



2024-2030 STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS OF GEORGIA



It is an unofficial translation and in case of any difference between the original Georgian text and English translation, the Georgian version shall apply.

MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF GEORGIA

2024

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Analysis of the current situation	7
2.1 High mountainous settlements in Georgia	7
2.2 Residents of high mountainous settlements	9
2.3 Health and Social Protection in Highland Settlements	12
2.4 Economic Profile of high mountainous settlements	15
2.4.1 Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship in Highland Settlements	24
2.4.2 Agriculture	25
2.4.3 Environment	26
2.4.4 Tourism	27
2.5 Infrastructure	30
2.5.1. Road infrastructure	31
2.5.2. Electricity	31
2.5.3. Internetization	32
2.5.4. Gas supply	32
2.5.5. Waste management	33
2.5.6. Water supply	33
2.6. Availability of social and private services	34
2.6.1. Education and sports in mountainous settlements	34
2.6.2. Healthcare Services	37
2.6.3. Transport	37
2.7. Summary of identified challenges	37
Problem Tree	39
3. Strategy vision	40
4. Sectoral priorities, goals and objectives	42
Sectoral Priority - Entrepreneurship	42
<i>Goal 1. Creating jobs in highland settlements through diversification of the local economy</i>	42
<i>Objective 1.1. Supporting micro, small and medium entrepreneurship in highland settlements, especially among young people</i>	43

<i>Objective 1.2. Supporting the processing sector, production and tourism of mountain niche products</i>	44
Sectoral Priority - Infrastructure	45
<i>Goal 2. Development of public infrastructure focused on stimulating the economy and enhancing the quality of life in high mountainous settlements</i>	45
<i>Objective 2.1. Improving basic infrastructure in highland settlements</i>	46
<i>Objective 2.2. Supporting the development of unique tourism potential of high mountainous settlements, especially historical areas</i>	48
<i>Objective 2.3. Promoting sustainable natural resource management and environmental infrastructure in high mountainous settlements</i>	48
Sectoral Priority - Services	49
<i>Goal 3. Improving access to services for residents of high mountainous settlements</i>	49
<i>Objective 3.1. Increasing access to education in high mountainous settlements, development of vocational and non-formal education</i>	49
<i>Objective 3.2. Developing primary health care and improving access to social services</i>	50
<i>Objective 3.3. Promoting living and working in the mountain areas through territorial marketing</i>	50
5. Implementation and coordination	50
6. Monitoring & Evaluation	52
7. Logical Framework	54
8. Annexes:	61

List of Figures

Figure 1. Number of settlements with the status of a high mountainous settlement in a regional context	9
Figure 2. Number of citizens with the status of permanent resident of a high mountainous settlement in a regional context.....	10
Figure 3. Average age in highland settlements of historical areas (2014).....	10
Figure 4. Percentage change in population in 2023 compared to 2015	11
Figure 5. Number of people born alive in municipalities with high mountainous settlements and without high mountainous settlements in 2015-2022	12
Figure 6. Budgetary funds for social benefits to permanently resident in high mountainous settlements in million GEL, 2016-2022	14
Figure 7. Cash assistance for a child born after the enactment of the law in 2016-2023	14
Figure 8. Comparison of Revenue of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Region to Georgia in 2019-2022	15
Figure 9. Number of newly registered business entities in municipalities with high mountainous settlement in 2012-2022	16
Figure 10. Number of business entities operating in municipalities with high mountainous settlements and turnover of business sector (million GEL) in 2014-2022	17
Figure 11. Percentage change in value compared to previous year	17
Figure 12. Dynamics of product release in municipalities with high mountain settlements (2014-2022).	18
Figure 13. Number of employees in the business sector in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (2014-2022)	19
Figure 14. Business sector investments in fixed assets, in 2014-2022	20
Figure 15. Investments in municipalities with high mountainous settlements and additional cost created (2014-2022).....	21
Figure 16. Production output and interim consumption of business sector in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (2014-2022)	22
Figure 17. C-sector share (processing industry) in the number of business entities operating by municipalities, 2021	23
Figure 18. Number of high mountainous enterprises registered in regions by years.....	24
Figure 19. Percentage of agricultural land registered in municipalities with high mountainous settlement	26
Figure 20. Total number of visitors, including foreigners, in municipalities with high mountainous settlements, 2015-2022.....	28
Figure 21. Number of visitors to protected areas located in mountainous settlements (2019-2023)	29
Figure 22. The number of children involved in public preschool education and education institutions per 1,000 people	35
Figure 23. High school graduates per 1000 people.....	36
Figure 24. Number of groups of 20-39 years in the population in 2017-2023	38

1. Introduction

The mountainous settlements of Georgia are significantly different from the residential areas of the lowlands and each other according to natural, economic, agricultural resources and social conditions, ethno-cultural characteristics. Like other countries, Mountain is a valuable source of clean energy, water, agriculture and tourism for Georgia, at the same time, high mountainous settlements and residents are more vulnerable to the risks caused by natural disasters (landslides, mudslides, avalanches) than residents of non-highland settlements. Mountain events and conditions such as limited access to basic infrastructure and services, land depletion, climate change, unsustainable use of resources are a challenge for life and activities in mountainous settlements.

Under such circumstances, it is especially important for the country to maintain the results achieved as a result of the development policy of high mountainous settlements and to support continuous development in order to increase the welfare and living standards of the people living there and improve the socio-economic situation.

The policy implemented towards¹ high mountainous regions² is part of the country's regional development policy and is aimed at ensuring equal socio-economic development of the entire territory of Georgia and overcoming the social and economic challenges of those living in high mountainous settlements.

"The 2024-2030 Strategy for the Development of Highland Settlements of Georgia and the Action Plan for 2024-2026" aims to create living and working conditions for citizens living in high mountainous settlements, improve living standards, use mountain potential and thus promote equal socio-economic development of the country. The strategy is developed in accordance with the principles of evidence-based and results-oriented policy production and identifies sectoral priorities, goals and objectives, as well as indicators to measure progress and to monitor the implementation of the strategy in parallel with the implementation of the strategy, and to conduct assessments for both the interim period and the target 2030.

The goals and objectives of the strategy are in line with the document "Vision 2030 Development Strategy of Georgia",³ in which the 12th goal of the sector priority "Regional Development" is "Implementation of the Regional Policy harmonized with EU Values and Development of Highland Regions". Within the framework of this goal, the State has set Task 12.2: "For the life and development of the population in high mountainous settlements ensuring the necessary conditions and access to public services." According to the task, "the following years will focus on the sustainable development of high mountainous settlements, social support for the residents of high mountainous settlements and the development of public services, the creation / improvement of the necessary conditions for the implementation of economic activities in the mountains and the arrangement of basic infrastructure

¹ Highland region – high mountainous settlement, in accordance with the Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions

² Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions; "Ordinance No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the 2019-2023 Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia.

³ Ordinance No 517 of 3 November 2022 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Development Strategy of Georgia 2030

tailored to the needs of the mountainous regions/Promote development. As a result of measures aimed at encouraging the economic activities of high mountainous settlements and the development of public infrastructure in these settlements, the number of high mountainous enterprises and the number of people employed here will increase in the settlements."

The Strategy and Action Plan also address the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the obligations made by the Government of Georgia under the Rio + 20 Declaration No 66/288 of 2012 and the National Document on the Sustainable Development Goals approved on November 12, 2019⁴.

In addition, the goals and objectives of the strategy, such as entrepreneurship, tourism, micro, small and medium-sized businesses, agriculture, infrastructure, services and skills development, represent the goals and objectives of national and sectoral development and are facilitated by relevant strategic documents (e.g. Ordinance No 351 of 13 July 2021 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Action Plan for 2021-2025 and the Action Plan of the SME Development Strategy of Georgia for 2021-2022; Achieving the goals and objectives determined by Ordinance No 180 of 12 April 2022 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Public Service Development Strategy.

It is also important that considering Georgia's status as a candidate for EU membership, accelerating the harmonization of the EU's regional development policy and its funding principles has become a priority. To access the EU's structural funds, it is important to introduce EU financing principles such as the Cohesion (Equalization) principle, territorial approach and integrated development. In addition, in order to integrate with EU funds and development policy, it is necessary to take into account the priorities of EU Development Policy 2021-2027.

The strategy is based on international best practices, primarily the experience of EU countries. In policy planning, the platform for learning best practices against the depopulation of the mountainous settlements of European countries (Euromontana) of the European Multi-Sectoral Association for Cooperation and Development of Mountain Territories (Euromontana) was used.⁵ Recommendations. According to them, policies against the depopulation of the population from high mountainous settlements should serve to create an attractive environment for life and work in the mountains, especially for young people and working populations, whose immigration from the mountain is associated with learning and the search for more diversified jobs, lack of access to certain services, insufficient cultural activities, long distance to services or jobs, and harsh climates.⁶ This strategy takes into account these approaches and is also based on the regional policy built on the principles of integrated territorial development of the European Union.

This strategy is prepared with the involvement of relevant state agencies and in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, on the Approval of the Coordination Council for 2024-2030 and the Regulations on the Approval of the Coordination Council for the

⁴ Decree No 2328 of 12 November 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the National Document of the Sustainable Development Goals

⁵ Policies against Depopulation in Mountainous Areas, <https://www.euromontana.org/padima/>

⁶ Policies against Depopulation in Mountainous Areas (PADIMA), <https://www.euromontana.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/padima-finalpolicyreport-en.pdf>

Development and Implementation of the Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia of 18 April 2023 of the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia. Within the framework of the Coordination Council. The draft policy document, in turn, was agreed on the National Mountain Development Council of 19 October 2015 on the Approval of the Composition and Regulations of the National Mountain Development Council, headed by the Prime Minister of Georgia and which will review and submit to the Government for approval the development strategy and action plan of the mountainous settlements.

In accordance with Ordinance No 629 of 20 December 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Procedure for Developing, Monitoring and Evaluating Policy Documents, the document analyzed the results of the predecessor strategy - the data is reviewed in detail and the information is presented in a graphic manner before and after the approval of the first strategy and action plan for the development of high mountainous settlements in 2019. These data also reflect the social and economic benefits provided for by the Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions adopted by the Parliament in 2015.

The document uses the statistical data of 21 municipalities of Georgia for the indicators of "municipalities with high mountainous settlements", in which the share of high mountainous settlements is or exceeds 59% in the total number of settlements. These regions and municipalities are: Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti (Ambrolauri, Oni, Tsageri, Lentekhi municipalities), Adjara (Khulo, Keda, Shuakhevi municipalities), Mtskheta-Mtianeti (Kazbegi, Dusheti, Tianeti municipalities), Kvemo Kartli (Dmanisi, Tetrtskaro, Tsalka municipalities), Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti (Mestia municipality), Samtskhe-Javakheti (Adigeni, Aspindze, Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Ninotsminda, Borjomi municipalities) and Kakheti (Akhmeta Municipality). The above-mentioned mountainous municipalities are analyzed in the document in terms of demographics, economy, as well as education, tourism and health statistics. In addition to individual regions, the statistical data of the National Statistics Office are also analyzed at the level of the historical-geographical parties within them and municipalities that are different from other municipalities in the region. The situation was analyzed in 2023, and the data is analyzed from the date of enactment of the law to the nearest year, for which data was available (2022, and for business registry statistics - 2021). In addition to the statistical data on 21 mountainous municipalities, the document also analyzed the qualitative and quantitative information obtained by analyzing the data collected by the survey of representatives of the 44 municipalities of the city hall, in which the status of a high mountainous settlement has been granted to a different number of settlements. The administrative data of the Highland Settlements Development Fund and various state programs, as well as information obtained from focus groups conducted with civil servants, was also used in the research process.

When developing the document, in accordance with the "Procedure for Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Documents" approved by Resolution N629 of the Government of Georgia of December 20, 2019, the process of public consultations on the projects of the 2024-2030 strategy and the 2024-2026 action plan was carried out from June 3, 2024 to July 18, 2024. To increase the involvement of stakeholders in public consultations, both electronic and physical consultation methods were selected. Public consultations were held physically, in the format of out-of-state meetings in all regions, with residents living in mountainous settlements, community and non-governmental organizations, experts, as well as other stakeholders. 408 attendees participated in public consultations.

Most of the views expressed were reflected in the final version of the document (see Public Consultations Report Annex No. 2).

The first part of the presented strategy is dedicated to an in-depth analysis of the situation in the mountainous settlements of the country and a review of the results of the previous strategy, the second part describes the vision, sectoral priorities, goals and objectives set out to overcome these challenges, and the next chapter presents the framework for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

2. Analysis of the current situation

The analysis of this situation was developed based on the data of the National Statistics Office of Georgia, in the context of municipalities with 21 high mountainous settlements and on the basis of the analysis of the administrative data of various agencies, as well as the results of the survey of representatives of 44 municipalities of the municipality. The challenges identified as a result of the analysis of the situation were structured by the "problem tree analysis" method.

2.1 High mountainous settlements in Georgia

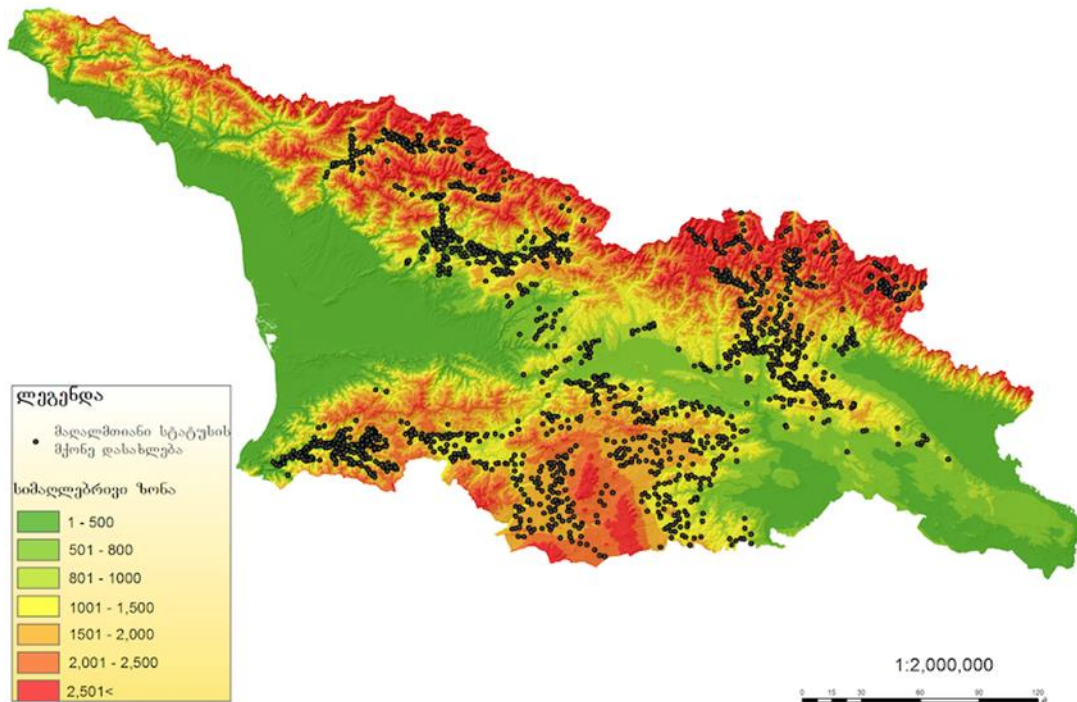
On July 16, 2015, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions, which provides for various social and economic proposals for high mountainous settlements. The strategy approved by Ordinance No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia for 2019-2023 and Ordinance No 342 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia and Action Plans approved by Ordinance No 189 of 27 April 2021 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Action Plan for 2021-2023 of 27 April 2021 of the Government of Georgia, which combined 3 strategic goals, 13 tasks, 41 activities and 65 sub-activities. The strategic goals included the following: "Sustainable Development of Highland Settlements", "Social Support for Residents of Highland Settlements" and "Access to Services in Highland Settlements".

According to the Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions, a high mountainous settlement is a settlement provided for by the Organic Law of Georgia "Local Self-Government Code", which is included in the list of high mountainous settlements approved by the Government of Georgia.

According to the Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions, the parameters and criteria for identifying high mountainous settlements are based on their location according to the hypsometric height. According to this Law, the status of high mountainous settlement is granted to settlements located at an altitude of 1,500 meters and more above sea level, as well as to the settlements located in the following historical-geographical areas of Georgia: Khevi, Mtiuleti, Pankisi Gorge, Highland Adjara, Gudamakari Gorge, Pshav-Khevsureti, Tusheti, Zemo Svaneti, Kvemo Svaneti,

Racha-Lechkhumi. According to the ordinance of the Government of Georgia, the status of a high mountainous settlement has been granted to a settlement located from 800 meters to 1 500 meters above sea level, which meets the established criteria (including the inclination of the mountain slope, the state of infrastructure, climatic conditions and the natural environment, the scarcity and scarcity of agricultural land, demographic conditions, including aggravated migration processes).

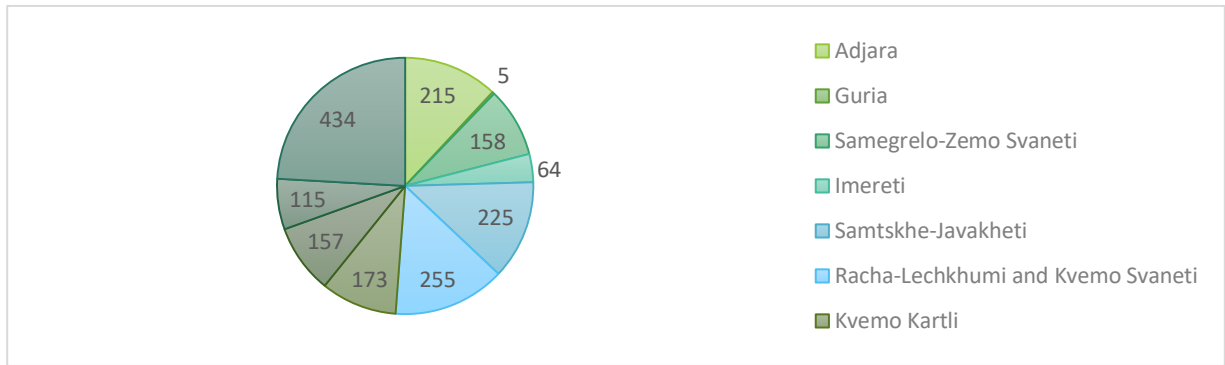
HIGH MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS BY HEIGHTS, METERS



Source: National Statistics Office of Georgia. Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia

Currently, 1,801 settlements have been granted the status of high mountainous settlements across the country, the highest number of which (434) is high mountainous settlements in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region.

