



**ALCP** | Alliances  
Caucasus 2  
REGIONAL MARKET ALLIANCES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

## ALLIANCES CAUCASUS 2

GEDSI ANALYSIS,

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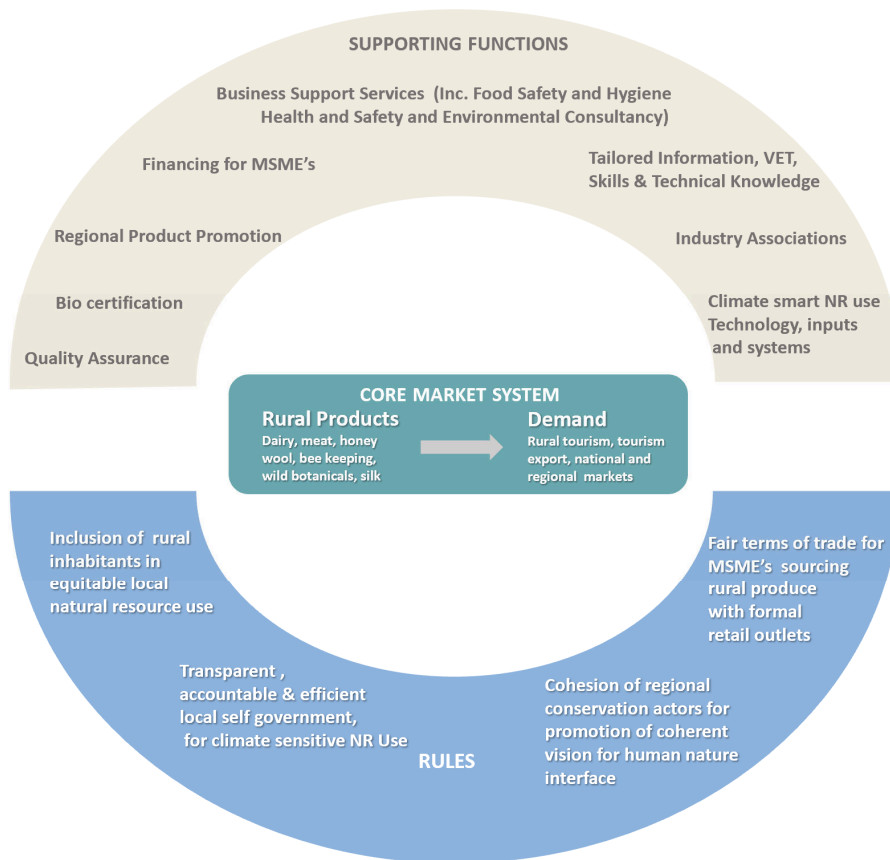
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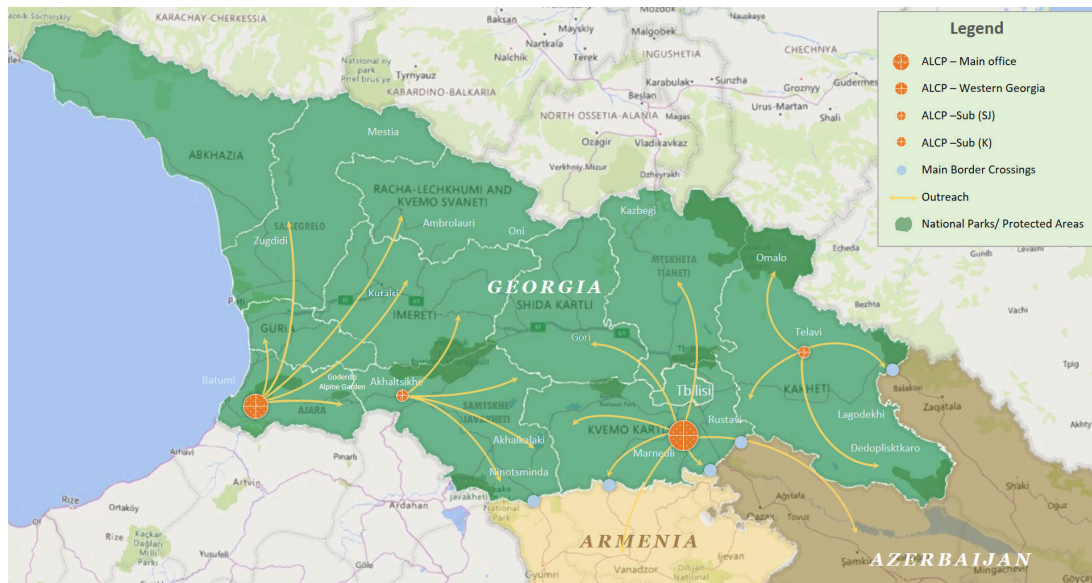
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Alliances Caucasus 2 runs from May 2022 to April 2026 with a budget of 6 million CHF. It is a market systems development programme targeting rural producers in Georgia. It works in the rural product core market system and with associated supporting functions and rules. Its purpose is to increase incomes and improve livelihoods through better, sustainable productivity, resilient market access, local employment opportunities and more equitable inclusion in local natural resource use. Implemented through the lens of environmental sustainability, it seeks to augment the lives of rural inhabitants through developing their knowledge of the value of rural resources and the potentiality of the environment in which they live. It will increase their participation in decision making concerning these resources and the availability of knowledge, inputs and skills to enable them to profit sustainably from them. It will tap into and further build a sustainable platform for rural producers to participate in added value, export and tourism markets.



**Rural Producer Market System Diagram with Proposed Areas of Intervention**

ALCP 2 will utilize extensive networks with all levels of the private sector, civil society and government. It will work in new as well as existing regions of programme operation in Georgia, including a new focus on Western Georgia; Samegrelo, Guria, Racha and Imereti as well as in other areas of the North Caucasus where entry points develop, for example for Georgian regional product development. It will continue to promote regional cross border trade and initiatives in information and equitable access to decision making between Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. It will incorporate in the first six months, a market research phase to deepen market research on new regions, value chains, key market actors and target group.



### ALCP2 Operations and Outreach

Alliances began in pilot form in 2008<sup>1</sup>. It became a flagship market systems development programme, enshrining some of the most fundamental concepts of MSD within its own development; flexibility, adaptation to context, iterative development, rigorous ongoing market intelligence, sensible resource use, in house capacity and commitment to inclusivity and sustainability. The ALCP 2 will build on and utilize over a decade of impact<sup>2</sup>, experience, thought leadership and materials development. Therefore, ALCP 2 will not be starting from scratch, momentum in existing value addition and quality assurance interventions, local community outreach from Women’s Rooms as well as ongoing environmental development initiatives emanating from the Goderdzi Alpine Garden, will be facilitated to equitably expand further in dairy, honey, rural start-ups and sustainable local rural development and impact will be registered from the beginning. The Alliances Results Measurement System has been run according to DCED standards since 2011 and was audited twice. The ALCP 2 Results Measurement system will also be built according to DCED standards and will be audited around the 24-month mark of the implementation phase.

<sup>1</sup> The Alliances programme, a market systems development programme working in the livestock market system in Georgia, was a Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) project in cooperation with the Austrian Development Cooperation (from January 2020) implemented by Mercy Corps Georgia. It began in 2008 in Samtskhe Javakheti (SJ), Georgia. Alliances Kvemo Kartli (KK) was opened in 2011 with a second phase awarded to SJ. In 2014, the second phase of an expanded Kvemo Kartli was merged with a new branch of the programme in Ajara and a two year ‘standby phase’ (monitoring and sustainability phase) in SJ to form the Alliances Lesser Caucasus Programme (ALCP). From 2014 as the Alliances Lesser Caucasus Programme, Alliances management, programming and operations were fully harmonized. The programme has achieved substantial scale and systemic change well beyond the initial designated programme areas and targets and devoted itself to learning, excellence and participation in a global community of practice in Market Systems Development (MSD) including being twice successfully audited by the DCED Standard for Results Measurement (Donor Committee for Enterprise Development). It furthered learning and practice in Women’s Economic Empowerment and harnessed market systems programming to generate significant impact in transversal themes with a 54% average of female usage and access across all interventions.

