



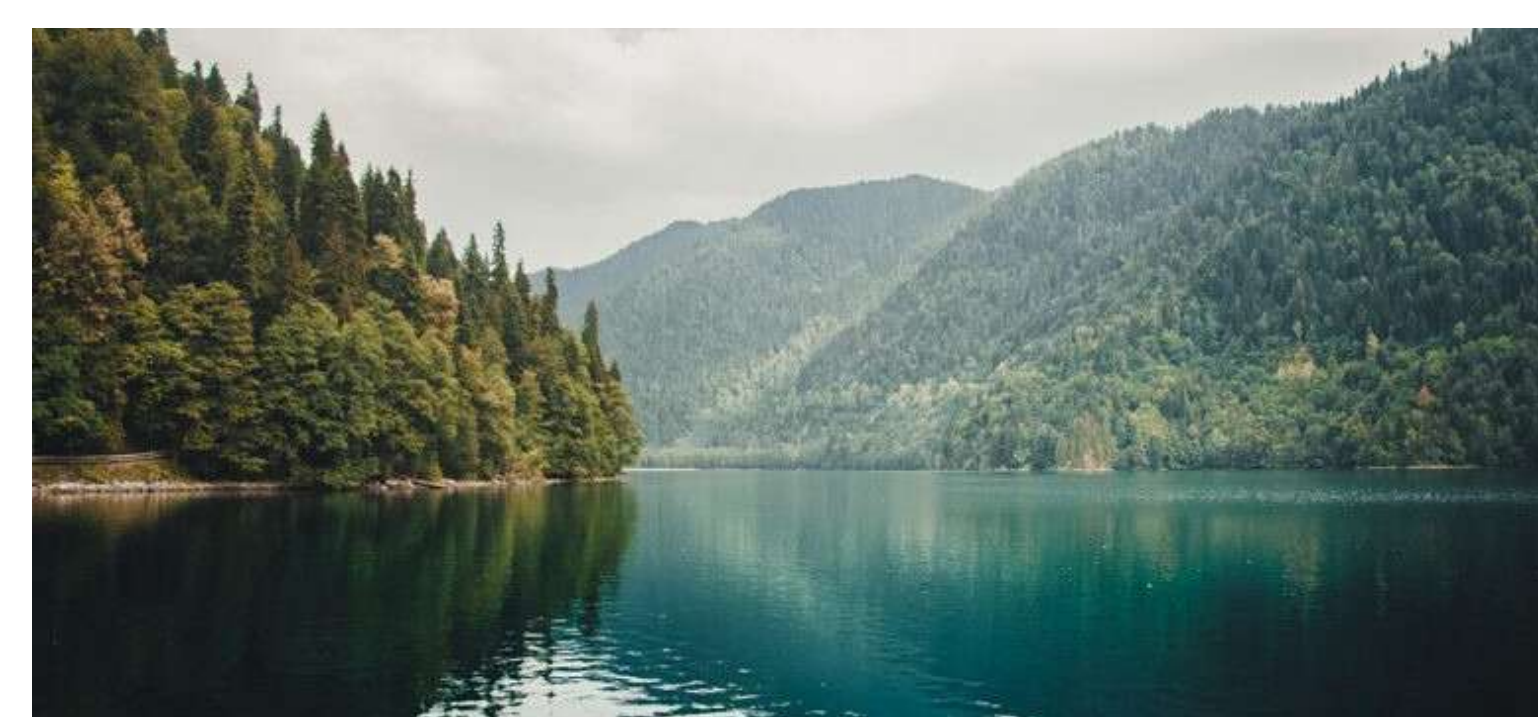
GEORGIA

Georgia (pop. 3.7 million) is a middle-income country situated on the Black Sea, with Turkey to the West, Armenia and Azerbaijan to the South, and the Russian Federation to the North.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the country gained independence in 1991 which was followed by years of domestic social unrest and economic collapse. In parallel with progress toward political and economic stabilization, Georgia developed democratically with the first peaceful transfer of power in the country's history occurring in 2012 via parliamentary elections.

Today, however, the country's educational system is still in need of improvement; the relatively low quality of education represents a significant barrier for the country's economic development as it attempts to move from a middle-income to an upper-income status.

Since 2015, the Government of Georgia took an initiative to contribute to sustainable development through voluntary efforts. The Volunteer National Review (VNR) on the implementation process of the 2030 agenda was presented to the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016.



Georgia's government pledged responsibility over all 17 goals, including 98 targets with 204 respective indicators.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Georgia has made significant progress in terms of improving and harmonizing the legislative framework for the defense of human rights. However, there is still work to be done in terms of its implementation.