Figure 1. Number of settlements with the status of a high mountainous settlement in a regional context



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

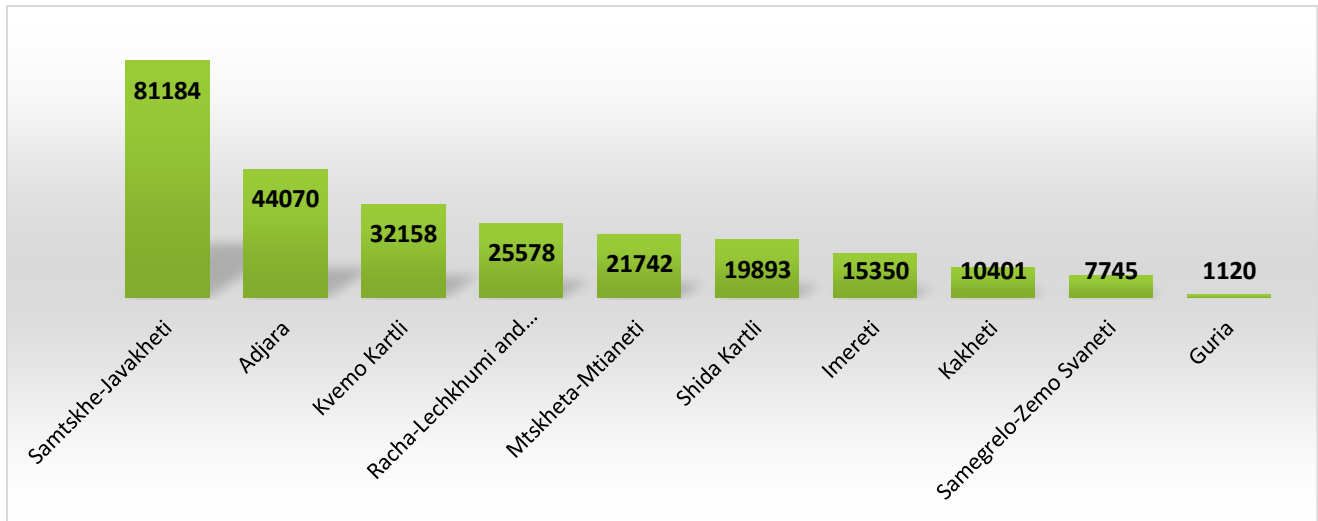
Most of the mountainous settlements are rural settlements (98.3%, 1,771 villages), and in small quantities - of the type of borough (1.17%, 21 boroughs) and towns (0.5%, 9 towns).

2.2 Residents of high mountainous settlements

According to the Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions, a natural person who is registered in a high mountainous settlement shall be granted the status of a permanent resident of a high mountainous settlement by the state of the same municipality, within the scope of the powers delegated by the state to the same municipality. If he/she meets the specified criteria: "a) he/she is a citizen of Georgia; b) is registered in a high mountainous settlement; c) during each calendar year, he/she actually resides in a high mountainous settlement for a total of 9 months or more than 9 months. If a high mountainous settlement is located at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level, the period of residence in a high mountainous settlement defined by this sub-paragraph shall actually be 6 months or more than 6 months in a calendar year."

As of March 2024, there are 259,241 citizens living permanently residing in the mountainous settlement, including the most in Samtskhe-Javakheti region. In the municipal context, the largest number of citizens live in Akhalkalaki, Dmanisi and Tsalka municipalities, and the least in the municipalities of Mestia, Kazbegi and Lentekhi.

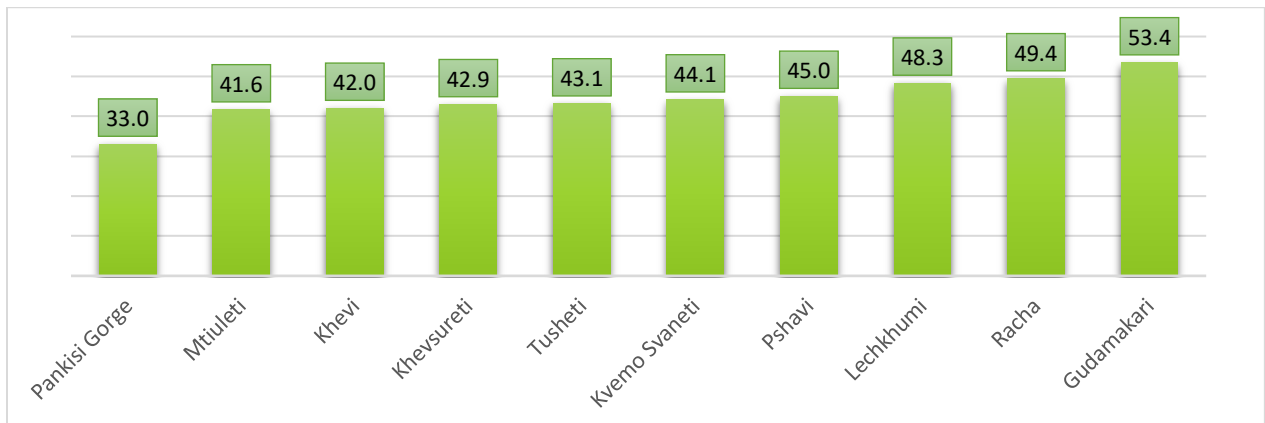
Figure 2. Number of citizens with the status of permanent resident of a high mountainous settlement in a regional context



Source: Information of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia

The average age of the population in most highland settlements is more than 40 years, including according to data from the historical area of high mountainous settlements, the average age is the lowest in the highlands of the Pankisi Valley, and the highest in the historic Guadalupe area.

Figure 3. Average age in highland settlements of historical areas (2014)

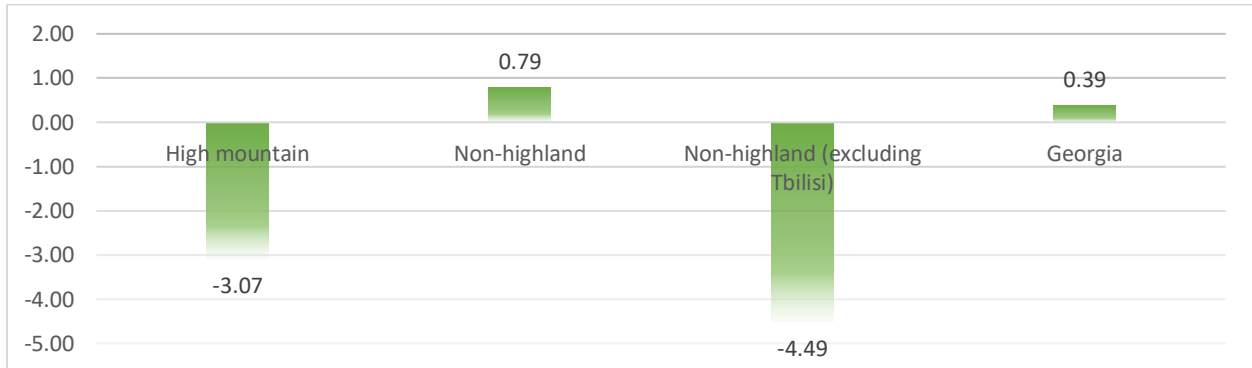


Source: Information of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia based on the 2014 census of the population of Georgia

In 2023, as compared to 2015, the number of inhabitants in municipalities with high mountainous settlements of Georgia decreased by 3.07% and amounted to 376.6 thousand inhabitants, while the population of non-highland settlements increased by 0.79%. However, if we analyze only the data available before 2022, to exclude the impact of the high immigration processes caused by the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war, in 2015-2021 in municipalities with high mountainous settlements, the population decreased by 2.3%, while the population of non-highland municipalities (excluding Tbilisi) decreased by 3.2%. The population of non-high-rise municipalities, including Tbilisi, has increased by 0.47%, as

both domestic and external migration in Tbilisi is high, and its population has increased significantly in recent years. Thus, the decrease in the population in high mountainous settlements is associated with common migration processes in the country and is part of it.

Figure 4. Percentage change in population in 2023 compared to 2015



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

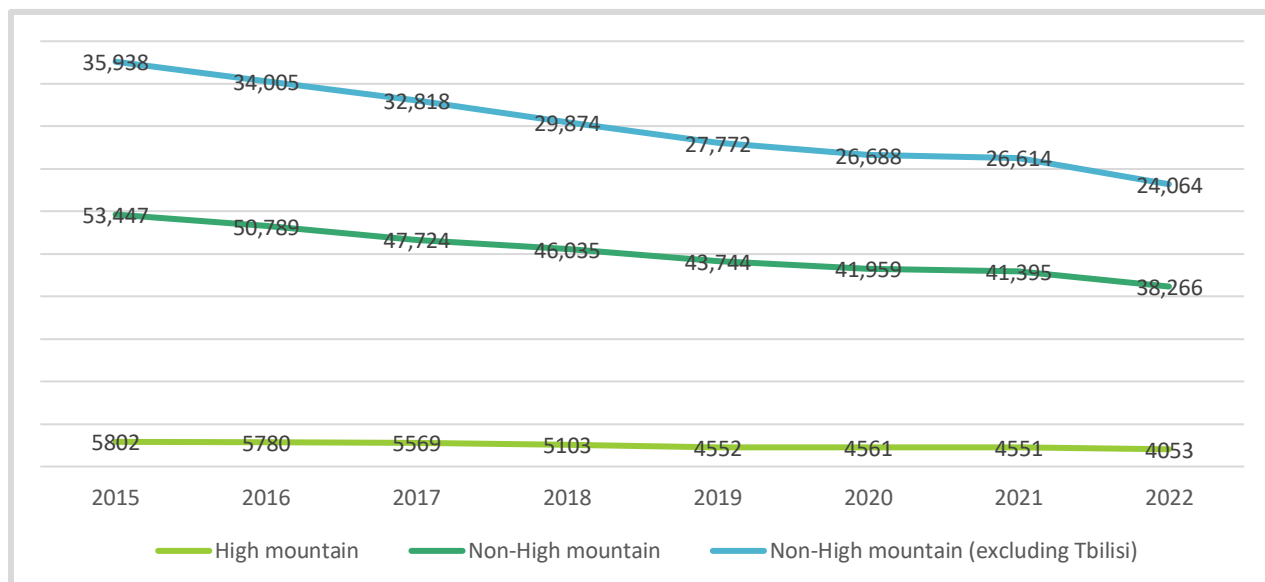
As compared to 2015, in 2023, the share of residents in municipalities with high mountainous settlement of Georgia decreased by 0.36 percentage points and is 10.8%.

In 2023, compared to 2015, the population grew in Kvemo Kartli (8%), Mtskheta-Mtianeti (4%) and Adjara (5.4%) in municipalities with high mountainous settlements, while the population of municipalities with a mountainous settlement of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti is the most reduced.

Since 2015, there has been a decline in the number of living people in municipalities with high mountainous settlements of Georgia ⁷, although this figure has been reduced in municipalities with non-high mountainous settlements. In 2017-2022, the general birth rate decreased in the majority of mountainous municipalities of Georgia.

⁷ The statistics of those born include the number of those born alive and born during the year and the corresponding figures (coefficients). However, the statistical difference between those born and born alive is negligible. When calculating the birth rate, the ratio of the number of people born alive at a certain time to the average number of people born alive is equal to the average number of people born in the same period and shows the number of people born alive per 1,000 people.

Figure 5. Number of people born alive in municipalities with high mountainous settlements and without high mountainous settlements in 2015-2022



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

As of 2022, the birth rate is⁸ highest in Kazbegi municipality (15.4), Mestia municipality (14.2), Kvemo Kartli municipalities and Samtskhe-Javakheti (Adigeni - 12.7, Aspindza - 11.3, and Dmanisi municipalities - 12.6), and is also quite high in mountainous Adjara (Shuakhevi - 12.2 and Keda - 11.5, although in Khulo it is less - 10.5), while low in Tianeti municipality (6.3), Tetrtskaro municipality (7.9), Dusheti municipality (8.2), Ambrolauri Municipality (8.6), Oni municipality (8.7) and Tsageri municipality (8.8), while the coefficient of natural growth is⁹ positive in Shuakhevi, Mestia, Aspindza, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda municipalities.

2.3 Health and Social Protection in Highland Settlements

The strategy approved by Ordinance No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the 2019-2023 Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia in the field of healthcare included the construction of emergency buildings, the construction and rehabilitation of outpatient facilities, the refurbishment of an emergency ambulance park with specialized off-road vehicles, The state program for access to primary medical (doctor) assistance, implemented by the LEPL Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Center.

⁸ Birth rate - the ratio of the number of people born alive at a certain time to the average number of the population of the same period and shows the number of those born alive in a population of 1,000 people.

⁹ Natural increase coefficient - the difference between the number of people born and died over a certain period of time. The coefficient represents the difference between birth rate and mortality ratios and shows a natural increase in the population of 1,000 people. Natural increase receives a negative value when the number of deaths exceeds the number of births.

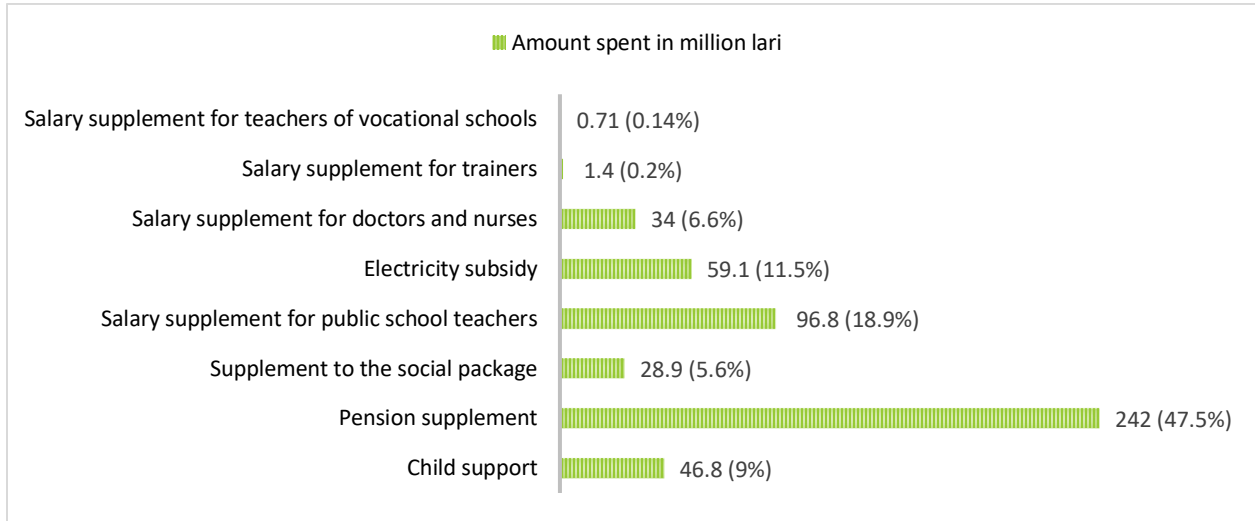
The Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions provides for a monthly supplement for medical personnel employed in a medical institution established with the participation of the state and in its management, the labor of which shall be reimbursed from the State Budget of Georgia: for doctors – in the amount of double the state pension, and for nurses – in the amount of a state pension.

It should be noted that despite this salary supplement, in 2022, compared to the data of 2011, the number of nursing staff in all municipalities of all regions, except Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions, has decreased.

Citizens of Georgia enjoy the following social benefits provided for by the Law of Georgia on the Development of High Mountainous Regions: the social supplement of families when purchasing a child - from January 1, 2016, families who gave birth to a child after the entry into force of the law receive monthly monetary assistance, 100 GEL for the first and second child and third and subsequent child - 200 GEL for 2 years. Retirement Supplement - Since September 2016, it began to provide a supplement in the form of social assistance for persons permanently living in a high mountainous settlement reached retirement age. By law, retirees living in a high mountainous settlement receive a 20% supplement to the state pension. Supplement to the recipients of the social package - from September 2016, it was also started to issue a monthly supplement to persons permanently residing in the highland settlement receiving the social package in the amount of 20% of the social package provided for them. The supplement of public school teachers - the supplement of a public school teacher located in a high mountainous settlement (at least 35% of the salary) will be issued from September 1, 2016. Increased amount of voucher for institutions implementing public schools and vocational education programs. Since 2016, vocational education institutions located in highland settlements have been provided with an increased amount of voucher funding, which has been used to issue a supplement for the remuneration of teachers of vocational education. The supplement of coaches employed in the field of sports - "On the Approval of the State Program for Recruiting Coaches Employed in Sports in Highland Settlements" was approved by Ordinance N436 of 12 September 2016 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the State Program for Coaches Employed in Sports in Highland Settlements. In accordance with this program, permanent residents and working coaches in the highland community are given supplements. Electricity benefits consumed - from January 1, 2017, subscribers (household customers) with the status of permanent resident of a high mountainous settlement will be reimbursed 50% of the monthly electricity fee consumed in a high mountainous settlement, but not more than 100 kWh of electricity charged. Promoting the provision of heating during the winter period - in order to facilitate the heating of permanent residents of the mountainous settlement, families receive the right to use wood up to 15 cubic meters.

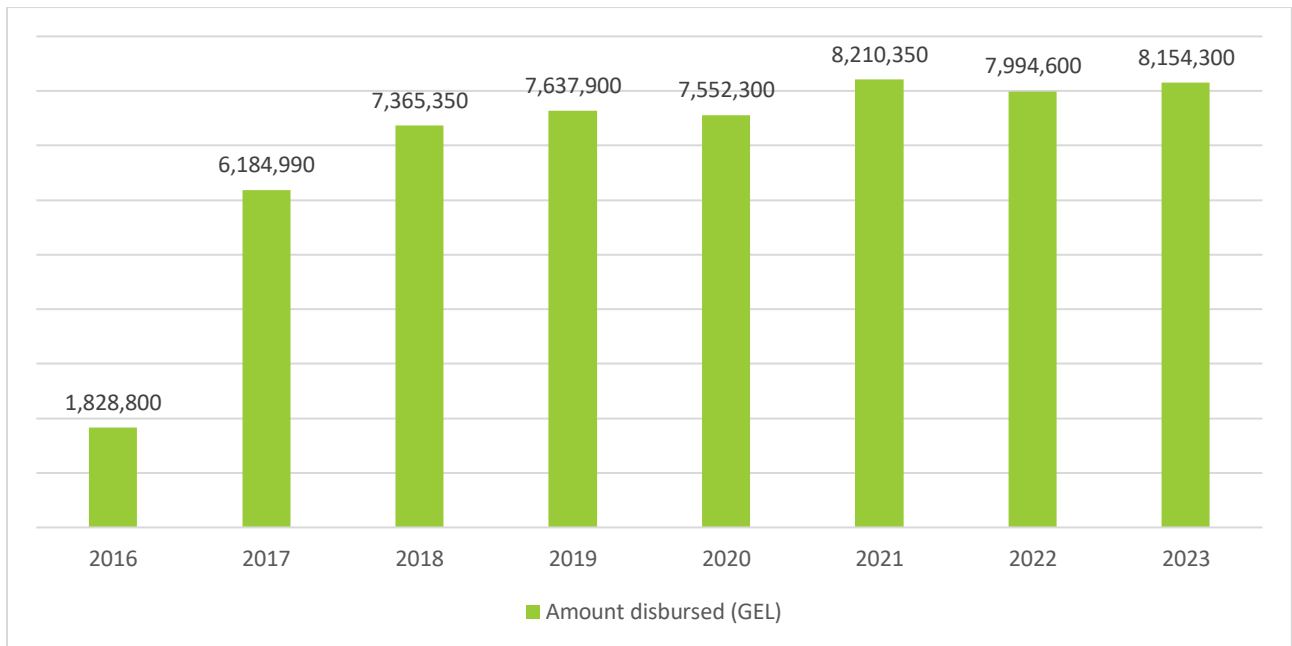
From 2016 to 2023, the expenses incurred on social benefits are GEL 629,746,582. Most apply, 47.5% applied for supplements on pensions, 18.9% applied for a payroll supplement for teachers, 11.5% applied for electricity subsidies, 9% - for social assistance for children, 6.6% on the payroll supplement of doctors and nurses, 5.6% - on the supplement on the social package. Every year the number of beneficiaries of all social benefits was increasing.

