Individual Project[1]

Interim Report[2]

Via e-mail to zivilgesellschaft-international@ada.gv.at

Project N° 8108-09/2020/GenPro/1-ZGI/2020

Project title: **Youth Voices for Peace**

Contract partner in Austria	Local project partner(s)
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Project officer, contact: Morgan Siegel, morgan.siegel@care.at, +43 1 715 0715-47	Project officer, contact: Nato Antia, Nato.Antia@care.ge +995 599 85 91 45

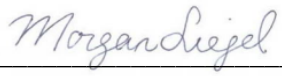| Country/countries: Georgia	Region/locality: Kazreti, Mereti, Rike, and Muzhava communities (Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli, and Samegrelo regions)
Duration: 24 months from: 01.01.2021	to: 31.12.2022
Reallocation(s): Reallocation request approved by ADA on March 18, 2022.	Extension of programme until: N/A
Reporting period: 01.01.2021-31.12.2021	Date of presentation: March 31, 2022

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[1] Please delete inapplicable items throughout the document

[2] Please delete as applicable

Financial statement per 31.12.2021 (EUR)

Total costs	Cleared items	Submitted for examination	Open items
375,000.00	N/A	128,566.65	246,433.35

31.3.2022

Morgan Liegel

Date and signature

Date, author(s) of report: March 31, 2022, Nato Antia (Project Manager, CARE Caucasus), Morgan Siegel (Program Officer, CARE Austria)

Brief <u>description of *project*</u> progress[3] (German, max. 2 pages)

Während des gesamten Berichtszeitraums hatten der Ausbruch von COVID-19 und die hohe Inzidenzrate in den Zielgemeinden erhebliche Auswirkungen auf die Motivation und das Wohlbefinden der jungen Menschen, da Schulen geschlossen wurden, Lockdowns verhängt wurden, Abstandsregelungen in Kraft traten und Offline-Veranstaltungen eingeschränkt wurden. Das Projekt ging mit diesen Einschränkungen um, indem es ausgewählte Schulungsaktivitäten, Treffen und die Kommunikation unter Gleichaltrigen auf ein Online-Format umstellte und bestimmte Aktivitäten nach Bedarf verschob. In einer Zeit, in der Jugendliche mit Online-Aktivitäten überflutet werden, stellte die Aufrechterhaltung ihrer Motivation und ihres Engagements jedoch eine neue Herausforderung für das Projekt dar.

Trotz der Herausforderungen, die COVID-19 mit sich brachte, erzielte das Projekt im ersten Jahr der Durchführung mehrere wichtige Ergebnisse. In allen vier Zielgemeinden wurden Jugendgruppen gebildet. Durch den Aufbau von Kapazitäten erwarben die Jugendlichen praktische Kompetenzen in den Bereichen Forschung und Aktivismus und entwickelten lokale Aktionspläne, um die von ihnen festgestellten Probleme in den Bereichen Jugendbeteiligung, Geschlechtergleichstellung, und Frieden und Sicherheit anzugehen. Nach der Entwicklung lokaler Aktionspläne begannen die Jugendlichen mit der Arbeit, um positive Veränderungen in ihren Gemeinden herbeizuführen. Durch die Unterstützung des Projekts fühlten sich die jungen Menschen nach eigenen Angaben gestärkt und motiviert und begannen, über ihre Rollen, Rechte und Pflichten in ihren Gemeinden nachzudenken. Die Gemeinden wiederum wurden mobilisiert und haben begonnen, den Aktivismus der Jugendlichen anzuerkennen und zu unterstützen.

Aktivitäten in der Anfangsphase

Im Rahmen des Projekts wurden drei Hauptstudien durchgeführt, nämlich das **Baseline-Assessment**, die **Gender- und Konflikt-Analyse** und das **Stakeholder-Mapping**, die als Grundlage für die effektive Gestaltung und Umsetzung des Projekts dienten. Anschließend führte das Projekt eine umfangreiche Mobilisierung der Gemeinden durch, um das Bewusstsein für das Projekt in der Region zu schärfen, die Zielgemeinden zu identifizieren und die aktive Beteiligung der Begünstigten zu fördern. Traditionelle und innovative Ansätze für die Mobilisierung der Gemeinden und die Verbreitung von Informationen wurden angewandt. Der Ansatz des Projekts, um die direkt Begünstigten zu rekrutieren, stellte das Engagement der Jugendlichen sicher und baute Vertrauen zwischen dem Projekt und den Zielgemeinden auf. CARE führte in jeder der Zielgemeinden erfolgreich **Projekteinführungsveranstaltungen** durch, die auf den Ideen und Interessen der lokalen Jugendlichen basierten. Während der Planung und Durchführung dieser Veranstaltungen übernahmen die Jugendlichen vor Ort die Verantwortung für den Prozess und unternahmen die ersten Schritte, um sich als potenzielle Führungspersönlichkeit in der Gemeinde zu präsentieren. Die Veranstaltungen vereinten die gesamte Gemeinde und ermöglichten durch ihren partizipatorischen Ansatz allen Gemeindemitgliedern zu der Veranstaltung beizutragen oder an ihr teilzunehmen.

Der **Aufbau von Kapazitäten für die Projektmitarbeiter**, sowie **interne Planungsworkshops** waren ebenfalls wichtige Aktivitäten zu Beginn des Projekts. Insbesondere wurde ein sechstägiger Online-Workshop mit CARE Balkans koordiniert, um das Programm der Balkan Young Men Initiative (YMI) vorzustellen und die Fähigkeiten der Projektmitarbeiter in Bezug auf neue Ansätze zur Einbindung von Männern und Jungen, zur Förderung der Gleichstellung der Geschlechter und zur Bewältigung von Konflikten und Gewalt zu verbessern. Interne Projektplanungsworkshops stellten die Grundlage für die gemeinsame Umsetzung des Projekts

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[3] The brief description must be submitted in German. The other parts of the report and any additions should be written in English. Consultation with the unit Civil Society International and Humanitarian Aid (ZGI&HUHI) is required for documents in other languages.

dar. CARE und IDPWA Consent entwickelten zentrale Projektdokumente, die als Grundlage für den Erfolg des Projekts dienten und eine Struktur für die effektive Verwaltung und Umsetzung des Projekts schufen. Die Planungsworkshops unterstützten die Schaffung eines effektiven Koordinationsmechanismus zwischen den Partnern, und häufige Treffen während des gesamten Berichtszeitraums gewährleisteten einen gemeinschaftlichen Planungsprozess.

ER 1

Das Projekt richtete in allen vier Zielgemeinden **Jugendinitiativgruppen** ein und bot ihnen eine intensive Schulung im Bereich des partizipativen Lernens und Handelns (Participatory Learning and Action - PLA), die sie in die Lage versetzte, die PLA-Instrumente in der Praxis anzuwenden und die wichtigsten sozialen und menschlichen Sicherheitsbedürfnisse in ihren Gemeinden durch eine Bewertung zu ermitteln. Auf der Grundlage der Analyse der Bedürfnisse in den Gemeinden unterstützte das Projekt die jungen Menschen bei der **Entwicklung lokaler Aktionspläne (LAPs)**, die wichtige Schritte zur Lösung der festgestellten Probleme in Bezug auf Frieden und menschliche Sicherheit enthalten. Im Rahmen des Projekts wurden die Jugendgruppen auch in der Rolle junger Menschen in der Gemeinschaft und im Jugendaktivismus geschult. Dadurch wurden ihnen Fähigkeiten vermittelt und ihre Motivation gesteigert, um kleine Jugendinitiativen in ihren Gemeinden umzusetzen und Gleichaltrige einzubeziehen. Am Ende des Berichtszeitraums präsentierten junge Führungskräfte aus den Zielgemeinden die Ergebnisse der Bedarfsanalyse und ihre LAP-Entwürfe auf einem **zweitägigen Workshop in Tiflis**. Der Workshop bot den Jugendlichen die Möglichkeit, Kontakte zu knüpfen, sich auszutauschen, Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede zu entdecken und eine bessere Zusammenarbeit untereinander aufzubauen.