<sup>2</sup> From October 2008 to March 2017, 403,101 income beneficiary HHs generated 34.7 million USD (79.79 million GEL) in aggregated net attributable direct and indirect income for farmers, businesses and employees. From April 2017- to April 2022, the five year, 7.82 million CHF *Alliances Caucasus Programme* (ALCP),<sup>2</sup> utilized the platform created by the ALCP to significantly contribute to building sustainability in the SME sectors, regional promotion through cross border exchange and trade and export in the dairy, meat, honey and wool value chains. Scale: 56,181 direct, 33, 382 indirect, improved information 388,810 Livestock and Honey Producers. NAIC: 21.1million USD (farmers 10.3, clients 6.3, employees 2.7 indirect 1.8.), Jobs: 457 (243 women, 214 men). Systemic change 33 cases crowding in, 64 cases business expansion. WEE % across all interventions 38% participating in decisions made on agricultural activities, 61% agency over spending/management of money derived from these activities. Export; 17 destination countries. Total Value 37.6 USD. See ALCP Impact Assessment 2017-2022 for more details.

## INTRODUCTION

*'It begins by acknowledging the importance of the process as much as the outcome, and that we need to undergo a long-lasting, sustainable effort to challenge the structures, culture and institutions that preserve and perpetuate inequality, starting with ourselves'.  
Mercy Corps GEDSI Strategy (2020-2023)*

This GEDSI<sup>3</sup> analysis is built on over a decade of learning towards putting the different perspectives of rural women and men into the mainstream in all that ALCP does and ensuring women's empowerment. Moreover, Alliances has worked in the most ethnically diverse areas of Georgia since its establishment, effectively incorporating ethnicity and gender equality within the programming. Without factoring in cultural mores and values, language and practices unique to the groups involved, interventions would have failed.

The ALCP2 is in line with Mercy Corps' Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Strategy which is a long-term vision of advancing gender equality, diversity and social inclusion in MC programmes and operations. Mercy Corps' *Gender Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion Strategy (2020-2023)*<sup>4</sup> lays out a plan to remove barriers, address root causes of inequalities and model the power of diversity and gender equality. The strategy offers a long-term vision and plan of action for how Mercy Corps can advance gender equality, diversity and social inclusion in MC programmes and operations. The strategy is guided by inclusive feminist principles and approaches.

MERCY CORPS VISION
A world in which people, regardless of sex, ethnicity, race, class, ability, age and socioeconomic and/or displaced status, have the freedom to make choices about their lives and bodies, express their perspectives and priorities and have equal access to resources and opportunities, enabling them to live equal, empowered lives.
TERMS DEFINITION
<b>Gender:</b> The roles, behaviours, activities, expectations and attributes that a given society may construct or consider appropriate for the categories of "men" and "women".
<b>Equality</b> is the state of balanced power relations that gives equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities and decision-making authority to all people. Gender equity is the process to achieve gender equality, recognizing that all people do not have the same starting point.
<b>Diversity</b> is about recognizing and valuing individual and group differences across various visible and invisible dimensions. These include race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, age, as well as personal life, educational and work experiences, geographic and socioeconomic roots, and differences like thinking and communication styles, cultural knowledge, language abilities and religious or spiritual perspectives.
<b>Social Inclusion:</b> The process of improving the ability, access, dignity, and opportunity for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of social identity, to take part in society. The process requires changing systems and challenging social norms.

Figure 1 Mercy Corps Vision of GEDSI and Terms Definition

<sup>3</sup> Gender, Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

<sup>4</sup> <https://alcp.ge/assets/pdf/old/69ef55db37d763e36159740d03a9a8ea.pdf>

In the ALCP2, GEDSI will be mainstreamed according to the *Leave No One Behind*<sup>5</sup> principle to ensure vulnerable groups are considered in all aspects of programming, and where possible are able to access the benefits interventions will incur.

**GEDSI AND WOMENS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE)**

The economic empowerment of women as well as men is a specific aim of the ALCP2 as it has been for the history of the Alliances programme and has resulted in equitable impact for women and men in what have been considered male dominated livestock value chains. Please see the WEE section for more details. GEDSI informs and enables WEE. The ALCP2 is at the high focus end of the spectrum of WEE approaches. In the previous Alliances programmes gender analysis as well as a consideration of the effect of ethnicity were key in calibrating interventions to ensure WEE. In the ALCP2 this will be further enhanced by applying an age lens across appropriate value chains and a consideration of other vulnerable groups in interventions where they can be meaningfully included. This approach implies both mainstreaming and targeting women and other vulnerable groups with a concerted application of Do-No-Harm.

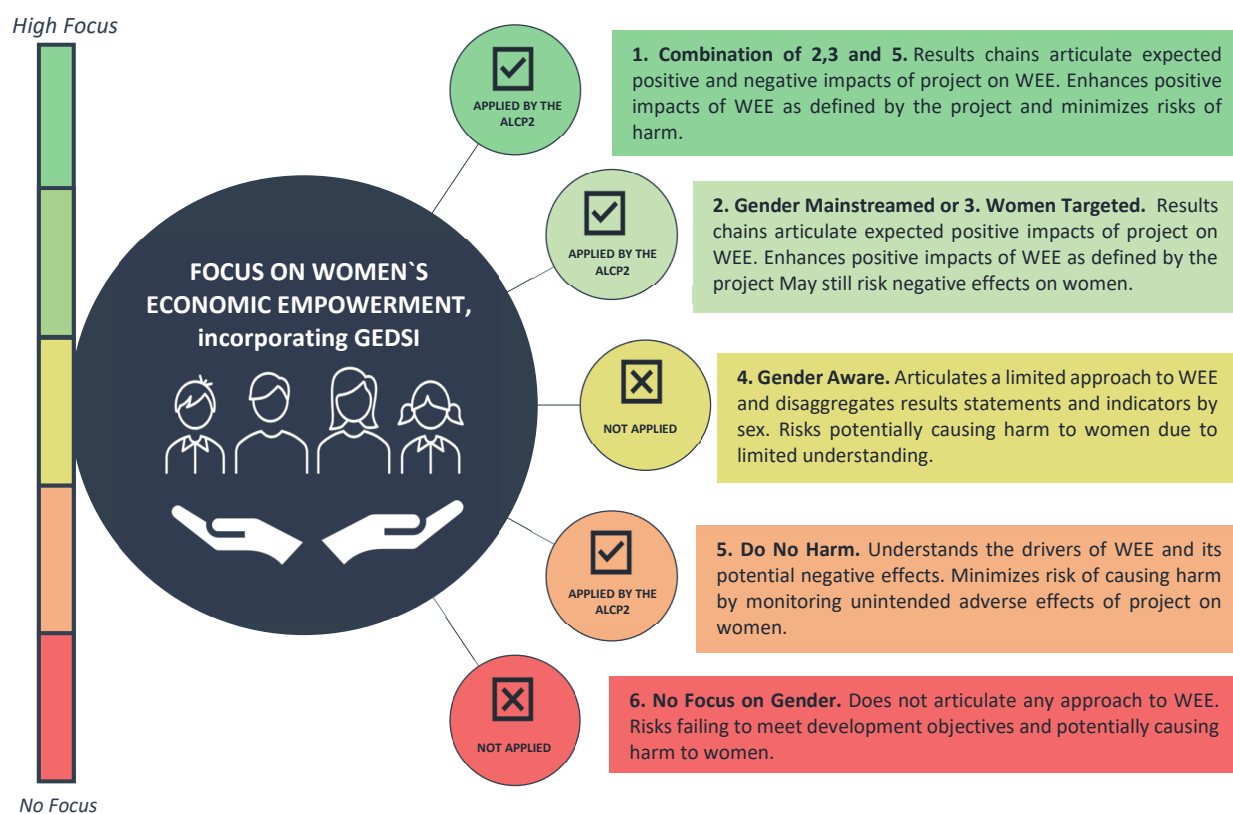


Figure 2 Diagram showing a nuanced consideration of WEE in the ALCP2 adapted from *The PSD-WEE Continuum in Measuring WEE in PSD*<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Leave no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for [Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