Figure 6. Budgetary funds for social benefits to permanently resident in high mountainous settlements in million GEL, 2016-2022



Source: Annual reports of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia on Social benefits issued to beneficiaries with permanent residence in the high mountainous settlement

Figure 7. Cash assistance for a child born after the enactment of the law in 2016-2023



Source: Annual reports of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia on Social benefits issued to beneficiaries with permanent residence in the high mountainous settlement

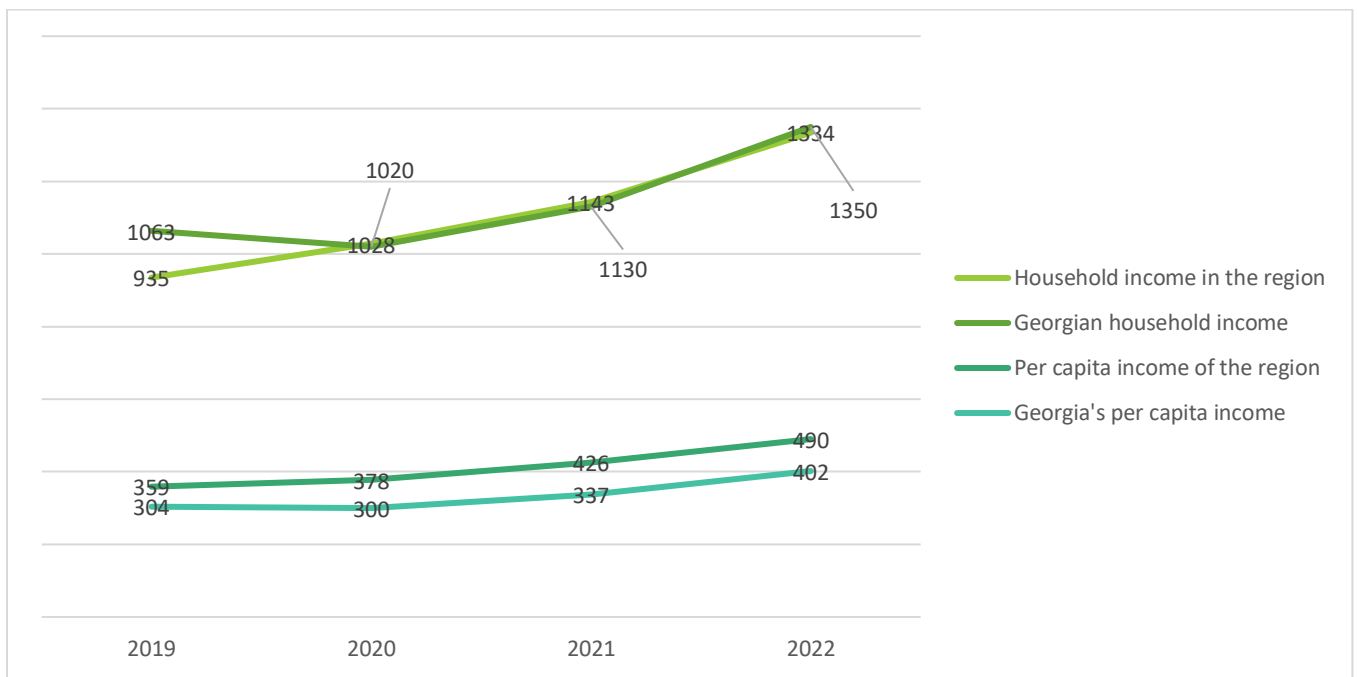
The analysis found that social benefits for child cash assistance have not always correlated with the number of children, preschool institutions and the quantitative indicators of children enrolled in the

first grade of the school. In municipalities with high mountainous settlements, the birth rate is positively affected not only by the cash supplement issued to the child, but also by the general population in this municipality, especially the young population, Maintenance rate. The latter is more dependent on the conditions of living and working in the municipality and the existence of appropriate economic opportunities.

2.4 Economic Profile of high mountainous settlements

At the municipal level, data on household incomes and expenditures are not available, but the data from the region that is a whole mountainous region and has been the target area of a number of interventions provided by the state strategy in the past years. In particular, the revenues of both one soul and one household in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region have become closer and more than the average national average in some parameters (see diagram).

Figure 8. Comparison of Revenue of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Region to Georgia in 2019-2022

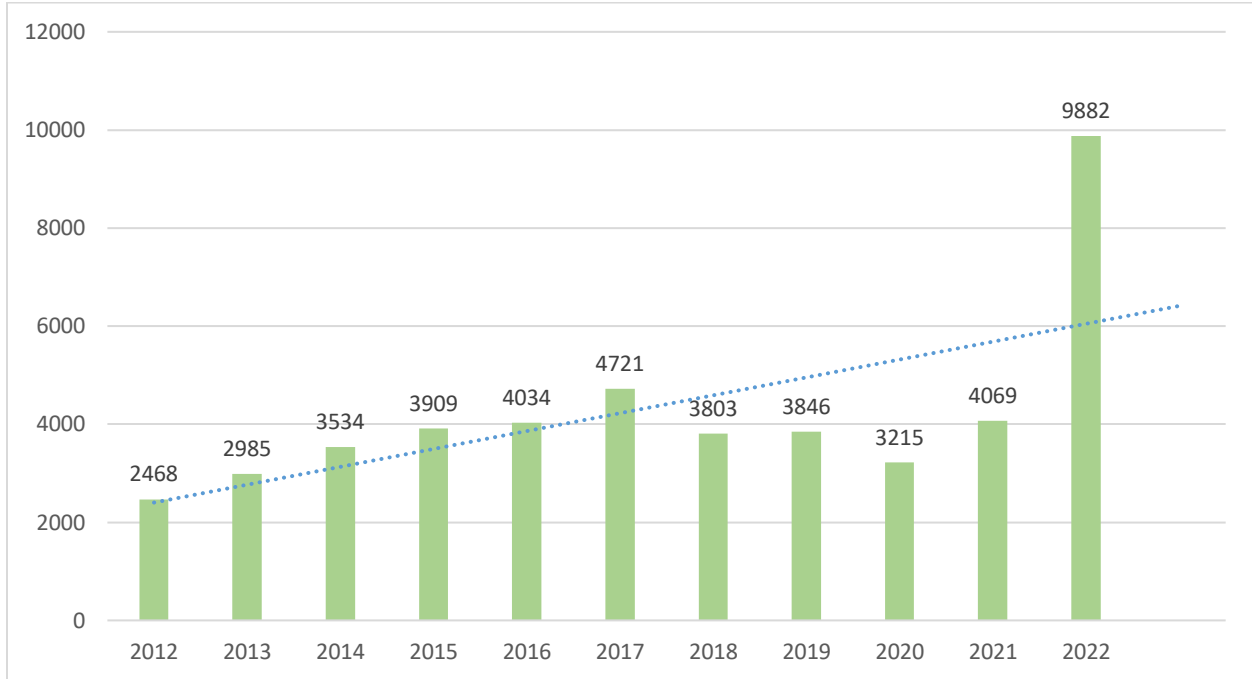


Source: Revenue survey of households of the National Statistics Office of Georgia

In 2012-2022, the number of newly formed business entities was characterized by a general increase in municipalities with high mountainous settlement of Georgia. During this period, the largest number of entities were registered in 2022, the highest number of business entities are registered in the municipalities of Akhaltsikhe, Borjomi and Adigeni, and the least - in Oni and Lentekhi municipalities. From 2014 to 2022, the number of business entities operating in highland settlements of Georgia

increased by 148%, while sector turnover increased by 129%. In the same years, the output of products in municipalities with high mountainous settlements increased by 115% and additional cost by 110%.

Figure 9. Number of newly registered business entities in municipalities with high mountainous settlement in 2012-2022

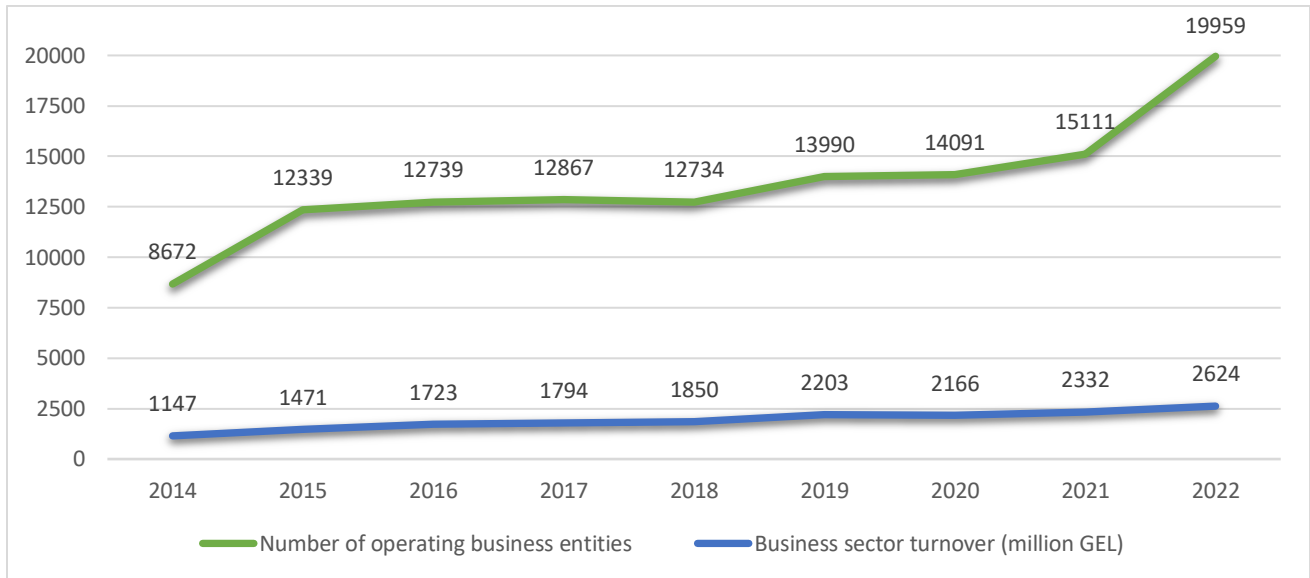


Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

It should be noted that more business entities have been registered in the municipalities of high mountainous settlements than in non-highland settlements. In the mid-2014-2021 period, the number of business entities registered and operating in non-highland settlements increased by 36%, while the same figure in highland settlements was 73.8%. Turnover of the business sector in highland settlements increased by 117.3% and in non-highland settlements by 203%. The largest number of operating business entities are registered in the municipalities of Kazbegi, Adigeni, Ambrolauri, Borjomi, Lentekhi and Mestia, and the least is in the municipalities of Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Tsalka, Tetrtskaro and Tianeti. The average rate of high mountainous municipalities is 54.2, the average national rate is 61.5.

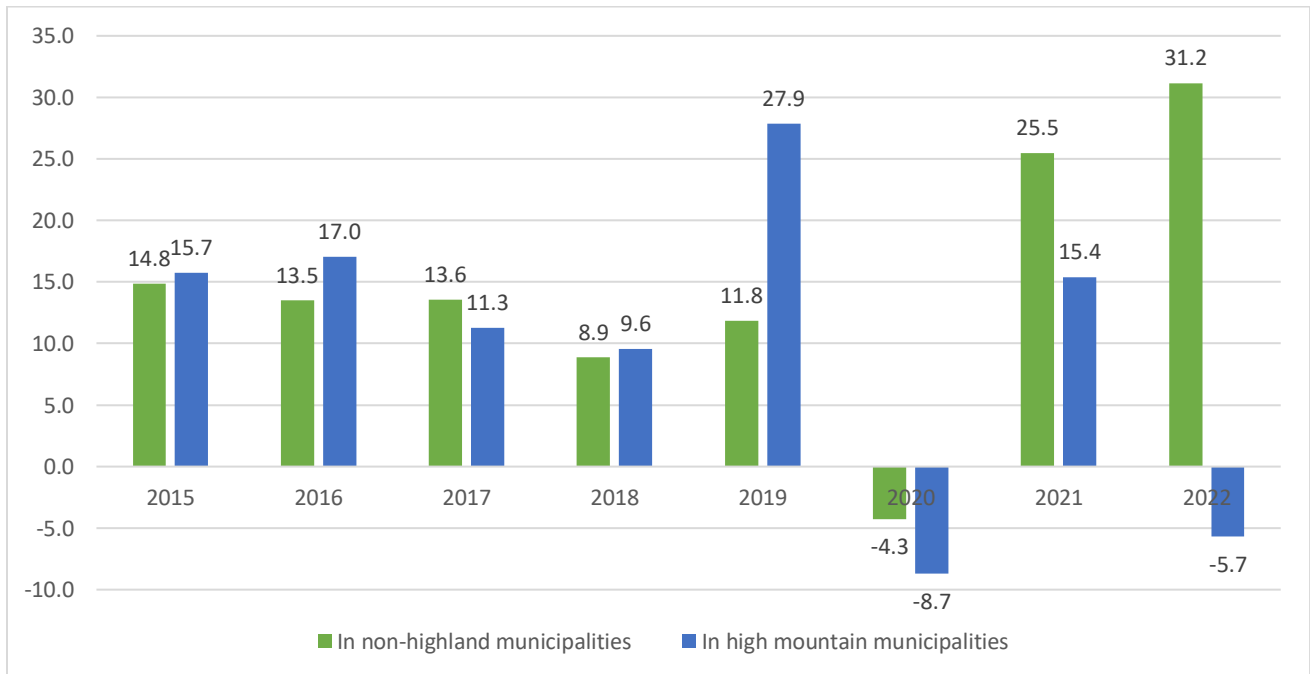
The turnover of the business sector in the municipalities with high mountainous settlements of Georgia increased from 2014 to 2022. In total, this figure increased from GEL 1147.1 million to GEL 2624.2 million.

Figure 10. Number of business entities operating in municipalities with high mountainous settlements and turnover of business sector (million GEL) in 2014-2022



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

Figure 11. Percentage change in value compared to previous year

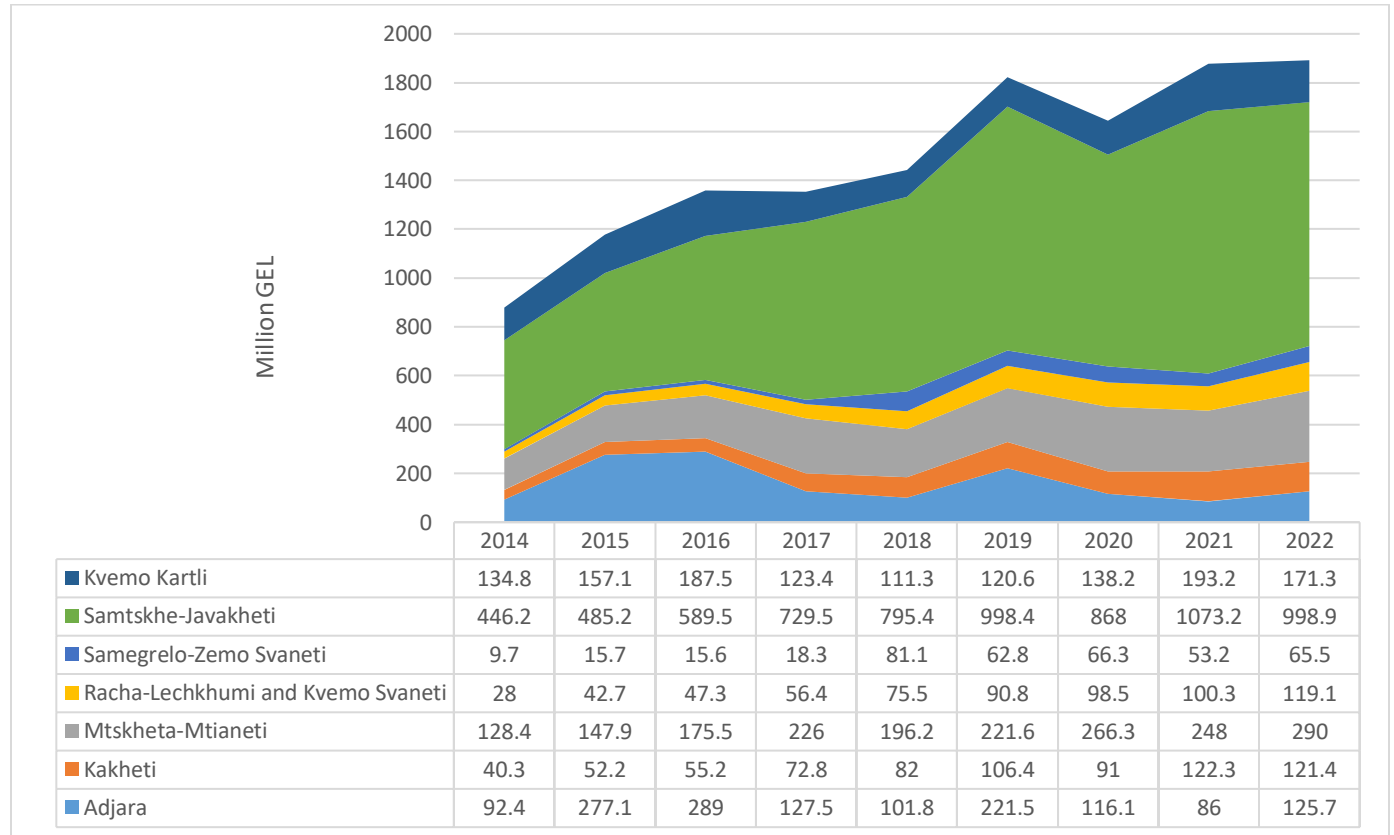


Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

In 2014-2022, the production of products in municipalities with high mountainous settlement of Georgia was characterized by general growth dynamics. The increase in production output is highest

in the municipalities with high mountainous settlements of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti. The lowest increase was 55.2% in municipalities with high mountainous settlements in Kvemo Kartli.

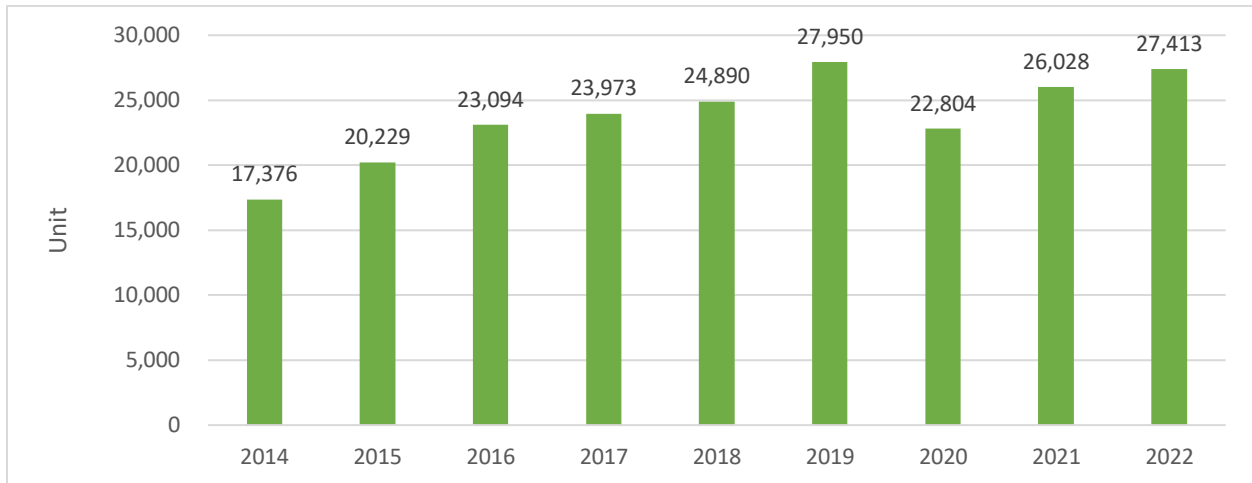
Figure 12. Dynamics of product release in municipalities with high mountain settlements (2014-2022)



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

Since 2014, the number of employees in municipalities with high mountainous settlements has increased every year, excluding 2020. In 2022, 57.7% more people were employed than in 2014 (business sector data).