ER 2

Das Projekt unterstützte die Jugendinitiativgruppen in den Zielgemeinden bei der Durchführung von **drei Veranstaltungen in den Zielgemeinden**. Die Veranstaltungen schärften das Bewusstsein anderer Jugendlicher und der Gemeinschaft für Menschenrechtsfragen, Gleichstellung der Geschlechter, Vielfalt und die wichtige Rolle der Jugend. Die Veranstaltungen bildeten auch die Grundlage für Diskussionen über die vorrangigen Anliegen, die in den Gemeinden ermittelt wurden, und die lokalen Aktionspläne, die die Jugendlichen als Reaktion auf diese Anliegen entwickelt hatten.

Die Projektaktivitäten erreichten im Berichtszeitraum 250 direkte und 481 indirekte Begünstigte. Einschränkungen durch COVID-19 verringerten die Anzahl der indirekt Begünstigten während des Berichtszeitraums, insbesondere durch die erforderliche Anpassung oder Verlegung von einigen Veranstaltungen und Kampagnen von Jugendlichen. In der kommenden Berichtsperiode wird eine größere Reichweite des Projekts erwartet, wobei das Gesamtergebnis dennoch von COVID-19 beeinflusst sein wird.

List of Abbreviations:

ABL	Administrative Border Line
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
CC	CARE Caucasus
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EMB	Engaging Men and Boys
FCM	Feedback and Complaints Mechanism
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
IDP	Internally displaced persons
LAP	Local Action Plan
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MoU	Memoranda of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PSHEA	Preventing Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse

SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
YMI	Young Men Initiative
YPS	Youth, peace and security

Detailed description of project progress

1. Project outcome achieved / discernible impact

a) Target groups reached

Project activities during the reporting period reached 250 direct and 481 indirect beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries included male and female youth (aged 14 to 29) in four communities in Georgia that participated in trainings, workshops and project events. Indirect beneficiaries included family members of direct beneficiary youth, community members reached though youth initiatives, local government representatives and local community members who participated in project events.

COVID-19 restrictions heavily impacted the number of indirect beneficiaries reached during the project period, in particular through awareness raising events and campaigns by young people. Furthermore, as COVID-19 safety regulations limited the organization of large community events, the majority of activities implemented focused on capacity building for target youth. The project expects to reach an increased number of beneficiaries, both direct and indirect, in the second year of implementation.

b) Activities implemented

Inception Activities

Internal workshops

At the outset of the project, CARE organized a two-day inception workshop for all project staff, including staff from CARE and local partner IDPWA Consent. During the workshop, the following objectives were achieved:

- The project management structure, format and frequency of coordination meetings, and internal information flow were established and agreed upon;
- The specifics of the "Youth Voices for Peace" project were discussed among the partners;
- Project staff were informed of donor regulations and compliance requirements;
- The project implementation schedule and detailed implementation plan were elaborated, and the partner's roles and responsibilities were reviewed;
- The project framework was discussed, the monitoring and evaluation matrix was developed, and the project communications plan was finalized.[4]

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[4] While CARE initially planned to discuss the findings of the project baseline study and gender and conflict analysis during the inception workshop, this was not possible as these studies were completed in July 2021. Instead, CARE discussed the findings during validation workshops once the studies were completed.

Following the inception workshop, monthly planning and coordination meetings occurred, as well as constant communication between the partners. The effective management and coordination mechanisms established between the partner organizations at the beginning of the project enabled smooth implementation throughout the reporting period.

CARE Austria conducted online training to improve the project team's capacity to use the CARE gender marker[5] and ensure gender integration in the project cycle. Both CARE and IDPWA Consent staff participated in the training. As a result, CARE's Gender Marker Vetting form was compiled, defining the project as gender-responsive.

CARE also hired a Conflict Sensitivity Specialist who supported the project team by linking conflict analysis results with the program cycle, as well as by delivering trainings and technical assistance sessions for implementing partners and stakeholders involved in the project's capacity-building activities. From August 26 to 27, 2021, the specialist delivered a two-day training in conflict sensitivity and the "do no harm" principle for the project team and local focal points of the partner organization. The training comprised sessions on conflict analysis, phases of conflict, and methods for overcoming conflict. Sessions were tailored to the local context and realities, and included case studies, group work and discussions. The training raised participants' awareness of: the types of conflict; the role of local actors and diplomacy in resolving armed, ethnic and religious conflicts; peacebuilding; and challenges and opportunities in conflict resolution. Building staff capacity in these areas will support the integration of conflict sensitivity aspects into activities throughout the project, and group work and discussions facilitated the development of new ideas for how the project team can better engage young people on peacebuilding issues.

In close coordination with the project team, the Conflict Sensitivity Specialist also drafted a project-specific Glossary of Conflict Sensitivity terms. The glossary draft is currently under final revision. Once complete, the glossary will be shared among project participants and will support the process of capacity-building on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding.

Baseline Study

During the reporting period, CARE completed the baseline study, including selecting and coordinating with a contractor (DEPA Consulting) to develop the study methodology, test data collection tools, collect data and analyse findings. The baseline study objectives were as follows: a) provide a baseline for all project logframe indicators; b) provide data on the status of female and male youth participation in local decision making and peacebuilding processes; and c) inform project design, indicators and targets for enhanced inclusion and to ensure the project is monitored in the most specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-based manner.

The baseline study involved a mixed-methods approach, including desk research, qualitative data collection (24 key informant interviews and 20 focus group discussions) and quantitative data collection (370 face-to-face survey interviews in target communities) in the target communities and municipalities. Key informant interviews were conducted with project staff, local NGOs, persons with disabilities, youth group leaders, and youth council members and representatives of national and local authorities. Focus group discussions were conducted with female and male youth and general community representatives, and face-to-face survey interviews were conducted via random sampling.

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[5]Please see here additional information on CARE's gender marker: https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/images/in-practice/Gender-marker/care_gender_marker_external_comms-1.pdf

The alarming spread of COVID-19 and the increased number of cases in the Rike Community affected the contractor's ability to complete qualitative data collection within the agreed timeframe. To address this, the timeframe was extended by three weeks so the contractor could safely complete data collection. The delay did not affect the quality of the data and subsequent report.

During a validation workshop on August 6, 2021, the project team and contractor carefully discussed and analysed the findings and recommendations of the baseline study. Findings were considered during the implementation of the activities, especially during the engagement of local youth and local government representatives. Based on the baseline report, the values for the logframe indicators were discussed by the project team and defined.

For information on the findings, recommendations and methodology of the baseline study please see Annex 3. Baseline Report.