<sup>6</sup> [Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment in Private Sector Development. \(2014\) Donor Committee for Enterprise Development](#)

During the preliminary market analysis, the programme identified gender and ethnicity as the main GEDSI issues affecting the greatest number of the target group at scale and which if correctly incorporated into programming will have the most impact on inclusivity in the ALCP2. Subsequent focus groups and market analysis have further confirmed that these groups need to be taken into consideration in every possible step of programme planning and implementation with the careful application of an age lens in each intervention. Women and men of different ages from different ethnicities have specific roles, responsibilities and needs that the programme should address.

The human rights reports of the Public Defender (Ombudsmen) of Georgia<sup>7</sup> consistently highlight that women and girls from ethnic minorities are more excluded from social-economic activities than women and girls from Georgian communities and the threat of violence, less care for reproductive health and cases of early marriage are more severe in these communities. The programme will address these challenges when designing interventions. For example, the Women's Rooms Union (WRU) will work to ensure that the Women's Room network continues providing information and consultation meetings and events related to domestic violence, the reproductive health of women and girls and the elimination of early marriage. Also, interventions will ensure the inclusion of Azerbaijani and Armenian communities as customers or users of inputs and services in the new areas of inputs (Outcome 1), specific related factors to consider with supplier value chains (Outcome 2) and the inclusion of these groups in decision-making regarding environmental inclusivity and the use of natural resources (Outcome 3).

Age also plays an important role in some of the value chains of the ALCP2. Elderly men and women are involved in the Lori production process together with their family members and they actively pass the knowledge to youth who are also involved in Lori production. Picking wild botanicals also involves all family members, including youth. Interventions will be structured to ensure the empowerment of young and elderly people in these value chains. Interventions will ensure the inclusion of young and elderly people as customers or users of inputs and services in the new areas of inputs and services, information, VET, skills and training (Outcome 1). For example, in the VET sector, there is high potential for youth to get the courses they need for producing rural products in relevant market systems and target regions. Also, the ALCP2 will work on linking young people to financing.

The programme will also strive to incorporate other vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities and people under the poverty line where it can be applied meaningfully in interventions. In the ALCP2 this will primarily centre on interventions through the Women's Rooms Union (WRU) and Women's Room Network.

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<sup>7</sup> The Public Defender Ombudsman of Georgia is a state institution responsible for independently monitoring the status of Human Rights in Georgia and reporting back to Parliament.



The ALCP2 carried out GEDSI sensitized focus group surveys and market research in the respective market systems of the programme. The data collected was used to construct a detailed analysis of GEDSI in relation to all proposed areas of programme intervention. The main inclusivity aspects of gender and ethnicity viewed through an age lens were considered in the market system analysis and design of potential interventions, to determine whether interventions will maximize inclusivity. The following section describes the main aspects of GEDSI in the ALCP2 in summary. *Annex 1 ALCP2 GEDSI Summary Market Analysis* should however be referred to as it provides a detailed breakdown of the relevance, pro poor potential and intervention potential for GEDSI focal areas per programme Outcome<sup>8</sup> as well as a description per outcome of the main GEDSI systemic constraints and pro poor potential and incentives.

#### WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ALLIANCES

Alliances has a proven track record in achieving Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) at HH level. ALCP interventions related to dairies, selling cattle, sheep, wool, honey and buying animal feed have ensured that women in the target group have access to but also agency over expenditure related to livestock, time saved, public decision making and HH budgeting. Good prices paid for milk have helped women gain agency over decision-making and spending money within their households. Skills training for women, easier access to credit due to regular income, and increased mobility due to more free time have also improved women's decision-making power within their households.

The Women's Rooms have empowered their visitors in finding jobs, applying for/ winning grants, receiving and accessing funding sources; equipping them with knowledge and skills to increase their competitiveness in the labour market and they have then shared their own experiences with other women. Women's Rooms managers have carried out and rooms been used for regular information meetings and events related to domestic violence and the elimination of early marriage in ethnic minority communities. Economic empowerment has positively impacted the engagement of women in local economic development priorities. Where the programme facilitated dairy factories are collecting milk, community priorities at community meetings have been influenced by main livelihood opportunities, including renovation of village roads to allow female farmers to access regular milk collection, renovation of kindergartens saving time from childcare and spending this time on other income-generating activities, running water renovations to better follow FS&H standards and save labour, animal movement route initiatives for the improved biosecurity of their livestock and bridge renovation to access their village pastures. Women's Rooms managers have coordinated with Village Representatives to include women while organizing meetings with women attending of their own volition and with more confidence in voicing their ideas.

This trend has included municipalities of Kvemo Kartli with a higher proportion of Azerbaijani women and Samstkhe-Javakheti with Armenian women who still have strong cultural-traditional restrictions for women. These restrictions were circumvented because the local government asked women to participate in village meetings. In these regions women started participating in village meetings and writing applications for village

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<sup>8</sup> Outcome 1 Rural producers increase profitability and sustainability due to access to target services and inputs. (VET, info, climate smart inputs, financing.) Outcome 2 Sustainable and diversified MSME's provide more reliable, value added market access to rural producers. Dairy, Honey, Lori, Wild Botanicals, Silk. Outcome 3 Local institutions provide improved access to more equitable local decision making and agency over natural resource use for rural producers.

projects, mainly asking for water and kindergartens. From 2017 to 2020 the WRs were used as a hub for people to access financing to fund new business ideas and to invest in ongoing micro-enterprises. The total amount of grants received through the Women's Rooms was 2.2m Gel. The Women's Rooms have allowed for outreach to parts of the community often left behind. Women's Rooms are adapted by each community who uses them.

#### GENDER AND WEE IN THE ALCP2

Gender was mainstreamed in the ALCP2 market research for each market system and the roles and responsibilities and access and agency over these resources established for each<sup>9</sup>. These are detailed in tables in *Annex 2*. In addition, the focus groups surveys for all market systems were gender disaggregated with separate male and female groups. Experience has proven that in mixed groups male voices tend to dominate. The findings are detailed in summary per market system focus group in *Annex 3*.

Interestingly, opinions on main topics such as climate change were broadly in sync between male and female groups however differences were picked up in attitudes towards aspects of these topics such as enthusiasm to receive more climate change adaptation information or perceptions on the main problems related to bee hive quality. Roles and responsibilities were often undertaken by both women and men reflecting the household nature of the rural production enterprise in Georgia but with a few key areas of separation often involving the use of transport or heavier tasks. Agency over resources too was quite broadly spread over men and women although again with some key areas of difference. These differences are then translated into more nuanced interventions calibrated to include women and men. This calibration is then encoded within results chains and resultant results measurement. Please see *Annex 4 GEDSI and Results Measurement* for more details.