Figure 13. Number of employees in the business sector in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (2014-2022)



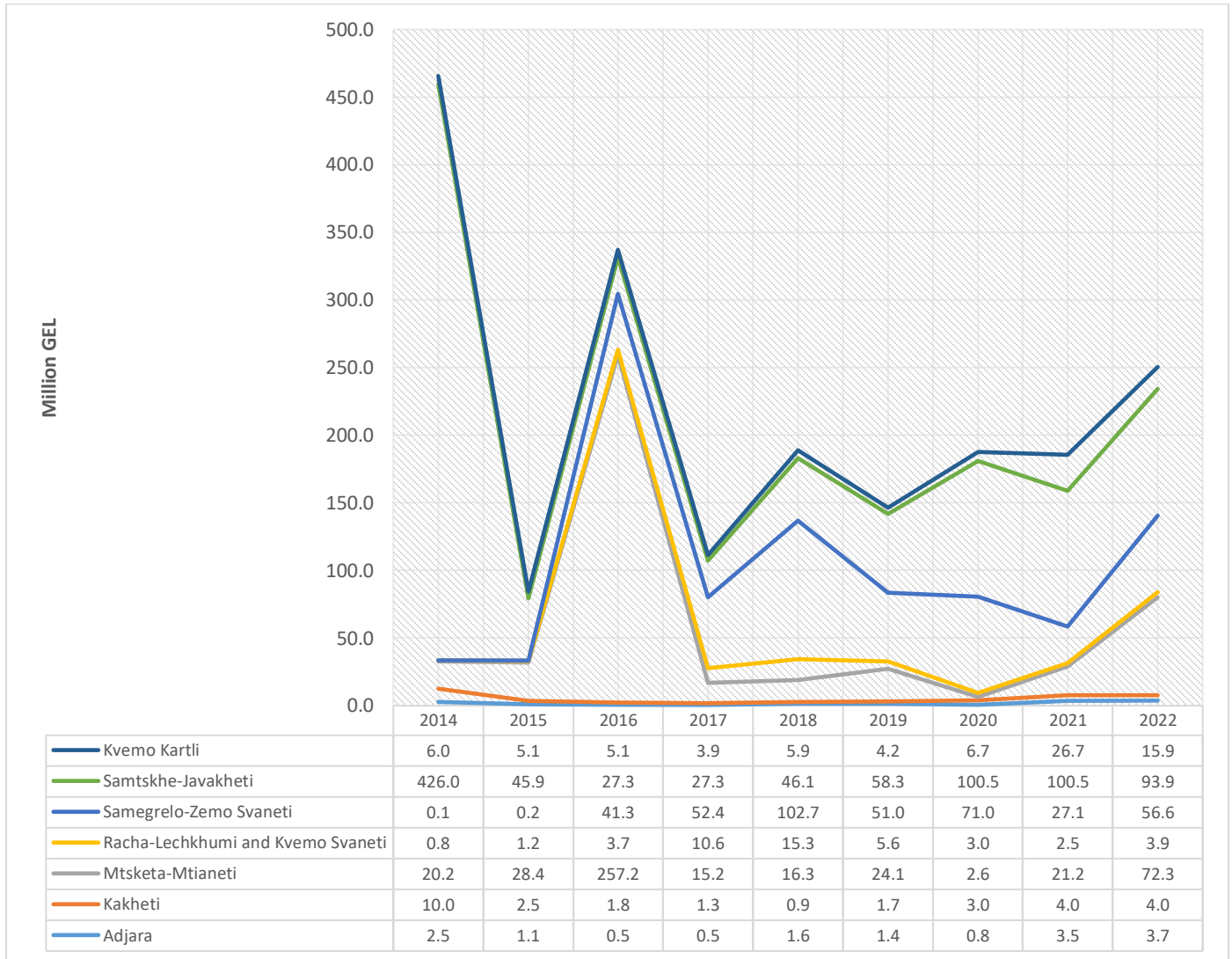
Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

By 2022, the largest number of employees in the business sector from high mountainous municipalities is recorded in the municipalities of Borjomi (5415) and Akhaltsikhe (4295), and the figure of Kazbegi Municipality (1614) is relatively small in the municipalities of Tianeti (481), Tsageri (329) and Lentekhi (399).

As for the number of employees in municipalities with high mountainous settlements, this number increased by 31.8% in 2022 compared to 2014. The number of employees in hiring is reduced in municipalities such as Akhmeta (-13%), Tianeti (-10%), Lentekhi (-25%), Tsageri (-62%), Tsalka (-26%), etc.

Since 2014, business sector investments have been characterized by inflows and declines in investments in fixed assets. Despite the growth of the economy, the volume of investments remains low.

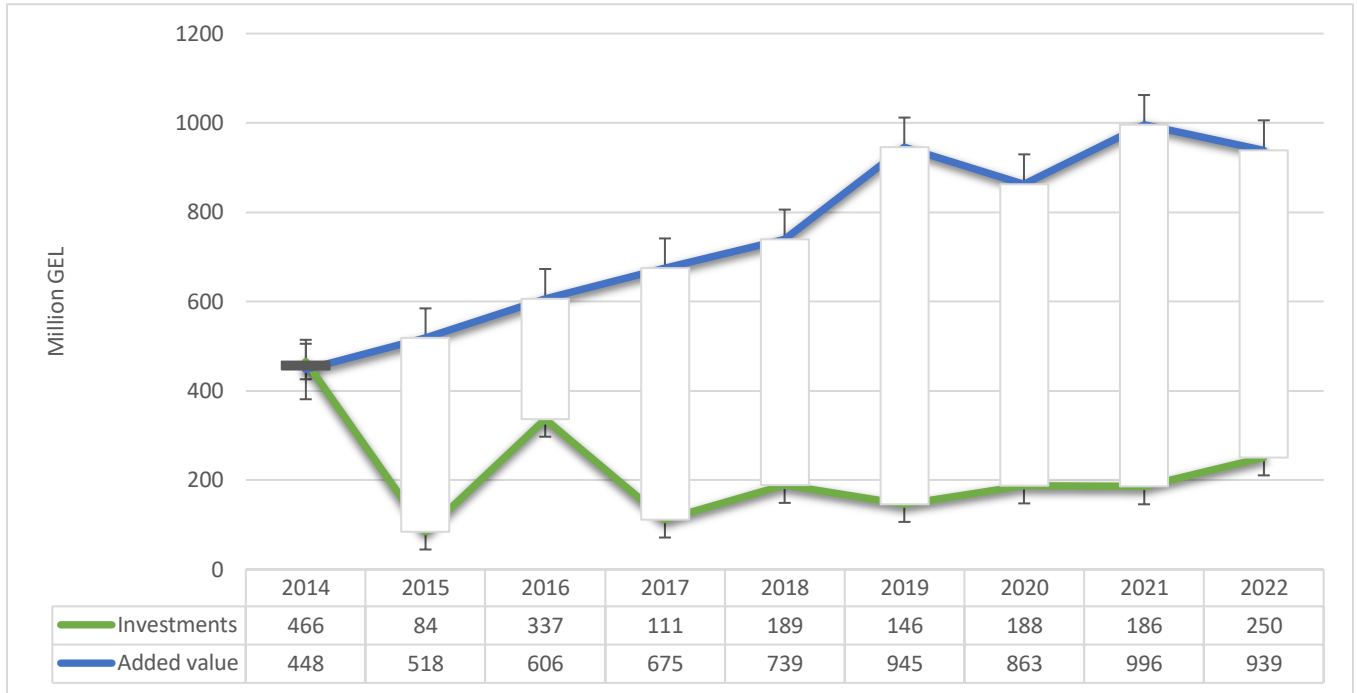
Figure 14. Business sector investments in fixed assets, in 2014-2022



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

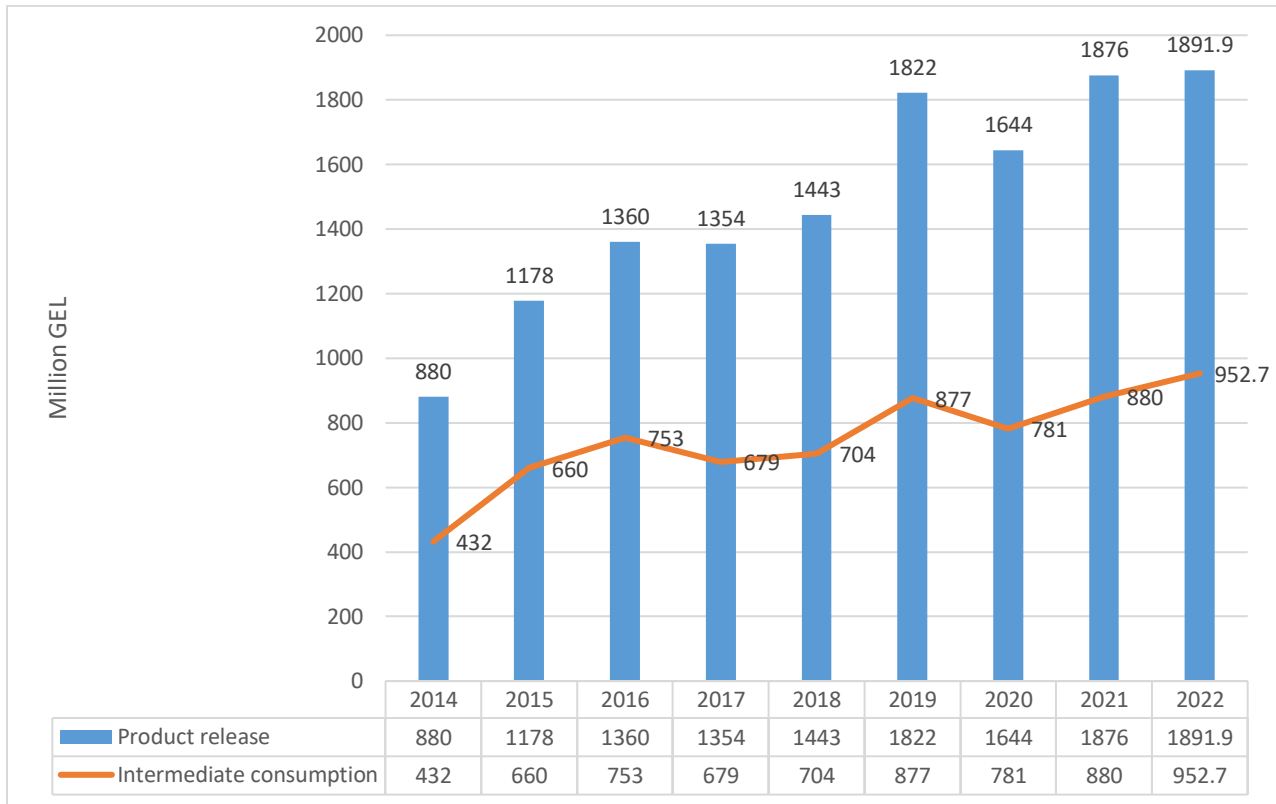
In terms of business sector investments, the share of high mountainous settlements is only 4.27% of the country's investment rate (as of 2022). The added value created in highland settlements in 2014-2022, excluding 2020, was increasing every year. In 2022, this figure of added value increased by 110% compared to 2014.

Figure 15. Investments in municipalities with high mountainous settlements and additional cost created (2014-2022)



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

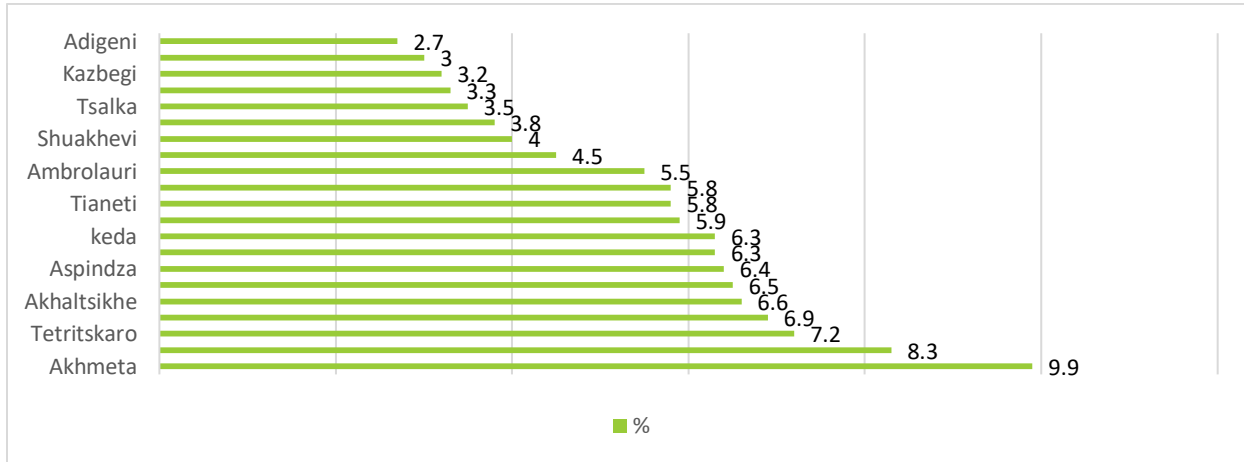
Figure 16. Production output and interim consumption of business sector in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (2014-2022)



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

It should be noted that the share of the processing industry is highest in Akhmeta, Ninotsminda and Tetrtskaro municipalities, relatively low in Adigeni, Dusheti and Kazbegi municipalities. The average share of the processing industry (5.49%) is low in municipalities with high mountainous settlements.

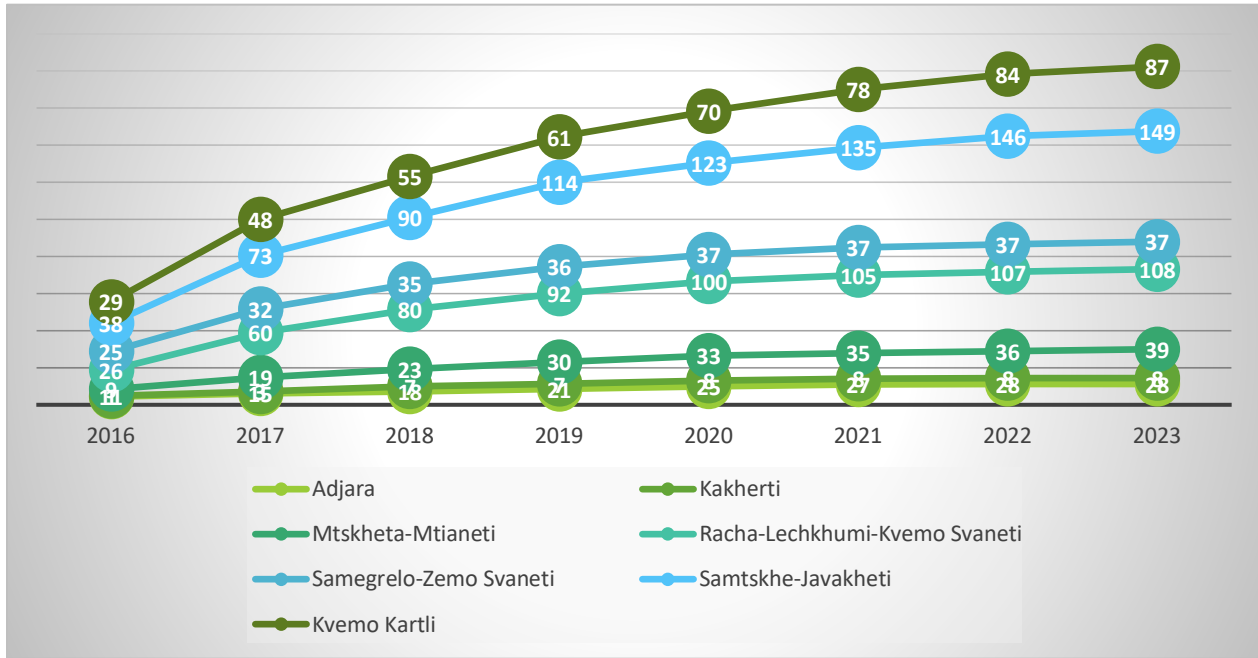
Figure 17. C-sector share (processing industry) in the number of business entities operating by municipalities, 2021



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

According to the Registry of Persons with the Status of Highland Settlement Enterprise of 18 December 2015 on the Approval of the Procedure for Granting, Suspension and Terminating the Status of a High Mountainous Settlement Enterprise, the number of enterprises with the status is increasing and by the end of 2023 538 of them are registered in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions, and in the municipal area of Ambrolauri, Akhalkalaki Ninotsminda, Mestia, Tsalka and Tsageri.

Figure 18. Number of high mountainous enterprises registered in regions by years



Source: Registry of Highland Enterprises of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia

Most enterprises registered in high mountainous settlements carry out the production of agricultural products, as well as the production of building materials and furniture, wood processing and various activities.

2.4.1 Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship in Highland Settlements

Development of SMEs in Georgia, as well as around the world, is one of the top priorities in terms of economic development of the country. The share of SMEs in the country is equal to 99.7% of the current enterprises, which clearly demonstrates their importance both from an economic and social point of view.¹⁰ In the market economy, in terms of social impact, the development of micro, small and medium-sized businesses plays a huge role in terms of social impact, as it employs the largest part of the population and ensures the growth of their incomes.

According to the impact assessment of the Micro and Small Entrepreneurship Promotion Program of LEPL "Produce Georgia", 8,209 grants issued in 2015-2022 created 21,185 jobs, which means 2.5 employees per project - the average increase in the number of employees was 43%, and the increase in beneficiaries' productivity was 19%.

¹⁰ SME Development Strategy 2021-2025

https://www.economy.ge/uploads/files/2017/ek_politika/sme_strategy/sme_development_strategy_2021_2025_.pdf

It should be noted that in order to develop the private sector in high mountainous settlements and create new jobs, to stimulate the growth of young entrepreneurs and economic activity, ordinance No 201 of 29 May 2023 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Program for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Activities in High Mountainous Settlements was approved, implemented by the NNLE "Rural Development Agency".

2.4.2 Agriculture

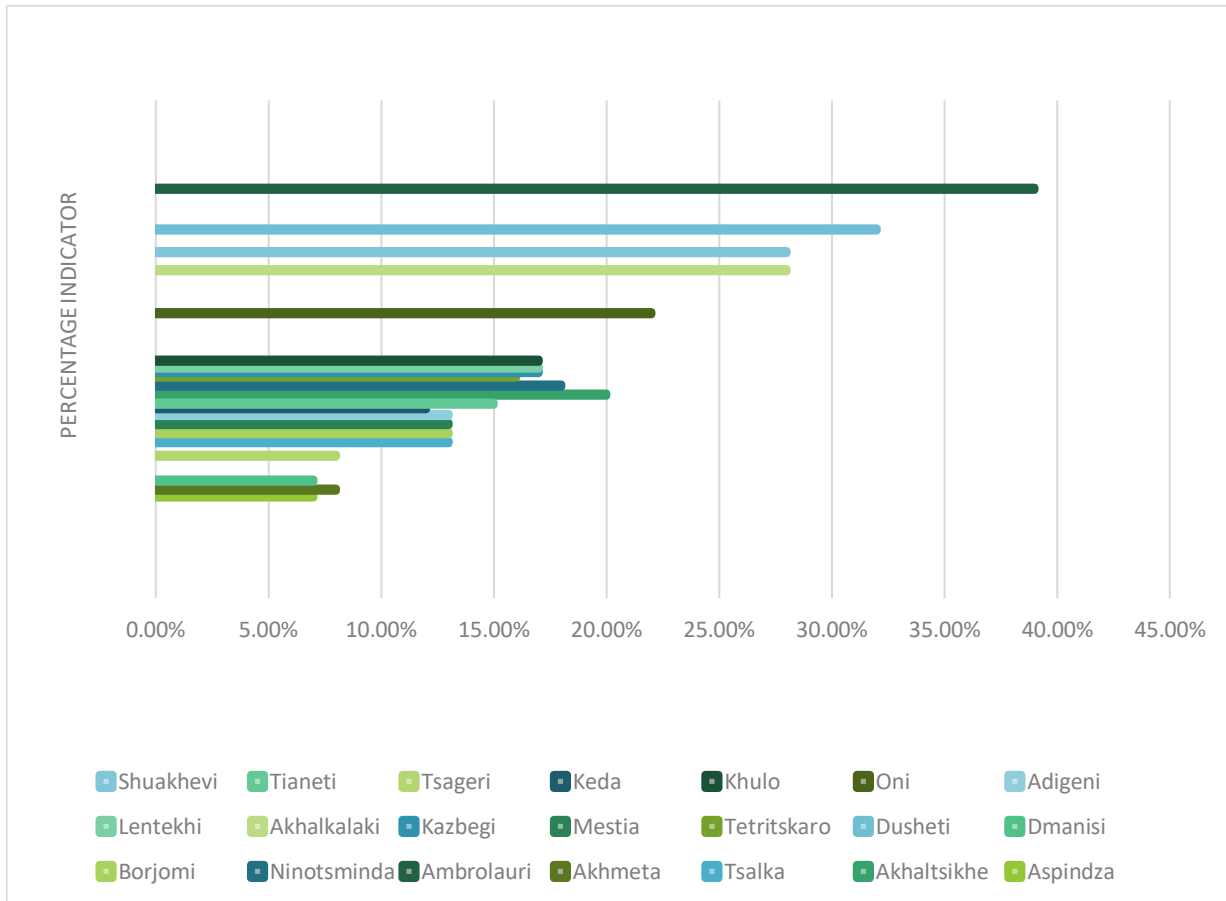
In terms of the territorial distribution of the country's land resources, about 61% of agricultural land falls on the mountainous and mountainous areas of Georgia. Up to 1,000 m above sea level is used for horticulture, horticulture, viticulture and intensive fielding, while western Georgia is an area of distribution of subtropical crops. From 1000 m and above sea level, mainly mowing pastures are developed.