Gender and Conflict Analysis

In May 2021, in parallel with the baseline study, CARE initiated a gender and conflict analysis with the following objectives:

1. To identify the various gender-specific barriers, opportunities, gaps, and needs concerning male and female youth and more meaningful participation in peacebuilding.
2. To develop conflict profiles of the target communities and identify the local capacity for peace, focusing on existing systems and mechanisms for conflict resolution and peacebuilding; and
3. To provide recommendations to advance project strategies on gender and conflict transformative approaches.

To conduct the analysis, CARE again enlisted DEPA Consulting as the contractor and worked closely with them on the development of the methodology and data collection tools. The Gender and Conflict Analysis was based on a mixed-methods approach, including desk research, qualitative data collection (26 key informant interviews and 12 focus group discussions) and quantitative data collection (370 face-to-face survey interviews). Key informant interviews were conducted with the project staff, international and local NGOs, local youth group leaders from the target communities, representatives of national and local authorities in target municipalities, and United Nations agencies. Focus group discussions were conducted with youth from internally displaced persons (IDP) compact settlements (or ethnic minorities), and wider community groups along the administrative borderline (ABL). Face-to-face survey interviews were conducted via random sampling among the communities. Similar to the baseline study, the contractor faced challenges during data collection in the Rike Community due to COVID-19, resulting in a three-week delay in study completion.

During a validation workshop, the project team and contractor discussed and analysed the key findings and the recommendations of the study. The recommendations were then reflected on by the project team and incorporated into the design of activities. Special attention was paid to ensuring the equal participation of girls and boys in the project, building the local government's understanding of its role in peacebuilding processes, and encouraging the local government to recognize the important role of youth in peacebuilding and decision-making processes.

Results were also used to inform the conflict sensitivity training provided to the project team by the Conflict Sensitivity Specialist in August 2021. The specialist provides ongoing guidance to the project team to incorporate conflict sensitivity aspects and the recommendations

of the analysis into the program. CARE's in-house capacity on gender was also utilized to ensure that the design of the program was gender-sensitive and reflects the findings of the analysis. Khatuna Madurashvilil, CARE senior manager of the regional GBV program, supported the team in this regard.

For information on the findings, recommendations and methodology of the gender and conflict analysis please see Annex 4. Gender and Conflict Analysis Report.

Stakeholder Mapping

In May 2021, CARE initiated a stakeholder analysis and mapping exercise with the following objectives:

1. To identify key actors at the national and local levels that will act as essential entry points for the project and whose buy-in and involvement in the process will influence achieving project objectives;
2. To develop a catalogue of the government and international organizations' policies, strategies, and programs concerning youth activism in the peace and human security agenda and explore their synergies with the project; and
3. To develop a comprehensive stakeholder map reflecting the key actors' level of interest and influence and provide recommendations for establishing linkages and ensuring their engagement.

The stakeholder analysis revealed key players at the national and community levels that could contribute to project activities and provided recommendations to the project team for engaging them. Notably, based on the recommendations, the project established connections with the Youth Agency. The Youth Agency is the main actor at the national level focused on youth, actively involved in developing the youth agenda, and collaborating with local Youth Departments in the target municipalities. At the local level in all four target municipalities, the project team established connections and actively collaborated with the Youth Departments (within City Halls). These departments were identified as key players, as they implement various activities for youth and offer grant projects for local NGOs. Collaboration was also established with schools in Rike, Mereti and Muzhava communities. During the next reporting period, the project plans to develop closed cooperation with the business sector, as well as gender and youth councils in all target municipalities.

Additional recommendations provided by the stakeholder mapping that will be considered in existing project activities include: support to the creation of youth spaces in Rike and Mereti communities; assistance to local media in Bolnisi and Tsalenjikha to strengthen their capacity in broadcasting about local youth problems; and empowering local NGOs in Tsalenjikha to increase their contribution in youth-related activities.

For information on the findings, recommendations and methodology of the stakeholder mapping please see Annex 5. Stakeholder Mapping Report.

Community Mobilization

Development of community mobilization plan → Community meetings to introduce the project → Development of social passports → Selection of target communities → Establishment of youth initative groups → Project launch events

Community mobilization represented a key activity during the inception phase of the project. To ensure effective implementation of the activity, IDPWA Consent, in discussion with CARE Caucasus, developed a community mobilization plan. Throughout community mobilization,

IDPWA Consent engaged their four focal points to communicate with and mobilize the target groups, gather information, and support the organization of events. Focal points are active women and young men based in the target communities identified through previous interventions of the partner organization.

At the outset, the project team held introductory meetings in the municipalities with local stakeholders, including representatives of the local authorities such as governors, gender advisors, and youth department representatives. The meetings provided the stakeholders with information concerning the project, set the basis for support and participation in the project interventions, and agreed on consolidated actions for community mobilization.

16 community mobilization meetings and events[6] were then conducted in the target communities. Meetings were held with 1) youth at schools (aged 14-18); 2) youth outside of school structures (aged 19-29); and 3) general community members. During the meetings, IDPWA Consent and CARE shared information about the project, its objectives, and upcoming activities. Locations for the activities were carefully selected to ensure equal access for marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities, and COVID-19 prevention procedures were maintained.

Alongside these efforts, community mobilization was conducted using various approaches and communication tools elaborated in the project communication and visibility plan. Project brochures were developed in Georgian, Azeri and Armenian languages and disseminated in the target communities to deliver information concerning the project objectives and its intervention strategy.

The community mobilization process informed the selection of specific communities to be involved in the project. Based on the first wave of the meetings conducted by IDPWA Consent, social passports were developed reflecting the social and demographic data of three communities in each targeted municipality. During this process, partners carefully followed the selection criteria detailed in the project proposal. Given criteria were enriched by complementary criteria, such as the presence of other organizations implementing youth targeting projects, access to public transport within the communities, availability of social spaces for gathering project participants, and access to the internet. The last criteria was critical for project implementation, should COVID-19 regulations require the provision of training sessions through online means.

After analyzing the data presented in the social passports, as well as observations during the community meetings, partners defined the target communities in each municipality, namely:
- Mujhava community in Tsalenjikha municipality
- Mereti community in Gori municipality
- Rike community in Zugdidi municipality
- Kazreti community in Bolnisi municipality

During the initial community mobilization meetings, youth participants proposed, and expressed interest in, organizing concluding community mobilization events that would unite the community through various sports, educational, cultural, and creative activities. IDPWA Consent's focal points and coordinators subsequently worked with the youth, through both

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[6] The 16 community mobilization meetings include 12 meetings with stakeholders (three per target community) and four project launch events (one per target community).

physical and online meetings, to shape the ideas and event agendas, and to provide technical assistance to ensure the successful organization of the events. As a result of this preparatory work, youth were actively involved in the planning of the final community mobilization events, which served as official project launch events. Project launch events occurred on the following dates:

Date	Community
July 1, 2021	Muzhava, Tsalenjikha Municipality
July 5, 2021	Mereti, Gori Municipality
July 9, 2021	Kazreti, Bolnisi Municipality
July 16, 2021	Rike, Zugdidi Municipality

During the launch events, CARE Caucasus and IDPWA Consent representatives once again shared information concerning the project, its objectives, and upcoming activities. In addition, representatives of the municipalities (such as the Mayor, Director of the Youth Department, and Director of Cultural Affairs Department) delivered speeches and expressed their full support for the project. In all four communities, the new "Day of the Community" was established and will be celebrated each year moving forward. Furthermore, special events marking the history and traditions of the community were organized, including sports competitions, music and dance performances, handicraft and cultural exhibitions, and quizzes (which included questions about the project and the local community). For example:

- In Rike, a photo exhibition of local, ancient archaeological findings was made. The award of "honorable citizen of Rike" was also established and the oldest teacher received the community award;
- In Mereti, an exhibition of handcrafted local wool rugs and womenswear was organized;
- In Muzhava, local dances and an exhibition of local crafts took place; and
- In Kazreti, a music and dance performance with the participation of young people from different ethnic groups was organized, alongside chess competitions and different games for young people.

