



# FACT SHEET FROM BASELINE SURVEY

## FOR THE PROJECT:

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - GEORGIA (ENPARD III) - SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVELIHOODS IN DISADVANTAGED RURAL REGIONS OF GEORGIA (APRIL 2019)

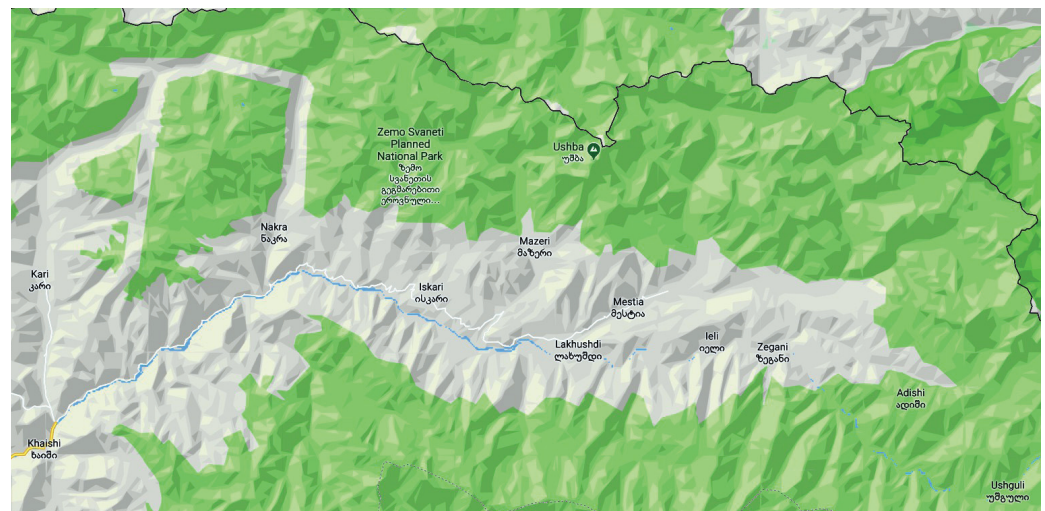
## GEOGRAPHY:

Mestia area is 3,044 square kilometers; Elevation 1 500 M; comprised by 17 communities;

## POPULATION:

Mestia population is 9,500 (Jan 2019, <https://www.geostat.ge>). 52% are women and 48% are men. The average number of adults per household in the municipality is 2.7 and the average number of household members is 3.7.

The project aims to increase livelihoods and improve the wellbeing of Georgian high mountains population of Mestia municipality, by engaging them to be key actors in the development of their territory through the implementation of the LEADER/Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) methodology.



The survey has been Conducted by **The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC)** with collaboration **CARE Austria** and **Policy and Management Consulting Research Center (PMC-RC)**.

In order to carry out comprehensive study covering all interest areas, CRRC carried out a mixed methods study:

### Desk Review;

**Key Informant Interviews** - with policy makers, NGOs, and businesses;

**Focus Groups** – 15 focus groups were conducted with men and women separately, and carried out in 15 different communities;

**Household Survey** - 484 interviews held in all 17 communities of Mestia, margin of error of 2.4%. Clusters were selected within strata with probability proportional to size. Random walk was carried out within clusters. Kish table was used to select the respondent. The survey is representative of the adult (18+) population of Mestia municipality.

The survey data is analyzed using a mixture of descriptive and inferential statistics.

# SOCIO ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

*Project puts a specific emphasis on vulnerable population and aims to improve livelihoods of vulnerable households in remote, high mountainous regions of Georgia and support their economic and social wellbeing*

## CHALLENGES FACED BY VULNERABLE POPULATION:

**Elderly people**, face additional difficulties accessing social services. This is particularly true for health services, which are critical: due to low financial resources and the limited infrastructure for healthcare in rural areas, elderly people struggle to access sufficient health care facilities.

**Young people** in mountain regions, on the other hand, suffer from a lack of opportunities for employment, education, and entertainment

**The desire to Migrate** to a bigger city is expressed by young people, especially by young girls and women. They are sensitive to the restrictions imposed by cultural norms in their communities and wish to seek more opportunities for personal development.

## VULNERABLE POPULATION AS DEFINED BY THE PROJECT:

**ELDERELY (>60): 23%** - of the population is elderly; Most elderly within the sample (70%) are female.

**YOUTH (18<45): 35%** - of the population are young people.

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED: 8%** - of the population have legally recognized internally displaced status.

