



ASSOCIATION “HERA XXI”

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Welcoming

“During 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social inequality in the country increased, which negatively affected and was painfully reflected on the most vulnerable groups of the population, including women, young people and adolescents.

Association HERA XXI tried its best to respond to these challenges through its activities, targeted actions, volunteering and human resource mobilization, flexible management, rapid response and targeted advocacy, using evidence-based practices. The organization, within the frame of possibilities, created a welcoming environment and provided the public with information on the issues and free services related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

Association HERA XXI is grateful for the diligence, professional work and commitment displayed by each volunteer, member of the organization, community representative, partner organization and staff member “.



Ms Nino Tsuleiskiri, Director of the Association “HERA XXI”

Advocacy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Protecting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) as a prerequisite for social well-being and gender equality requires the development of robust mechanisms, at the local, national and international levels. During 2021, Association HERA XXI actively contributed to the improvement of the political, social and economic environment of the country, through providing universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services, comprehensive education on maternal health, reproductive health and healthy lifestyle, improving the legal status of children with regard to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), advocating for youth policy at the local, national and international levels, and promoting awareness and preparedness of decision-makers in relation to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

Advocacy at the International Level

For the purpose of advocating for the fulfilment of international obligations at the national level, Association HERA XXI uses international monitoring and evaluation tools such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and actively promotes compliance with international commitments.

- As part of the cycle 3 of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Association HERA XXI submitted individual as well as coalition shadow reports, participated in a UN Human Rights Council session, and presented a report. As a result of the advocacy, the State adopted 9 recommendations on maternal health, family planning and comprehensive sexuality education;
- Three shadow reports were prepared for the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- An individual and a coalition report were submitted to the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO);
- Advocacy with the EU and the EU Delegation for the integration of SRHR objectives into the Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the renewed EU roadmap for engagement with civil society up to 2024.

Advocacy at the National Level

According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), the overall prevalence of unmet need for contraception as part of family planning in Georgia was 23.1%, which is a very high figure compared to that of European countries. In general, the result of low-level awareness of family planning is that many women still resort to abortion to terminate unintended pregnancies, and the rate of induced abortions is still significantly high and fails to meet international standards.

One of the goals of the Maternal and Newborn Health Promotion Action Plan 2017-2019 (which is part of the 2017-2030 Strategy) was to improve the quality and accessibility of family planning services. The 2021 data indicated that this Action Plan needed to be revised in order to ensure effectiveness of the Action Plan in future.



In 2021, the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Action Plan was conducted at the initiative of Association HERA XXI. The results of the monitoring and evaluation were presented to the key actors in the field of public health. As a result, a renewed Action Plan for 2021-2023 was developed, which is to be approved.

Association HERA XXI conducted an assessment of the availability and readiness of facilities to provide abortion services in 2021, using the instrument of the Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA) of World Health Organization. The results showed that compared to 2017, the data changed dramatically. Specifically, the number of abortion service providers was halved, the proportion of unregistered abortions remained high. This is closely related to reinforcing stigma and stereotypes.

Since 2011, Association HERA XXI is actively involved in the coordination of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) together with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other parties. The group is working to facilitate the integration of Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) into emergency preparedness planning.

In 2021 the Association participated in assessing readiness to provide the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in emergencies - MISP Readiness Assessment (MRA), together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The assessment was conducted in two areas: 1) General readiness at the national level: policy, coordination and resources 2) Readiness to provide services as set out in the MISP.

Advocacy at the Local Level

Association HERA XXI supports the Georgian National Youth Policy Concept for 2020-2030, and effective implementation of the results of the second objective of the third goal of the two-year Action Plan developed as part of the Youth Strategy 2025. Considering the abovementioned, in 2021, in cooperation with the Youth Agency, Association HERA XXI expanded and deepened its partnership with local municipalities in terms of providing information about and raising awareness of issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) among people engaged with the work of youth groups and organisations. As a result, representatives of 10 municipalities in Georgia began to integrate issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) into their action plans, which is crucial for creating a favourable environment for ensuring well-being and health of young people in the country.

The Partnership



Cooperation with the **Youth Agency** took on an even larger scale in 2021. Association HERA XXI participated in the process of developing the Georgian National Youth Policy Concept for 2020-2030, and is now actively involved in the implementation of activities envisaged in the third objective (promoting health and well being of young people) of the Policy Document.



In 2021, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the **Juvenile Referral Centre at the National Agency for Crime Prevention Execution of Non-Custodial Sentences and Probation** and Association HERA XXI. The agreement will facilitate the process of rehabilitation and re-socialization of beneficiaries of the Agency.