Project launch events attracted the attention of the target communities and created a strong foundation for the successful implementation of the project. Presenting the project through such a participatory approach increased the trust and interest of the local communities in the project. After a long period of curfew and quarantine, the launch events provided youth and communities with an opportunity to celebrate. Furthermore, a main achievement of the events was the active role taken by youth in the development of the ideas, planning, negotiation and implementation of the events. Young people divided the roles and responsibilities for the organization of the events. In the preparatory process, active communication was also established with local government representatives.

Project launch events in all four communities brought together more than 500 people. Events engaged all representatives of the community, including elderly people, and ethnic and religious minorities. Besides community members, representatives of the ADA, the local municipality, civil society organizations, and the media attended the events. However, it should be noted that not all attendees signed the registration forms. As the events were conducted in open spaces, it was difficult to track all participants and ask them to sign the lists, as some attendees did not visit the registration desks. There were also a number of minors who did not sign the lists, but actively participated in the entertainment and sports activities.

According to registration lists, 293 community representatives (61 in Kazreti; 78 in Muzhava; 93 in Rike; 61 in Mereti) attended the project launch events, of which 58% were female.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, the project team developed an expression of interest form used for the identification and selection of beneficiaries and to gauge the eagerness of young people to be involved in the project. The form was distributed to the young people in the target communities using both online forms and hard copies, including during the project launch events.

In total, 92 young persons (53 female, 39 male) filled out the expression of interest form and thereby confirmed their interest in engaging in the project.

Balkan Young Men Initiative

At the outset of the reporting period, CARE hosted an online experience sharing and capacity building workshop led by CARE Balkans and implementing partners. The workshop consisted of six sessions introducing the Young Men Initiative (YMI) methodology and its implementation strategies to the CARE and IDPWA Consent teams. Through the sessions, which served as training-of-trainers, 13 staff of CARE in Georgia and IDPWA Consent were acquainted with approaches and practical tools for Engaging Men and Boys (EMB) in action. The workshop further increased the capacities of project staff on leveraging these tools and approaches to promote gender equality and address conflict and violence.

Initially, CARE planned to host CARE Balkans representatives in Tbilisi and conduct the workshop in-person. However, in light of COVID-19 prevention guidance at the time, CARE hosted the first workshop online and rescheduled the exchange to Georgia for spring 2022. During this future visit, CARE Balkans representatives will provide practical training for the project team and members of the youth initiative groups, as well as support the project team in adjusting project strategies for better engaging men and boys in the target communities.

Setup of a Feedback and Complaints Mechanism in the Target Communities

In the first quarter of project implementation, a feedback and complaints mechanism (FCM) was established to strengthen the accountability of the intervention and ensure transparency towards program participants and key stakeholders. CARE's standard FCM operational manual was modified to account for the project's specific requirements and resources, and CARE consulted with local stakeholders to ensure the system was adapted to the local context. As a result of these consultations, the project set up a secure email and hotline for submission of feedback and complaints, and designated IDPWA Consents' focal points as responsible for receiving and filing the feedback and complaints. An internal workshop dedicated to FCM and Preventing Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (PSHEA) was conducted with the entire project team, including focal points and coordinators of the partner organization. Information concerning the FCM mechanism was presented on the last page of the project leaflet and shared with the target communities.

ER1 - Trained female and male youth are better able to identify, articulate, and advocate for their peace and security concerns

A1.1 Training young men and women in Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)

CARE initiated preparatory work for the training in PLA in August 2021[7]. Based on the assessment of the COVID-19 situation, the implementing partners and CARE agreed that the first round of trainings in PLA would be conducted online via the Zoom platform. Prior to the trainings, the project team conducted preparatory meetings with IRIS Group, the contractor selected to lead the trainings. During the meetings, the three-day training program, as well as methods, roles and responsibilities were collaboratively clarified and finalized.

The facilitators used a variety of methods during the training, such as brain shower[8], presentations, group work, role-play and discussion. In addition, several online platforms were used to make the sessions interactive.

Learning objectives of the PLA training
• Participants are familiarized with the online format of the training, ground rules and the training agenda;
• Participants learn about their community, and reflect on their role on a personal and social level;
• Participants are familiarized with existing social norms in the community, reflect on behaviors, and begin challenging different social inequalities;
• Participants are familiarized with the rights-based approach with the main focus on gender roles and security concerns,
• Participants reflect on the importance of participation and understand its value as a fundamental principle of participatory democratic communities. Participants challenge existing dominant power dynamics in the communities;
• Participants understand the idea of active citizenship and the importance of taking actions for creating a more inclusive society;
• Participants map and analyse the community in terms of resources and actors, create maps and share them; they are familiarized with community mapping as a participatory working tool; and
• Participants understand the principles of participatory community research, are familiarized with the community research questionnaire and are ready to conduct the community needs assessment.

In total, 56 young people (35 female, 21 male) from the target communities took part in the PLA trainings. These young people, hereafter referred to as the youth initiative groups (one per community), were selected based on community mobilization efforts. Trainings for each group occurred on the following dates:

Date	Community
September 18-20, 2021	Kazreti, Bolnisi Municipality
September 24-26, 2021	Muzhava, Tsalenjikha Municipality
October 3-5, 2021	Rike, Zugdidi Municipality
October 10-12, 2021	Mereti, Gori Municipality

Participant evaluation revealed a high level of satisfaction with the PLA training, as expressed through oral feedback, in the online chat during each day, and daily rating of satisfaction with the program on a scale of one to five. Alongside gathering feedback, the facilitators observed the level of energy, concentration and understanding in the group. At the conclusion of the training, an evaluation questionnaire was distributed and responses revealed

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[7] PLA is a practical adaptive research strategy that enables diverse groups and individuals to learn, act together in a cooperative manner to focus on issues of joint concern, identify challenges and generate positive responses, which will be outlined in action plans, in a collaborative and democratic manner.

[8] Brain shower, or brainstorm, is a method of group discussion in which new ideas are generated and discussed.

that participants evaluated the content, methods and facilitation as 'very good' on a scale from one to five (with one as 'very bad' and five as 'very good').

Despite the efforts of the project team, the online format of the trainings affected the overall process of mobilization and engagement of the participants. Due to technical issues, it was challenging to start sessions on time and there were some instances where participants attending via mobile phones could not access the tools and platforms for training activities. To resolve this, CARE prompted the majority of participants to switch to laptops. However, while the group dynamic was affected by the online setting and technical challenges, participant engagement in discussions remained high.

