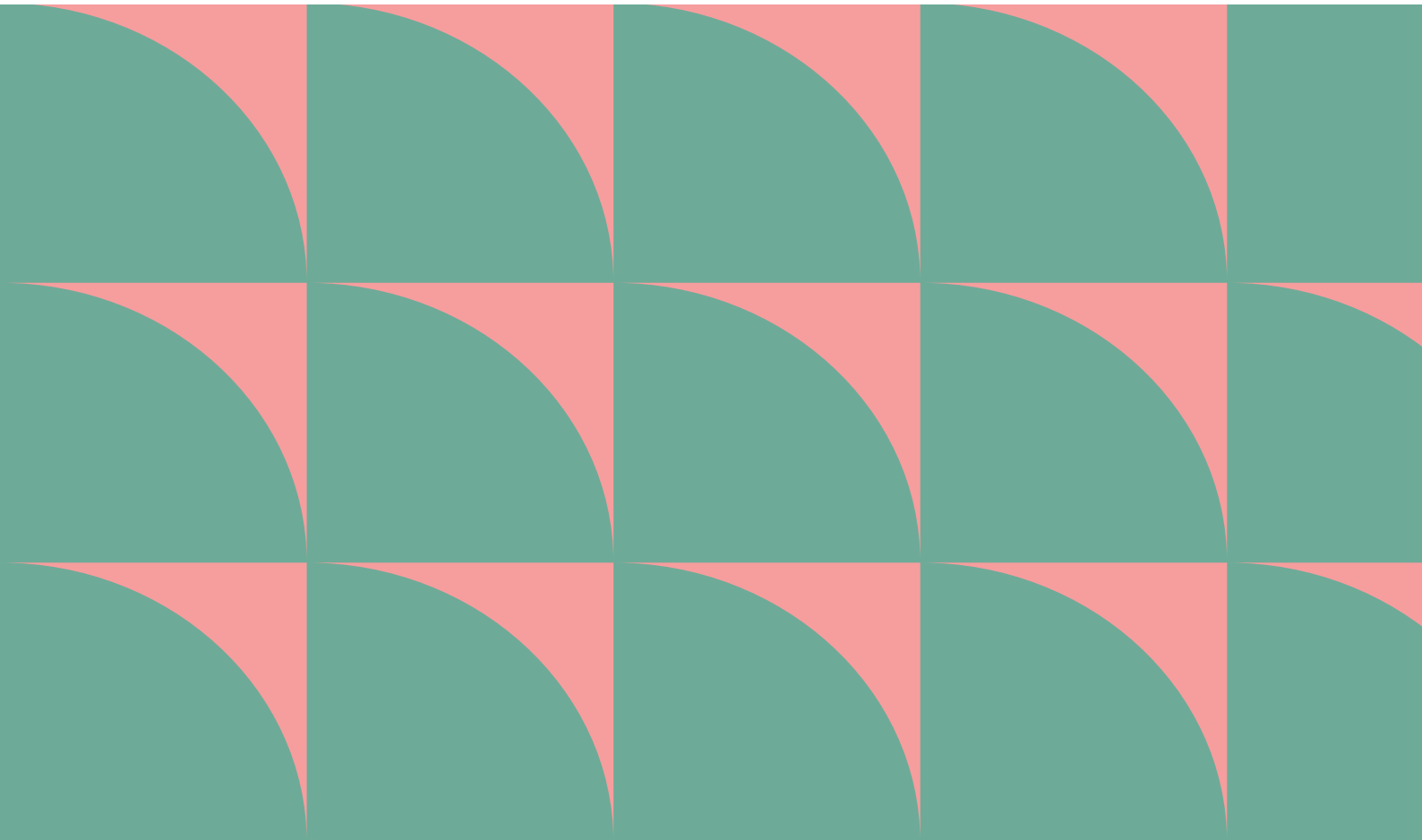


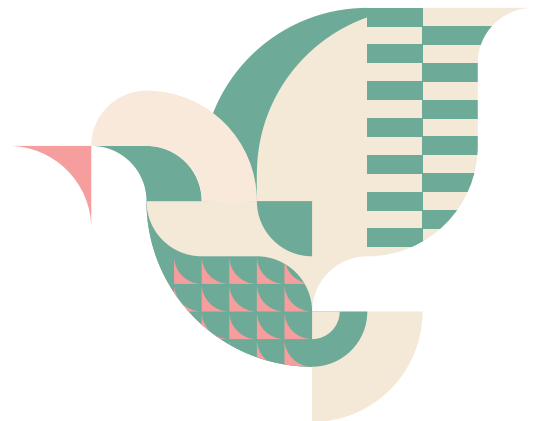


FINAL REPORT

(1 JAN 2023 – 30 SEP 2024)