In the ALCP2 women play central roles in all the proposed market systems. In the dairy sector, women are doing key roles of milking and selling milk. Women's roles are central in the production and sale of bee products (honey, royal jelly, Pollen, Propolis, Venom). They tend to understand promotion, marketing activities and opportunities for selling honey. Rural tourism, agri and honey festivals are a very important markets for women. In wild botanicals, men are responsible for transportation, finding a buyer, and negotiating on price, and sale, while women are more involved in picking, drying if needed and making records. In pig farming and Lori production the physically hard work related to this sector e.g., slaughtering of pigs, holding, and cutting carcasses and salting, is done by men, while women share most other activities equally with men. In the silk sector, women and men are equally involved in the whole process. Decisions over HH income related to agriculture are usually taken together. When it comes to local development, women and men are equally interested in information related to ongoing development projects. Regarding climate change there were no discernible differences in perceptions of men and women concerning changes in weather patterns and their impacts. They also expressed similar perceptions toward coping mechanisms. However, their needs and attitudes concerning the same subject do sometimes differ<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> According to the programmes working practice as detailed in (2016) [How to Put Gender and WEE into Practice in M4P](#). DCED Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group.

<sup>10</sup> Full details can be found in the *ALCP2 Livestock Producers and Beekeepers Focus Group Survey Report*.

## ETHNICITY

According to the 2014 census, 13% of the Georgian population are ethnic minorities, out of which 6% are ethnic Azerbaijanis and 5% ethnic Armenians. The main issue leading to the exclusion of the ethnic minorities in Georgia from accessing resources and public goods is language. The main issue leading to the exclusion of the ethnic minorities in Georgia from accessing resources and public goods is language. The majority of Azerbaijani and Armenian communities do not know the Georgian language and are excluded from information and resource networks. Exclusionary processes create an inequitable distribution of resources and unequal access to capabilities and rights necessary for personal development.

*Table 1 Demography according to ethnic groups and knowledge of the language, Census 2014, Geostat*

	Population	Ethnic Minority	Not Fluent in Georgian
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>3,713,804</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Samtskhe-Javakheti	160,504	52%	36%
Kvemo Kartli	423,986	49%	38%
Kakheti	318,583	15%	8%
Tbilisi	1,108,717	10%	1%
Mtskheta Mtianeti	94,573	6%	0%
Shida Kartli	263,382	5%	0%
Adjara	333,953	4%	1%
Guria	113,350	2%	0%
Imereti	533,906	1%	0%
Samegrelo & Zemo Svaneti	330,761	1%	0%
Racha-Lechkhumi & Kvemo Svaneti	32,089	0%	0%

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO RURAL PRODUCTION

Ethnic communities emphasized that they have language barriers to accessing information from Georgian channels. They watch YouTube videos or use Facebook in Armenian, Azerbaijani or Russian languages. These farmers do not participate in state programmes to get grants due to not knowing Georgian. This problem is even worse in villages as the farmers have to go to towns to find somebody to help them with writing in Georgian or collecting documents. Azerbaijani and Armenian beekeepers lack information on the proper use of vet drugs, bee diseases and treatment. Migration was mentioned by Armenian and Azeri communities more than Georgian communities. Due to migration, women are doing all the livestock-related activities. Migration and the consequent reduction in the HH workforce limits Azeri and Armenians in these HH's from increasing the number of cows.

In beekeeping as an example, their knowledge about bio/sustainable beekeeping is also limited. Those beekeepers are not members of any cooperative. Some of them mentioned membership in associations but could not name which. Beekeeping training which is mainly in Georgian is not tailored to Armenian and Azeri beekeepers, who mostly speak and understand Russian along with their native language. The majority had not attended any beekeeping trainings for ten years. Some of them were invited to trainings but left soon as they could not understand Georgian. Beekeepers also complained about the irrelevant information transferred. If available, all the interviewed beekeepers, want to attend trainings and learn more about new beekeeping practices. While the GBU and Facebook page *Georgian Bee* administered by the GBU's chairman is a key

information platform for Georgian beekeepers, it is not popular for the beekeepers in ethnic minorities, who named the language barrier for not using these resources. They watch Russian (or Armenian or Azeri) language content, are also members of non-Georgian speaking discussion Facebook groups, which do not provide them with the information tailored to the region and their beekeeping practices.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE USE

In the ALCP2 climate change and natural resource use are cross cutting themes. There are no discernible differences in perceptions of men and women in Georgian, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities concerning changes in weather patterns and their impacts. They also expressed similar perceptions toward coping mechanisms. However, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities are more excluded from information flows related to coping mechanisms compared to Georgian communities. Azerbaijani and Armenian communities also lack information related to the use of natural resources e.g., communal pasture. The local government has low capacity and experience in serving Azerbaijani and Armenian communities regarding environmental inclusivity and the use of natural resources. These groups' reliance on these resources is central to their livelihoods and essential to maintaining equitable access to sustainable resources that ensure their livelihoods may continue and develop. Climate change also threatens the sustainability of these livelihoods and is vulnerable to private development and inequitable development. Azerbaijani and Armenian communities are enthusiastic about receiving information on innovative, environmentally sustainable farming techniques, ways of understanding how to deal with changing climate and getting funds for establishing new livestock and beekeeping practices.

#### AGE GROUPS

Gender and ethnicity are the two main groups of the greatest importance to ensuring inclusivity in agricultural value chains for rural producers. However careful attention was paid in the research process to age as a factor in access and agency. All focus groups included mixed age groups for understanding different opinions and encouraging discussions between different generations. Youth and elderly farmers shared their experiences and unique perspectives. Simultaneously, they could listen and comment on each other's narratives. Later, during the data analysis process, attention was paid to the position of youth in the respective value chains which revealed that some groups of youth lack access to the skills to apply for grants for entrepreneurial activities and information related to good husbandry practices in livestock, beekeeping and other modes of rural production. ALCP2 interventions related to information, skills and inputs will ensure the inclusivity of youth.

The target groups in the dairy and honey market systems involve youth. Boys and girls participate in livestock and honey-related activities and also benefit from the development of these market systems as most families decide to spend money generated from selling milk and honey on education. In the wild botanical value chain including ensuring sustainable rights of access of pickers to natural resources will incorporate youth who are involved in picking as part of the HH enterprise. The ALCP2 also sees the potential to impact youth in the silk market system as the production of raw silk involves all family members including children. Young people's participation in decision-making regarding environmental inclusivity and the use of natural resources will be ensured. See more age specific details in *Annex 1 ALCP2 Summary GEDSI Analysis*.

## OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The programme sees the potential to incorporate other vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities and people under the poverty line through the Women's Rooms Union (WRU) and the Women's Rooms Network. The WRU allows for outreach to parts of the community often left behind. Women's Rooms are adapted to the community which uses them. The potential to help these groups in finding jobs, applying for/winning grants, receiving and accessing funding sources and equipping them with knowledge and skills to achieve individual empowerment and later increase their competitiveness in the labour market through the Women's Rooms network is high.

See Table 2 Inclusivity by market systems for all the groups mentioned above.

*Table 2 Inclusivity by market systems*

	INFORMATION	SKILLS AND INPUTS	DAIRY	HONEY	LORI	WILD BOTANICALS	SILK	NATURAL RESOURCE USE
GENDER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ETHNICITY	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
YOUTH	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
DISABILITY (VIA WOMEN'S ROOMS UNION)	✓	✓						✓
UNDER POVERTY LINE (VIA WOMEN'S ROOMS UNION)	✓	✓						✓

Please consult the Annexes for full details.