Establishing strong partnerships with partner organizations and generating a common vision is an important tool for improving the youth ecosystem with regard to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). In this regard, a collaborative document was developed at the initiative of the organization, signed by the Youth Representative to the UN and later by the NGOs such as Echo of Diversity and Youth Association DRONI.

Advocacy

- A powerful mechanism for promoting women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is to develop common targeted messages addressing concerns, interests, and values of society, by organizations engaged in solving related issues.
- The Coalition for Reproductive Health and Rights held a meeting in 2021. The problems faced by target groups were identified at the meeting. With this in mind, the Coalition of Women developed advocacy messages.
- The Paris Forum was held in 2021, where the need to fulfil the commitments made at the Nairobi Summit was once again highlighted. Association HERA XXI collaborated with the Gender Council to formulate commitments to be undertaken by government/parliamentary delegations to the Paris Forum.

SRHR Needs and Challenges Identified in Social Groups

Association HERA XXI is actively working with young women and girls living in IDP settlements, namely in Tserovani, Tsilkani, Prezeti and in the border region in Gali Municipality – villages of Saberio, Zemo Barghebi, Nabakevi, Otobaia.

In 2021, as a result of the activities conducted by a social worker and a youth leader with these social groups, the needs and challenges faced by women affected by the conflict and living in border regions as well as of IDPs were identified. The information compiled allows us to pinpoint the following needs:

- Access to higher education is a challenge for internally displaced young women. Although the majority of internally displaced young people attend local schools, a smaller proportion of young women enrol in tertiary education or are likely to complete their education. The situation is due to existing social and economic factors, as well as to the stereotypes prevailing in the settlement.
- Access to health care services is limited for internally displaced young women and girls. There is the shortage of healthcare workers of different medical specialties to consult patients at the local level. A significant challenge for internally displaced young women and girls is availability of menstrual hygiene materials (the latter has been identified as a problem during the COVID-19 pandemic).

Based on the information compiled as a result of the work of the leader of the Abkhazian youth group of the Association:

- There is no healthcare facility in the occupied Gali district equipped with necessary technologies and materials. In addition, there is the shortage of medical personnel who would perform surgical procedures. A low level of awareness of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) among women is a huge barrier.
- Health care services in the occupied territory of Abkhazia are not available to everyone and are not adapted to individuals with special needs. Seriously ill patients are transferred to the territory controlled by Georgia only when the chances of recovery are minimal and in question.
- The lack of information is also a challenge, majority of respondents do not know what type of medical services are available in the occupied territory of Abkhazia.

Access to SRHR-related Gender-Sensitive High Quality Services

The risks women and girls face have increased dramatically under the COVID-19 pandemic, as resources allocated to manage Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) have been diverted to respond to the epidemic. Whereas, women's critical needs for family planning, menstrual hygiene materials, and maternal health care never decrease or disappear.

In response to these challenges, at the initiative and with the support of Association HERA XXI a remote service hub enabling young women and girls to receive free, anonymous consultations with a doctor reproductologist, lawyer and/or social worker has been launched.

The following needs were identified as a result of the analysis of consultations conducted in 2021:

- Beneficiaries often complain about the quality of medical care provided by a health care facility, as well as about mistreatment of patients by health care professionals, and they frequently ask questions about the mechanisms and legal guarantees envisaged in the legislation.
- Serious problems emerge when patients' rights are grossly violated by health care professionals and when health care professionals fail to adhere to the principle of protection of patient privacy and confidentiality, while providing a medical service - a consultation with a physician or various medical procedures.
- Feeling pressured by partners, family members and/or health care providers while making a decision to terminate a pregnancy.
- Important barriers to receiving abortion services include women's financial dependence and geographic accessibility to a healthcare facility.



Association Hera XXI HOTLINE

If you need:

Consultation with doctor-reproductologist
Consultation with social worker
Consultation with lawyer

CONTACT US:

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➤ The order of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs lays a solid foundation for respect for women's dignity and autonomy; however, a 5-day waiting period between preabortion counselling and the abortion procedure tends to work for and give priority to the foetus and work against international recommendations on health and human rights.

➤ An abortion consent form, which provides information on the moral and ethical issues surrounding abortion and the harm it causes, leads to biased consultations and misinformation about possible harm resulting from abortion, which works against international recommendations on health and human rights.



2021

Youth-friendly Health Services (YFHS)

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Online Consultations with a Doctor
Reproductologist
215 cases



Online Consultations with a Social Worker
120 cases



Online Consultations with a Lawyer
346 cases



Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Women –

The aim of creating the group was to establish a space for women, during the pandemic, where they would be able to receive the relevant information on and services tailored to their needs provided by specialists in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Therefore, the group serves the purpose of raising awareness of SRHR issues and promotes the targeted and free delivery of services to women, which is a strong prerequisite for ensuring women's health and empowerment.