**Improving the Rule of Law
and Access to Justice for All**

September 2024



FINAL REPORT 2024

**United Nations
Development Programme in Georgia**

**Improving the Rule of Law
and Access to Justice for All**

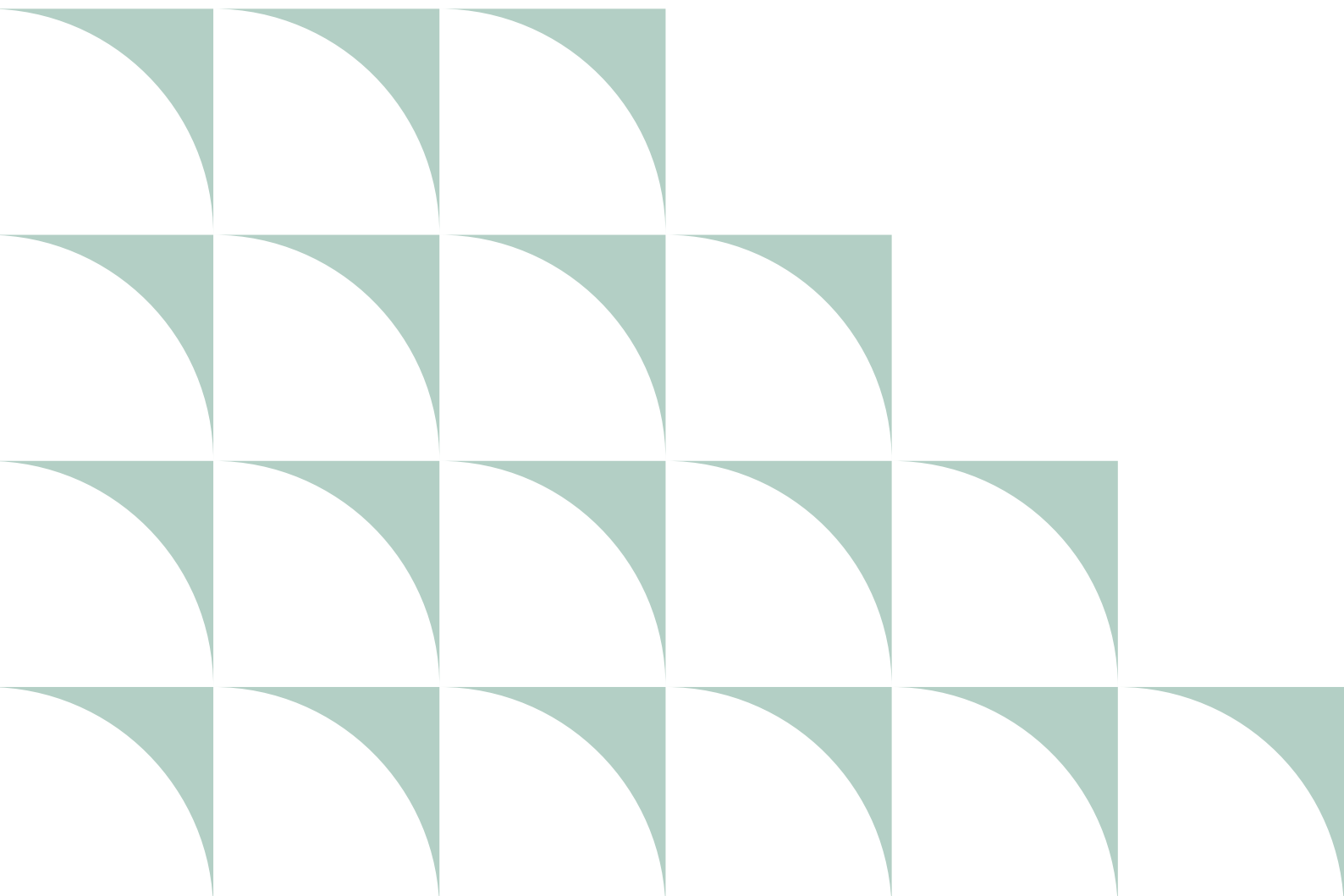
1 JAN 2023 – 30 SEP 2024

September 2024

Reporting Period	1 January 2023 – 30 September 2024
Donor	German Federal Foreign Office
Country	Georgia
Project Title	Improving the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for All
Project ID	01000205
Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021/2025 Outcome 1: By 2025, all people in Georgia enjoy improved good governance, more open, resilient and accountable institutions, rule of law, equal access to justice, human rights, and increased representation and participation of women in decision-making. UNDP Country Programme Document Output 1.2: National legislation and policies to eliminate all types of discrimination, deliver gender-equal results, enhance human rights and equal access to justice, and equitable access to/universal coverage of quality social services, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised. UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 Output 2.2: Civic space and access to justice expanded, racism and discrimination addressed, and rule of law, human rights and equity strengthened.
Responsible Parties	▶ LEPL Legal Aid Service ▶ LEPL Mediators Association of Georgia ▶ LEPL Training Centre of Justice of Georgia ▶ LEPL Digital Governance Agency ▶ NGO Care Caucasus
Project Start Date	1 January 2023
Project End Date	30 September 2024
Total Budget	USD 1,627,701.14 (Equivalent of EUR 1,573,987)
Total received as of 30 September 2024	USD 1,627,701.14 (Equivalent of EUR 1,573,987)
Total exp as of 30 September 2024	USD 1,627,701.14 (to be finalized upon financial closure of the year 2024 in Mar-2025)
UNDP Contact Person	Douglas Webb UNDP Resident Representative to Georgia Email: douglas.webb@undp.org

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I. Summary

Improving the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for All project aims at enhancing the relevant principles and building the overall resilience of the most disadvantaged communities in Georgia. It covers persons with disabilities (PwDs), people living in remote and rural areas, representatives of ethnic minorities, communities facing environmental threats and forcibly displaced groups, including refugees and Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia.

Out of 36 indicators under six outcomes, the project delivered 34 indicators fully, one indicator mostly and one indicator partially.¹

The project supported Georgia's rule of law institutions to improve their capacity, integrity, and inclusivity to better respond to the justice needs in the country through various workshops, series of training, elaboration of institutional guidelines, and infrastructure work. The project took significant steps to improve access to environmental justice in Georgia through a range of initiatives aimed at increasing the capacity of stakeholders and improving awareness and practical access for rightsholders. In addition, the project supported the socio-economic integration of those fleeing conflict, violence and/or persecution, such as the Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia. The project also facilitated increased regional dialogue, experience-sharing, and network-building among the rule of law professionals from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Gender equality and women's empowerment were integral to the implementation. The project ensured equal participation of women in the activities and their equal access to the services provided. Moreover, specific activities were designed to target the socio-economic empowerment of women and girls.² These initiatives aimed to improve access to resources, and provide opportunities for economic independence.

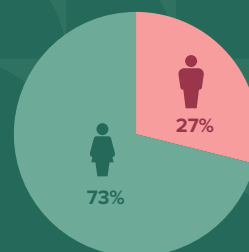
A Final Financial Report (interim) is attached in Annex II.

¹ See Chapter V and Annex I for detailed reporting on indicators.

² See Chapter IV for more detailed information regarding the gender equality impact



Total direct beneficiaries 10560 / 7710 women rightsholders in Georgia



Improving Rule of Law
and Access to Justice for All

The project directly benefited
9273 / 6858 women

rightsholders in Georgia through facilitating the provision of
access to justice and socio-economic services

3297 rightsholders

2317 women

benefited from targeted awareness-raising
meetings on access to justice

604 individuals

399 women

living in rural and remote areas received free legal
consultations from the Mobile Legal Clinic

4485 Ukrainian
refugees

3517 women

received integration and referral
services through Ukrainian House

848 refugee
entrepreneurs

738 women

benefited from knowledge-building
in cooperation with CARE Caucasus

39 refugee
businesses funded

29 Businesses
led by women

82/57

persons employed women

640,451.74 GEL Total income generated;
255,045.96 GEL Total profit generated

The Project improved the capacities of

1025 / 654 women

rule of law and recovery professionals (including 654 women)
through a series of trainings and workshops:



129 judges and judicial
clerks were trained

including

72 women



872 lawyers were trained

including

560 women



16 recovery workers
were trained

including

14 women



8 municipal services officers
were trained

all women

Awareness raising campaign
on access to environmental
justice reached

326 000

individuals, directly
benefiting

262

including

198 women

II. Context Update

According to the 2023 World Justice Project, which measures the adherence to the rule of law worldwide, Georgia ranked 48 out of 142 countries with an overall score of 0.60. While Georgia remains the region's top performer, its trajectory in recent years has been negative. Georgia is the best performer in "order and security" with a score of 0.79 and "absence of corruption" with a score of 0.68, whereas "constraints of government power", "civil justice", and "criminal justice" scored the lowest with 0.53, 0.53, and 0.52 points, respectively.³

As a result of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, nearly one-third of the Ukrainian population was forced to flee their homes. Due to the continuation of the war, some 26,000 Ukrainians remain in Georgia, finding shelter, security, and hope. Economic and financial security and the lack of integration continue to remain the main concerns among refugees and Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia.