After the PLA training, participants conducted a community assessment in four areas: a) peace and security; b) gender roles; c) youth participation in local decision-making; and d) access to resources, services and public spaces. IRIS Group developed the research questionnaire used for the assessment, with feedback from the CARE Caucasus team and Conflict Sensitivity Specialist. Participant feedback gathered during the PLA training session was also taken into account.

The community assessment enabled participants to employ newly-acquired PLA skills to identify and analyze their own and community priorities for peace and human security, to learn about different needs and interests of the community related to the thematic areas of the assessment, to analyze social challenges in the community, and to begin thinking about solutions. Participants were divided into four thematic groups according to their areas of interest and received detailed instructions on how to carry out the assessment and administer the questionnaires. While conducting the assessment (in-person interviews), participants received coaching and support from local focal points and the team of facilitators. The target groups of the community assessment included: youth aged 14 to 18 and 18 to 29 years old; teachers; and the general public, parents and organizations working in the community.

The data gathered during the community assessment was analyzed by the IRIS Group and the results were presented and discussed with the participants.

A1.2 Developing local action plans by the youth

Following the PLA trainings and based on the community assessment results, workshops were conducted for the youth initiative groups on how to develop local action plans (LAPs).

In preparation for the workshops, CARE conducted a consultative meeting with the IRIS Group facilitators. The needs and capacities of the youth initiative groups, as well as differences among target regions, were discussed and analyzed. Based on this, CARE and IRIS group then defined the learning objectives, content and methodology of the workshops. Workshops on the development of the LAPs were conducted as follows:

Date	Community
October 16-17, 2021	Kazreti, Bolnisi Municipality
October 23-24, 2021	Muzhava, Tsalenjikha Municipality
October 30-31, 2021	Mereti, Gori Municipality
November 6-7, 2021	Rike, Zugdidi Municipality

Workshops occurred face-to-face, with the exception of the workshop in Kazreti due to an increased number of COVID-19 cases at the public school. CARE, in consultation with the local partner, decided to use a face-to-face format after assessing the learning needs, ca-

pacities and motivation of the participants, as well as analyzing the feedback from the facilitators. CARE ensured the workshops were organized in compliance with the Government of Georgia's COVID-19 safety regulations. Specifically, all participants, trainers and project staff attending the workshops completed PCR tests and wore face masks.[9]

During the workshops, the youth initiative groups learned about the results of the community assessment, evaluated the research process, and selected the issue that they want to work on. To support the participants to develop the LAPs, this process was followed: 1) participants reflected on which of the four areas analyzed through the community research attracted their interest, and for which they would be motivated to work on in upcoming months; 2) after forming small teams based on their interest area, participants prioritized the three most important issues with the help of leading questions; 3) finally, following a similar process, participants prioritized the final issue that they, as a team, would select for their action plans. Focus was placed on teams' capacities, interests and resources to influence the specific problem. In the evaluation of the workshop, participants rated their level of satisfaction with this process at the highest level.

Learning objectives of the workshops

- Results of the community research are presented to participants, and participants reflect on the research process;
- Based on the research results, participants prioritize the issues and form working groups;
- Participants analyze and reflect on the causes and effects of the selected issues, and are familiarized with mind-mapping techniques, such as the problem and solution tree method;
- Based on the selected issues, participants define and formulate specific aims to work on in actions plans; and
- Participants design the idea with aims and methods and create a blueprint of the LAP.

At the workshop, participants were also introduced to the blueprint of the LAP and each team began working on the sections of their plan, such as the aim, problem, methods and solutions. The step-by-step approach of creating action plans and seeing results at each stage motivated the participants and demonstrated how action plans can be created based on the real community needs they assessed.

For the majority of participants, this represented their first experience with non-formal training, conducting an assessment and working on an action plan. As a result of their limited experience and competencies, additional support was needed from the side of the facilitators and the project team. To address this, the facilitators provided intensive one-month online coaching to each team to support them in the finalization of the action plans. The project team also conducted several online meetings with young people to address their questions, clarify the process and provide technical support in the development of the LAPs. The mentoring process encompassed coaching for 15 teams: four teams in each community of Mereti, Rike and Kazreti; and three teams in Muzhava.

The teams developed the following ideas for their action plans[10]:

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[9] On October 20, 2021 via email, CARE received confirmation from ADA to use available budget savings to test participants with PCR tests.
[10] The 15 teams represented subteams of the youth initiative groups (one per community). The youth initiative groups worked to develop one LAP each, with the subteams contributing information relevant to their selected topics.

Kazreti
1. Tackling misconceptions and stereotypes regarding gender among the older generation by organizing and implementing information campaigns, community discussions, training on women's rights and gender roles.
2. Supporting school students in realizing their potential and developing social skills by organizing clubs, various events, competition and information campaigns.
3. Supporting young people to become more active and establish better relations by organizing an open community space, advocacy and information campaigns.
4. Increasing engagement of young people by creating a youth space and organizing diverse activities, such as a youth festival, active citizenship workshops, youth club, picnics, street art and charity events.

Mereti
1. Raising awareness about gender equality and gender roles among young people by organizing a training, an information campaign, movie screening and discussion.
2. Organizing advocacy and information campaigns to create a youth space for the local community.
3. Supporting the community to become more active and establish working relations with the local government by forming an initiative group, organizing trainings, information and advocacy campaigns, and creating a community space.
4. Organizing social media campaigns, informational trainings and common activities to decrease the bullying cases at Mereti public school.

Rike
1. Raising awareness about gender equality and gender roles among young people by organizing informational meetings/campaigns, creative competitions, and shooting short thematic videos.
2. Developing a sports ecosystem in the community by organizing an outdoor sports space and an information campaign and attractive competitions for young people.
3. Creating more opportunities for young people to be engaged in non-formal education and be involved in community life by organizing public spaces (Rike park, library) and conducting informative meetings.
4. Organizing a festival, creating online photo stories and planning an advocacy campaign to tackle the problem of online gambling among the Rike community.

Muzhava
1. Tackling the problem of bullying and violence at school by organizing street art, an information campaign, movie screening and discussion, and essay competition.
2. Creating a community space by setting up a literature club and organizing movie screenings.
3. Advocating for the creation of a dining space at Muzhava public school.

In total, 60 participants attended the workshops on the development of the LAPs (36 female, 24 male).

As the next step for the implementation of the LAPs, during the second year of project implementation, the project team will organize community discussions and meetings with local government representatives regarding the feasibility of the plans, as well as provide small grants to youth initiative groups to implement some of the actions planned and create solutions to the identified priority issues in the communities.

A1.3 Training female and male youth in identified topics

The PLA exercise identified several topics for the capacity building of young people, such as leadership and teamwork, communication and presentation skills, gender equality, participation in local decision-making, and tolerance.

Based on the identified areas of need for young people, on November 19, 2021, CARE organized an online training in gender equality. More than 30 young people attended the training on promoting gender equality, including youth initiative group participants involved in the PLA trainings and LAP development. The training allowed them to discuss gender equality issues with an expert and reflect on how they can promote equality and women's rights in their communities. The methodology of the training was based on principles of non-formal education: individual reflections, discussions, and short structured theoretical input were applied. The training was interactive, with the practical exercises ensuring the full involvement of participants in the training process. The training covered topics such as identity, how society shapes identities, and what gender and gender equality are. The program also included sessions on the differences between sex and gender to promote participant understanding that socially constructed attributes lead to inequity between men and women. After the training, young people joined the campaign against violence against women and girls and developed a short video[11] emphasizing the importance of ending gender-based violence.

