

Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Undervaluing of Girls in Georgia

*Brief overview of progress towards programme
outcomes, takeaways and success factors*

The Global programme (2017-2019) is funded by EU

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo credit: UNFPA Georgia | Vladimer Valishvili
Street artist: Gagosh

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Efforts to address son preference and GBSS in Georgia is based on the holistic and multi-sectoral approach, which aims to support gender transformation and the process of building harmonious society based on human rights principles and strengthened gender equality.

Building on the existing knowledge and results achieved in previous years, programme action in Georgia continued to be directed towards:

- strengthening knowledge base and supporting evidence based policy advocacy initiatives;
- reinforcing the policy framework for combating harmful practices and enhancing gender equality;
- and increasing awareness on GBSS through communication and advocacy campaigns - engaging youth, couples, local communities, health care sector, media as well as CSOs.

Some of the takeaways, in terms of impact and notable results, include:

1

Continued **support to generate more knowledge, data and empirical evidence** on son preference and GBSS which is crucial for evidence based policy and advocacy. UNFPA Georgia CO continues to conduct more research in partnership with local research intuition (ISET-PI), to determine to what extent does Georgia's existing social-economic policy contribute to maintain or discourage son preference, the findings of which will aid policy makers, practitioners and academia to think of concrete recommendations for improving the policy response to GBSS.

2

Building partnerships with local self-government units (municipalities), local Gender Equality Councils, Women's rooms, gender activists, CSOs, RH health professionals and media which allows to reach the most closed ethnic minority groups and to implement communication and information campaign on son preference and GBSS.



Equality Wall in Marneuli, street artist Gagosh in the working process.
Photo credit: UNFPA Georgia | Vladimer Valishvili



Public Talk by Giorgi Kekelidze on Gender Equality in Marneuli
Photo credit: UNFPA Georgia/Vladimer Valishvili

3

More engaged young people - challenging gender-based stereotypes in the selected target regions through Youth Equality Festival, which focused on the the importance of Gender Equality and treating male and female children equally. This was done through using Street Art, photo exhibition and public talk given by highly influential personality – Giorgi Kekelidze, Georgian poet, essayist and the founder of the first Georgian digital library (lib.ge).

4

More engaged general population – through working with women/girls, adolescents and couples at the local level in the target regions (Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti Regions, with ethnic minority population) through local communication campaign including information sessions facilitated by **Educators form local communities**.



115 people were engaged in information sessions;



Almost half of the participants were young people (16-25 years of age);



Participants represented local communities from 5 municipalities and were from almost 8 different villages.

5 Strengthened technical capacity of local and national stakeholders through National Workshop on Policy Response to GBSS, conducted in Tbilisi, Georgia. The National Workshop was replicated based on the regional knowledge and was designed for national partners, including – the Inter-agency Commission on GE, Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, GE Council at the Parliament, local GE councils, Women's Rooms and CSOs from target regions.

As a result, participants equipped with more understanding on GBSS and various policy instruments:

- 1) local gender equality councils have initiated amending Annual Action Plans to include GBSS prevention activities and to work more closely with youth;
- 2) Women's Rooms are working to include more GBSS prevention information sessions as part of their annual programming agenda.



National Workshop on GBSS | Tbilisi, Georgia
Photo credit: UNFPA Georgia | Vladimer Valishvili

6 Sensitized and engaged medical professionals to prevent the harmful practice of son preference and GBSS, through established an ad-hoc working group of RH professionals to develop the document - on *Ultra-sound examination recommended practice during the early stages of pregnancy (until 14 weeks) to discourage fetus sex disclosure – to be approved as an annex to the National Ante-Natal Care Protocol*; while also working with expectant parents to raise their awareness.

7 Integration of son preference and GBSS prevention measures in the **National Action Plan on Human Rights (2018-2020)**, as a result of focused **advocacy and policy dialogue** interventions.



"A Girl is Born" Photo Exhibition | Author: Dina Oganova
Marneuli, Georgia
Photo credit: UNFPA Georgia | Vladimer Valishvili

Read more about the programme:



<https://georgia.unfpa.org/en>



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