**PERSONS WITH DISSABILITTIES: 2%** - of the population have legally recognized disability status.

**WOMEN AND GIRLS: 52%** - of the population. **38%** of the population are employed, more men tend to be employed than women and people who are employed tend to have more than one occupation at the same time.

**PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE: 53%** - of the population have income per person below the subsistence minimum of GEL 179.10 at the time of the survey (the local equivalent of the poverty line) –Out of which only **28%** of the population have socially vulnerable status.

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY ANALYSIS (GDA)

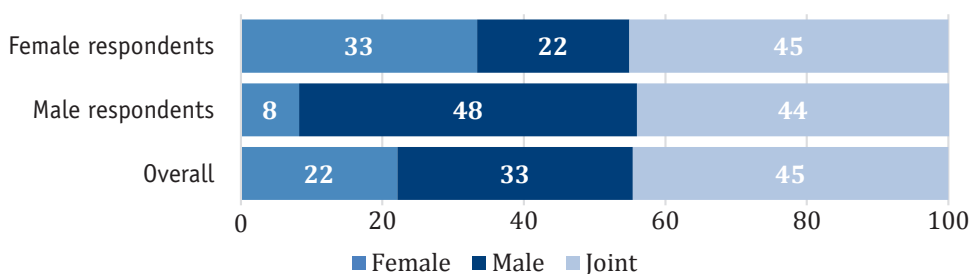
**GDA is a cornerstone for designing the activities guaranteeing that all project processes will contribute to building social integration and active participation of the vulnerable groups.**

### DECISION MAKING POWER

Men are the primary decision-makers in community settings, (both in formal and informal settings).

**66%** of households are men headed, and **26%** women headed, **8%** are women and men headed. Further women's decision-making power differs across different domains. They tend to be more presented in healthcare, childcare, and education sectors.

Main bread winner in the household according to female and male respondents (%)



Men tend to overestimate their roles in households and household economic activity and underestimate the role of women.

# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

*Project aims to improve diversification and competitiveness of the rural economy, the inclusion of vulnerable groups, and the sustainable management of natural resources in Mestia municipality by implementing the LEADER approach.*

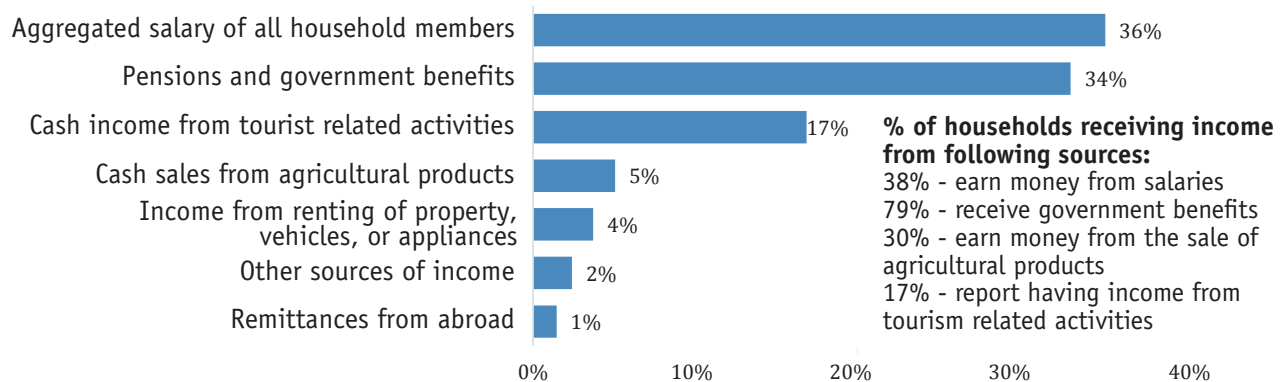
## INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

**243 GEL** - is the average total income per household per month.

**38%** of the population are employed, more men tend to be employed than women.

And people who are employed tend to have more than one occupation at the same time.

Income distribution for main income sources  
(% of income earned from following sources)



## TOURISM

**16 134 GEL** is income from tourism for those engaged in tourism (17%), per household/per year.

In recent years, Mestia has experienced a significant increase in tourism. The market remains largely informal, with many families renting out rooms in their homes and providing other informal services to tourists that visit the region. Majority of them are owning and running a guesthouse or hotel business.