Also in November, CARE organized two-day ToT for the young people in each target community on the role of young people and youth activism. During the training, project participants analyzed the importance of youth activism and their role in the community, and developed ideas for one-day awareness raising and community actions that will be implemented in their villages (linked to Activity 2.2). In total, 39 young people attended the trainings (29 female, 10 male).

A1.4. Organize two joint workshops in Tbilisi for young activists and youth club members to share experiences and discuss awareness raising and advocacy plans

From December 11 to 12, 2021, the youth initiative groups and focal points from Kazreti, Rike, Muzhava and Mereti communities gathered in Tbilisi for a two-day workshop where they presented the findings of the community assessments conducted in their communities and the draft LAPs they developed to address the priority concerns. The workshop included thematic sessions on conflict sensitivity and the role of young people in the peace and conflict resolution process with the Conflict Sensitivity Expert. The project team from CARE and IDPWA Consent also facilitated thematic sessions on team building, and following presentations of the LAPs, provided feedback to the groups. The Deputy Head of the Youth Agency, Kristina Kapanadze, joined the workshop and held an interactive and engaging session about the programs and opportunities for young people provided by the Youth Agency.

The workshop created space for youth to connect, share, discover similarities and differences, and establish better collaboration among each other. During the oral evaluation of the workshop, participants mentioned that they now felt empowered, supported, and equipped with knowledge and skills to initiate positive change in their communities. As a result of the workshop, the youth initiative

"This was my first opportunity to participate in such a workshop. I have learned so much and now I am full of ideas and the courage to act. I have the feeling that I will move mountains when I go back to my village." Bella, a female participant of the workshop in Tbilisi, December 11 to 12, 2022.

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[11] The video is available at the following link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1583979945284966

groups will update the action plans based on the feedback received from the project team and their peers.

In total, 20 young people from the target communities participated in the workshop (15 female, 5 male).

ER2 - Communities understand, encourage and support peace and security concerns identified by female and male youth.

A2.1. Organize community discussions around identified priority concerns related to peace and security

Due to the spread of COVID-19 in the target communities, the organization of this activity was delayed until the next reporting period.

A2.2. Youth organize community events and awareness-raising activities

To encourage the development of ideas for community events and awareness raising activities by the youth initiative groups, CARE and the IDPWA Consent team organized an online informational meeting for the target youth from all selected communities. During the meeting, the project team presented the form to be used for the proposal of the ideas for community events and awareness raising activities, as well as informed the young people about the aim, format and technical aspects of the activity. 46 young persons (27 female, 19 male) attended the meeting. In addition, the project team provided individual consultations and support to each group during the development and preparation of their initiatives.

After the individual and group meetings, the youth started planning and implementing initiatives in their villages. These initiatives responded to the community priority interests, as determined through the PLA and stated in the LAPs. In total, three initiatives were organized by young people during the reporting period. A description of each initiative is included below:

Initiative 1: The first initiative, a celebration of Human Rights Day, occurred in Rike on December 8, 2021. This initiative was interlinked with a 16-day campaign against gender-based violence. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about human rights and gender-based violence in the village. During the event, youth prepared various activities, such as: presentations by experts on human rights and gender equality, an interactive quiz, and a musical performance, which increased the involvement of community representatives and raised their awareness around the topic.

Initiative 2: The second initiative, a graffiti painting on the wall of an old building, was implemented in a Rike community village on December 29, 2021. The painting emphasized youth activism and unity, equality and diversity, with the message "Equality is Cool." The young people themselves actively negotiated with the municipality to receive permission for the graffiti painting. A young activist from Rike stated: *"The graffiti has a meaning and implies uniting the youth for rural development, diversity, promoting equality and creating a better environment. I am glad the wall painting has raised great interest, not only among the youth but also among other locals. We want the street art to become a postcard for our village."*

Initiative 3: The third initiative, a New Year event, occurred in the Mereti community. The event highlighted the importance of youth activism and participation in rural development. The initiative aimed to increase motivation among young people to be more engaged and active in the community.

In total, the community events organized by young people engaged approximately 100 people in the communities.

A2.3. Small grants are distributed to implement community initiatives that promote peace and security, and benefit communities
Due to the spread of COVID-19 in the target communities, the organization of capacity building activities for youth (A1.1 and A1.2) occurred in the third quarter of this reporting period. As a result, the distribution of small grants under this activity, which correspond with A1.2 (Developing local action plans by youth) will occur in the next reporting period.

A2.4. Create and disseminate communication and visibility materials in the communities
During the community mobilization efforts described above, project brochures were developed in Georgian, Azeri and Armenian and disseminated in the target communities. The brochures provided information on the project objectives and intervention strategy. Other communication and visibility materials, such as T-shirts, bags, reusable water bottles, stickers and short advocacy videos will be developed in the next reporting period.

ER3 - Consultative mechanisms are responsive to the concerns of female and male youth.

A3.1 Build the capacities of local champions on youth participation and youth civic action
This reporting period coincided with local elections in Georgia. The municipal authorities in the target communities changed and the project needed to re-establish connections with the newly elected officials. As a result, the capacity building of the local champions will occur in the next reporting period.

A3.2 Facilitate youth engagement with local government representatives through working groups and consultative meetings
Same as above.

A3.3 Local government representatives share the requested information on youth and community priority concerns related to peace and security
Not planned at this stage of implementation.

A3.4 Final conference on youth participation and civic action for peace and security
Not planned at this stage of implementation.

2. Lessons learned / outlook

Experience from implementation of project

On December 22, 2021 the project team from CARE Caucasus and IDPWA Consent conducted a reflection workshop to analyze the achievements and challenges, and associated lessons learned, from the first year of project implementation. These include:

- Gaining the trust of young people, and building the target communities' understanding of project goals and strategy, lays a strong foundation for project implementation.

Similarly, robust cooperation and networking with stakeholders within the target communities is essential and can lead to more impactful activities. The project's efforts in this regard represented a significant success.

- Due to a high rate of migration to larger cities, a low number of young people in the age category 19-29 reside in the target communities. The project can address this by focusing on the engagement of young people aged 14-18, and by continuing to attract young people aged 19-29 through community events and awareness raising initiatives. Furthermore, special attention is needed to encourage the engagement of young people from ethnic minority groups (Azerbaijanis and Armenians). Additional community mobilization efforts in the target communities, and possibly peer-to-peer outreach efforts, can be leveraged to inform more young people about the project and its activities. The project will aim to attract an additional 120 young people (approximately).
- The target youth have limited experience participating in non-formal activities and projects, and as a result many have limited confidence and capacity to plan and carry out small-scale initiatives. To address this moving forward, the project will work closely with the youth and provide regular coaching and support during the small grant projects and initiatives, as well as include soft skills and self-awareness development in training programs.
- Maintaining youth interest in capacity building activities, such as trainings, webinars and seminars, requires extra effort and attention. In particular, youth motivation to join online events is limited. Modifying the format of the trainings and offering young people capacity building in the form of residential camps can address this. Furthermore, it is valuable to diversify activities and incorporate elements youth have shown particular interest in. This includes thematic contests and essay, video or photo competitions.