In December 2023, the EU granted Georgia the candidate country status which is expected to have a significant impact on the rule of law domain in the country. The status was granted on the understanding that the nine essential steps are taken. Among others, these steps include implementing a holistic and effective judicial reform and improving the protection of human rights.⁴

The ruling party of Georgia adopted the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence on 14 May 2024. The introduction of the law provoked massive, youth-driven protests, highlighting deep societal resistance to the legislation perceived as stifling civil society. The law risks jeopardizing Georgia's aspirations for EU membership and increases operational risks for UN partners.

The European Council announced in June 2024 that Georgia's accession process has been de facto halted as a result of the adoption of the law.⁵

³ World Justice Report, available at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2023/Georgia>

⁴ 2023 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy, available at <https://t.ly/f8Xk7>

⁵ European Council Conclusions, 27 June 2024, available at https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/extracts-georgia-conclusions-european-council_en?s=221

III. Progress Review

OUTCOME 1.1: IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE SELECTED JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL.

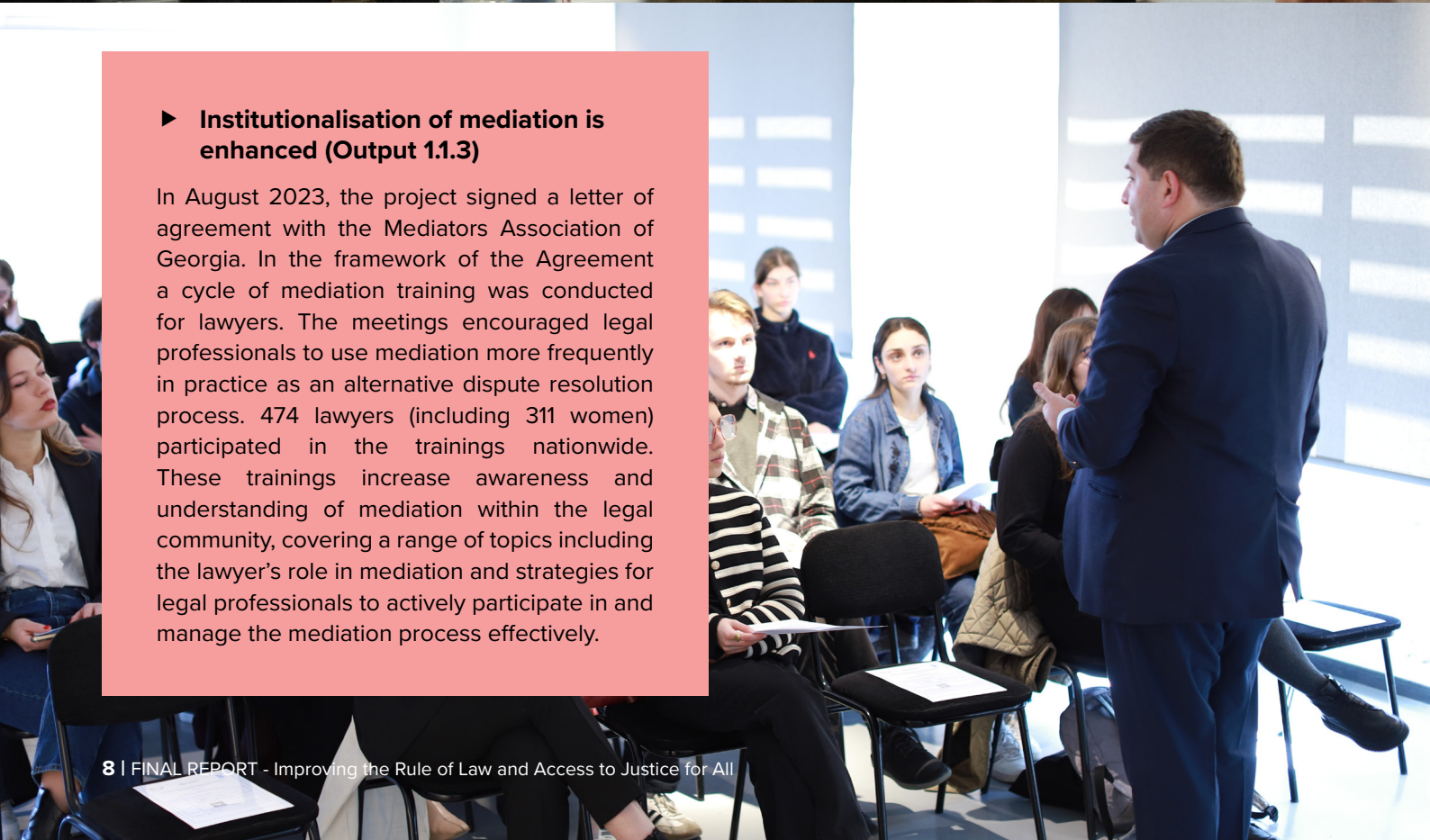


► The judiciary is able to more thoroughly implement the Code of Ethics (Output 1.1.2)

The project improved the capacity of the Georgian judiciary on judicial ethics and disciplinary matters by facilitating discussions and workshops on the best practices. In October 2023, 44 judges (including 23 women judges) from Tbilisi and regional courts underwent training in judicial ethics and discipline with the support of UNDP's international expert. The workshops were organised around three main themes: judicial independence and impartiality, freedom of expression (including the use of social media) and conduct in private life. The sessions were aimed at clarifying the role of judicial ethics within the Georgian legal system and to assist participants in using international standards, namely, the Bangalore Principles on Judicial Conduct, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Venice Commission's opinions. Based on the post-survey results, the group demonstrated a cumulative increase in their knowledge of judicial ethics and discipline.

► Institutionalisation of mediation is enhanced (Output 1.1.3)

In August 2023, the project signed a letter of agreement with the Mediators Association of Georgia. In the framework of the Agreement a cycle of mediation training was conducted for lawyers. The meetings encouraged legal professionals to use mediation more frequently in practice as an alternative dispute resolution process. 474 lawyers (including 311 women) participated in the trainings nationwide. These trainings increase awareness and understanding of mediation within the legal community, covering a range of topics including the lawyer's role in mediation and strategies for legal professionals to actively participate in and manage the mediation process effectively.





88 per cent of trained members of the Georgian Bar Association (474 lawyers including 311 women) demonstrated increase in knowledge on mediation.