The programs for supporting both primary production and processing production of agriculture are implemented by the Rural Development Agency (non-commercial) under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. "State Program for Promoting Entrepreneurial Activities in Highland Settlements" is developed specifically for the support of micro, small and medium enterprises in highland settlements. Also, within the framework of the "State Program of Co-financing of Agricultural Machinery", a special component was made, which envisages the co-financing of the purchase of motorblocks for beneficiaries living only in highland areas. In addition to this, in order to facilitate agricultural activities in mountainous regions, the non-profit Rural Development Agency has special conditions in the projects/programs implemented by it. In particular: within the framework of the state program "Introduce the Future" and the co-financing program of processing and savings enterprises, 10% more state co-financing is provided for the beneficiaries of high mountainous settlements, in addition to mechanization for agricultural cooperatives. Within the framework of the co-financing program, a different advantage is taken into account: if the total area of a plot or plot of agricultural land owned by an agricultural cooperative operating in the bar is less than 20 ha., in the case of high mountainous settlements, this requirement is reduced to 10 ha.

The challenge in terms of agriculture in high mountainous settlements is the lack of agricultural fields, the small scale of niche production, lack of access to technology and knowledge, the outflow of young people and the scarcity of products produced.

The previous strategy aimed to improve the issue of land registration in municipalities with high mountainous settlements. Progress has been made in this regard, although the figure remains low in the case of registration of both non-agricultural category and agricultural land registration.

Figure 19. Percentage of agricultural land registered in municipalities with high mountainous settlement



Source: Administrative data of the National Agency of Public Registry

2.4.3 Environment

The rich and diverse cultural heritage of the mountainous settlements of Georgia creates a potential for development and preservation of identity, however, many of them are on the verge of danger of damage and destruction and require restoration and fortification work.

Most of the forest arrays are in the territory of high mountainous settlements. Thus, the Forest Code adopted by the Parliament of Georgia will have a positive impact on their situation, within which the forest use and sustainable forest management system will be formed. It ensures the improvement of the quantitative or qualitative indicators of forests in Georgia, the protection of biodiversity and the effective use of the economic potential of forests, taking into account their ecological values. The economic potential of forests is not effectively used. The use of both forest timber (in terms of wood processing enterprises) and non-wood resources is minimal. It shall be important to introduce effective forest use areas, such as the arrangement of hunting farms, the use of recreational and resort purposes of forests and the development of ecotourism – the use of tourism potential.

In high mountainous settlements, 98% of the forest resources of Georgia are available. The forested regions are: Adjara (63%) and Racha (56%). More than 60% of forest arrays are located on slopes with a tilt angle of more than 25 degrees. On slopes with a slope of more than 35 degrees, 24% of forests grow and their use is prohibited by law. Almost 60% of the forest is located at an altitude of more than 1,000 meters above sea level (Table 1). The prevailing variety in forest ecosystems is beech. It should be noted that in Racha there are so-called intact forests, which are preserved in its original form and biodiversity. The negative impact of climate change in Georgia is manifested by changes in the upper boundary of forest ecosystems, the frequency of fires, and the multiplication of harmful diseases.

2.4.4 Tourism

Most of the mountainous settlements of the Great and Small Caucasus are especially attractive for outdoor and domestic tourism. Highland settlements are distinguished by both winter and summer resorts, cultural heritage, historical, archaeological and natural monuments. More than 20 high mountainous settlements have been granted the status of a resort. They are climatic and/or balneological type, and their main profiles are phthisiatric, arthrological, neurological, dermatology, gynecological, prophylactic, allergological, gastroenterological and pulmonological onesiological.

In order to assess the current situation and development potential of resorts located in the regions of Georgia, the LEPL Resorts Development Agency studied resorts and resort areas defined by the legislation of Georgia. Of the 63 feasibility studies prepared for balneological and climatic resorts and resort and tourist attractions selected on the basis of the study, 68.3% of the study was devoted to resorts and resort areas in the high mountain zone.

It is noteworthy that most high mountainous settlements do not have a space planning and/or urban construction plan (master plan, development plan, detailed development plan) or, in many cases, several years have passed since the approval of the current plan and require revision/processing. Proper planning of the development and development of areas in tourist settlements is especially important, in the conditions of difficult terrain, climate change, geohazards and unique natural and cultural heritage. It is worth developing strategies for the protection of so-called aesthetic characteristics especially in those seating that have high natural-cultural value.

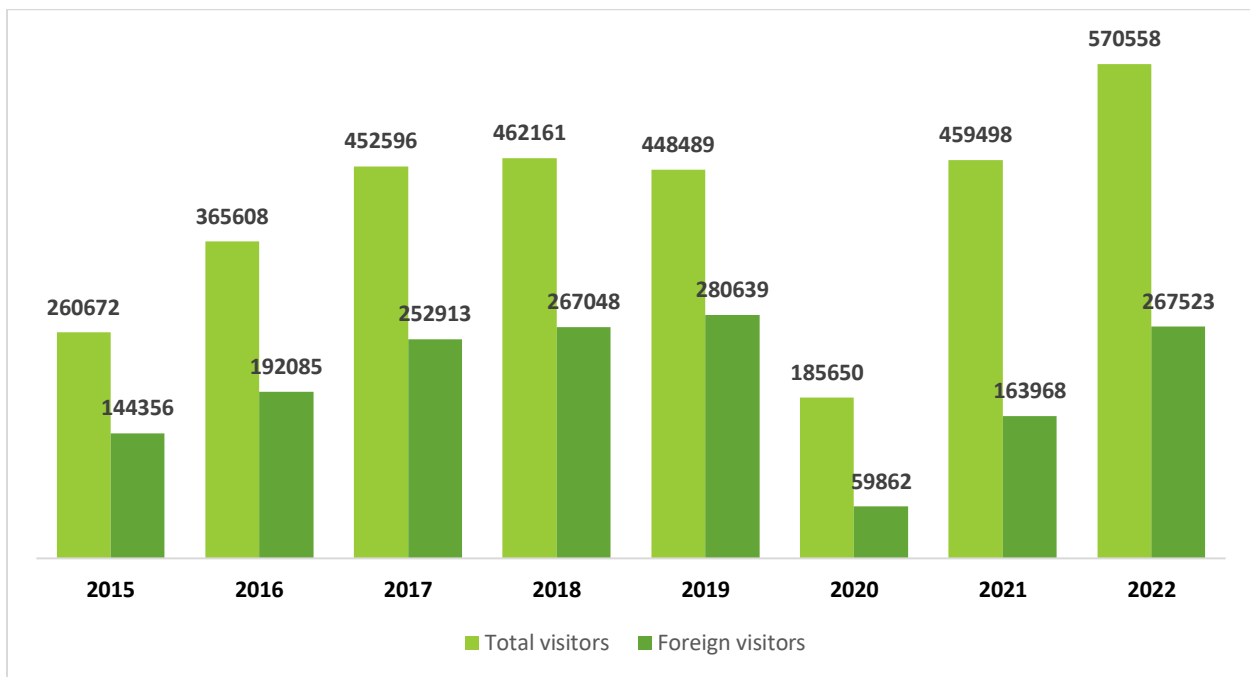
The challenge is to establish high mountainous settlements into independent (self-sufficient) functional units, as well as increase access to various services (education, healthcare, commerce, etc.), provide infrastructure, contain the empty population, increase local economic activity, etc.

In the tourism sector, the strategy approved by Ordinance No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the 2019-2020 Strategy for the Development of Highland Settlements of Georgia, with Ordinance No 342 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Action Plan for the Development of Highland Settlements of Georgia and "On the Approval of the Action Plan for 2021-2023 of the Government of Georgia for the Development of Highland Settlements of Georgia" The current plans approved by Resolution No 189 of 27 April 2021 of the Government of Georgia included the arrangement of such infrastructure as the Visitor Center (Kazbegi), "Rope Park"

in two national parks (Algeti, Mtirala), exhibition space (Borjomi, Kharagauli), mountain and hiking trail (Mestia) and marking of mountain-hiking and hiking trails (Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, Algeti National Park), tourist trails and bridges in Akhmeta Municipality, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli; Also Training of persons employed in the tourism industry, press tours, bicycle marathon, cultural routes, skiing and snowboarding freestyle skiing, fence system, skiing tracks and other important infrastructure.

In 2015-2022, the number of visitors to highland settlements was characterized by a growing trend, including in terms of international visitors. In 2022, as compared to 2015, the number of visitors increased by 54%, including the number of international visitors by 46%.

Figure 20. Total number of visitors, including foreigners, in municipalities with high mountainous settlements, 2015-2022.



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

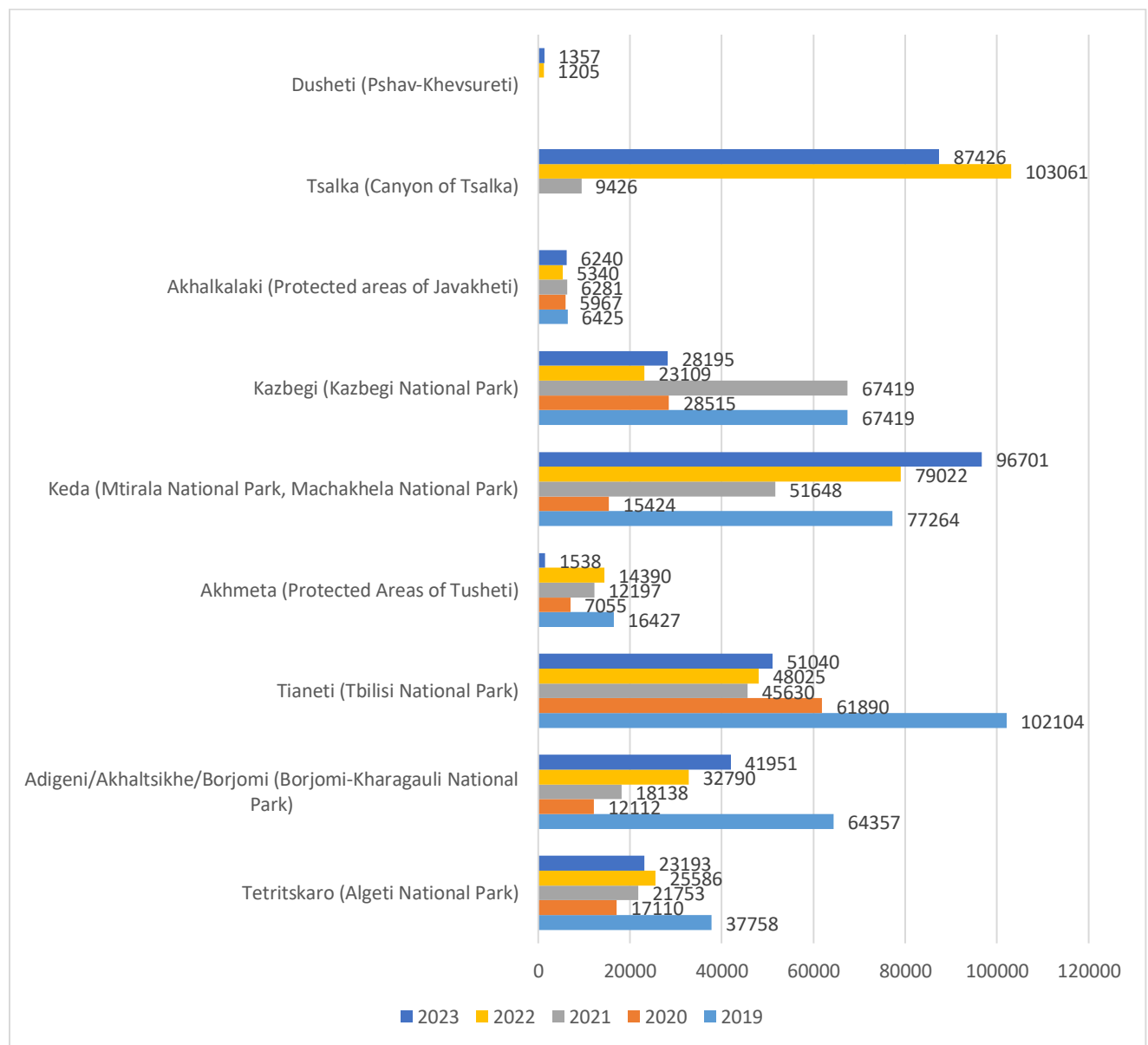
It should be noted that the increase in tourism has had a positive effect on all municipalities with high mountainous settlements, although equal. In 2012-2022, the number of hotels and hotel-type establishments declared in 21 highland municipalities increased by 162%, from 183 to 479, while the number of employees in these hotels and hotel-type establishments increased by 146%, from 1,480 to 3,642 people.

As of 2022, the largest number of hotels came from Borjomi Municipality, 17.3% - Kazbegi Municipality, 12.7% - Mestia Municipality, 9.5% - Akhaltsikhe Municipality. After 6.5-6.5%, Ambrolauri and Akhmeta municipalities are at the place. The smallest number of hotels is (0-3) in Dmanisi, Tianeti, Shuakhevi, Ninotsminda and Tsalka municipalities. Almost half of the employees, 43% are employed in Borjomi municipality, 27% in Kazbegi municipality, and 5-5.5% are the municipalities of Mestia, Akhaltsikhe and Khulo almost equally on the spot. 2.5% are equally

distributed by Ambrolauri, Dusheti and Akhmeta municipalities. As of 2022, Kazbegi and Borjomi municipalities are leading in the number of visitors, followed by Mestia and Akhaltsikhe municipalities.

Highland settlements are rich in natural resources, as well as its diversity of flora and fauna, as well as the views of protected areas, especially rich in the Eastern Caucasus and mountainous Adjara. This circumstance has a significant impact on the development of tourism, especially in highland settlements that are located near the protected areas with the abundance of tourist flows. Compared to 2019, in 2020 and 2022, Kazbegi National Park In addition to the Algeti National Park, the percentage of visitors to protected areas located in municipalities with high mountainous settlements has increased in the total number of visitors.

Figure 21. Number of visitors to protected areas located in mountainous settlements (2019-2023)



Source: Administrative data of the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia

In the field of tourism, especially in the mountainous settlements, where the number of visitors is low, there are still challenges in terms of assimilation of tourism potential, including lack of accommodation in such areas and lack of access to financial resources, especially for young people, quality of infrastructure, imperfect tourism services, lack of qualified personnel, natural disaster in the municipality frequent damage to roads and bridges, delay in the provision of cleaning services, lack of marked trails, lack of natural gas at tourist attractions, disorder of infrastructure on tourist routes, lack of telephone and internet connection, lack of signs/scarcity on the roads leading to some locations, lack of awareness of local landmarks and locations, and Other.

2.5 Infrastructure

Despite the strategy approved by Resolution No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia, as well as numerous infrastructure projects implemented within the framework of other targeted programs, there are still challenges in terms of basic infrastructure in high mountainous settlements and require gradual improvement.

It should be noted that in addition to infrastructure projects implemented by various programs and agencies of the state, infrastructure projects are being implemented in high mountainous settlements as well as within the framework of the Highland Settlement Development Fund and the Fund for Projects to be implemented in Regions.

With the funding of the Highland Settlements Development Fund, in 2016-2023, 291 projects were implemented in the infrastructure part alone, in terms of regulation of road infrastructure, shore construction/shore protection, water supply, recreational spaces, kindergarten construction/rehabilitation and other types of local infrastructure, including the most, 59% (172 projects) were implemented in terms of the arrangement of road infrastructure.

It should be noted that the geoecological complications caused by natural disasters in the territory of Georgia mainly come from the mountain zone, and in this regard, the presence of appropriate environmental infrastructure, including the arrangement of bank and shore protection infrastructure of rivers, is important in order to protect the population from the negative impact of natural disasters, including flooding.

In the field of education and cultural infrastructure, within the framework of the previous strategy, boarding schools were rehabilitated (in the village of Magharoskari and Barisakho) and construction (Shatili), a college branch was opened in Khulo and the college in Shuakhevi was rehabilitated.

2.5.1. Road infrastructure

Despite a number of projects implemented in recent years, which are aimed not only at connecting regions and municipalities, but also for regulating the road infrastructure in specific settlements in the municipalities, challenges in terms of road infrastructure remain. The challenges are identified according to the survey of the municipalities directly and the needs vary according to the municipalities.

In terms of the task determined within the framework of the previous strategy, the regulation of road infrastructure, it is worth noting that in 2016-2022 the construction / rehabilitation of up to 350 km of road was financed. In addition to the regulation of road infrastructure, rehabilitation works of drainage systems and river beds were carried out in high mountainous settlements, as well as a water supply network was organized in certain settlements.¹¹

2.5.2. Electricity

On average, electricity supply in a municipal area is provided for 90% 100% of high mountainous settlements, in certain municipalities this figure is 80-90%. In 2012-2013, USAID implemented 4 rural electrification works: Imerkhevi village in Kareli Municipality; Village Mamishlari in Dmanisi Municipality; Village Charteli in Akhmeta Municipality, Dusheti Municipality Village Shatili. In 2013, within the framework of the project "Light to All Villages" started with the help of electricity Electrification works of settlements. The work was completed in 2016 and 630 subscribers in 29 lightless villages were involved in the power supply chain.¹² Within the framework of the same project, a 100 kilowatt hydroelectric power plant was built in the village of Mutso, which also serves to illuminate the historical monument of Mutso. The project was fully funded by the State of Georgia. In 2019, the construction of a power line and relevant infrastructure to provide electricity to two lightless villages of the Mestia municipality was carried out. A total of 18 subscribers were allowed to join the electricity supply chain.