Outlook for Next Reporting Period

The next reporting period will be dedicated to: the finalization of the LAPs and the distribution of grants to target youth initiative groups to implement priority actions; further capacity building of young people; the establishment of cooperation between the young people and municipal authorities; and advocacy for engagement of youth in decision-making processes at the local level. Specifically:

- A1.3 Training female and male youth in identified topics
- A1.4 Organize joint workshop in Tbilisi for young activists
- A2.1 Organize community discussions around identified priority concerns related to peace and security
- A2.2 Youth organize community events and awareness raising activities
  A2.3 Small grants to implement community initiatives that promote peace and security and benefit communities
- A3.1 Build the capacities of local champions on youth participation and youth civic action
- A3.2 Facilitate youth engagement with local government representatives
- A3.3 Local government representatives share the requested information on youth and community priority concerns related to peace and security
- A3.4 Final conference on youth participation and civic action for peace and security

Outlook regarding medium- and long-term sustainability of the project

Please see section '5. Sustainability / Capacity Development' for information on the sustainability of the project.

Outlook for target groups / beneficiaries after the end of the project

During the next report period, the project team will analyse the outlook for target groups and beneficiaries beyond the scope of the project. This will be reported on in the final progress report.

3. Challenges encountered and modifications

Challenges in implementing the project and impact on project as a whole

The motivation of young people to participate in online trainings was limited, affecting capacity building activities implemented online during the reporting period, namely the PLA trainings. To address this, the project decided to implement activities in a face-to-face format following COVID-19 safety regulations and ensuring PCR testing for participants.

Furthermore, parents were hesitant to allow their children to participate in frequent face-to-face meetings and other gatherings as the spread of COVID-19 remains high in the communities. This affected A2.2 'Youth organize community events and awareness raising activities' and A2.1. 'Organize community discussions around identified priority concerns related to peace and security'. To address this, the project team instructed the target youth to reduce the number of awareness raising events until spring, when activities can be implemented in open spaces with a lower risk of virus transmission. Moreover, the project team worked on the modification of several activities that require face-to-face meetings to ensure PCR testing of participants and reduce the number of separate events.

Alongside the challenges in reaching youth from certain age and minority groups, as noted earlier in the report, the project faced challenges reaching indirect beneficiaries. COVID-19 restrictions, in particular on the organization of community events, heavily impacted the number of indirect beneficiaries reached during the reporting period, such as the reach of awareness raising events and campaigns. Although the project expects to increase reach in the coming reporting period, the overall achievement by project end will be affected. As such, the project proposes to reduce the number of target indirect beneficiaries from 5,500 to 3,000.

Change in external circumstances and conditions

The reporting period coincided with local elections in Georgia and the majority of municipal officials, such as Mayors and heads of youth departments, changed in all of the four target communities. As a result, the project needed to re-establish connections with municipalities and key points of contact. At the time of writing, the project team has engaged new officials in each target municipality via coordination meetings to present the project, discuss engagement of the municipal authorities, and map opportunities for collaboration. The project team expects that the newly elected and appointed officials will be open to cooperation and will not cause obstacles for implementation. However, at this stage it is difficult to anticipate their level of engagement and consideration of youth concerns in municipal programs and policies.

Required changes for project planning

On March 16, CARE submitted a budget reallocation request to the ADA reflecting the modification of select project activities for the next reporting period. Detailed information on the changes and justifications was provided in the reallocation request letter and budget, which was approved by ADA on March 18, 2022. The modifications will enable activities to occur in-person while accounting for COVID-19 safety concerns, such as by providing PCR testing for participants or limiting the risk of transmission by reducing the number of separate events. Notably:

- A1.3 Training female and male youth in identified topics: Instead of 48 one- and two-day trainings, the project will implement four, four-day residential (overnight) camps and 12, one- and two-day trainings (one camp and three trainings per target community).
- A3.1 Build the capacities of local champions on youth participation and youth civic action: Instead of 16 trainings, the project will implement three, two-day residential (overnight) trainings for local champions.
- A3.2 Facilitate youth engagement with local government representatives through working groups and consultative meetings: Instead of 16 one-day meetings, the project will implement four, two-day meetings (one per target community).
- A3.3 Local government representatives share the requested information on youth and community priority concerns related to peace and security: Instead of 16 meetings, the project will implement four, one-day study visits (one per target community).

Additionally, CARE will leverage budget savings to modify the following activities:

- Community Mobilization (inception activity): The project will implement select additional community mobilization activities to continue outreach to the community and provide support to focal points.
- A2.2 Youth organize community events and awareness raising activities: Instead of 12 activities, the project will support youth to conduct 18 activities.
- A2.4 Create and disseminate communication and visibility materials in the communities: The project will implement contests for young people on relevant topics, such as peace, human rights, and gender equality.

4. Risk Management

Throughout the reporting period, the project team followed the original risk assessment and applied the risk management measures as planned. These measures proved to be effective. Notably, the project engaged in networking and active communication with newly elected local government and, as a result, ensured their engagement in project activities. The needs of young people were also considered during the planning of activities (such as time and place, provision of meals and transportation, and equal participation of boys and girls) to promote the participation of young women and vulnerable communities. Finally, the project team paid special attention to work with young men on gender equality, in order to change social norms that reinforce negative attitudes towards women's leadership. The above-mentioned measures created a safe environment for the participation of young people and increased their interest in the project. In the next reporting period, young male activists will be trained by the CARE Balkans team in YMI to capacitate them in positive gender roles and non-violence culture.

As noted above, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect Georgia and limitations for larger community events and trainings were imposed by the Government of Georgia. During the reporting period, the spread of the virus in the target communities was high. To account for this, the project team adjusted the format of select project activities and the first cycle of PLA trainings were conducted online. While implementing the trainings in an online format,

the project team detected the new risk of low motivation of young people to be engaged in online activities. Therefore, the project team decided to implement future activities in a face-to-face format. To provide a safe space for participation during the project activities, CARE and IDPWA Consent applied COVID-19 protective measures enforced by the Government of Georgia, such as PCR testing, wearing face masks, and ensuring social distancing during the trainings. Moving forward, CARE has further modified project activities to account for these risks (as described above).

5. Sustainability / capacity development

Sustainable impact on the local context

Close cooperation with local leaders, as well as school teachers and principals, is one of the main contributions to further the sustainability of the project. These individuals remain in the community and continue working with youth, and as such, their engagement in project implementation is valuable. Throughout the reporting period, the project team coordinated closely with these individuals in the target communities, and promoted their buy-in in the project and engagement in project activities. In the same vein, the project also engaged with existing community structures, namely Youth Departments of the municipalities, municipal youth houses, and youth councils. This engagement will continue throughout the next reporting period.

Specific measures to develop local capacities

A second key contribution to the sustainability of the project is ensuring young people remain motivated and engaged in community development, decision-making and peacebuilding processes. To promote this, the project built the capacity of youth by providing them with key knowledge and skills for their engagement, such as identification of community concerns, development of action strategies, team work and leadership. Constant communication with the young people, and reflection on their needs and interests while designing the project activities, contributed to increased motivation of the target youth and will help promote their long-term engagement. In the next reporting period, youth will be provided with small grants for community initiatives, which will serve as an immediate opportunity to apply new skills. The project also facilitated youth cooperation with the local government and will continue efforts in this area in the next year. With the support of the project, young people have reported they feel more empowered and motivated, and have started reflecting on their roles, rights, and responsibilities to the communities.

