



Conflicts in Georgia

Workshop on violence against
women in conflict,
Malta, La Valetta

Map of Georgia



Conflicts in Georgia

- Total population – 3 750 000
- Conflict in Tskhinvali/South Ossetia 1991/92 - 16 000 IDPs
- War in Abkhazia 1992/93 – 300 000 IDP
- Escalation of violence in Gali 1998 – 30 000 new IDPs from Abkhazia
- 2008 – 136 000 persons exiled from their homes. After 6-point agreement - the majority returned to their homes in Shida Kartli, 26 000 from Georgian villages of South Ossetia became IDPs
- 88 villages adjacent to the conflict lines
- Currently - **278 411** IDPs in Georgia

Human Price of Conflict

- Population of Georgia from 4 789 226 was diminished to 3 729 635 (14%)
- Population of Tskhinvali region /South Ossetia from 86 454 diminished to 20 000-30 000, or 65-77 %
- Population of Abkhazia – from 525 061 diminished to 240 705, or to 54%

Violence against women - what do we know from previous conflicts

- Conflicts in 1991 - 1993 - practically were no investigation of violence against women
- Case study within Machel Study on sexual violence, pornography and use of youth/children
- Many cases of violence against women are registered now, after 26 years of conflict in Abkhazia

War 2008 – UNIFEM assessment

- The Assessment involved 1144 persons (focus groups and in-depth interviews) and revealed huge psychological dramatization, high level of torture and violence, including the sexual violence against women, and served as a basic instrument for the donor's Flesh Appeal, which allowed inclusion of some programs for conflict affected women in the agenda of donors' assistance to Georgia. The assessment showed the gaps in prevention and preparation, which was possible to avoid, if the population was warned in time:

GBV during the conflict

- 19,5 % reported having information about kidnapping
- 6,3% - reported having information about sexual violence against women. Out of these 70 respondents, 21,4% had information about cases of rape, 32,8% - about group rape; 14,3 5 - rape attempt; 31% - did not specify.
- 1,0% - witnessing rape
- 1,6% - witnessing torture

ABL, village Khurvalieti, Vanishvili family



Testimony

- *“I have fled from the maternity house. I was just in my night gown, with a one-day old baby, the window panes were falling down. I did not even have any clothes to wrap my baby so I had used my mother’s black jacket. Thank God, I was experienced - I am a mother of five but there were young inexperienced girls in the maternity home, who were a panicking.”* Discussion with a group of IDP women in a Collective Centre in Tbilisi on 11 September 2008

Current situation

- Post conflict trauma and it's influence on domestic violence and GBV
- Lesser economic opportunities/unemployment /poverty increase as stimulating agent for DV
- More reporting on DV related with public campaigns/more state attention to this issue
- More violence against elderly, mainly economic and psychological, but sometimes also physical
- Sexual harassment (in work place, transport, public spaces) and sexual harassment/hate speeches in public space and social media
- Kidnapping of women and keeping in detention in case of crossing/being close to ABL(conflict division line)

World Bank Study

- GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN GEORGIA
Links Among Conflict, Economic Opportunities and Services study of 2017
- Main findings: women in IDP collective centers and in villages alongside the conflict division line are more subjected to physical and sexual violence; women in IDP settlements - to sexual violence and harassment; those families in poverty - to all kind of violence.