In 2019, the USAID Energy Program provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, including a comprehensive description of the population left

¹¹ Ordinance No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia and Ordinance No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia and Ordinance No 342 of 18 July 2021 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Action Plan for the Development of Highland Settlements of Georgia for 2021-2023 Reports on the implementation of action plans approved by Resolution No 189 of April

¹² Ozurgeti Municipality, near Natanebi Farm "Moliani Settlement", Zestaponi Municipality, Village Shrosha (Exeulidze district), Sachkhere Municipality, Village Chononto, Gurjaani Municipality, Village Cheremi, Dusheti Municipality, Villages: Katsalkhevi, Noja, Turdaskeli (Tsuovani), Nojiketi, Lower and Zemo Gharistsali, Tianeti Municipality, Villages: Chiaura and Kvedveli, Mtskheta Municipality, Villages: Manyeti, Karsani and Lelubani, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, villages: Bavari, Mananuri, Tskhumaldi and Khachesh, Adigeni Municipality, Village Utisubani, Dmanisi Municipality, Village Sogutlo, Tetrtskaro Municipality, Village Lower Akhalsheni, Gori Municipality, Villages: Zemo Knitvrisi and Gagloantiubani, Kaspi Municipality, Villages: Gostibe and Tskhaveri, Kareli Municipality, Villages: Zemo Leteti and Okrosopeli, Khashuri Municipality, Village Gharti

without electricity in Georgia, the identification of their energy needs, the development of a relevant technical concept and training on the consumption of the solar system. As part of the program, 207 permanent households left without electricity were identified throughout the country, with 1,500 watts of solar panels, inverters, energy storage facilities and relevant equipment.

Despite the activities carried out in recent years, electricity supply remains relevant in several settlements of some municipalities. In such settlements, according to the 2014 census of the population, there were very few or almost no permanent residents, traditionally climbed the mountains for temporary breeding purposes and did not have a central line of electricity. Electricity is 100% supplied to Ambrolauri, Tsageri, Kazbegi municipalities and the municipalities of Kakheti, Imereti and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions, but are not supplied to several highland settlements of other municipalities (e.g. Gori, Kaspi, Dusheti, Tianeti). According to the survey of the municipalities, electricity supply is especially relevant in small population settlements, including Barisakho, Rear Pshavi, Shatili, Guadkarari and other communities where there is no electricity transmission line, while only one of the 52 settlements of Tusheti in Akhmeta municipality is power lines, the rest are used heliosystems.

2.5.3. Internetization

Decree N2492 of 28 December 2018 of the Government of Georgia on the Allocation of Money from the Allocation of Money from the High Lands Development Fund was co-financed with the assistance of donor organizations and telecommunications companies. A community internet connection project was implemented by the Mountain Community Network in Pshav-Khevsureti and Gudamakari valleys. In addition, socially vulnerable families received a voucher for payment for admission to the Internet (Adjara, Racha-Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti, Samtskhe Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli).

In many mountainous settlements, the availability of stable fiber-optic internet remains a challenge, which prevents the development of tourism in such settlements. Due to the lack of population and harsh climatic conditions, often mainly only municipal centers are provided with more or less fast and stable internet.

2.5.4. Gas supply

Decree No 2120 of 29 October 2020 of the Government of Georgia on Measures to be implemented to Promote Natural Gas Supply to the Population of Georgia in 2022-2024 approved a 3-year plan for the provision of natural gas to the settlements. This is important for creating favorable conditions for living and working in high mountainous settlements, as well as for the development of tourism.

In addition, the appropriations of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development subsidize natural gas consumed by permanent residents of the mountainous villages of Kazbegi and Dusheti Municipality.

Gasification remains a challenge in Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, where no settlement has been gasified and in Racha, where only part of the settlements are gasified, which hinders the development of tourism. Natural gas supply is also among the priorities of the first line in mountainous Adjara, which is only partially gasified and in municipalities with a mountainous settlement of Guria that are not gasified. While Kazbegi Municipality is almost fully gassed and Tianeti Municipality, seven administrative units of Dusheti Municipality are without natural gas, which may cause deforestation by locals. Only the mountainous settlements of Duisi and Khalatsani are supplied with natural gas in Akhmeta municipality, there are challenges in the mountainous settlements of Telavi Municipality (on Gombori Pass). More than 60-70 percent of the settlements of Khashuri Municipality are supplied with natural gas, only 40-50 percent of the mountainous settlements of Gori, Kaspi and Kareli are supplied with natural gas. In the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, the percentage of gasification is relatively high, in Kvemo Kartli, for example, only 10% of Tetrtskaro municipality is gasified, and in Imereti, this does not apply only to Sachkhere and Tkibuli municipalities.

2.5.5. Waste management

In recent years, municipalities have taken some steps to address the challenges associated with waste management, including the majority of highland settlements using solid waste disposal services, but in some ways there is still a need for the presence of garbage carriers for moving in the high mountains. It should also be noted that due to unfavorable meteorological conditions, some settlements are closed in winter and waste is removed from these areas. In most of the mountainous settlements, there are not enough bins, as well as waste carrier vehicles, which is especially hindered by the timely emptying of bins during the tourist season, including tourist locations.

On solid waste issues, municipalities, together with Georgian Solid Waste Management Company, take care of the provision of improved services for all settlements of the municipality and highland settlements are considered in this unified vision.

2.5.6. Water supply

Despite the large-scale projects implemented by the state in terms of water supply, providing 24-hour water supply to a certain part of the mountainous settlements is still a challenge, due to poor and in some cases, non-existent infrastructure. This challenge is also associated with a difficult geographic and terrain situation in some cases. It is important to continue to regulate the infrastructure in order to increase access to the water supply in accordance with the standards.

2.6. Availability of social and private services

Within the framework of the past strategy, activities aimed at accessibility of services were also carried out - community centers (which currently operate as the House of Justice) were built and launched.

The experience of EU countries has also shown that in addition to the departure of young people from high mountainous regions is related to learning and the search for more diversified jobs, there is also a lack of access to certain services, insufficient cultural activities, long distance to services or jobs, and harsh climatic conditions.¹³

In terms of providing services, it is worth noting that 43 highland settlements are covered with branches and mobile justice houses and more than 470 services are provided to the population.¹⁴ The idea of the Mobile House of Justice is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and one of the basic principles of "no one is left behind". Detailed information is published on the official website of the House of Justice one month before the launch of the mobile justice house in a specific area. In addition, as a result of communication with the municipalities, the population is being informed, which envisages the dissemination of detailed information on the official website of the municipality at the launch of the mobile house of justice and regarding the schedule. In addition, the House of Justice publishes relevant banners and information posts not only at the launch location, but also in each branch of the House of Justice throughout Georgia.

Despite this, in the process of developing the strategy, on the basis of the inquiry carried out in the municipalities of Georgia, one of the important needs in high mountainous settlements was access to certain services on the spot, without entering the administrative center. Among them, the lack of non-formal education centers and youth spaces in the villages, the need for the MIA Service Agency and driver's license examination center, banking services, services on legal issues, lack of grocery stores and pharmacy chains, the need for public transport, etc. were mentioned.

2.6.1. Education and sports in mountainous settlements

In terms of school programs, within the framework of the predecessor strategy, non-formal education circles were organized in schools in high mountainous settlements, more than 700 students participated in vocational skills courses, transport was provided for schoolchildren, kindergarten educators and methodists were trained, the mountain faculty was established on the basis of the Georgian Technical University and a relevant training program was prepared. It is worth mentioning, Supplement to the

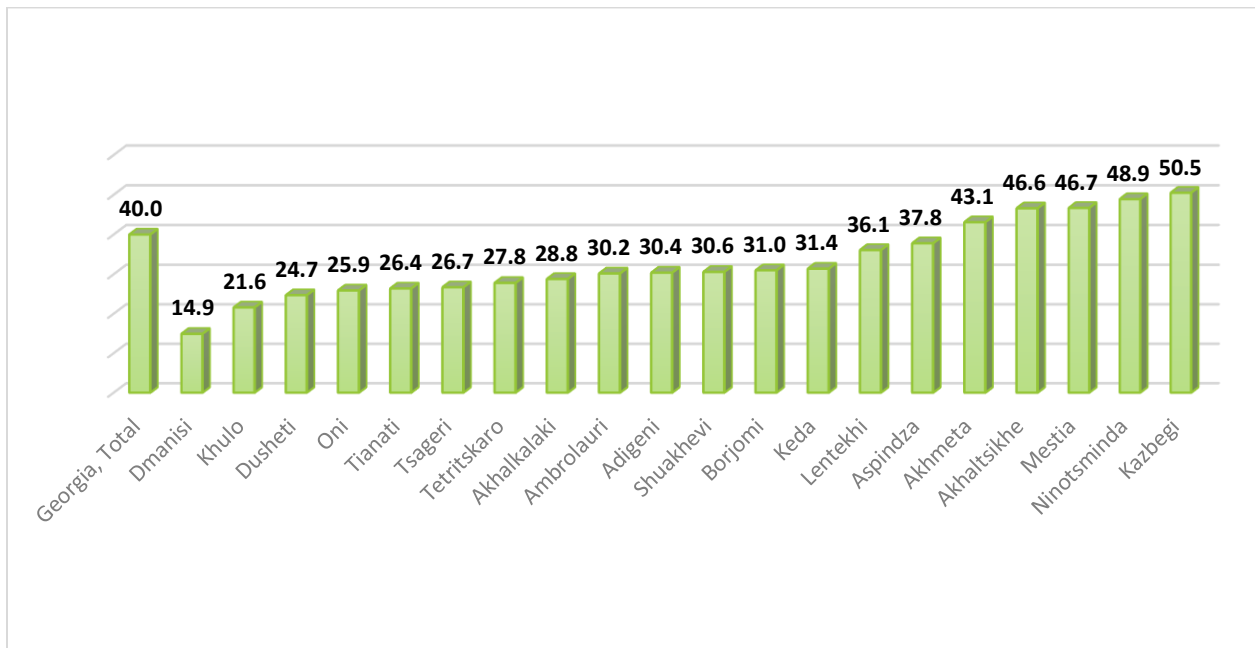
¹³ Policies against Depopulation in Mountainous Areas (PADIMA), https://www.euromontana.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/PADIMA_policy_guidelines_EN.pdf

¹⁴ There are houses of justice: Usakhelo, Gravel, Adigeni, Vale, Bakuriani, Manglisi, Keda, Shuakhevi, Khulo, Kazbegi, Ambrolauri, Lentekhi, Oni, Tsageri, Mestia, Akhalkalaki, Kumurdo, Baraleti, Ninotsminda House of Justice and Zoti House of Justice are under construction

remuneration of public school teachers - the supplement of a public school teacher in a public high mountainous settlement from September 1, 2016 and a salary supplement for teachers working in vocational education institutions - teachers working in vocational education institutions located in a high mountainous settlement receive an supplement in the amount of at least 35% of the remuneration. Also worth mentioning, Payroll supplement for coaches employed in the field of sports. In accordance with this program, coaches with the status and working of a person permanently residing in a high mountainous settlement are given supplements.

In 2011-2023, the number of schoolchildren is characterized by a declining trend in high mountainous settlements. The number of children involved in public preschool and education institutions is 33 in the municipality with high mountainous seating per 1,000 people, which is 7% lower than the total number of Georgia (40). This figure is highest in Kazbegi, Ninotsminda, Mestia and Akhaltsikhe municipalities.

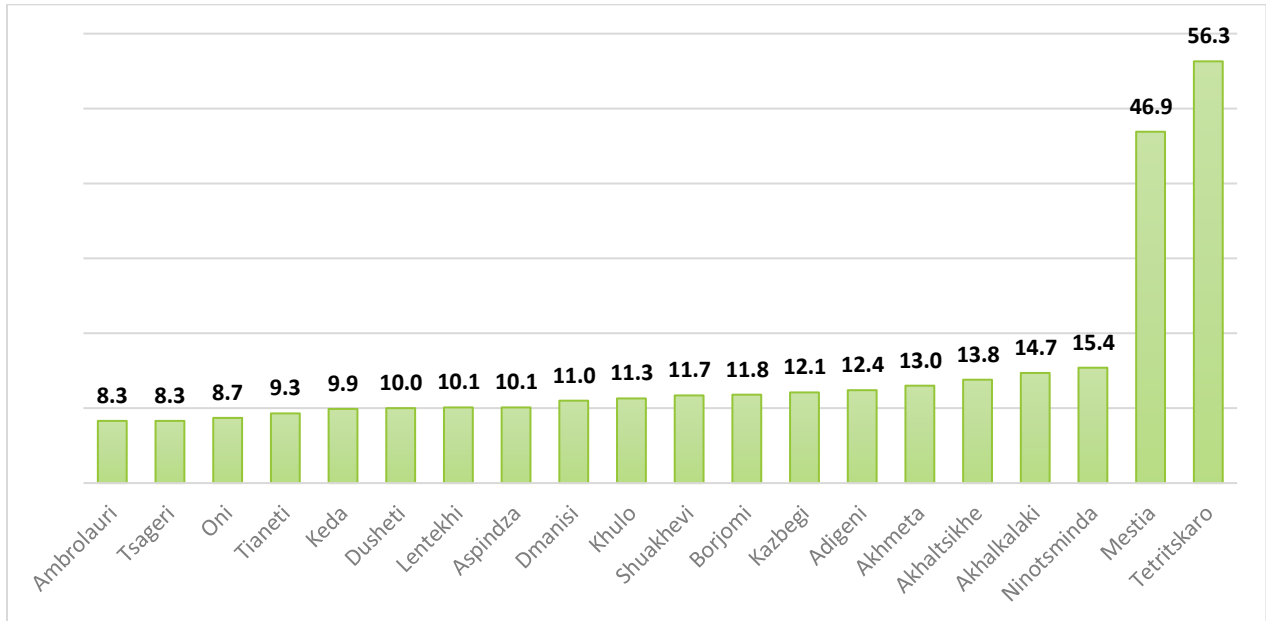
Figure 22. The number of children involved in public preschool education and education institutions per 1,000 people



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

There is a different situation among the municipalities with a high mountainous settlement in terms of the number of high school graduates per 1,000 inhabitants. This figure is lowest in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions, as well as in municipal areas, Keda and Dusheti municipalities.

Figure 23. High school graduates per 1000 people



Source: Statistical indicators of the municipality of National Statistics Office of Georgia

Despite the recent rehabilitation and built preschools and education institutions and public schools, the situation in this regard remains a challenge, in addition to several municipalities, not only in regions with demographic challenges, but also in regions with relatively young populations.

In addition, in recent years, a number of activities have been carried out to improve the quality of vocational education and increase compliance with the requirements of the labor market. Actively began to reform educational programs and involve employers in this process; Teaching entrepreneurship has become a mandatory component of educational programs. It should be noted that the reform implemented had a positive impact on the employment and self-employment rate of graduates of vocational programs, however, it should also be noted that challenges remain in the vocational education system, which are related to geographical access to vocational education, the popularity of vocational education and the rapid demand of the labor market. Response. In almost every region's mountainous settlement, there is a lack of opportunities for non-formal education and formal vocational education. Of the 76 vocational education institutions in the territory of Georgia, only 9 institutions implementing vocational education programs are¹⁵ directly in the high mountainous settlement, their programs are tailored to traditional farming and are not diversified to new professions of interest to newcomers and entrepreneurial skills development.

¹⁵ Additional study area of the town of Tianeti and the town of Stepantsminda of Ilia Tsinamdzgvrishvili College; LEPL College New Wave - Daba Khulo; N(N)LE Adventure Tourism School - Gudauri Borough; LEPL College "Erkvani" - Ambrolauri; LEPL College "Blacks" - Daba Keda, Shuakhevi; GPP College "Tetnuli" - Mestia town; Samskhe-Javakheti Staple University - Akhalkalaki; LLC Swiss Agricultural School Caucasus - Dmanisi

In high mountainous settlements there is also the need for sports complexes, indoor halls of sport, pools.¹⁶

2.6.2. Healthcare Services

According to the survey of the Municipality City Halls, one of the most deficient services in almost all high-mountainous municipalities has access to quality health care services for emergency outpatient and inpatient services. For this reason, the mountainous population has to travel to the capital or regional center for health services. The shortage of health services can also be one of the reasons for abstaining from living in highland settlements for people with working age.

2.6.3. Transport

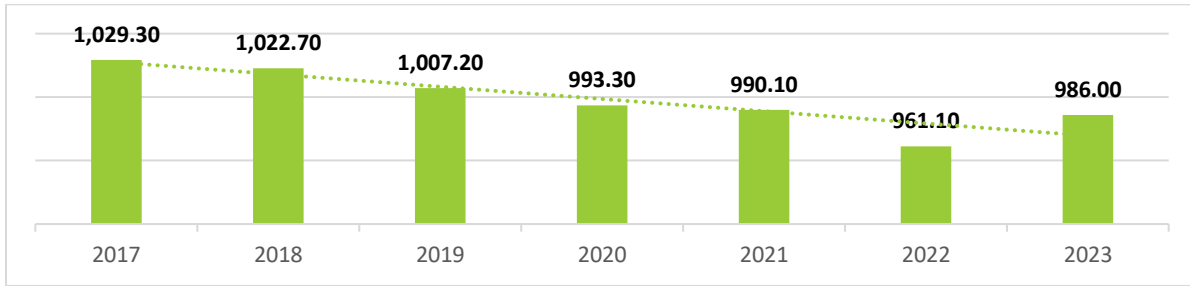
In almost all municipalities, there is little share of high mountainous settlements, where, according to the survey, regular (at least twice a day) of municipal/public transport from the settlement to the municipal center is ensured. The problem is especially present in small settlements, where the provision of this service to the private sector is commercially unprofitable.

2.7. Summary of identified challenges

Despite the significant state investments made in recent years, unfavorable conditions for life and work remain the main challenge in high mountainous settlements, which worsens demographic indicators: in 2015-2021, like non-high mountainous settlements, the population with high mountainous settlements has decreased, especially among young people, there is a negative increase and the birth rate is low, except for a few of the municipality. It should be borne in mind that the decrease in the population was higher in municipalities with non-high mountainous settlements (without Tbilisi), which indicates that government interventions in highland settlements had a kind of mitigating effect. The average age is still high and the share of elderly citizens in the population is also high, which is the main challenge for many high mountainous municipalities.