The main inclusivity aspects of gender and ethnicity as well as age were considered in the market system analysis and potential of interventions to determine whether interventions are truly inclusive or not. The ALCP2 carried out GEDSI sensitized focus group surveys and market research in the respective value chains of the programme. The questionnaires were structured to capture perspectives, roles/responsibilities, agency/access of men and women, including ethnicity and age, this data has been used to construct the Summary GEDSI Analysis for the proposed areas of programme interventions.

Table 3 ALCP2 Summary GEDSI Analysis

Relevance	Pro Poor Potential	Intervention Potential
<p>Under Outcome 1 the priority will be helping rural producers and MSME's adapt to the challenges and impacts of climate change on their production and businesses as well as accessing supporting functions including VET, climate smart impacts, information and financing which will enable better, sustainable production in the dairy, honey, bacon, wild botanicals and silk value chains.</p>		
<p><b>High:</b> Highly relevant to women, Azeri and Armenian communities and youth. The majority of Azeri/Armenian ethnic and linguistic minorities do not know the Georgian language, rural women and girls lack social-economic activities and unemployed youth lack access to education, work and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>They need information on ways to harness new methods of sustainable production and business ideas tapping into trends such as rural tourism. Women tend to be central in the dairy, wild botanicals and bee products value chains. Decisions over HH income related to agriculture is usually taken together. Women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities have a high motivation to access climate-smart information, knowledge, inputs and techs. Women are far more interested in livestock and climate change-related information than men. Women reported that they want to learn more, and they are actively looking for agri information, whether it would be TV programme or social media content.</p>	<p><b>High:</b> Market Analysis revealed that women, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities and youth are particularly vulnerable within the value chains of the ALCP2. They are central to the market systems of the ALCP2 as rural producers. These groups lack formal education, information, grant or development networks. They need information on how to cope with the impacts on their production systems caused by climate change.</p> <p>Ethnic minorities mostly live in rural areas in Georgia in the regions of Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti. They still have problems related to inclusion due to not knowing the state language and can hence be barred from decent employment. Gender issues remain a concern in rural areas, but they are less in Georgian communities than in Armenian and especially, Azerbaijanis where traditional-cultural constraints for women are stricter.</p>	<p><b>High:</b> Interventions will be structured to ensure the inclusion of women, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities and youth as customers or users of inputs and services in the new areas of inputs and services, information, VET, skills and training.</p> <p>There is a potential for the networks already created to be used for increasing and improving the content for them with a better reach.</p> <p>The Georgian Beekeepers Union (GBU), the Georgian Milk Federation (GMF), the Jara Beekeepers Association (JBA) will enhance relevant information services to members, including women, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities and youth.</p> <p>The Rural Development Agency's (RDA) Information Consultation Centres' (ICC) will better inform livestock farmers, including women, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities and youth, Lori producers, including women and youth and wild botanicals picker farmers, including women and youth about climate-smart knowledge, information and practices through SMS, hotlines and online platforms and trainings.</p> <p>The linking of MSMEs and rural producers to entities and networks offering resources and financing for sustainable</p>

		<p>production and business development will include women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities. The working model set up between the Rural Development Agency (RDA), Enterprise Georgia, rural members associations and WRs to link farmers and MSMEs with the funds will include women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities.</p> <p>High potential for youth to get courses they need for producing rural products.</p> <p>Information will be available in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.</p>
<p>Under Outcome 2 the priority will be sustainable and diversified MSMEs providing more reliable, value-added market access to rural producers. Outcome 2 details the core market system of rural producers and MSME's in the dairy, honey, bacon, wild botanicals and silk value chain.</p>		
<p><b>High:</b> The dairy and honey sectors cut across all regions, whilst the other value chains are more regionally specific; Lori in Racha and wild botanicals in the mountainous zones of Ajara, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Guria, Imereti, Racha and Kakheti. Women tend to be central in the dairy, wild botanicals and bee products value chains. Decisions over HH income related to agriculture tend to be taken together. Elderly men, as well as women, are more involved in the Lori production process. They pass the knowledge of pig farming and Lori production to youth who are involved in pig farming and Lori production, as it is a part of their tradition.</p> <p>Rural families, especially women and poor, who look for additional income, are interested in the production of raw silk. Production of raw silk involves all family members including children, older people, and women.</p>	<p><b>High:</b> Women's roles are central in the production and sale of dairy, bee products (honey, royal jelly, Pollen, Propolis, Venom) and often have agency over the income derived from these activities. They tend to understand promotion, marketing activities and opportunities for selling honey. Tourists, Agri and honey festivals are very important market for women. In wild botanicals knowledge is required for the identification, collection, and preparation for sale. Women score higher on wild botanicals-related knowledge. They know the names and can describe the uses of most of the wild species. Women transfer this knowledge to their children and the children help them in gathering fruit and medical herbs for sale.</p>	<p><b>High:</b> Interventions will be structured to ensure the inclusion of women in all value chains, and ethnicity specifically in dairy, honey and wild botanicals value chains. Women, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities will be involved in or seeking to benefit by selling milk, honey, bee products, Lori and wild botanicals and a silk pilot. Piloting the production of raw silk and the establishment of a silk workshop/collection point in one municipality will be led by a woman.</p> <p>VET and information dissemination courses and trainings in Lori production, sustainable collection practices and a short sericulture training module will reach youth and women.</p>

Outcome 3 details local institutions provision of improved access to more equitable local decision making and agency over natural resource use for rural producers.

**High:** According to the 2014 census, 13% of the Georgian population are ethnic minorities, out of which 6% are ethnic Azerbaijanis and 5% - ethnic Armenians. Not knowing the Georgian language is one of the biggest constraints for ethnic minorities to be involved in decision-making. Also, rural women and girls lack social-economic activities and youth lack access to decision-making regarding environmental inclusivity and the use of natural resources.

Lack of information among rural inhabitants, including women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities related to environmental inclusivity and the use of natural resources. Low capacity and experience of local government to serve a rural audience, including women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities regarding environmental inclusivity and the use of natural resources.

**High:** These groups' reliance on these resources is central to their livelihoods and essential to maintaining equitable access to sustainable resources that ensure their livelihoods may continue and develop. Climate change also threatens the sustainability of these livelihoods and is vulnerable to private development and inequitable development. Azerbaijani and Armenian communities are enthusiastic about more information on innovative, environmentally sustainable farming techniques, ways of understanding how to deal with changing climate and getting funds for establishing new livestock and beekeeping practices.

**High:** Where appropriate regional interventions will be structured to ensure the inclusion of women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities in environmental development governance objectives.

Governance interventions under Outcome 3 will guarantee of high inclusion of women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities in sustainable development and decision-making. Information channels will be utilized to ensure that rural inhabitants, including women, youth and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities receive more information on their rights regarding the natural resources they depend upon and the landscapes in which they reside.