According to official data, women represent only 15 % (23 members) of the parliament. Although this is about a 9-percentage point increase since 2008, the total number of women in parliament remains critically low. The situation is even worse at the local level where women hold no governorship, filling only one mayoral post out of 64 and just 13 percent of seats in local councils.

The latest legislative initiative to enact gender quotas was supported by more than 37,000 Georgian citizens, but Georgia's parliament rejected the bill in March 2018, because it did not receive enough support from Members of the Parliament.

1 in 7 women reported having experienced domestic violence in their lifetime (UN Women, 2017). In January 2018, the Human Rights Protection Department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs was established following appeals from civil society. This probably led to an increase of the number of restrictive orders issued during the first half of 2018. This is twice as much as the total orders reported in 2017.

Awareness on gender-based violence is critical since as almost one quarter of women (22%) and one third of men (31%) believe that wife-beating is justifiable under certain circumstances (UN Women, 2017)

The recent study indicates that one in five women reported to having experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime. A new bill on sexual harassment was prepared in January 2019 and is now under discussion.

36%

gender wage gap in Georgia

15%

of parliamentarians are women



Parliament of Georgia



WOMEN2030 IN GEORGIA

Georgia is part of the global Women2030 programme that aims to build on the capacity of women's civil society organisations to advance local and regional levels of just and environmental sustainable development through the participation in policy development, monitoring and capacity building.

WECF is a member of the SDG Council thematic groups in Georgia. The SDG council coordinates and monitors the implementation of the SDGs in Georgia.

The first Women2030 regional meeting was held in Batumi, Georgia in June 2016, which brought together gender experts and gender-focused civil society organisations (CSOs) from the region. A core component of the meeting was focusing on the gender-responsive implementation of SDGs, including tools and existing practices.

In February 2018, WECF organised a workshop on SDGs in Tbilisi with the Georgian government and the UN. The last day focused on gender equality in all SDGs in cooperation with numerous partners including UNEP, UNDP, WECF and others. WECF also presented the ongoing work of the Women2030 programme.

In January 2018, WECF awarded 5 grants for women's initiatives on SDG implementation in cooperation with its local partner, the "Women's Fund in Georgia".

The gender assessment in Georgia was recently undertaken by the organisation "We Research" within the framework of Women2030. The study focused on the division of labour between women and men, in addition to the levels of access, power and control over resources. The data was collected among 300 women and men from urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and the findings are presented in this factsheet.



GENDER ASSESSMENT

315 people – 156 men and 159 women from urban and rural areas filled in the gender and SDG questionnaire conducted in Georgia in the framework of "Women 2030".

The data shows a significant gap between men and women in domestic responsibilities as well as the amount of free time available to female and male members of a family.

Over 60% of women name equal distribution of domestic labor among the most important challenges to gender equality, while in the case of male respondents that number stands at just above 30%.

In evaluating their living conditions, respondents were the most dissatisfied with water availability and quality. 33% of surveyed rural residents assessed the availability and quality of drinking water as bad or very bad.

Sanitary conditions in rural schools emerged as an important issue based on the results of the survey. 45% of surveyed women in rural areas noted that their daughter or an adolescent girl they know does not have satisfactory sanitary conditions at school.