In addition, mediation awareness-raising trainings were held for 223 law and business administration students (including 158 women) and 78 entrepreneur women.

To raise awareness about mediation in family and business-related disputes, a meeting was also held with the Ukrainian community at the Ukrainian House on 5 April 2024.



82 per cent of trained students and 93 per cent of entrepreneur women demonstrated an increase in their knowledge of mediation.

Two high-level national conferences were organised in 2023. They brought together a diverse group of participants, including mediators, judges, lawyers, notaries, donors, journalists, Members of Parliament, and Government representatives. The conferences served as platforms for discussing the challenges and advancements in the institutionalisation of mediation in Georgia.

A regional mediation conference was also convened in Tbilisi on 20 December 2023. The conference brought together 14 mediators from Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Georgia and shared experiences and lessons learnt while addressing the comparative challenges of institutionalising mediation in the respective jurisdictions.

The project also supported the publication of the first-ever commentaries on the Georgian Law on Mediation in cooperation with the Mediators Association of Georgia and legal academics and practitioners. These commentaries provide a detailed explanation of Georgia's mediation regulations and offer practical guidance for their implementation.



*Commentaries on
the Georgian Law on
Mediation, 2024*

To strengthen the skills, knowledge, and human capacity of the Mediators Association of Georgia, its staff and Executive Board members attended a three-day workshop held during 25-27 January 2024. The 15 participants (including 12 women) enhanced their skills in fundraising, project planning, project cycle management, budgeting, monitoring, and reporting.

► 15 ethnic minority representatives progressing toward becoming certified mediators

The project encouraged ethnic minorities to become certified mediators and eased the utilisation of mediation for ethnic minority communities in Georgia. In November 2023, the project selected 15 representatives of ethnic minorities seeking to become mediators in Georgia and conducted a series of certification trainings for them together with the National Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution of Tbilisi State University. After the certification trainings 14 out of the 15 participants successfully passed the Mediation Certification Exam.



The mediation awareness-raising trainings were held for 142 representatives of ethnic minority groups (including 111 women). 87 per cent demonstrated an increase in their knowledge of mediation.

In addition, informative brochures on mediation services in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages were printed and distributed at five court buildings across ethnic minority regions.



OUTCOME 1.2: DISADVANTAGED GROUPS BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASED APPLICATION OF THE RULE OF LAW PRINCIPLES IN THEIR LIFE

Disadvantaged groups have greater access to justice and the rule of law institutions (Outputs 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.3)

The project took steps to improve access to justice for disadvantaged groups in Georgia, including conflict-affected populations, people living in remote and rural areas, and PwDs. Some of these accomplishments were realised through cooperation with the Legal Aid Service, with which UNDP signed a Letter of Agreement in June 2023.

► Kutaisi City Court infrastructure is physically accessible for PwDs (Output 1.2.1)

In January 2024, the tender evaluation process for the Kutaisi City Court was completed and a contract was signed with Global Service LLC. As a result of the renovation works the lobby of the Kutaisi City Court was adapted to enhance inclusivity and accessibility for PwDs, ensuring compliance with local regulations and international standards. These works also included the adaptation of the sanitary facilities for PwDs and the implementation of tactile markings on the existing stairs, both outside and inside the court building. Moreover, height-overcoming platforms positioned to assist PwDs in navigating steps both inside and outside the court building have been installed. The project involved a civil engineer and PwD rights expert to ensure the observation of standards and inclusivity. The renovated infrastructure was unveiled on 14 June 2024.



► **Steps taken to increase physical accessibility for PwDs at State Care Agency (Output 1.2.1)**

The project also contributed to the State Care Agency renovation initiative as part of the collaborative effort with UNDP's Leadership, Equality, Advocacy and Democracy Project and the United Nations Joint Programme for Gender Equality. The State Care Agency is one of the key institutions providing social care in the country. The projects' support entails work to modernise the public reception of the Agency's main office by creating beneficiary-friendly and inclusive design of the space.

The first stage of the renovation was completed, including the dismantling of partitions, installing floors and ramps, carrying out concrete works, and removing the construction waste. The remaining work will be carried out by LEAD and UNJP4GE. It will involve the completion of the main hall floor and lavatories, wall painting, the installation of ceiling, windows, and doors, as well as renovating the stairs and exterior facade. The works are expected to be fully completed by 15 November 2024.





კანონის უზენაესობა და
მართლმსაჯულებასთან
წვდომა ყველასათვის

RULE OF LAW AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

► **Legal aid guidelines on the rights of PwDs adopted (Output 1.2.1)**

The project provided technical assistance to the Legal Aid Service, supporting the drafting and adoption of guidelines on delivering legal services to PwDs. Namely, the Guideline on General Principles and State of Conduct towards PwDs and the Guideline on Providing Legal Aid Service for Persons with Special Psycho-Social Needs were adopted in December 2023 and incorporated into the Legal Aid Service's electronic casework software (Casebank). To further improve the service delivery for PwDs and support the implementation of the guidelines, the project trained 161 state legal aid lawyers (including 89 women) on guidelines and 150 (including 108 women) on the use of Casebank.

► **Capacities of judges on the rights of PwDs increased (Output 1.2.1)**

The project trained 44 judges and judicial clerks (including 23 women) nationwide on the rights of PwDs through two two-day trainings. The judges improved their understanding of the barriers to access to justice for PwDs, refined their adherence to communication rules specific to interacting with PwDs, and increased their capacity regarding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



► **Mobile legal services established for conflict-affected, remote, and rural populations (Output 1.2.2)**

In partnership with the Legal Aid Service, a mobile legal clinic was launched in October 2023. The clinic is placed in a specially adapted minibus that brings legal aid services directly to the villages affected by the conflict, and hard-to-reach areas. Since its establishment the mobile legal clinic has reached a total of 94 towns and villages in Georgia.



The clinic conducted a total of 604 individual consultations (including for 257 women) and raised awareness of 2,150 beneficiaries (including 1,554 women) through public lectures on legal aid services, access to justice, property rights, and women's rights.



კანონის უზენაესობა და
მაკონტრაქტუალურობა
ნებრძოლ ყველასათვის

RULE OF LAW AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

Cooperation among state and non-state legal aid providers strengthened by reestablishing Legal Aid Providers Network and supporting its capacity (Output 1.2.2)

The project supported the re-establishment of the Legal Aid Providers Network. The Network is led by the Legal Aid Service and comprises 21 legal aid providers in Georgia, encompassing both state and non-state entities such as NGOs and university legal clinics.⁶ The network is dedicated to ensuring the efficient delivery of legal assistance to those in need, redirecting requests when necessary, promoting coordination among legal aid providers, and fostering the exchange of legal insights and experiences.