**Outcome 1 Information, Skills, Inputs and Financing**

**Systemic Constraints**

- Lack of knowledge of better resilient climate practices and sustainable management of public natural resources. The networks already created (media, academia, industry associations, ICCs and online platforms for farmers) still have low capacity and experience to serve a rural audience including women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities regarding climate change, environmental inclusivity and the use of natural resources.
- Low interest of young people in agriculture-related vocational programmes.
- Rural producers, including women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities lack access to information about appropriate, affordable and available funds, lack linkages with entities who can support them

**Pro Poor Opportunities and Drivers**

- Women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities are enthusiastic for receiving more information on innovative, environmentally sustainable farming techniques, ways of understanding how to deal with changing climate and getting funds for establishing new livestock and beekeeping practices.
- High motivation of the networks already created to be deepened with more and better information, reaching farmers, including women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities with an emphasis on innovation, and climate-smart production systems suitable for the changing times.
- High motivation of the Rural Development Agency, Enterprise Georgia, the Georgian Beekeepers Union, the Georgian Milk Federation, the Jara Beekeepers Association, and the Women Rooms to reach rural producers, including women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities.



in applying for funds and lack the financial literacy to apply for grants.	
<b>Outcome 2 Dairy, Honey, Lori, Wild Botanicals and Silk</b>	
- Systemic Constraints	- Pro Poor Opportunities and Drivers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of relevant information, skills &amp; knowledge among rural HH's, including women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities related to producing bee products, Lori, wild botanicals and raw silk production and use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a potential that women, youth and ethnic communities receive information and knowledge relevant to value chains.</li> <li>- With more skills and knowledge related to silk more rural women will have the opportunity to be included in this market gaining additional income through this value-added product, promoted as one of the intangible heritage monuments of Georgia.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3 Inclusive sustainable local natural resource use</b>	
Systemic Constraints	Pro Poor Opportunities and Drivers
<p>Less engagement for ethnic minorities concerning issues and engagement relating to NR related issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of information from local government about decisions related to sales or rental of pasture.</li> <li>- Unfair distribution or lack of availability of irrigation water.</li> <li>- Gravel factories are damaging pastures and agricultural lands.</li> <li>- Unhealthy competition in the honey market created by falsified (or sugar-added) honey due to less control.</li> <li>- Poor road conditions to ensure bee transhumance and lack of information concerning availability and access and disease control and management on pasture.</li> <li>- The need to plant trees and plants for bees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High interest of local inhabitants, including women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities in participating in decision-making related to the use of natural resources.</li> <li>- High interest of local governments in improving local inhabitants, including women, youth, and Azerbaijani and Armenian communities' participation in decision-making related to natural resources and ensuring inclusivity.</li> </ul>

ANNEX 2: GENDER DIVISION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES/ACCESS AND AGENCY

Table 4 Gender division of roles and responsibilities in livestock production and inputs

List of activities	Samegrelo & Imereti			Ajara			Racha			Kakheti			Kvemo Kartli		
	W	M	B	W	M	B	W	M	B	W	M	B	W	M	B
<b>Livestock husbandry</b>															
Improving milk quality	x			x					x			x			x
Ensuring milk is clean	x			x			x			x			x		
Increasing milk yield			x	x		x			x		x				x
Identifying diseases, infections, parasites	x			x		x			x			x			x
Milking	x			x			x					x	x		
Renovation of cow-shed			x		x			x			x			x	
Giving water to cows						x			x			x	x		
Using milking machines	x			x			x				x		x		
Treatment (diseases, infections, parasites, etc.)			x			x	x				x				x
Buying vet drugs			x		x				x			x		x	
Communicating with a vet			x			x	x				x			x	
Giving micronutrients, vitamins to a cow	x					x			x			x			x
Giving feed			x			x			x			x			x
Getting information about livestock husbandry practices			x			x	x					x			x
Having information about climate smart inputs			x			x			x			x			x
Attending trainings/courses in livestock husbandry			x		x	x	x					x	x		
Is interested in milking machines (already bought or is going to)	x			x			x				x		x		
Producing crops for livestock		x				x			x			x			x
Hay making		x			x				x			x			x
Buying livestock feed (hay, maize, combined)		x			x				x			x			x
Transporting own produced feed		x			x				x			x			x
Selling milk	x			x			x					x	x		
<b>Land management</b>	W	M	B	W	M	B	W	M	B	W	M	B	W	M	B
Land cultivation			x		x				x			x			
Using organic practices			x			x			x			x			x
Buying fertilizers and other nutrients for soil			x		x				x			x			x
Using fertilizers			x		x				x			x			x
Improving soil quality		x			x				x			x			x
Arrangement of water storage		x			x				x			x			x
Ploughing			x		x				x			x			x
Planting			x			x	x					x			x
Sowing	x					x	x					x			x
Harvesting of hay		x			x				x			x			x
Harvesting of crops			x			x			x			x			x

Table 5 Gender division of access and agency, decision making ability, in livestock production and inputs

Resources	Samegrelo & Imereti				Ajara				Racha				Kakheti				Kvemo Kartli			
	Access		Agency		Access		Agency		Access		Agency		Access		Agency		Access		Agency	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
Online information	x	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x
TV programmes	x	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x
Trainings/courses	x	x	x	X	x	X		x	x		x		x	x	x	X	x		x	
Donor grants	x	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	X		x		x
Bank loans	x	x	x	X	x	X		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X		x		x
Governmental grants	x	x	x	X	x	X		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X		x		x
Applying for grants/loans	x	x	x	X	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X		x		x
Vet drugs	x	x		X	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		X		x		x
Cow-shed renovation	x	x		x		X		x		x			x	x		X		x		x
Bio vet drugs	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x		x		x		x		X		x		x
Land cultivation inputs		x		x		X		x		x		x		x		X		x		x
Machinery		x		x		X		x		x		x		x		X		x		x
Irrigation	x	x		x	x	X		x	x	x	x	x		x		X		x		x
Income from selling milk	x		x	x	x	X	x		x		x		x	x	x	X	x		x	x

Table 6 Gender division of roles and responsibilities in beekeeping

List of activities	Women identify themselves as a female beekeeper			Men identify themselves as a male beekeeper		
	W	M	Both	W	M	Both
<b>Taking care of beehives</b>						
Apiary check up	x				x	
Diagnosing of bee diseases	x				x	
Treatment of bees	x	x	x	x	x	x
Buying drugs	x		x		x	
Feeding bees	x	x	x	x	x	x
Beehives smoking	x	x	x	x	x	x
Making and using of traditional remedies for bee treatment	x				x	
Making additional feed to bees	x		x		x	x
Mending beehives		x			x	
<b>Transhumance</b>						
Transportation			x		x	
Loading beehives		x	x		x	
Preparation of beehives: cleaning, sorting, placing planks	x		x		x	
Taking care of beehives in pastures	x				x	
<b>Honey harvest</b>						
Extraction of honey	x		x		x	x

Placing beeswax in frames	x				x	
Packaging			x		x	x
<b>Producing other bee products</b>						
Royal jelly	x			x	x	x
Pollen	x				x	
Propolis	x			x	x	x
Venom	x				x	
Beeswax			x		x	
Queen bee breeding	x				x	
<b>Sale</b>						
Sales management	x		x		x	x
Negotiation with clients	x	x	x		x	x
Marketing	x				x	x

*Table 7 Gender division of access and agency, decision making ability, in beekeeping*

Resources	Female beekeeper				Male beekeeper			
	Access		Agency		Access		Agency	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
Online information (social media, online platforms, etc.)	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
TV programmes	X		x			x		x
Trainings / courses in beekeeping	X		x			x		x
Donor grants	X		x			x		x
Bank loans	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Governmental grants	X		x			x		x
Vet drugs	X	x	x			x		x
Bio vet drugs	X	x	x			x		x
Beehives	X	x	x			x		x
Income from selling honey	X		x			x		x

*Table 8 Gender division of roles and responsibilities in pig farming and Lori production*