Urban area: Tbilisi



Rural area: Dabadzveli

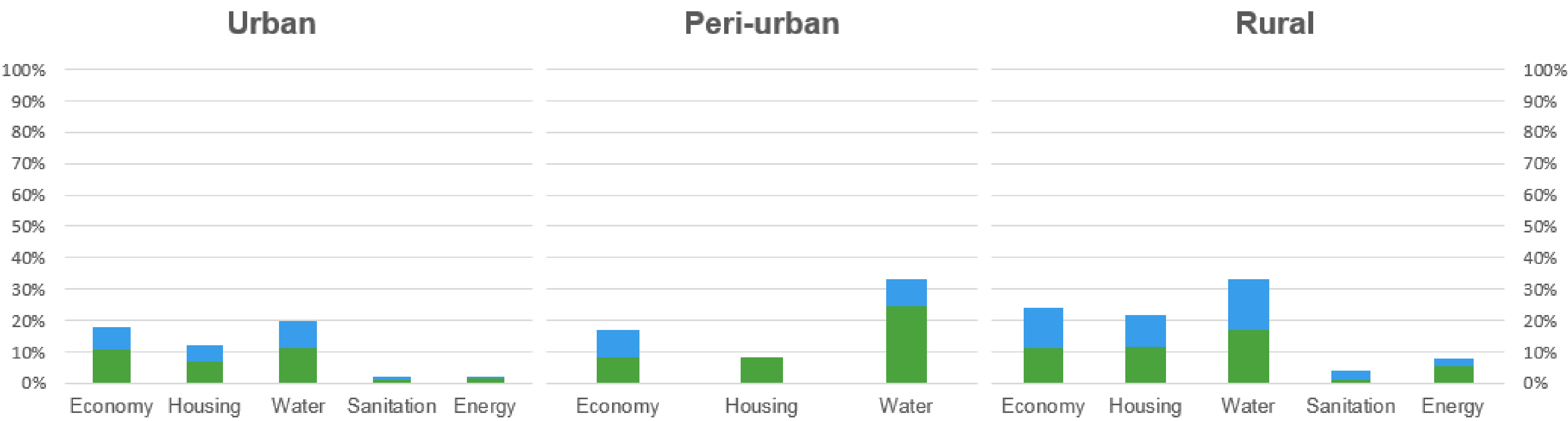




LIVING CONDITIONS

Respondents who Think their Living Conditions are Bad or Very Bad

Men Women



21%
of men in urban
areas describe their
economic conditions
as bad

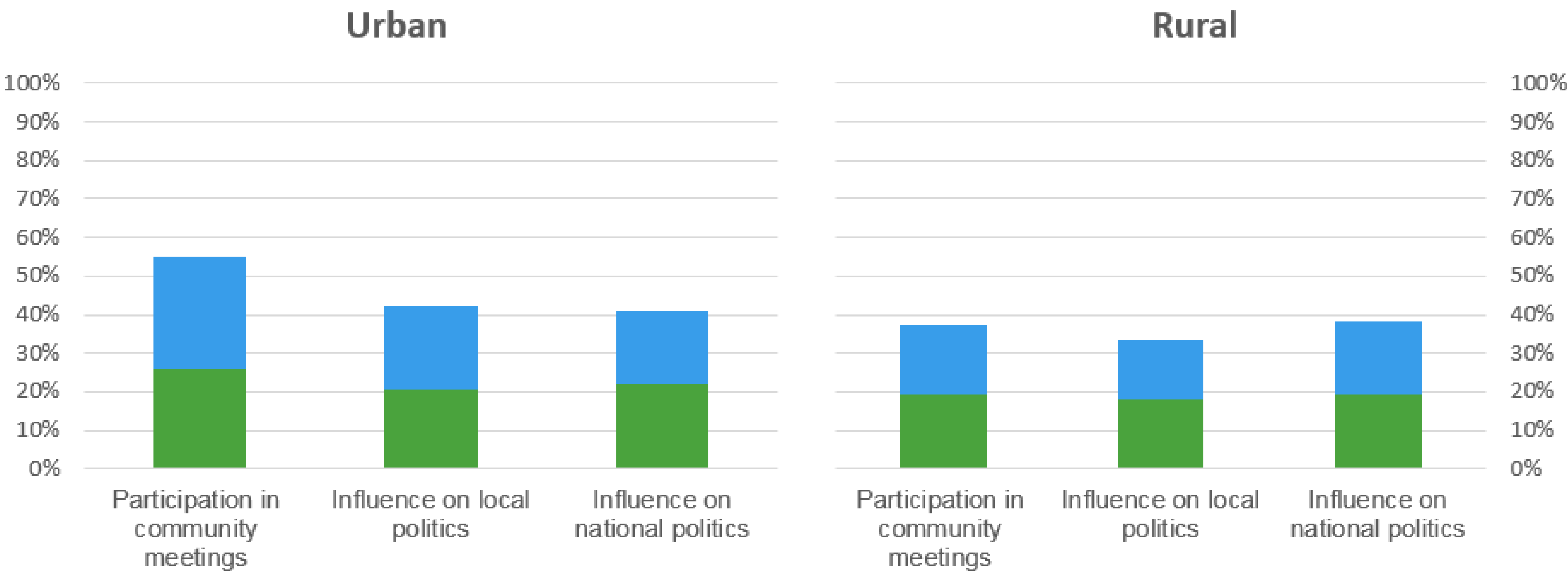
29%
of women in rural areas
evaluate their water
conditions as bad