With the project's technical assistance, the Council of the the Legal Aid Service adopted a new Charter for the Network in November 2023. The project also facilitated a conference that marked the re-establishment of the Network. Moreover, it supported the capacity-building of member organisations by providing knowledge on access to environmental justice, data protection, and the rights of PwDs, benefiting a total of 72 lawyers (including 42 women).

⁶ The list of the members of the Legal Aid Providers' Network is available on the Network Portal at <https://freelaw.ge/>



Post-survey results revealed that 80 per cent of the participants demonstrated improvement in their knowledge of personal data protection and 78 per cent increased their knowledge on the rights of PwDs.



► **Access to the national legal database for ethnic and national minorities increased (Output 1.2.3)**

To increase access to legal databases and socio-economic services for ethnic minorities, 11 laws and 47 essential socio-economic service manuals have been translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages and published on relevant official pages of the state agencies. The list is based on UNDP's meetings and consultations with NGO representatives and state authorities, including the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, Legislative Herald – "Matsne", and the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs. To raise awareness of the translated documents, UNDP organised a meeting in the ethnic minority populated Kvemo Kartli region in September 2024 and presented the information about the translated documents to the local population and civil society. Brochures were also distributed, detailing all the available services.

OUTCOME 1.3: INCREASED ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

► Baseline assessment report on access to environmental justice in Georgia drafted and launched (Output 1.3.1)

The project produced the first national baseline study on access to environmental justice. The study was compiled by a team of international and national experts based on desk research and in-depth interviews with 27 (18 women and 9 men) stakeholders from the government, judiciary, NGOs, and academia. The study contributed to knowledge building on environmental justice, assessed the legislative and practical landscape, identified key barriers to justice, and presented 29 concrete and implementable recommendations for 18 state and non-state institutions in Georgia.



Access to Environmental Justice in Georgia, Baseline Assessment

The presentation of the study in October 2023 was attended by high-level representatives of government, judiciary, and NGOs. The findings were covered in national media with a detailed programme devoted by Formula TV.⁷

⁷ For more information on media coverage see [Chapter VII: Visibility](#).





► **Judges equipped for informed decisions on access to environmental justice (Output 1.3.2)**

To equip judges with essential knowledge of environmental justice and enhance the judiciary's ability to make informed, fair decisions on environmental cases, the project developed and delivered a training module on access to environmental justice. The module was integrated into the curriculum of the High School of Justice of Georgia, ensuring that future judges will receive comprehensive education on environmental justice as a standard part of their training, thus establishing a long-term foundation for environmental justice within the judiciary.

The project provided a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) for seven judges (including four women) interested in becoming environmental justice trainers during 7-9 June and 26-28 July 2024. The ToT equipped the judges with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to conduct future training sessions for the judiciary on access to environmental justice based on the developed module for the High School of Justice. The project also conducted the first training workshop on access to environmental justice in cooperation with the High School of Justice during 13-15 September 2024. The newly qualified trainers, comprising four judges, among them the Supreme Court justice, conducted this session for 18 judges (including 12 women), under the guidance of UNDP's environmental expert.



Altogether, through 2023 and 2024 (nine months) the project trained 94 rule of law professionals on access to environmental justice. Besides judges, these included lawyers and NGO workers nationwide. Based on the results of pre- and post-tests, 70 per cent of participants improved their knowledge.



► Public awareness of environmental justice raised (Output 1.3.3)

In partnership with a local NGO, Georgian Environmental Outlook UNDP launched a six-month-long campaign in February 2024 to raise awareness of the wider society about environmental justice.

In-person events were carried out with a focus on lawyers, journalists, activists, students, youth, and community groups nationwide. In particular, a series of awareness-raising and capacity development events (in total 13) were organised, benefiting 262 people (including 198 women) covering nine municipalities across Georgia.

Environmental justice awareness raising campaign actively used social media and other communication channels reaching 326,000 individuals online. The campaign designed and disseminated:

- six infographics
- two 2d animated videos,
- online survey,
- online quiz,
- two online media articles,
- two videos featuring personal stories of environmental activities.⁸

In addition, the UNDP and GEO staff were invited to present the campaign at two TV channels: [TV Pirveli](#) and [Rustavi 2](#).



Environmental justice campaign

⁸ For more information on campaign materials, see [Chapter VII: Visibility](#).



OUTCOME 2.1: IMPROVED CRISIS MANAGEMENT, SOCIO- ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THOSE FROM UKRAINE RESIDING IN GEORGIA



► **Socio-economic resilience centre is established and becomes operational supporting the integration of Ukrainian refugees (Output 2.1.1)**

The Ukrainian House was opened in September 2023 in the framework of an Agreement between UNDP and the Georgian-Ukrainian Platform, a Tbilisi-based Ukrainian community organisation. The Ukrainian House is a multifunctional space addressing the needs of NGOs and volunteer groups committed to assisting Ukrainian beneficiaries in Georgia. The Ukrainian House is a communal hub, an operational office space for NGOs, and a referral point for various socio-economic services tailored for Ukrainian nationals. These activities included

a series of training on doing business in Georgia and creating effective resumes, meetings with psychologists and labour union representatives, masterclasses on basket weaving, embroidery, art therapy, English and Ukrainian language clubs, piloting the Georgian language self-learning platform, and hosting photo exhibitions.

The Ukrainian House established a referral system in November 2023. The system aims to efficiently manage incoming requests for various forms of aid, such as healthcare, legal, and other types of assistance and direct these requests to the appropriate state or non-state actors. The Ukrainian House addressed 750 referral requests to the state social services.



Since September 2023, the Ukrainian House provided services to over 4,485 beneficiaries (including 3,517 women) and hosted more than 480 different social and cultural events.





The project has closely guided and supported the operations of the Ukrainian House. In December 2023, the project organised an informative session for 16 recovery workers (including 14 women) representing the Ukrainian House staff and other NGOs supporting Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia in partnership with UNHCR. The session covered the legal status of refugees and Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia, and existing governmental and non-governmental services for these groups. Additionally, the session included training on proposal writing, project management, budgeting, donor reporting, and fundraising.

In February and September 2024, the Ukrainian House welcomed guests from the Legal Committee of the German Bundestag and Michael Roth, the Chair of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, respectively. The delegates met the Ukrainian community and engaged in dialogue regarding the implemented and ongoing initiatives of the project.

The Ukrainian House maintains a strong media presence, with news on its launch reaching over 250,000 social media users. The information about the establishment of the Ukrainian House was also covered on TV programs by the Georgian Public Broadcaster and Euronews Georgia.⁹

⁹ For more information on media coverage see [Chapter VII: Visibility](#).