<b>List of activities in Lori Production</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
Herding	x	x
Giving birth	x	x
Vaccination		x
Castration		x
Treatment against worms	x	x
Buying drugs	x	x
Buying additional feed	x	x
Giving feed	x	x
Breeding		x
Cleaning space of a pig farm	x	x
Slaughtering in a slaughterhouse		x
Slaughtering at home		x
Cutting up carcasses/butchery		x
Cleaning sub products	x	x
Salting of pork	x	x
Smoking		x
Making records	x	x
Selling Lori	x	x
Selling pigs	x	x
Selling piglets	x	x
Selling sub products head and foot,	x	x
Finding buyers for Lori	x	x
Marketing/promotion of Lori	x	x
Negotiation on price of Lori	x	x
Transportation of Lori		x

*Table 9 Gender division of access and agency in pig farming and Lori production*

Resources	Access		Agency	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Information and TV programmes	x	x	x	x
Skill in Lori Production	x	x	x	x
Finances /bank loans/grants	x	x	x	x
Additional Feeds	x	x		x
Forest feed	x	x	x	x
Vet. Medicine	x	x	x	x
Vet	x	x	x	x
Breeding		x		x
Income from selling Lori	x	x	x	x
Income from selling pigs	x	x	x	x
Income from selling piglets	x	x	x	x
Income from selling pork	x	x	x	x
Income from selling sub products head and foot	x	x	x	x

*Table 10 Gender division of roles and responsibilities in Silk*

List of activities	Women	Men	Elderly, children, disabled people
Taking care of Mulberry trees (irrigating, pruning)	x	x	x
Preparation of a rearing room (disinfection, shelves)	x	x	x
Feeding silkworms	x	x	x
Cleaning waste	x	x	x
Harvesting cocoons	x	x	x
Selling cocoons	x	x	

*Table 11 Gender division of roles and responsibilities in Wild Botanicals*

List of Activities	Women	Men	Both	Youth	Elderly
Picking of Wild Botanicals	x		x	x	x
Drying	x		x		
Making records	x		x		
Selling Wild Botanicals		x	x	x	x
Finding buyers		x	x		
Negotiation on price		x	x		

*Table 12 Gender division of access and agency in Wild Botanicals*

Roles & Responsibilities	Access		Agency	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Information and TV programmes	x	x	x	x
Knowledge and skills in Wild Botanicals	x	x	x	x
Finances/bank loans/grants	x	x	x	x

*Table 13 Gender division of access and agency in local natural resources use*

Roles & Responsibilities	Access		Agency	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Water resources (river, lake, spring)	x	x	x	x
Forest (as feed resource for bees, pigs)	x	x	x	x
Forest, Timber		x	x	x
Forest, Non-Timber	x		x	
Agricultural Land: pastures	x	x	x	x
Agricultural land: arable land	x	x	x	x
Non-agricultural land	x	x	x	x
Alpine Garden	x	x	x	x
Field to collect wild botanicals	x	x	x	x

*Table 14 Gender division of access and agency in local natural resources use*

Roles & Responsibilities	Access		Agency	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Information about Planned/Ongoing development projects/constructions	x	x	x	x
Information about laws, regulations, permits	x	x	x	x
Attending Public hearing	x	x	x	x
Taking Construction permit	x	x		x
leasing land from the forestry or other government entity	x	x		x
License/Permit on natural resource use	x	x	x	x
Complaints on construction without permit, new project idea/design, insensible use of natural resources	x	x	x	x

In total two hundred and two female and two hundred and eight male participants attended ALCP focus group surveys which were conducted separately with women and men for capturing and assessing their different perspectives related to specific questions in ALCP2 value chains. These focus group surveys identified the varied and different roles and responsibilities that women and men have in their families, communities and in economic, legal, political and social structures. *The ALCP2 Livestock Producers and Beekeepers Focus Group Survey* covered the largest number of farmers of 76 female and 120 male livestock producers and beekeepers, the minimum age of 18 and the oldest 84. 12% were Armenians and 10% - Azerbaijanis. Separate focus group surveys were held in Lori production (13 female and 21 male farmers participants), silk (14 female and 6 male), wild botanicals (41 female and 36 male, out of which 9 participants were Armenian) and local natural resource use (36 women and 45 male).

#### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND INPUTS

The focus groups showed that there are no discernible differences between male and female groups when it comes to perceiving changes in weather patterns. Not knowing the Georgian language is one of the biggest constraints for ethnic minorities. Opinions concerning climate changes and impacts on their livestock production were in line with the perceptions of Georgian groups. However ethnic communities emphasized that they have language barriers to accessing information from Georgian channels. They watch YouTube videos or use Facebook in Armenian, Azerbaijani or Russian languages. These farmers cannot participate in state programmes to get grants due to not knowing Georgian. This problem is even worse in villages as the farmers have to go to towns to find somebody to help them with writing in Georgian or collecting documents.

In both female and male groups increased temperature, drought, dried-out grass, crops, hay and alfalfa, and lack of livestock feeding were mentioned as the most pressing climate change trends. They also expressed similar attitudes towards possible coping mechanisms. However, they have different roles, responsibilities, and decision-making agency regarding some livestock-related activities.

Women are involved in all elements of livestock husbandry generally and women are responsible for milking and selling milk. The cleanliness and safety of milk as well as the equipment used for milk processing is the responsibility of women as well. Women are usually involved in diagnosing livestock ailments with men making decisions on obtaining veterinary services: vaccines and medical treatment. Men and women visit vet points almost equally where the services are easily accessible to the village however men are more mobile than women and therefore have more access to the predominantly urban-located pharmacies. Therefore, in the lower zone areas closer to the urban centers women have more access to vet pharmacies, when they come to the agricultural market, they buy vet drugs if needed. In the middle and upper zone areas women rarely visit towns because of the long distance from their villages. Women and men are both responsible for feeding animals. Men are responsible for haymaking, buying livestock feed (hay, maize, combined feed) and buying utilizing and fertilizers and other nutrients for the soil. Lands are under male ownership and registered under male names. Men do ploughing and women do planting. See Gender Matrix Table 4 and Table 5 in Annex 2.



Unlike livestock production, beekeeping in Georgia is regarded as a male-dominated sector. It is traditionally considered a man's job, requiring strength for the loading and transportation of beehives during transhumance and in honey extraction. Women who identify themselves as beekeepers represent 10% of beekeepers in Georgia. Reasons that these women have become beekeepers include beekeeping being a family activity and women taking up the role after a father or husband has passed away, support from NGOs which has seen women-based cooperatives formed and women given training, funding and beehives and women adopting more control over the business where it is an additional source of income linked to food production and rural tourism.

For the 90% who identify themselves as male beekeepers, beekeeping mostly remains a household activity and women still play an important role in beekeeping, the women take care of beehives, treat bees, negotiate with customers and sell honey. Men are responsible for bee transhumance, honey extraction/ packaging, and buying vet medicines and inputs.

Beekeeping requires specific knowledge. Unlike livestock husbandry, where roles and responsibilities have some distinct division, in beekeeping, the one with beekeeping knowledge leads. Other family members, mostly, the wife or husband, provide help, when necessary, for example, during lifting/moving hives, taking apiary to transhumance, honey extraction and marketing. See Gender Matrix Table 6 and Table 7 in Annex 1.

The focus groups showed that there are no discernible differences between men and women groups when it comes to perceiving changes in weather patterns and the impact on beekeeping of these changes. Increased temperature levels, drought, prolonged or heavy rainfall and unpredictable weather were named as the most concerning issues, which directly affect beekeeping activities.