Tourism businesses are more common in more developed areas: Ushguli, Mestia. Other communities are interested in tourism businesses and would like infrastructure to be developed to support the development of this industry.

Many focus group participants said that appropriate infrastructure – such as roads and waste management – was a barrier to attracting and accommodating more tourists.

## AGRICULTURE

**1 776 GEL** is income from agriculture for those commercially engaged in agriculture (30%), per household/per year.

Animal husbandry is prevailed form of agriculture in Mestia, although not all of the those engaged in agriculture have income from selling agriculture products..

75% of households have at least one agriculture animal but only 30% report to have income from agriculture product sale.

Households that live below the poverty line and that have only elderly members are significantly less likely to engage in agriculture.

# PUBLIC SERVICES

*The selected method of programming supports the involvement of local actors in the design and implementation of strategies and in decision-making for the development of their territories.*



## INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

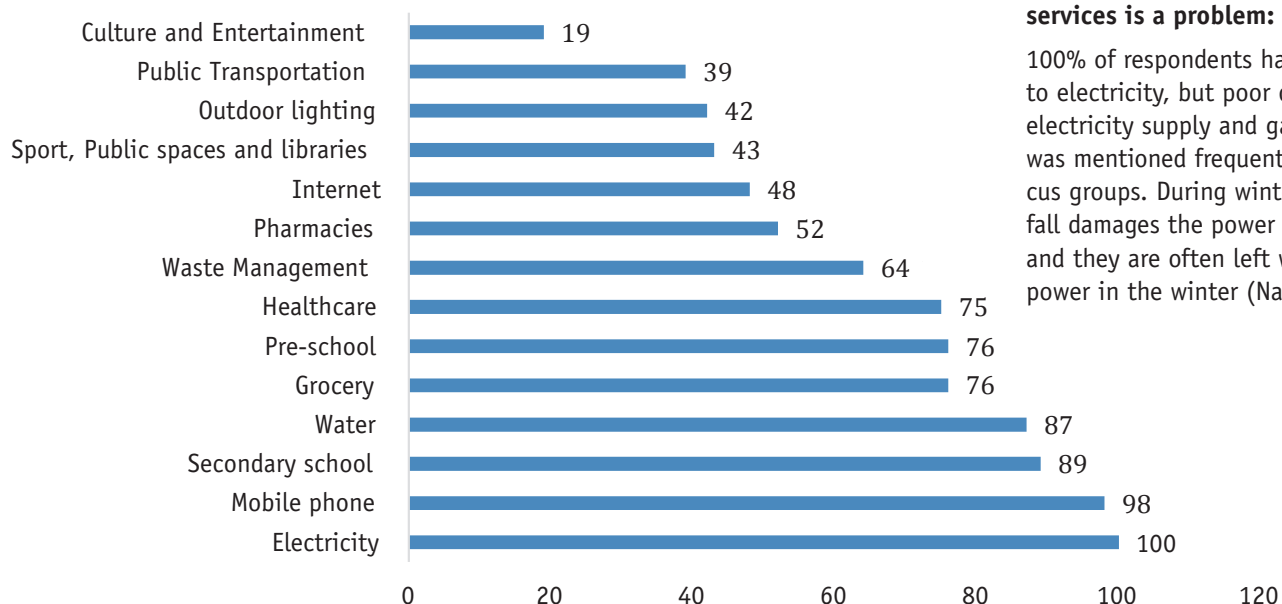
With inclusive governance people engage with the local government more than any other available forum. Nearly no one engaged with third sector organizations, and people are rarely part of other types of membership organization.

People believe that the relatively difficult circumstances of everyday life lead to low levels of civic engagement. Another barrier to participation that shows up in the survey is the fact that people report there are not groups to join in their community (65%).

**WOMEN** - Women were overrepresented in education and healthcare, while men occupy the majority of leadership positions in the Sakrebulo.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

### Households with access to the following services (%)



### Very often not the access to services but the quality of the services is a problem:

100% of respondents had access to electricity, but poor quality of electricity supply and gas supply was mentioned frequently in focus groups. During winter, snow-fall damages the power lines and they are often left without power in the winter (Nakra).

Different social and demographic groups have differing levels of access to services. People in rural areas; those in households below the poverty line; and people in households who have a member with a disability have significantly lower levels of access to services.