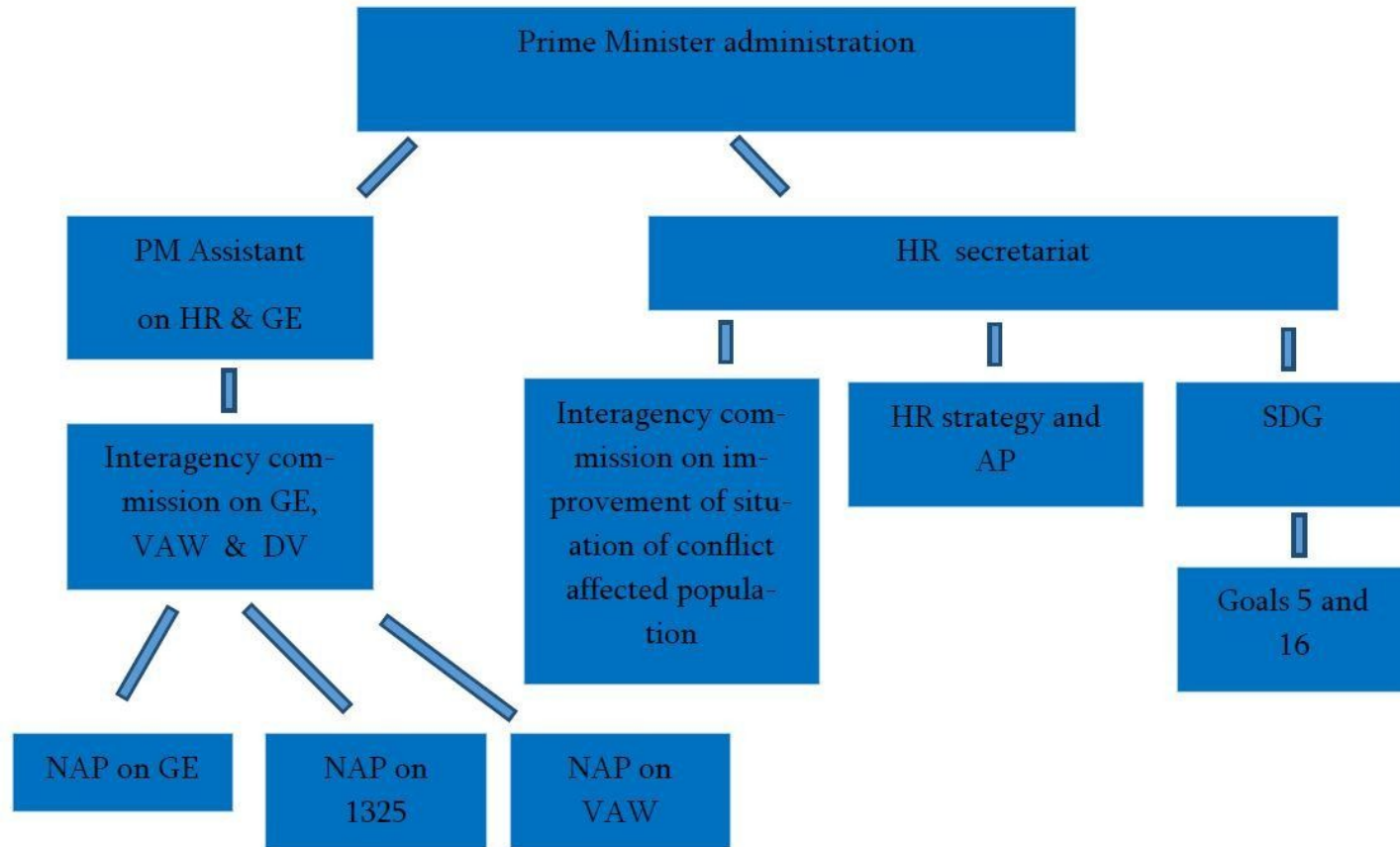
Legal Framework

- Law exists since 2006, strengthened in 2011 and 2018
- Restrictive and Protective orders
- Up to 2 years detention for domestic violence
- In 2018 - 2804 cases presented to police, from them 1933 - started procedure, 1328 - in criminal proceeding.

Institutional mechanism

- With the advocacy of civil society organizations and development partners, a coordination mechanism was established at the executive branch of the Government of Georgia (Decree N 286; 12/06/2017) Inter-Agency Commission for Gender Equality and Ending Violence against Women and Girls (Commission).
- The Commission comprises of Deputy Ministers as well as representatives from relevant Ministries who will act as members of three thematic expert groups - (1) Human Rights, (2) Domestic Violence, (3) Women, Peace and Security. High-level representatives of the Supreme Court of Georgia, Gender Equality Council at the Georgian Parliament, and National Statistics Office of Georgia are also voting members. Deputy Minister of Justice co-chairs the Commission along with Assistant to Prime Minister on Gender Equality and Human Rights Issues. Consultative Group with representatives of civil society organizations on board is also a part of the Commission structure

Scheme of state agencies working on VAW and conflict affected women issues



- **THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!**