DECISION-MAKING

Respondents on Women's Political Participation

Men Women

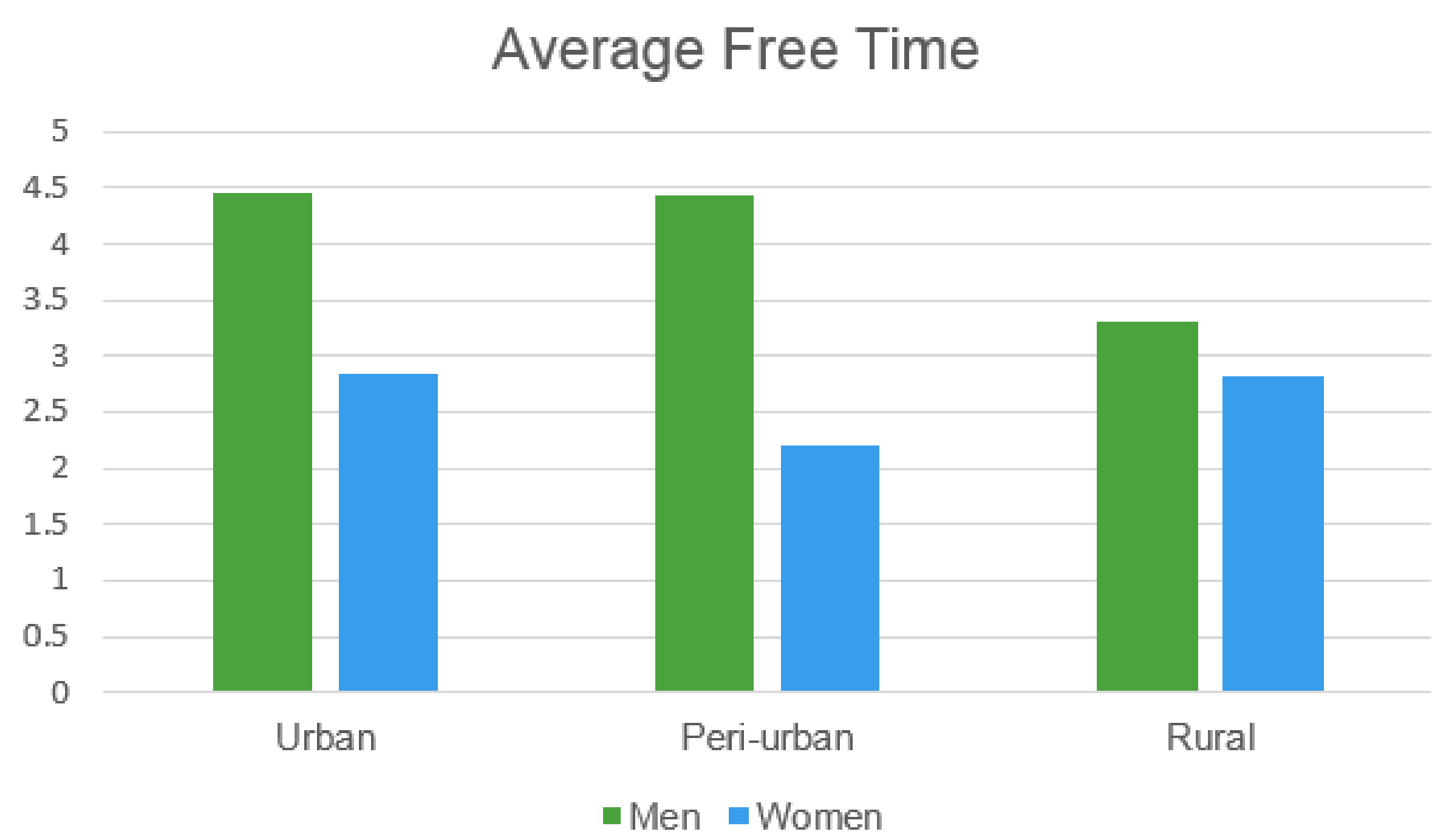


Political participation of women was described to be low by men as well as women. In 2014, the Task Force on Women's Political Participation in Georgia (the Task Force) was established by local civil society and international organizations. The Task Force has been actively advocating for amendments to the Election Code of Georgia to introduce mandatory party quotas in parliament and encourage female engagement in local politics.