"Exit strategies" in place

During the next report period, the project team will establish thorough and appropriate exit strategies to ensure sustained impact beyond the scope of the project. These measures will be reported on in the final progress report.

6. Monitoring / learning exercise

To ensure the quality and success of the project and establish effective Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) mechanisms, CARE developed a MEAL matrix in agreement with the project partner organization. The MEAL matrix was finalized and targets for the indicators were set according to the results of the baseline study.

On December 22, a reflection meeting between the CARE and IDPWA Consent teams was conducted to consider the project's achievements and challenges, review project implementation strategies and planned activities, and make adjustments in preparation for the next year of implementation. Reflections are captured within this report and the budget amendment (with accompanying modification of activities) approved by ADA in March 2022.

CARE participated in the majority of the project activities, such as meetings with local government representatives, community mobilization events and trainings. CARE's engagement contributed to the continuous monitoring and review of different project components and ensured the most updated information concerning the project progress was available. Monitoring and evaluation methods used include: staff observation, interviews with beneficiaries, and post-training surveys.

7. Evaluation

As noted above, on December 22, 2021, a project reflection workshop was conducted with the participation of project teams from CARE Caucasus and IDPWA Consent. The main achievements and challenges from the first year of project implementation were analyzed and evaluated.

A mid-term review is planned for the beginning of the next reporting period. CARE Caucasus and IDPWA Consent project teams will conduct a mid-term review and lessons learnt workshop to discuss project progress, outputs and outcomes, and potential steering measures to ensure that the project results can be delivered and goals achieved during the implementation period. The lessons-learnt workshop will be facilitated by an external expert and will include the review of the gender and conflict analysis.

To promote transparency and objectivity in verifying the results and impact of the project, the final evaluation will be conducted by an external evaluator at the end of the project.

8. Visibility and public awareness raising locally and in Austria

Public awareness raising activities carried out in connection with the project

At the beginning of the project, CARE's communications officer in collaboration with the project team developed a communication plan that set the main objectives, and defined primary audiences, key messages, and primary tools for effective communication. ADA visibility guidelines were shared with all parties engaged in project implementation and strictly followed during the elaboration of the project communication plan. Partners agreed to closely coordinate and monitor the application of the ADA guidelines throughout the project and guarantee that ADA's contribution is acknowledged and demonstrated.

Visibility and promotional materials were created according to the ADA communication and visibility manual. ADA identity was shown in all written and visual materials to emphasize its contribution and role in the youth development process in Georgia.

To ensure public awareness-raising at the onset of the project, the following promotional materials were developed and posted on the CARE Caucuses Facebook account:

- Project Launch (23/04/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/3877837748959170
- Training sessions from Young Men Initiative (27/04/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/3878431832233095
- Information about the project (05/05/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/3908472925895652
- Community Mobilization Process (11/05/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/3929686877107590
- Meeting with the youth from target communities (28/05/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/3981435751932702
- #InternationalChildrensDay – Meeting with youth in Mereti (01/06/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/3992785837464360
- Project launch event in Muzhava (02/07/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4076736025736007
- Project launch event in Mereti (06/07/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4087292154680394
- Project launch event in Kazreti (12/07/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4105340392875570
- Project launch event in Rike (19/07/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4124863447589931
- International Youth Day - Tsotne Gogia Quote (12/08/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4195229287220013
- Project team members attended training sessions on conflict sensitivity (31/08/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4251656331577308
- International day of peace (21/09/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4316961901713417
- The youth from Muzhava is working on the development of LAPs (23/10/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4417810504961889
- PLA training for target youth groups (28/10/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4434171316659141
- Training on LAPs (17/11/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4495799873829618
- Quotes of youth on their role in community development (17/11/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4496708490405423
- Training on promoting gender equality (26/11/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4525245644218374
- Project is in the SDG watch November focus (29/11/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4534967496579522
- Youth Activism Training for the youth from Kazreti and Mereti (01/12/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2979813872281657
- #16DaysofCampaign - the youth about gender-based violence (04/12/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4552281048181500
- Youth Activism training for the youth from Samegrelo (05/12/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4555339644542307
- Youth initiated the event on Human Rights Day (08/12/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4565494320193506
- Youth video against violence on women and girls (10/12/2021)
  - https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1583979945284966
- Workshop in Tbilisi (15/12/2021)

- o https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4588333031242968

Additionally, CARE Austria published the following materials on its website, Facebook and Twitter pages:

- Project launch annoucement (14/06/2021)
    - o https://twitter.com/careAustria/status/1404355934718148609
- Project launch announcement (13/07/2021)
    - o https://www.facebook.com/CAREOesterreich/posts/10159434669134489
- Project launch event in Kazreti (13/07/2021)
    - o https://twitter.com/careAustria/status/1414867262868267008?s=20
- Project launch event in Kazreti (13/07/2021)
    - o https://twitter.com/careAustria/status/1414868312371105793?s=20
- Project launch announcement (13/07/2021)
    - o https://www.instagram.com/p/CRRZ_v4qKZB
- Project launch event in Rike (20/07/2021)
    - o https://twitter.com/careAustria/status/1417426193708732443?s=20
- Article in SDG Watch Austria November publication (24.11.2021)
    - o https://www.facebook.com/CAREOesterreich/posts/10159684352469489
- Die Jugend will Frieden
    - o https://www.care.at/projekte/junge-stimmen-fuer-den-frieden/
- Georgia: Youth Voices for Peace – GEO948
    - o https://www.care.at/projects/georgia-youth-voices-for-peace-geo948/

Finally, CARE Austria articles were also published by SDG Watch Austria on Facebook and on their website:

- SDG Watch announcement of their November publication (23/11/2021)
    - o https://www.facebook.com/SDGWatchAustria/posts/3168978736716069
- Friedensarbeit: Die Partizipation von Jugendlichen fördern (23/11/2021)
    - o https://sdgwatch.at/de/was-wir-tun/blog/2021/11/23/sdg-fokusbeitrag-november-frieden-und-starke-institutionen/?fbclid=IwAR2LKMO-VmSFK9th0y2wZKOzTb_0ThiZDL99ISlZnSV_QAO2Uqd5iBBxr73c

9. Other points

Neliko Ghambarashvili's Story:

- CARE Caucasus website: http://care-caucasus.org.ge/index.php?m=50&news_id=256
- CARE Caucasus Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4821624677913801

Lika Sherozia's Story:

- CARE Caucasus website: http://care-caucasus.org.ge/index.php?m=50&news_id=254&lng=eng
- CARE Austria website: https://www.care.at/newsbeitrag/eine-stimme-fuer-junge-menschen-in-georgien-mein-leben-ist-jetzt-bunter/
- CARE Caucasus Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CARECaucasus/posts/4771258512950418

Annexes:

1. Progress Report, Logframe, Risk Register, Implementation Schedule
2. Conflict Sensitivity Training Agenda
3. Baseline Report
4. Gender and Conflict Analysis Report
5. Stakeholder Mapping Report
6. Project Launch Event Agendas
7. YMI Agenda
8. PLA Training Agendas
9. LAP Development Workshop Agendas
10. Gender Equality Training Agenda
11. Youth Activism ToT Agenda
12. 1st Joint Workshop in Tbilisi Agenda
13. Project leaflet
14. Invitations for Project Launch Events (English)
15. Activity Photos