Holistic Sexuality Education (HSE)

In 2021, Association HERA XXI made a significant progress with regard to introducing **formal** and **non-formal** education on comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

Formal Education

The e-learning course "**Sexual and Reproductive Health for Teachers**" was developed in cooperation with the National Centre for Teacher Professional Development. The course was preceded by a needs assessment conducted with the participation of teachers of natural sciences, biology and civics.

The results of the assessment revealed that teachers needed resources that would address the challenges associated with teaching issues related to reproductive health and would enable them to impart comprehensive and age-appropriate knowledge to students. The course "Sexual and Reproductive Health for Teachers" was developed in response to the needs identified as part of the assessment.

In 2021, the organization started to adapt and prepare a module - **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in Crisis Situations: A Distance Learning Module**. The module will help those involved in the primary health care to get complete knowledge of the issues related to crisis management.

Non-Formal Education



A course of Peer Education aims to promote learning from one's peers, which in turn builds on a new Technical Guide developed by UNESCO. The course was completed by 59 young people in 2021.

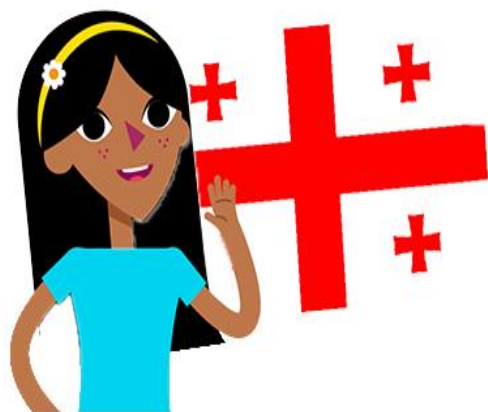


19 young people improved their coaching skills and became peer educators. As a result of sessions conducted by peer educators, 1,060 young people were trained in 8 municipalities of Georgia.



In 2021, a partnership was established between Amaze.org and Association HERA XXI, which facilitated the integration of digital multimedia resources into **formal** and **non-formal** education programmes in Georgia.

VIDEOS BY AMAZE



Association HERA XXI tries to create a product that will meet the needs of young people.

At the initiative of Association HERA XXI, the scientific and educational videos created by amaze.ge have been translated into Georgian language.

Youth Ecosystem

One of the fundamental values of Association HERA XXI is a youth-oriented approach, which in turn serves the purpose of identifying the needs and interests of the coming generation. A study by the Youth Agency and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on [Needs and Challenges of the Youth at the Municipal and Regional Levels](#) shows that significant steps are still to be taken to build a strong and sustainable youth ecosystem.

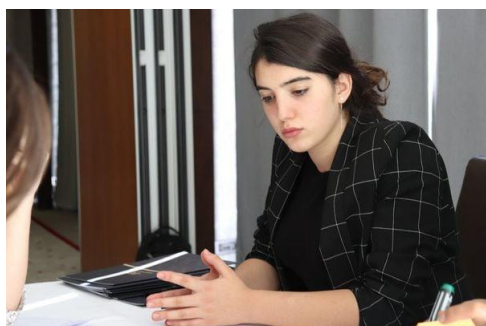
Access to various services is important for young people, whereas it should be noted that their involvement in volunteering at the municipal level is low.

The third objective of the Action Plan developed for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy 2025 aims to create a healthy environment for young people and create the conditions necessary for their well-being. To this end, this objective envisages sexual and reproductive health-related activities. Association HERA XXI, acting as think tank, participated in the process of developing the activities and issuing recommendations. In addition, the organization is actively working with municipal youth groups and organizations for the purpose of implementation of the Action Plan.

A 2021 survey of young people conducted by Association HERA XXI found that despite some progress, information on reproductive health and gender-based violence is scarce and there is a need to plan and implement awareness-raising activities.

The path taken by Association HERA XXI, year by year, gives more and more young people the opportunity to contribute to the development and strengthening of the communities they belong to.

Youth leader of the year



Volunteer of the year



Activist of the year



Peer-educator of the year



Activities Conducted by Youth Groups at the Municipal Level

Six youth groups operate on the basis of Association HERA XXI in the following municipalities of Georgia - Tserovani, Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Khobi, Akhaltsikhe, Gali. At present, the number of group members and activists total 117 young people, of which 9.4% are boys. The organization is focused on creating equal conditions and opportunities for young people and increasing the involvement of both girls and boys in promoting issues related to reproductive health and healthy lifestyle.

Developing leadership and teamwork skills from an early age contributes to the effectiveness of achieving common goals in the future, is a guarantee of a successful career, prosperity and the opportunity to establish oneself in society. The youth groups focus on strengthening leadership activities. Each member of the youth group has the opportunity to discover, refine and improve their skills.