Female and male beekeepers have almost similar opinions about coping strategies. Both groups talked about the need for hive modification, however, women highlighted the need for hives designed with a lighter weight, so it is easier for them to lift. Also, women are more likely to use probiotics for bee immunity. Limited markets were mentioned by both groups, which makes it risky to invest in beekeeping.

Social media is the main information source for beekeeping; however, female beekeepers see the need for training and an increase in access to information about new beekeeping practices locally within their respective regions.

The opinions of the Azerbaijani and Armenian beekeepers concerning perceptions of climate changes and impacts on beekeeping were in line with the perceptions of the Georgian groups. Not knowing the Georgian language however is one of the biggest constraints for them. Azerbaijani and Armenian beekeepers lack information on the proper use of vet drugs, bee diseases and treatment. Their knowledge about bio/sustainable beekeeping is also limited. Those beekeepers are not members of any cooperative. Some of them mentioned membership in associations but could not name which.

While the GBU and Facebook page *Georgian Bee* administered by the GBU's chairman is a key information platform for Georgian beekeepers, it is not popular for the beekeepers in ethnic minorities, who named the language barrier for not using these resources. They watch Russian (or Armenian or Azeri) language content, are also members of non-Georgian speaking discussion Facebook groups, which do not provide them with the information tailored to the region and their beekeeping practices.

## LORI PRODUCTION

Pig farming is a common practice among farmers across Georgia. Pig farming and Lori production is not an ethnically diverse sector. It is not practiced in Muslim communities<sup>11</sup>. The sectors are male dominated which means that more men are taking part in pig farming and Lori production than women, however, women are involved in almost all stages of pig farming for Lori production. The physically hard work related to this sector e.g., slaughtering of pigs, holding, and cutting carcasses and salting, is done by men, while women share most other activities equally with men. Elderly men, as well as women, are more involved in the Lori production process rather than pig farming as it requires physical work, however, they pass knowledge of pig farming and Lori production to youth who are involved in pig farming and Lori production, as it is a part of their tradition. In the younger generation mostly boys are responsible for pig farming however girls might be involved in Lori production. Farmers use Lori for home consumption, helping guarantee food security for the whole year, and in case of need, they might sell small amounts, which is important, especially for the extremely poor as it helps them buy other food or other necessary goods for the family. Women almost have the same access to resources and agency as men apart from in obtaining different sires for breeding or driving to obtain additional feed. See Gender Matrix Table 8 and Table 9 in Annex 2.

## SILK

Silkworm farming is an inclusive family activity where all members are involved regardless of their age or gender. Both male and female participants stated that during the forty days of farming for cocoon production, silkworms need maximum attention and intensive feeding, farmers rear silkworms along with other regular activities and that's why family groupwork is very necessary, women and men are equally involved in the whole process, and old people and children are involved mainly in feeding, cleaning, and harvesting. Compared to older peers, who have traditional knowledge and practice, younger women (less than thirty years of age) expressed more interest in training and getting knowledge about common practices and use of cocoon for making handicrafts. The focus group did not cover other ethnic communities, silkworm practice is not common for them. See Gender Matrix Table 10 in Annex 2.

## WILD BOTANICALS

The picking of wild botanicals, grown naturally in the mountains, forests and agricultural areas remains a traditional activity for rural inhabitants in most regions of Georgia. It mostly happens in summer coinciding with the livestock transhumance period when rural producers traditionally take cattle to the summer pastures. These rural producers, mostly women involved in dairy production, are engaged in picking wild botanicals especially in Ajara and Guria mountain pastures, where the most of wild botanicals are widespread. In villages or in nearby village forests, rural women, men, the elderly and often youth pick wild botanicals. It is a labour-intensive process which usually involves all family members. Men are responsible for transportation, finding a buyer, negotiating on price, and sale, while women are more involved in picking, drying if needed and making records. A relatively small number of youth and elderly people are also involved either in the picking or sale of wild botanicals. Ethnic Armenians in villages of Akhaltsikhe, Samtskhe-Javakheti and the Ossetian population in Dusheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti are also actively involved in the picking and selling of wild botanicals. Their opinions were in line with the perceptions of the Georgian groups. Ensuring their equitable inclusion in this market is crucial, particularly in light of the informality of the market related to pickers and

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<sup>11</sup> Holy Quran forbids eating of pork.

new legislation potentially limiting picking and threatening this source of additional income. See Gender Matrix Table 11 and Table 12 in Annex 2.

#### LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE USE

Rural inhabitants despite their social status, gender, ethnicity or any other differences equally need to use local natural resources. In most cases, their physical, mental and economic well-being is equally dependent on local natural resources. The focus groups confirmed that when it comes to gender, both women and men use local natural resources. The only significant difference is related to forests: men tend to be responsible for timber and women for non-timber forestry. Otherwise, they reported equal access and agency over natural resource usage, such as using water, land, gardens, and fields. All of our focus groups included mixed age groups for understanding different opinions and encouraging discussions between different generations. Ethnic minorities tend to be less engaged in community processes relating to natural resources often primarily due to a sense and actuality of isolation of ethnic communities from mainstream national life, processes and information flows.

When it comes to local development, women and men are equally interested in information related to ongoing development projects. They try to have up-to-date information about laws, regulations and permits. In most of the villages, women also attend public hearings and discussions related to construction processes or any other activities related to natural resource usage. The focus groups indicated that men tend to be more responsible for getting construction permits, leasing land from forestry or getting permits for natural resource usage. However, even in these cases, women are usually involved in the decision-making process, and they have the agency to influence decisions on the household level. It means that although women might refrain from acting independently, they always take decisions jointly with other household members. Furthermore, if a village decides to complain about construction without a permit or to protest the unfair distribution of natural resources, women also participate on the community level, and they together with other community members try to defend their rights. See Gender Matrix Table 13 and Table 14 in Annex 2.

All interventions will be fully GEDSI-sensitized or overt, monitoring tools will ensure GEDSI mainstreaming and capture of Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE). Indicators will capture benefits, outcomes, and impacts for women, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities and changes in equality for these groups. Additionally, the programme will measure the level of satisfaction of these groups in terms of feeling respected, empowered, self-confident, and resilient.

*GEDSI Sensitized Results Chains:* key change steps which are necessary to ensure that interventions deliver equitable impact to women and other vulnerable groups are included in the results chains and shaded in pink.

*GEDSI Overt Results Chains:* developed for an intervention that targets women, youth, Azerbaijani and Armenian communities to tackle a key cross-cutting constraint barring these groups from benefiting from programme impact.

*Programme Team Involvement in RM:* each programme officer is responsible for 'caretaking' the data generated from their interventions in tandem with the RM officer. This data will be GEDSI disaggregated and when feeding back from appropriately GEDSI-sensitized or overt interventions will when collected and analyzed regularly, be able to serve as a management tool for ongoing calibration of the intervention. For example, too low a figure for women when compared to the target will immediately alert key team members to a problem and the analysis of this problem and allow for contextual and programmatic insights to be used to interpret the data and may result in recalibrating an intervention or undertaking a piece of research to further understand an aspect of an intervention which once understood may unlock the potential for further impact.

*Some of the key questions when designing/monitoring the interventions:*

- Is the goal meeting the needs of different groups?
- Does everyone in the community currently have the same access or are there some groups in greater need?
- Will the outcome address social barriers?
- How will we measure the benefit of the programme on different groups?
- Is this output designed to meet the needs of marginalized groups?
- Are we clear about whom we are targeting and what our targets are?
- Are the activities appropriate for the roles and responsibilities of men and women?
- Do activities consider social barriers that might prevent some groups from accessing and participating in the programme?

*Figure 3 GEDSI Sensitized Results Measurement*