► **60 Ukrainians supported to build employment pipelines with Georgian Businesses (Output 2.1.2)**

Through the collaborative efforts of the project and its partners, CareCaucasus and Georgian-Ukrainian Platform, 60 refugees, mostly Ukrainians, (including 51 women) were supported in their search for employment in Georgia. The partners worked individually with each beneficiary, providing personalized consultations on CV creation and conducting skill-based training.

The project also worked closely with Georgian businesses to ensure they could benefit from the diverse skills and experiences that Ukrainians bring, fostering innovative solutions through diverse perspectives. In partnership with the UN Global Compact Network Georgia, the project held meetings with 20 Georgian businesses, including those in banking and finance, retail services, car services, and hotels, all of which received CVs from qualified candidates.





საქართველოს იუსტიციის
სასწავლო ცენტრი



ის ონლაინ

aj.gov.ge



► Georgian Language Self-Learning Online Course Set Up (Output 2.1.2)

The project collaborated with the Training Center of Justice and Digital Governance Agency – agencies under the Ministry of Justice, to create a Georgian language learning online course for non-Georgian speakers. The course targets Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia, asylum seekers, refugees, humanitarian status holders, and ethnic minorities. The course can be accessed freely by registered users on a user-friendly training platform administered by the Training Center of Justice.

The course is introductory and consists of 20 elementary lessons supplemented by audio and video visuals, a Georgian language dictionary, a grammar guide and a course navigation instruction document in English, Ukrainian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.¹⁰ A total of 403 individuals (including 263 women) from 34 countries registered for the course. Among the participants, 193 were representatives of ethnic minority groups and 65 were Ukrainians. Given the course's intensity, eight individuals have completed it in full as of August 2024 and received a Georgian language (elementary) certificate.



¹⁰ The course promo video is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/TrainingCenterOfJustice/videos/1552880985562415>



DISCOVER THE UKRAINIAN BUSINESS FAIR

► **Refugees in Georgia have increased access to income-generating activities through business support and knowledge-building (Output 2.1.2)**

UNDP signed an Agreement with CARE Caucasus in July 2023. The Agreement set up a grants scheme for the refugees in Georgia providing business grants ranging from US\$5,000 to US\$8,000.

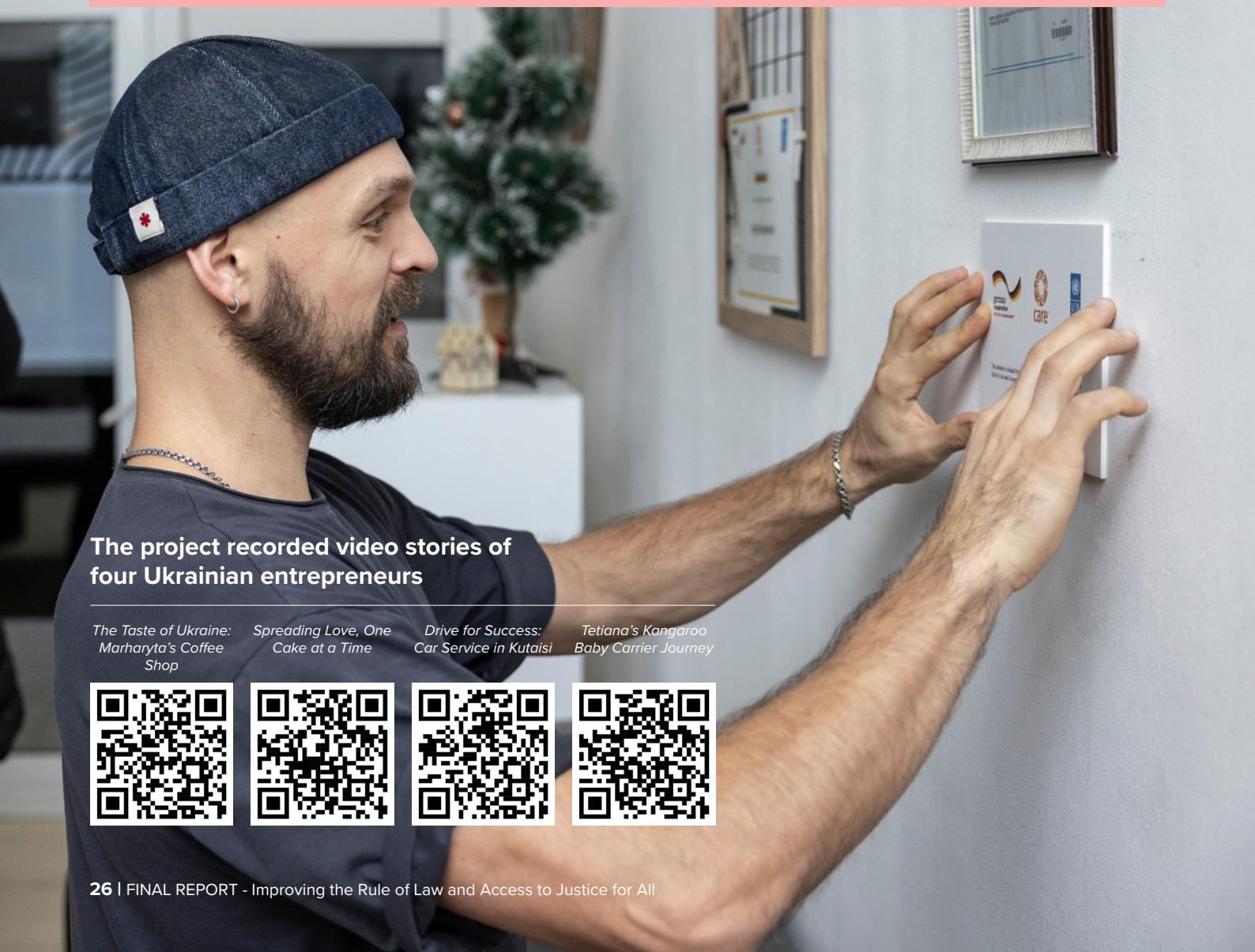


Throughout two phases of grant competitions, out of the 135 applications received, 39 grantees (38 Ukrainian and one Iranian) have been selected. They now run 39 businesses (including 29 women-led) nationwide employing 82 individuals (including 57 women) collectively generating an income of 640,451.74 GEL and a profit of 255,045.96 GEL. The average operational profitability of all 39 businesses is 40 per cent.



In addition, UNDP and CARE Caucasus offered them business set-up, operational guidance and a series of trainings on accounting, tax liabilities, business planning, budgeting and marketing. The intensive training programme engaged 92 refugees (including 83 women) in Tbilisi, Batumi, and Kutaisi. The pre- and post-test results showed that all participants demonstrated an improvement in their knowledge and skills regarding the establishment and operation of businesses in Georgia.

Through UNDP's support, CARE Caucasus also provided legal consultations for potential entrepreneurs and employees from the refugee communities in Georgia. In total, 266 beneficiaries (including 242 women) received legal consultations.