UNPAID CARE

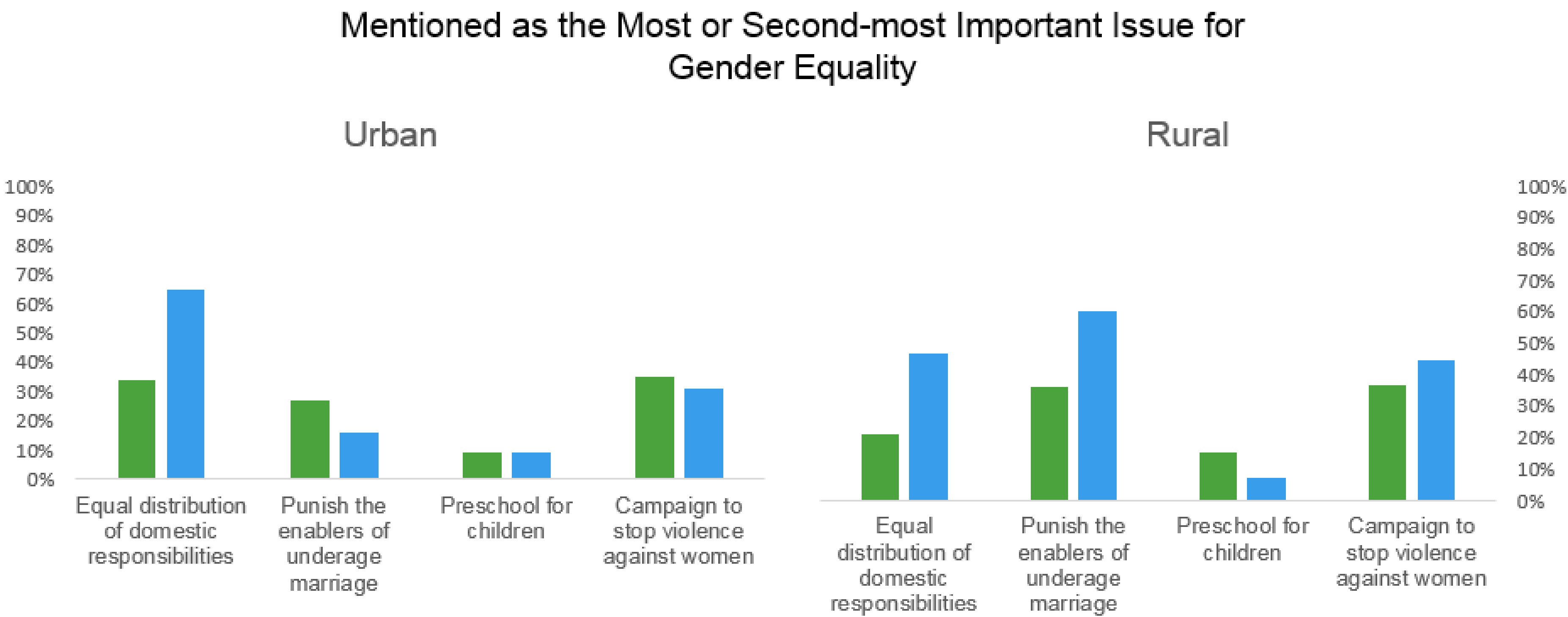


1.7 h
per day less free
time for women
compared to men in
urban areas

2.2 h
per day less free
time for women in
Peri-urban areas



GENDER EQUALITY



Equal distribution of domestic labour was mentioned by 65% of women in urban areas among the top two priorities for achieving gender equality. In the case of men, the issue was mentioned by 34% among the two topmost priorities. In rural areas, the numbers were at 21% among men and 47% among women.





POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In February 2018 a national workshop on the inter-linkages of environment and health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. As a result multiple policy recommendations have been developed.

Particular challenges on the way to SDG implementation include the low access of Georgian women to economic resources, the pay gap, the unequal distribution of unpaid labour between women and men, and the low representation of women in decision-making.

Despite large awareness raising campaigns, most Georgians are still unfamiliar with the SDGs.

Cooperation and partnership
In order to overcome gender inequalities and successfully implement the SDGs, a collective effort is vital.

Cooperation between the government and representatives of civil society, the private sector, the media, academia and international partners is recommended. In order to achieve progress, it is important to ensure the participation of these stakeholders in Council meetings and working groups.

Overcome traditional role models
Family care responsibilities are seen as the primary cause of the labour force participation gap between men and women. Education and awareness raising on these issues from an early age on are seen as ways to overcome traditional role models and ensure an equal distribution of work. At present, women who do work earn almost a third less than men. Therefore, gender insensitive labour laws must be reformed to ensure women's access to work and equal pay.

Legislation for equal participation
Although women engage in decision-making at community level, gender stereotypes and cultural barriers limit their meaningful participation at the local and national level. In order to overcome structural barriers to women's participation in decision making, it is recommended to introduce legislation on gender quotas for the parliament as well as local government bodies. Moreover, it is necessary to ensure the implementation of a respective legislation by monitoring and holding institutions accountable. It is particularly important to achieve a critical mass of at least 30% representation of women in parliament and local government bodies in order to initiate transformative change.