¹⁶ Survey of municipalities

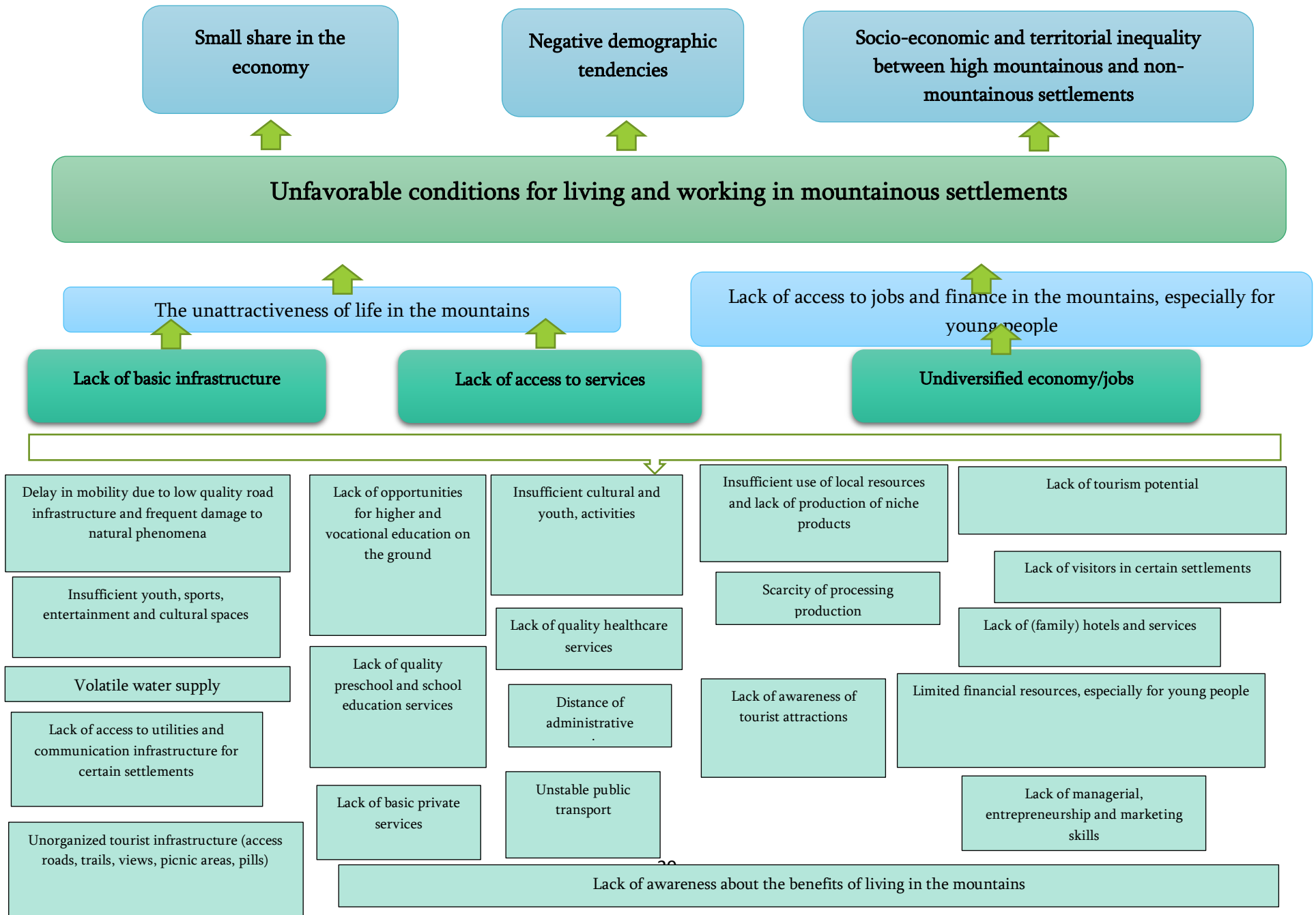
Figure 24. Number of groups of 20-39 years in the population in 2017-2023



Source: Demographic Statistics of the National Statistics Office of Georgia

The reason for the immigration of young people can be considered the fact that they go to large cities and abroad for higher education and employment, and then find it difficult to go back, which is hindered by both undiversified economies on the ground and the lack of jobs, as well as unfavorable conditions for life (see problem tree below).

Problem Tree



3. Strategy vision

The development of this strategy was taken into account the experience gained as a result of the implementation of the strategy approved by Ordinance No 343 of 18 July 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia, the challenges highlighted by situational analysis, as well as the highland of the top five countries of the European Multisectoral Association for the Cooperation and Development of Mountain Territories (Euromontana). Recommendations of the Best Practices Study Platform against the Depopulation of Settlements (PADIMA),¹⁷ according to which policies against population depopulation from high mountainous settlements should answer the reasons why the population leaves such settlements and what would help them stay.

The long-term vision of the strategy is to make living and working in high mountainous settlements more attractive, especially for young people and working populations, while also reducing socio-economic inequalities over time between municipalities with high mountainous settlements and non-high mountainous settlements, as well as municipalities with high mountainous settlements and average national indicators.

The policy of the state towards high mountainous settlements will use both common tools and differentiated approaches, which will take into account the different state of their development and territorial needs. When planning interventions and programs, the gaps between the highland settlements will be taken into account in terms of a number of infrastructure, economic, demographic and territorial characteristics.

In relatively economically developed and large mountainous settlements, the state will primarily continue to address the challenges of infrastructure and services that may hinder the development of the economy, including tourism or access to quality services to the population (e.g., road infrastructure, communications and public and administrative centers, schools, kindergartens, youth spaces, etc.). The analysis showed that economic activity, private sector investments, tourism and construction scale, employment and average wages are high in such high mountainous settlements, which respectively, also affects more financial opportunities for local self-government and demographic indicators in general - more or less the number of local populations is high, birth rates and population density are high.

In mountainous settlements, where there are demographic and economic challenges, the population is decreasing, the birth rate is low and the trend of aging is also high, hipsometric height is high, it is complicated accessibility due to the complex geographical landscape, the number of visitors, hotels and the size of the economy are small, it is important to improve basic infrastructure, support individual initiatives, create even small points of attraction, stimulate tourism activity by the state, More active support for returning to the mountains and small business initiatives, which will lead to a large-scale positive impact in the long run. Especially with respect to the development of such high mountainous settlements, in the infrastructure part, the State will apply the principles of integrated development

¹⁷ Policies against Depopulation in Mountainous Areas, <https://www.euromontana.org/padima/>

and territorial approach to the EU cohesion (equalization) policy, which entails initiatives tailored to the development of specific areas. Instead of large settlements and municipalities, such interventions are more likely to renew and develop less developed areas and population Returns and revenue generating results will be directed. This includes for example, the arrangement of tourist infrastructure (access roads, sightings, hiking trails, information pills, picnic and parking spaces) near the cultural or natural monument. A similar approach will be used in the case of touristically active municipalities and historical areas with administrative units, geographical locations or settlements where tourism potential is still to be assimilated.

This approach allows the financing of high mountainous settlements to be combined with the regional policy financing model built on the principles of integrated territorial development and to be compatible with the EU and other international donor financing principles, which in turn will significantly increase the funds available for the development of the regions and mountains of Georgia. The clustering of high mountainous territories and related non-highland settlements integrated with them, a kind of special zones will create an opportunity for highland regions to be considered not only in terms of challenges, but also in terms of opportunities. For further development and maximizing the potential of high mountainous settlements, it is important that the development vision goes beyond the traditional issues/needs of the mountain and rural areas in general, and more emphasis on economic connections with the urban centers of high mountainous settlements, non-highland settlements.

According to international practice and examples, grouping with the lowlands adjacent to the mountainous territories has provided a better basis for considering high mountainous settlements not only in terms of challenges but also opportunities. The majority of high mountainous settlements are historically, geographically and socio-economically integrated with nearby non-highland settlements, and this connection determines the economic and demographic situation in these territories in terms of economic corridors, agricultural practices, migration and employment. Therefore, stimulating economic growth in high mountainous settlements without connecting non-highland settlements with the relevant value chains will not be productive and effective without linking social and demographic issues.

It should be borne in mind that territorial development integrated in relation to high mountainous settlements in turn requires certain investments in identifying functional areas and territories, as well as to identify their needs, develop development plans and prepare relevant projects or programs.

With all of the above in mind, the long-term vision defined by the "2024-2030 Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia" is achieved within the framework of three sectoral priorities identified as a result of the analysis - entrepreneurship, infrastructure and services - by realizing the set goals and objectives. The extensive list of sectoral priorities was initially compiled through a review of PADIMA recommendations and literature, and the above three main The priority was selected and the final agreement was selected by the Coordination Authority, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, at the meeting of the Coordination Council established for the development of high mountainous settlements for 2024-2030 and its action plan(s). In the context of the socio-economic development goals in high mountainous settlements, general policy alternatives were compared with each other - social supplements and benefits for vulnerable groups tax benefits and infrastructure development. In the process of planning activities, in parallel

with the mandatory social benefits provided for by law, infrastructure type projects were preferred, because there is a solid understanding of their positive economic impact Evidence, both internationally and in Georgia. In particular, the Coordinating Council was guided by an assessment of the impact of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Road Rehabilitation Project conducted by the University of Chicago Research Center (NORC) in 2013¹⁸, which showed strong evidence that traffic infrastructure will have positive socio-economic consequences in mountainous settlements.

4. Sectoral priorities, goals and objectives

In order to achieve the vision set by the strategy, goals and objectives according to sector priorities were formed based on the conclusions made as a result of the analysis of the high mountainous settlements and the situation around them.

Based on this approach, 3 goal is set according to 3 sectoral priorities and 8 objectives are formed.

Sectoral Priority - Entrepreneurship

Goal 1. Creating jobs in highland settlements through diversification of the local economy

Taking into account the practice of Western countries and the results of the previous strategy, special attention should be paid to creating jobs for young people and the workforce (working age population). Since the economy of most highland settlements depends on traditional sectors such as agriculture and seasonal tourism (summer or winter), and the emigration of young and middle-aged populations is high, it is important to diversify jobs, demonstrate the attractiveness of the mountain for the working-age population, and encourage a new generation to start a business and engage in agricultural processing production.

One of the most promising areas in the context of local mountain resources of Georgia is tourism and leisure services. The mountain is associated with such important quality of life values as proximity to nature, fresh air, tranquility, picturesque views and landscape. The mountainous region of Georgia provides a unique opportunity for sustainable mining, eco, gastro, healing and recreational tourism to

¹⁸ Measuring Results of the Georgia Samtskhe-Javakheti Road Rehabilitation Activity, (Millennium Challenge Corporation 2016); Final Report, Samtskhe-Javakheti Roads Activity Impact Evaluation, NORC, 2013 the study used "difference in differences" and "appropriate comparison" research design for counterfactual analysis.

develop a unique landscape. International In context, the experience of Europe on the example of the Alps showed the economic importance of mining tourism¹⁹.

In order to develop high mountainous settlements facing demographic and economic challenges, in municipalities and administrative units where tourism activity is relatively low, the state will seek to use the unique natural opportunities available here through infrastructure regulation, promotion, raising the skills of the population and increasing financial availability. In this context, special emphasis will be placed on Historical-geographical areas such as Mtiuleti, Gudamakari, Pshav-Khevsureti, Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, as well as in less developed tourist areas, in municipalities, municipalities, administrative units and settlements with individual high mountainous settlements of mountainous Adjara and Guria, Khevi, Tusheti, as well as Shida Kartli and Kvemo Kartli.

Objective 1.1. Supporting micro, small and medium entrepreneurship in highland settlements, especially among young people

To create new jobs, the State will use a support programme tailored to high mountainous settlements, which will take into account the age prioritization of the target areas and beneficiaries of high mountainous settlements. The support programme will provide preference for young people and vulnerable high mountainous municipalities/communities with population decline and low birth rates the coefficient is a small number of business entities per 1,000 people, and there is also a small number of employees and a lack of hotels and visitors. In addition, in a small, empty-cut high mountainous settlement, beneficiaries will be able to carry out not only strictly commercial business activities, but also innovative initiatives of social importance together with commercial ones. Support for the creation of basic commercial services is important so that the shortage of such services is not a hindrance to living in mountainous settlements. Therefore, the development and expansion of commercially profitable basic services (e.g. pharmacy, vehicle maintenance, salon, dental cabinet etc.) will also be supported within the framework of the supporting programs for the promotion of entrepreneurship, which will be created. In settlements.

Social innovations in the mountains are useful not only for the economy, but also for strengthening the community.²⁰ Such projects will be tailored to the modern lifestyle, take into account the presence of mixed forms of life and activity between the mountain and the bar, and use a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of the beneficiaries for the life and work of beneficiaries in such difficult conditions. In such places, a certain preference will be given to projects whose beneficiary intends to

¹⁹ Sustainable tourism in mountainous regions: K. Meyer-Cech & U. Pröbstl Department of Spatial, Landscape and Infrastructure Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271450405> Sustainable tourism in mountainous regions

²⁰ <https://www.mrd-journal.org/?mrd-talks=how-can-social-innovations-contribute-to-local-mountain-economies-learnings-from-science-and-practice#:~:text=Social%20innovations%20develop%20and%20nurture,to%20cultural%20and%20natural%20heritage>

stay in a high mountainous settlement 9 or 6 (2,000 meters and in the settlements above) for a period of months. Lives and gains the status of a permanent resident of a high mountainous settlement.

Initiatives supported by funded projects and employing young people will play a stimulating role to attract other young people to these communities and municipalities, increasing interest in living there and economic activities.

Objective 1.2. Supporting the processing sector, production and tourism of mountain niche products

Due to the harsh climate-landscape conditions in the mountains, different approaches should be used to give residents of high mountainous settlements an incentive to maximize the unique economic potential and relative advantages of high mountainous settlements not only in terms of tourism, but also in terms of processing production and niche production.

In order to facilitate entrepreneurial activities in high mountainous settlements, the State shall assist in the production of agricultural processing products, especially traditional mountain niche products, or to expand existing production. Supporting the production of mountain niche products is important not only because of the high demand for such products on the market, but also by supporting proud products for the attraction of life and work in the mountains.

According to the experience of other countries, households in high mountainous settlements, including both small and large farms, will receive various subsidies from the state, taking advantage of credit-burden loans for agriculture and economic projects that will be focused on the economic development of mountain communities. In the programs for promoting entrepreneurial activities in high mountainous settlements, preference will be given to the economic activities of the production and service of niche products characteristic of high mountainous settlements, for example: the production of Svan potatoes, Damali cottage cheese, Rachuli ham and other types of products; Tourism direction, including agritourism, leisure, sports-entertainment and restaurant services (especially in less active tourist settlements); milk processing and cheese production; Livestock and meat production; Viticulture and winemaking in terms of production of endemic varieties; honey production/beekeeping; Food processing industry; organic farming; fruit processing; Production of mineral waters; processing of wood pulp; Production of wooden furniture; Fish industry; Construction and repair works with local natural stones, traditional style, production of clay-ceramics; Traditional handicrafts and the creation and sale of handmade items; the production of solar panels and the green economy; Wool and wool products production, etc. Preference will be given to innovative projects. In addition, projects focused on the effective use of marketing and supply chain will benefit small mountain farmers in conditions where there is high demand for environmentally friendly products in the village, and in the mountains the challenge is to sell products at a high price.

The state's support includes the creation of not only agricultural but also non-agricultural primary processing productions, branding of local, unique, natural products, including labeling. Georgia

introduces special labeling that is proven by the French and Italian mountain laws and which encourages the production of local products in order to increase their quality and popularity of production²¹.

Livestock in the mountains will be facilitated by pastures. The "Alpine Pasture Subsidy Scheme" showed that in Switzerland and Austria, the economic use of pastures is a successful tool for maintaining the tradition of breeding on mountain²²pastures.

The state will focus on financial support for young farmers and entrepreneurs. In order to increase access to the finances of the local population, tourism business plans will be awarded increased points in municipalities and administrative units, in which during the analysis of the situation there is a lack of hotels and visitors, as well as preference for tourist settlements of other municipalities and historical-geographical areas.

Sectoral Priority - Infrastructure

Goal 2. Development of public infrastructure focused on stimulating the economy and enhancing the quality of life in high mountainous settlements

Raising the quality of life in high mountainous settlements implies the creation of the most identical conditions for the population of non-high mountainous settlements. First of all, this includes the creation and improvement of basic infrastructure. Relevant infrastructure, especially road infrastructure, as well as communication and utility infrastructure, such as mobile telephone communications, internet availability, availability of electricity, the supply of stable drinking water and natural gas creates the minimum conditions necessary for the establishment of the population on the site, as well as for the low cost and efficient operation of business entities. In the case of projects submitted to high mountainous settlements within the framework of the Project Fund to be implemented in the regions and the Mountain Fund, a clearer connection of the project with the planning documents is required. When financing projects, it should be taken into account in response to the use of the needs and opportunities recorded in the analysis of the strategy situation, the arrangement of the requested road or other types of infrastructure, which will benefit the municipality/region in high mountainous settlements, even in small settlements, in terms of population return, economy, tourism development, and assimilation of local natural potential.

²¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/y3549e/y3549e14.htm>

²² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0264837714001719>

Objective 2.1. Improving basic infrastructure in highland settlements

The regulation of road infrastructure in high mountainous settlements will remain one of the main components of the strategy. As studies show, road rehabilitation has positive medium-term consequences and may have long-term impacts associated with transport (movement of vehicles, speed of movement, duration of travel and the presence of public transport), investments (land use and employment, investment in production), market prices (prices of basic consumption products in the local market), welfare of households (income, consumption, owned property) and access to health and education (use of health and education services).

The Impact Assessment conducted in 2013 of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Road Rehabilitation Project funded by the Millennium Challenge Fund and the Government of Georgia showed²³ strong evidence that the rehabilitation of the road increased the number of vehicles using these roads and their mobility, as well as improved economic indicators in highland settlements near the road, such as increased entrepreneurial activity and employment. In particular, motor vehicles the number of intervention roads increased by 44.2 units per day (4.2%), compared to comparable roads, the average speed on roads increased by 13.6 km/h (24.4%) compared to comparable roads. There is solid evidence that the rehabilitation of the Samtskhe-Javakheti road increased the number of enterprises (e.g. canning production, factories, agricultural processing and similar enterprises) in settlements near the project roads. There is some kind of evidence that the employment rate in households has increased by about 3.75% in the project areas. The impact on local prices was more complex (some products increased, others declined). However, no change has been made in terms of income, consumption, property ownership or the use of health and educational services, as the impact of road rehabilitation on the level of household welfare is in the relatively long (after 5 years) perspective.

The positive impact of the development of traffic infrastructure is confirmed in European countries as well. A successful example of this is the highway in the Swiss and Italian Alps, followed by tangible economic and social benefits, the connection of tourist centers, increased incomes and thousands of new jobs²⁴. State investments in Switzerland have minimized the difference between the infrastructure of highland and non-highland settlements.²⁵

In addition to regulating road infrastructure, in order to support the population and visitors, mobility between highland settlements and administrative centers will be improved by providing public transport so that residents of high mountainous settlements, especially those groups for whom private vehicles are not available, but regularly go quite far away for services, trade and work, in the administrative center, increase mobility With regular public transport services.

²³ Measuring Results of the Georgia Samtskhe-Javakheti Road Rehabilitation Activity, (Millennium Challenge Corporation 2016); Final Report, Samtskhe-Javakheti Roads Activity Impact Evaluation, NORC, 2013 the study used "difference in differences" and "appropriate comparison" research design for counterfactual analysis.

²⁴ <https://www.gihub.org/quality-infrastructure-database/case-studies/new-transalpine-rail-link-neat/>

²⁵ <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC113269/>

In highland settlements, where there is a low connectivity to administrative centers, it is important to build facilities that offer public services to the population in one space, without leaving or near the settlement.

In the direction of electricity supply, within the framework of the State Targeted Program, it will assist the population of settlements in providing electricity to the population, where the systematic supply of electricity is not carried out to date, and where the relevant need will be identified on the basis of the study. Following a similar study conducted in 2019, the condition of all settlements and administrative units identified during the analysis of the situation will continue to be studied on the site, taking into account the dynamics of development, the possible frequency of long-term living on the site of the population, the state of infrastructure and other factors. Various technical ways of resolving the issue will be studied, after which, in accordance with the feasibility of the central electricity distribution network, the central electricity distribution network or the local population will be made available to the local population to supply electricity through alternative sources such as solar systems.

In the field of gasification of high mountainous settlements, the state will continue to work in accordance with the 3-year action plan approved by the government. More highland settlements will be gradually added to this plan. Priority will be given to those settlements in which there is a relatively higher number of populations. In 2024-2026, a total of 150 highland settlement gasification works will be completed, after which 15,895 subscribers will be allowed to connect to the natural gas network. Within the framework of these changes, gasification is provided for the mountainous villages of Rachi, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Adjara, Mtskheta Mtianeti, Kakheti, Imereti and Guria.

Within the framework of the projects to be implemented in the regions and the mountain fund, appropriate works for the stable supply of water to the mountainous settlements will continue. Given the high cost of similar works, water supply improvement projects will be implemented in highland settlements where it is vital to maintain the appropriate level of water supply to the population and tourists. According to the "Vision 2030 Development Strategy", the regulation of water supply and sewerage infrastructure planned in the coming years, together with the improvement of the living conditions of the population, will contribute to the development of agriculture and tourism in the regions, which will have a positive impact on local residents. As a result of the projects to be implemented in the field of water supply, in 2025, 100% of the population of Georgian cities will have continuous access to water supply in accordance with the standards, and by 2030, with different types of solutions, 100% of the entire country's population will have access to water in accordance with the standards. It is also planned to reduce the harmful effects on the environment, for which the wastewater network and wastewater treatment facilities will be arranged, which will reduce the pollution of the environment with wastewater. Highland settlements are also considered in this unified vision.