YOUTHnet of HERA – XXI

In order to make the activities transparent and ensure access to information, Association HERA XXI has set up a Facebook platform [Association HERA XXI Youth Network](#). There

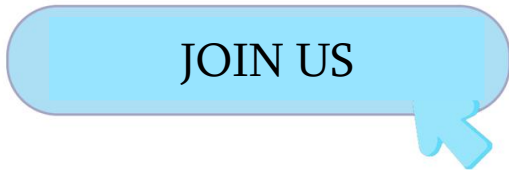
are 1,594 platform users and members of the youth group are directly involved in the management of the platform. In the context of the pandemic, the page has become an important medium for communicating with the audience, making it easier for young people involved in the activities conducted by the Association to access a variety of opportunities and means of self-expression.

In addition to providing information on opportunities, the platform is intended for educational purposes and aims to explain problematic issues to young people, to ensure that voices of young people are heard at the municipal level. The Youth Network is a powerful mechanism for advocating for issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)



ასოციაციის ჯერა-XXI ახალგაზრდული ქსელი

YOUTHnet of Association HERA-XXI



within communities.



Youth Campaigns

- International Youth Day;
- Youth Mental Health Day;
- International Day of the Girl Child;
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- Human Rights Day;
- International Volunteer Day.



Volunteering

Increasing the involvement of young people in public life is envisaged by the Georgian National Youth Policy Concept for 2020–2030, and promoting and improving volunteering is one of the most important priorities to achieve this goal. Association HERA XXI has been serving this goal for many years through various activities - the number of young people involved in the volunteering activities organized by the Association is growing every year. In 2021, the number of volunteers totalled **1,695**.

Coordination of activities and properly selected mechanisms have helped the Association to establish a strong and successful volunteering platform that takes into account the interests and potential of each volunteer.

The HERA XXI Alumni Network is an obvious example of this. The network was established in 2021 and currently it counts 365 young members. It is a space for self-realization and personal development, for sharing experiences and effective implementation of activities. The organization offers the volunteers access to information, trainings and activities, gives them exclusive opportunities and supports the professional development of the volunteers.



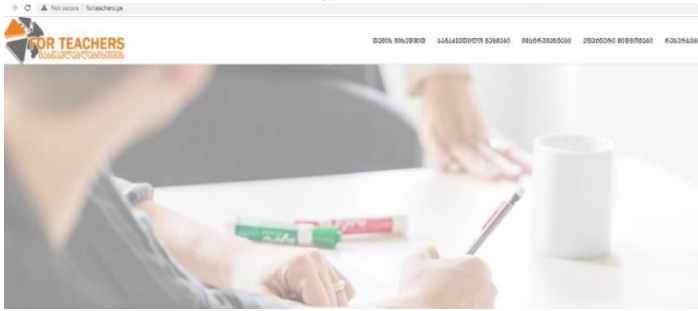
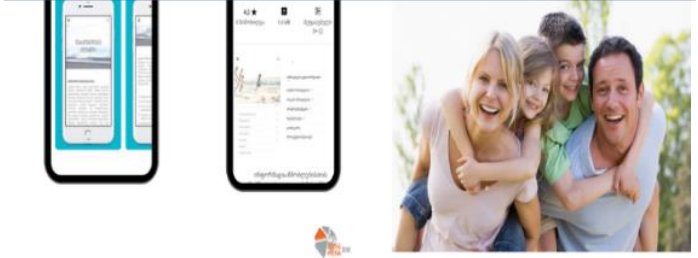
The aim of the platform is to empower young people, to bring together the old and new members involved in the activities of Association HERA XXI, to introduce fundamental changes in the direction of youth activism.



Leader girls for healthy lifestyle – is especially popular among young people. This activity brings together girls living in different regions and municipalities of Georgia and unites them around such important topics as reproductive health and a healthy lifestyle. Activists who have successfully completed the project have been involved in the process of initiating positive changes in their community.

YOUTHnet of HERA – XXI is a page for young people on the social media platform Instagram and aims to support volunteerism and activism-based leadership.

The mobile app will help you talk to your children about healthy living and reproductive health



FOR TEACHERS
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 @ForTeachersHERA · საგანმანათლებლო ვებსაიტი

შეტყობინების გაგზავნა



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SELF Camp Georgia
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შეზღუდვების წარდგენა...

Association HERA-XXI
 @associationhera XXI actively works in GRHR field since 1998.

357 Following 40 Followers

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hera_xxi_youth Message

43 posts 73 followers 7 following

YOUTHnet of HERA - XXI
 Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
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Followed by likka.gvalia, barbarejanashvili, lotkashvilitkela +4 more

PEER EDUC...



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