The project recorded video stories of four Ukrainian entrepreneurs

*The Taste of Ukraine:
Marharyta's Coffee
Shop*

*Spreading Love, One
Cake at a Time*

*Drive for Success:
Car Service in Kutaisi*

*Tetiana's Kangaroo
Baby Carrier Journey*



OUTCOME 2.2: ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES FROM UKRAINE AND OTHER COUNTRIES RESIDING IN GEORGIA INCREASED

Referral system for refugees is strengthened at the municipal level (Output 2.2.1)

In November 2023, the project collaborated with UNHCR to enhance the administration of referral services at Rustavi Municipality. Eight municipal service provider officers (all women) from Rustavi underwent training on the rights of refugees and Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia. The training also included information on the state and nonstate services available for refugee communities in Georgia.



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OUTCOME 3.1: COOPERATION BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETIES FROM ARMENIA, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, AND UKRAINE ON THE RULE OF LAW IS ENHANCED



► Regional cooperation on the rule of law and access to justice strengthened (Outputs 3.1.1 and 1.3.4)

In December 2023, the project organised the Tbilisi Regional Conference which gathered rule of law professionals from the region, including 21 foreign delegates (including 14 women) representing 19 state and non-state rule of law institutions from Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The Regional Conference enabled the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt on the EU integration process, gender justice, shrinking civic space, and environmental justice.

► New regional standards established on access to state-guaranteed legal aid

The Conference facilitated the inception of regional rule of law standards, in particular by facilitating the negotiation and adoption of the Tbilisi Declaration on Access to State-Guaranteed Legal Aid for Forcibly Displaced Populations.

The declaration was signed by the representatives of state legal aid service providers from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. It promotes people-centred approaches to justice and ensures access to legal aid for those affected by recent and ongoing armed conflicts.



The Tbilisi Declaration on Access to State-Guaranteed Legal Aid for Forcibly Displaced Populations



► **Local youth improve knowledge of rule of law and human rights (Output 3.1.1)**

In March 2024, the project announced the opening of enrollment for the Rule of Law Spring School, inviting high school students in grades 9-12 residing in Georgia to participate. Over 200 applications were received and 52 successful school students (including 33 girls) were selected including 13 refugees from Ukraine and Egypt and seven ethnic minority students from Georgia. A five-day training program in English language took place in Telavi during 8-11 May 2024.





Together with UN officials and law experts, students explored key aspects of public international law, international relations, UN system, the EU integration process, international and regional mechanisms for protecting the rights of refugees and civil, economic, and political rights in general, including rights of equality and non-discrimination.



IV. Impact on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



The project is marked as GEN2¹¹ and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal 5 by promoting gender equality during the implementation of each output. It ensures that women are not only beneficiaries but also actively engaged in all activities and events organised. The project has been using a gender-responsive approach by identifying and addressing existing barriers faced by women and other disadvantaged groups, such as gender stereotypes, unequal access to resources (education, healthcare, economic opportunities, property), unpaid domestic and care work, discrimination and intersectionality.

The outputs related to mediation and cross regional CSO cooperation specifically include women and are designed to be gender-responsive. The positive outcomes for women judges, ethnic minority representatives, and women entrepreneurs highlight the advantages of inclusive approaches. Additionally, other outputs mainstream gender by incorporating gender-disaggregated data requirements into the indicators.

¹¹ GEN2 is one of the Gender markers (GEN0 - GEN3) and implies that gender equality is a significant objective for the project.

► Access to legal aid increased for women

Access to justice is particularly challenging for rural women and the mobile legal clinic specifically targeted them as a key beneficiaries. Notably, 43 per cent of all legal consultations provided through the mobile legal clinic were for women. The topics for particular interest of women addressed during legal consultations included: land registration, inheritance law, loan agreements and guardianship matters. Furthermore, 72 per cent of women actively participated in the mobile legal awareness-raising meetings on legal aid services, access to justice, property rights, and women's rights in general.

► Refugee women assisted

The project aimed to bolster the socio-economic resilience of refugee women who had fled the war in Ukraine and are now residing in Georgia. This was accomplished by supporting their businesses through small-scale grants. Notably, 74 per cent of the business proposals financed by the Project were led by women. In addition, 86 per cent of participants in business training sessions covering accounting, tax liabilities, business planning, budgeting, and marketing were women. Furthermore, 91 per cent of the corporate and employment legal consultation beneficiaries were also women.

► Use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms by women promoted

In collaboration with the Mediators Association of Georgia, the project sought to raise awareness of mediation among women, particularly those from ethnic minority backgrounds. Of the lawyers trained in mediation, 66 per cent were women. Additionally, 78 women actively participated in targeted awareness-raising meetings designed to promote the effective use of mediation for resolving family, property, inheritance, financial, divorce, and workplace disputes.

► International events with a focus on women organised

The project actively supported the organisation of an international forum titled "Women Leaders in Times of War and Challenges" in Tbilisi. Held in December 2023 by Georgian-Ukrainian Platform, the forum concentrated on global challenges faced by women in politics and international diplomacy. It highlighted women-led businesses as a means of building resilience during times of war and underscored the importance of social responsibility. Furthermore, the Tbilisi Regional Conference included a dedicated panel on gender justice and women's rights, featuring women's rights activists and lawyers from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. Conference not only highlighted critical issues women face in accessing gender justice, but also fostered collaboration, knowledge sharing, and actionable strategies that can drive meaningful change across the participating countries.



V. Project Risks



The project applied a robust risk monitoring approach to the realisation of outcomes, including through regular risk monitoring meetings based on the detailed risk log. This enabled the project to address potential issues before they could impact operations. Regular communication and collaboration with stakeholders and beneficiaries, helped the project team to anticipate and address concerns promptly.

None of the pre-identified risks materialised, except the lack of ownership/commitment from stakeholders, which materialised regarding output 2.2.1. The later was partially implemented as a result of a lack of cooperation/interest from municipal service providers. The project offered to help Kutaisi, Rustavi and Poti Municipalities establish a referral system for Ukrainian refugees. Kutaisi and Poti municipalities did not take up the offer of assistance. Only Rustavi Municipality requested the training of existing staff. In cooperation with UNHCR, the project trained eight Rustavi Municipality officers to deliver user-friendly services to Ukrainian refugees. Resources from output 2.2.1 were diverted to alternative outputs.

In addition, based on the decision of the 2023 Project Board, output 1.1.1 on the judicial digital data collection system and related indicators (1.1.1.1 and 1.1.1.2) were removed from the results framework. The project planned to support the judicial administration in setting up a gender-responsive and inclusive digital data collection system. According to the judicial administration in 2023, they were in the process of conducting an internal assessment on identifying the data collection reform strategy and, as such, preferred to wait until the assessment was fully complete before proceeding with international technical assistance.