Priority will be given to improving mobile connectivity and internet access, covering highland settlements where there are still challenges in mobile communication. In addition, with the support of various targeted projects of the State Internet and through the State Internet Integration Program (in

accordance with Resolution N375 of 28 July 2016 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the State Broadband Infrastructure Development Programme in Georgia), it will continue its efforts to increase universal access to broadband internet. Especially important are settlements in which tourist flows and the potential for further development of tourism, which is threatened by the lack of a stable internet. The state is also considering introducing alternative means of internet access for hard-to-reach and internet infrastructure for settlements with a complex landscape.

Objective 2.2. Supporting the development of unique tourism potential of high mountainous settlements, especially historical areas

In all regions, in the municipalities and/or administrative units of the less developed mountainous settlements, integrated infrastructure development measures will be implemented by arranging tourism infrastructure around local landmarks, cultural or natural monuments, which will facilitate tourism and economic activities and generate revenues for locals. In such settlements, the gradual response to the challenges related to road infrastructure, electricity, internet and water supply will also be taken into account, which will be performed within other tasks.

In order to assess the current situation and development potential of resorts located in the regions of Georgia, it is planned to explore the opportunities for the development of existing resorts as well as new resort areas, prepare investment offers and initiate projects related to the development of the resort industry.

In addition, in order to create appropriate territorial prerequisites and encourage economic activity based on the principles of sustainable development, space planning and/or urban construction plans will be developed for high mountainous settlements.

Objective 2.3. Promoting sustainable natural resource management and environmental infrastructure in high mountainous settlements

Inefficient use of the environment and natural resources in high mountainous settlements is one of the challenges. Both natural climate and artistic interventions are negatively affected by the environment. In order to promote sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection in high mountainous settlements, environmental infrastructure improvements, measures for rational use and awareness raising of forest resources, environmental measures of protected areas, etc. will be planned. It is important to effectively carry out the protection of the population from hydrometeorological hazards in high mountainous settlements. In this regard, it is also important to protect the mountain biodiversity and ecosystem from the risks caused by natural disasters (landslides, mudslides). In terms of improving the environmental infrastructure, critical settlements with natural disaster risk will be supported as measures for the arrangement of relevant infrastructure (shore, shore works, etc.), as well as measures to prepare for public awareness and risk preparedness.

Sectoral Priority - Services

Goal 3. Improving access to services for residents of high mountainous settlements

Given that in non-highland densely populated urban areas, due to the large number of populations, compared to mountainous settlements, there are much funds available and more accessible to diverse social, educational, administrative and commercial services, it is important that appropriate measures be taken to alleviate these disparities as well. Improving access to quality services includes not only the construction and rehabilitation of schools, medical institutions, cultural centers, sports and other facilities, but also the improvement of the quality of relevant services so that the population, including youth, can enjoy quality culture, education, health and entertainment opportunities on the ground.

Objective 3.1. Increasing access to education in high mountainous settlements, development of vocational and non-formal education

Local youth and working age populations should be able to ensure that they or their children receive the quality preschool, general and vocational education necessary for the professional development of each and every one of them, as well as for strengthening the local economy in general. As part of the strategy, it will be a priority for young people living in high mountainous settlements to offer flexible, quality education tailored to their needs, so that they do not have to leave their settlements/regions for a long period of time.

The strategy, on the one hand, envisages the construction and rehabilitation of sport, cultural and entertainment facilities in mountainous settlements within the framework of the Mountain Fund, and on the other hand, within the framework of a targeted program promoting entrepreneurship. The State will support the establishment of youth spaces and entertainment and entertainment spaces by the private sector, while also supporting the establishment of trainings and non-formal education centers aimed at enhancing various skills and teaching offerings.

Young people, as well as adults, must have access to vocational education, including vocational training and retraining programs, in the long run the state will expand the network of vocational schools in high mountainous settlements, as well as add new skills to the market and introduce opportunities for distance learning. Investing in educational programs will be a priority to enhance the skills of the local workforce, including green and mountain economies, SMEs. It is important to develop local production and create new jobs through measures such as the introduction of modern management and technology of rural and farming farms, digitalization, knowledge enhancement through consultations and trainings through managerial, marketing and entrepreneurship. Integrate environmental, economic and social aspects into school, university and vocational education programs for young people.

Objective 3.2. Developing primary health care and improving access to social services

In the mountainous settlements, the upgrade/construction of the infrastructure related to the adoption of medical services will continue and the quality of the provision of relevant medical services, including measures to promote the employment of qualified medical personnel. In addition, social support established by the Law on the Development of Highland Regions will continue to support the population of high mountainous settlements.

Objective 3.3. Promoting living and working in the mountain areas through territorial marketing

Taking into account the experience of European countries and certain positive cases of rural life in Georgia during the COVID-19 pandemic, the emphasis will be on the territorial marketing of the mountain - although the mountain allows for quality living, the advantages of fresh air, proximity to nature, beautiful landscape, but for many citizens, it is still associated with distance and cultural and social isolation compared to the bar. Therefore, in order to attract people to live in mountainous settlements and for economic activities, the emphasis will be placed on mountain advantage-oriented communication.

The National Tourism Administration will promote such high mountainous settlements and historical areas, showcase their cultural and natural landmarks, in which tourism activity is still relatively low and the number of visitors is small.

The strategy also envisages encouraging the establishment/number of hotels and hotel-type establishments and tourist services in such places, changing the attitudes and knowledge of locals, placing guesthouses on rental platforms, digitizing services and training of locals to improve the quality of services.

5. Implementation and coordination

The technical coordination of the implementation of the strategy and action plan shall be ensured by the Coordination Council established in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia for the development of the 2024-2030 strategy and its action plan(s) established in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, through its secretariat and the thematic technical working groups within its scope. At the political level, the implementation coordination process will be led by the National Mountain Development Council, established by the Government of Georgia, led by the Prime Minister of Georgia.

The ministries of Georgia and other state agencies shall be determined as the agencies responsible for the implementation of the strategy and its annual action plan, in accordance with certain activities.

The Coordination Council established for the development of high mountainous settlements for 2024-2030 and its action plan(s) will be assembled twice a year, and technical working groups will be assembled quarterly. The National Mountain Development Council will meet once a year to discuss the results achieved, as well as the challenges in the implementation process and ways to solve them. It will also review and approve the action plans for the coming years of the strategy and possible changes if necessary.

In coordination with the Coordination Council Secretariat and with the involvement of technical working groups, in accordance with the progress made in the annual reports and the interim assessment report and the identified challenges, draft action plan for the following years will be prepared, as well as possible changes to the strategy and action plan if necessary.

It is also important to develop an integrated approach for the implementation of the "2024-2030 Strategy for the Development of Highland Settlements of Georgia" and the implementation of the Action Plans, which ensures the involvement of the general public and stakeholders in the decision-making processes (especially with the "bottom-up" approach). For this purpose, state agencies and stakeholders of relevant competence who are represented within the framework of the National Mountain Development Council will be actively involved. The Secretariat Council will regularly hold meetings with invited stakeholders (including from the public, scientific and business fields) and representatives of the general public, introduce and discuss with them the progress of the implementation of the strategy and annual reports, interim and final assessment reports. They will also discuss updated action plans and will have the opportunity to express comments and opinions.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia will communicate with the general public through digital communication, remote and physical meetings.

In the implementation of the strategy, special attention will be paid to stimulating the involvement of women, youth and other vulnerable groups, as well as to promote equal opportunity.

In order to effectively implement the strategy, it is important to support initiatives tailored to the development of specific areas in high mountainous settlements and to practically realize the principles of integrated development and territorial approach characteristic of the EU cohesion policy. In this regard, the Coordination Council established in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia for the development of the 2024-2030 development strategy and its action plan(s) established in coordination with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia will take into account the experience gained as a result of the implementation of the Integrated Development Program (PIRDP) of the pilot regions and the model of the selection, implementation and monitoring of projects. This approach allows the financing of high mountainous settlements to be combined with the regional policy financing model built on the principles of integrated territorial development and to be compatible with the EU and other international donor financing principles, which in turn will significantly increase the funds available for the development of the regions and mountains of Georgia.

Funding for the goals and objectives of the development strategy of high mountainous regions in 2024-2030, as well as in previous years, with the funding of state and local budgets and for the effective implementation of action plans, it is possible to additionally gain support from development partners.

Much of the goals and objectives of the strategy, such as the development of entrepreneurship, tourism, micro, small and medium businesses, agriculture, infrastructure, services and skills, are the goals and objectives of national and sectoral development are funded annually from the budgets of the relevant ministries and the programs of the development partners.

Within the framework of the strategy, the projected budget for the action plan for 2024-2026 is GEL 3,130,625,392. In case of an optimistic scenario, all activities will be carried out, as the Government of Georgia will provide lacking funds with the involvement of the so-called development partners, the European Union and other donor and international organizations. In the case of a realistic scenario, part of the activities for which the funds are not mobilized will be funded by the state through the search for additional budgetary resources or transferred to the next action plans, and in the case of a pessimistic scenario, these activities will not be carried out at all due to the lack of financial resources.

6. Monitoring & Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of the "2024-2030 Strategy for Development of High Mountainous Settlements of Georgia" and the respective action plans will be carried out in compliance with the time limits and modalities determined by Ordinance N629 of 20 December 2019 of the Government of Georgia on the Approval of the Procedure for Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Documents.

As a result of the monitoring process, the gaps in the policy implementation process will be timely identified and recommendations were given to the decision-maker to modify activities and redistribute resources, attract or reduce additional funds. Monitoring will be carried out according to the specified indicators of tasks and activities. The strategy will be evaluated according to the indicators described in this strategy to assess the impact of the strategy on them.

Through the Secretariat, the Coordination Council established to develop and implement the 2024-2030 Strategy for the Development of High Mountainous Settlements and its Action Plan(s) will coordinate with the Secretariat the collection, analysis and timely publication of monitoring data from members of technical groups (agencies responsible for the activities of the Action Plan) on the approval of the pre-agreed and "Approval of the Procedure for Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy Documents". According to the modalities developed in accordance with Resolution N629 of 20 December 2019 of the Government of Georgia. Based on the consolidated status report, the Secretariat will prepare six-month progress reports and annual reports. Progress reports include data for the period from January 1 to June 30, and annual reports for the current reporting period from January 1 to June

31. The data on the activities carried out during the reporting period shall be sent to the Secretariat no later than July 15 of the current year in the case of the progress report and in the case of the annual report on February 15. The latter shall be prepared and published by the Secretariat no later than February 28 of the current year, and the progress report will be prepared no later than August 31. The progress report is not made public, but the Secretariat will share it with members of the National Mountain Council and stakeholders. In parallel with the monitoring process, an interim assessment of the strategy will be conducted in 2026. Although the term of strategy is not 8 years or more (but rather a 7-year period -from 2024 to 2030), its interim assessment is still taken into account. In the last year of the strategy term, in 2030, in coordination with the Secretariat, a final assessment of the document will be carried out in the form of a mixed assessment, involving both the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, as well as external independent appraisers/consultants.

In order to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy, the "2024-2030 Strategy for the Development of Highland Settlements of Georgia" and its action plan(s) projects, annual monitoring reports and interim and final assessment reports for comments will be published electronically on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development and Information of Georgia and on the social media page.

In addition, contact information of the person responsible for the strategy will be available in the relevant section of the website, which will allow representatives of the general public to send questions regarding the progress of the strategy and for additional information on the results. The updated information will also be made public on social media through official accounts.

Strategy and Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Calendar			
Report Type	Date of preparation of accounts / periodicity	Reporting period	Term of Sharing/Open Publication
Monitoring			
Progress Report	After the end of the reporting period (July-August)	6 months period (January-June)	July 30 of the given year
Annual Report	After the end of the reporting period (January-February)	1-Year period (January-December)	February 28 of the given year
Reviews			
Interim Assessment	2027 year	3-year period (January to December 2026)	June 30, 2027
Final Assessment	2031 year	7-year period (January to December 2024)	June 30, 2031

7. Logical Framework

2024-2030 STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS OF GEORGIA						
Vision		The long-term vision of the 2024-2030 strategy for the development of high mountainous settlements of Georgia is to make living and working in high mountainous settlements more attractive, especially for young people and working populations, and over time, reduce socio-economic disparities between municipalities with high mountainous settlements and non-high mountainous settlements, as well as between municipalities with high mountainous settlements and the average national indicators.				
Sectoral Priority		Entrepreneurship				
Goal 1		Creating jobs in highland settlements through diversification of the local economy			Connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):	1, 8, 9, 10
Impact Indicator 1.1:	In municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities with the share of high mountainous settlements 59% and higher) the percentage increase in the number of operating business entities per 1000 people		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2021	2026	2030	
		Indicators	34,30%	38, 3% (increase 4%)	42, 3% (increase 8%)	National Statistics Office of Georgia
Impact Indicator 1.2:	Increase in the average share percentage of the number of operating		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2022	2026	2030	

	business entities in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (21 municipalities with a share of high mountainous settlements of 59 % and higher) in the processing industry sector (Economic Nomenclature E.C.E. C Sector)	Indicators	5,9%	7,0%	9,0%	National Statistics Office of Georgia
Impact Indicator 1.3:	Turnover of the business sector in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities, in which the share of high mountainous settlements is 59% and more) Business sector turnover		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2022	2026	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia
		Indicators	2624,2	2886.6 (increase 10%)	3017.8 (increase 15%)	
Impact Indicator 1.4:	Percentage increase in the number of employees in the business sector in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities, in which the share of high mountainous settlements is 59% and more)		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2022	2026	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia
		Indicators	27413	29331, 9 (increase 7%)	31250, 8 (increase 14%)	
Objective 1.1		Supporting micro, small and medium entrepreneurship in highland settlements, especially among young people				

Outcome Indicator 1.1.1:	Increase in the percentage of businesses supported annually in highland settlements in state entrepreneurship support programs in total number		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	LEPL "Enterprise Georgia" and N(N)LE Rural Development Agency reports(s)
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	2%	4%	6%	
Outcome Indicator 1.1.2:	The percentage increase in the number of young beneficiaries supported in state entrepreneurship support programs, in high mountainous settlements		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	LEPL "Enterprise Georgia" and N(N)LE Rural Development Agency reports(s)
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	2%	4%	6%	
Outcome Indicator 1.1.3:	Percentage increase in the number of small and medium enterprises registered in municipalities with high mountainous settlements		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	3%	6%	9%	
Risk	Immigration processes, especially among young people; Lack of financial access to complicity.						
Objective 1.2		Supporting the processing sector, production of mountain niche products and tourism					
Outcome Indicator 1.2.1:	Share percentage of financing of the processing industry sector from state		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	

	programs for the promotion of entrepreneurship in high mountainous settlements (the so-called C sector of economic nomenclature)	Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	2%	4%	6%	LEPL "Enterprise Georgia" and NNLE "Rural Development Agency" reports
Outcome Indicator 1.2.2:	Percentage increase in the number of hotels and hotel-type establishments registered in municipalities with high mountainous settlements		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2021	2026	2028	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia
		Indicators	1776	2%	4%	6%	
Outcome Indicator 1.2.3:	Production rate in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities, in which the share of high mountainous settlements is 59% and higher)		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2022	2026	2028	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia
		Indicators	1891.9 (million GEL)	1930 (increase 2%)	1968 (increase 4%)	2005 (increase 6%)	
Outcome Indicator 1.2.4:	Intermediate consumption in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities, in which the share of high mountainous settlements is 59% and higher)		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2022	2026	2028	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia
		Indicators	952.7 million GEL	972 (increase 2%)	991 (increase 4%)	1010 (increase 6%)	
Risk	Immigration processes, especially among young people; Lack of own funds and grant money.						

Sectoral Priority		Infrastructure					
Goal 2		Development of public infrastructure focused on stimulating the economy and enhancing the quality of life in high mountainous settlements				Connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):	6,7, 9,10, 11
Impact Indicator 2.1:	The added value of the business sector per capita in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities with a share of high mountainous settlements of 59% and more)		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation	
		Year	2022	2026	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia	
		Indicators	2507	2757 (increase 10%)	3008 (increase 20%)		
Objective 2.1		Improving basic infrastructure in highland settlements					
Outcome Indicator 2.1.1	Number of newly registered economic entities in 21 municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities with a share of high mountainous settlements of 59% and more)		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2023	2026	2028	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia
		Indicators	4773	5059 (increase 6%)	5203 (increase 9%)	5346 (increase 12%)	
Outcome Indicator 2.1.2	The share percentage of high mountainous settlements where projects for regulating local infrastructure were implemented		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	Data from Municipalities' City Halls
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	2%	4%	6%	

Risk	Delays in the tender and road rehabilitation process; Deterioration of the road cover due to climatic events.						
Objective 2.2	Supporting the development of unique tourism potential of high mountainous settlements, especially historical areas						
Outcome Indicator 2.2.1	Percentage increase in the number of visitors in municipalities with high mountainous settlements (in 21 municipalities, in which the share of high mountainous settlements is 59% and higher)		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2023	2026	2028	2030	National Statistics Office of Georgia (domestic and international visits, in total) (percentage increase is comparable to baseline - 2023)
		Indicators	337 641	354523 (increase 5%)	371405 (increase 10%)	388287 (increase 15%)	
Risk	Delays in the tender and infrastructure arrangement process in time; Deterioration of the road cover due to climatic events.						
Objective 2.3	Promoting sustainable natural resource management and environmental infrastructure in high mountainous settlements						
Outcome Indicator 2.3.1	The percentage of the population protected from the negative effects of climate change in highland settlements		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	Information received from the Municipal Hall
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	2%	5%	10%	
Outcome Indicator 2.3.2	The share of high mountainous settlements, where the population was trained in terms of raising awareness about climate change and natural disasters		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	Report of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	2%	5%	10%	

Risk	Time-delays in the tender and infrastructure arrangement process.						
Sectoral Priority		Services					
Goal 3		Improving access to services for residents of high mountainous settlements				Connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):	3, 4, 11
Impact Indicator 3.1:	Percentage of population satisfaction in high mountainous settlements towards healthcare, education and youth services		Baseline	Medium-term Target		Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026		2030	Household Survey Report conducted within the framework of the Strategy Assessment
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	2%		4%	
Objective 3.1		Increasing access to education in municipalities with high mountainous settlements, development of vocational and non-formal education					
Outcome Indicator 3.1.1	Number of high mountainous settlements where vocational education focused on economic development is available		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2024	2026	2028	2030	Report of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia
		Indicators	9	10	12	13	
Outcome Indicator 3.1.2	Number of preschool education and education institutions updated in mountainous settlements		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	Report of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	5	7	9	
Outcome Indicator 3.1.3	Share percentage of renewed general		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2023	2026	2028	2030	

	education institutions in highland settlements	Indicators	60%	65%	70%	75%	Report of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia
Risk	Decrease in the school and preschool population, as well as young people due to immigration processes						
Objective 3.2	Developing primary health care and improving access to social services						
Outcome Indicator 3.2.1	Number of outpatient visits per capita in rural areas		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2024	2026	2028	2030	Information of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia
		Indicators	0,89	0,94	1	1,1	
Risk	Decrease in youth due to immigration processes						
Objective 3.3	Promoting life and work in the mountains through territorial marketing						
Outcome Indicator 3.3.1	Number of marketing activities supporting the promotion of high mountainous settlements		Baseline	Medium-term Target	Medium-term Target	Final Target	Source of confirmation
		Year	2025	2026	2028	2030	Information received by the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia from various implementing agencies
		Indicators	The relevant baseline will be determined in 2025	6	8	12	
Risk	Advertising content quality						

8. Annexes:

Annex No 1 – Indicators Passport

Annex No 2 – Public Consultations Report