VI. Lessons Learnt



Several key lessons have been learnt from the implementation process:

1) Managing expectations in short-term projects:

The limitations of achieving outcome-level changes within the short duration of the project must be recognised. As such, the project strives to achieve the results primarily at the output level, while contributing to the longer-term objectives and outcomes.

2) Adapting in light of changing assumptions: In a multidimensional response, not all assumptions can hold and not all indicators might be met. The project must continue to maintain a robust risk log with mitigation measures in place to divert resources to alternative outputs if needed. As such, at the 2023 project board, the results framework was updated in light of the lack of stakeholder engagement regarding outputs 1.1.1 and 2.2.1.

3) Bottom-up approaches ensure higher commitments and sustainability: Partner-led initiatives garner increased commitment, ensuring long-term sustainability. For instance,

the collaboration with a government partner led to the conception of a mobile legal clinic. The idea initially came from the Legal Aid Service and the project streamlined it and provided essential support for its successful implementation. Due to the local ownership of the idea, the Legal Aid Service continued to operate the mobile legal clinic after the end of the partnership agreement with UNDP in December 2023. Since then, the Legal Aid Service has independently completed 77 visits to towns and villages in Georgia, conducting a total of 489 individual consultations (including for 191 women) and raising awareness of 1,630 beneficiaries (including 1,299 women) through public lectures on legal aid services, access to justice, property rights, and women's rights.

4) Targeted awareness campaigns: The environmental justice awareness campaign's high nationwide reach illustrates the effectiveness of using various media channels, including social media, and interactive formats (infographics and videos) to cover a broad audience and engage diverse stakeholders.

VII. Visibility



The project promoted the visibility of the German Government by consistently showcasing donor branding across all activities and ensuring that all partners strictly followed visibility and communication guidelines. The project and its partners utilised the logos of the German Cooperation and UNDP on all visibility materials and publications generated.

The project garnered widespread visibility nationwide through both social media and traditional media channels.

All major national TV networks extensively covered various project events and activities. The project team and partners received invitations for interviews at national TV studios. The following list comprises some of the key media visibility links.



Various videos on the project activities and campaigns reached up to half a million social media users as of 30 September 2024.

Event	Links to press releases and key media coverage
Ukrainian House	▶ UNDP's press release ▶ UNDP's video: Holiday greetings from the Ukrainian House ▶ Euronews Georgia's reporting ▶ Euronews Georgia's interview with Levan Asatiani and Valentina Mardjanishvili ▶ Georgian Public Broadcaster's reporting ▶ Rustavi 2's reporting ▶ Euronews Georgia's reporting ▶ Euronews Georgia: Ukrainian House Anniversary in Tbilisi ▶ Georgia Today: Ukrainian House in Tbilisi Marks One Year of Support and Solidarity ▶ Formula TV: Ukrainian House in Tbilisi
Refugee businesses	▶ UNDP's press release
Mobile legal clinic	▶ UNDP's press release ▶ UNDP's video: launching the Mobile Legal Clinic ▶ Formula TV's reporting ▶ Georgian Public Broadcaster's interview with Levan Asatiani and Davit Simonia
Environmental justice	▶ UNDP's press release ▶ Euronews Georgia's reporting ▶ Formula TV's interview with Levan Asatiani and Ketevan Vardosanidze ▶ TV Pirveli's Interview with Levan Asatiani and Khatuna Gogaladze ▶ Mtavari Arkhi's Interview with Khatuna Gogaladze and Kristine Gabisonia ▶ 2D animated video I ▶ 2D animated video II ▶ Infographics: Georgian Armenian Azerbaijani ▶ Personal Story I ▶ Personal Story II ▶ Collaboration with Netgazeti.ge ▶ Collaboration with Marketer.ge ▶ Ajaratv.ge about campaign ▶ Commersant about campaign ▶ Euronews Georgia about Access to environmental justice and media ▶ Euronews about Access to environmental justice forum
Rule of Law Regional Conference	▶ UNDP's press release on the conference ▶ UNDP's press release on the Tbilisi Declaration ▶ UNDP's video: Summary of the Regional Conference ▶ Georgian Public Broadcaster's reporting ▶ Rustavi 2's reporting ▶ Euronews Georgia's reporting ▶ Imedi TV's reporting ▶ TV Pirveli's reporting ▶ Formula TV's reporting ▶ Maestro's reporting

VIII. Conclusion

The project has effectively met most of the indicators and successfully delivered its outputs while gaining substantial national visibility. In under a year and a half, the project, through collaborations with Georgian rule of law institutions and non-state actors, has reached over 10,000 direct beneficiaries. These include 1,025 rule of law and recovery professionals (including 654 women) who have improved their capacities and skills and 9,273 rightsholders (including 6,858 women) from various disadvantaged communities who have received legal and socio-economic services or acquired essential skills and critical knowledge.

Despite the project's brief lifespan, it left important end-products which will outlive the current implementation phase. The regional standards for legal aid established

to facilitate improved physical access for people with disabilities for years to come.

The introduction of ethnic minority mediators fluent in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages represents a sustainable enhancement of inclusive dispute-resolution mechanisms. Furthermore, the Georgian language learning course developed by the Training Centre of Justice will continue to be freely available supporting the integration of refugees, ethnic minorities, and others into Georgian society. Last, but not least, the 39 refugee (including 29 women) businesses set up, which are operational and growing, offer ongoing employment opportunities, benefiting 82 individuals (including 57 women) and creating a lasting economic ecosystem in support of the Ukrainian community in Georgia.



for forcibly displaced populations will continue to guide future efforts in this area. The mobile legal clinic, maintained by the Legal Aid Service, ensures ongoing support, while the integration of the environmental justice module into the judiciary, along with the establishment of the first cohort of trainer judges in environmental justice, represents a lasting advancement in legal education. The project's legacy includes Georgia's first comprehensive study on access to environmental justice, establishing a foundation for future programming. In addition, the improvements made to Kutaisi City Court's accessibility demonstrate a commitment to inclusivity and will continue

Gender related dimensions were prominent throughout the project as the inclusion of women in professional development highlights efforts toward gender equality in the legal field. Equal access to services and economic empowerment were also crucial for the project implementation.

These outputs collectively ensure that the project's benefits will endure and continue to contribute to the overarching goals of making sure that the most disadvantaged groups in Georgia fully enjoy the rule of law principles in life while increasing their socio-economic resilience.

IX. List of Annexes

Annex I. Results Framework with Indicators

Annex II. Final Financial Report (interim)



FINAL REPORT

(1 JAN 2023 – 30 SEP 2024)

**Improving the Rule of Law
and Access to Justice for All**

September 2024