

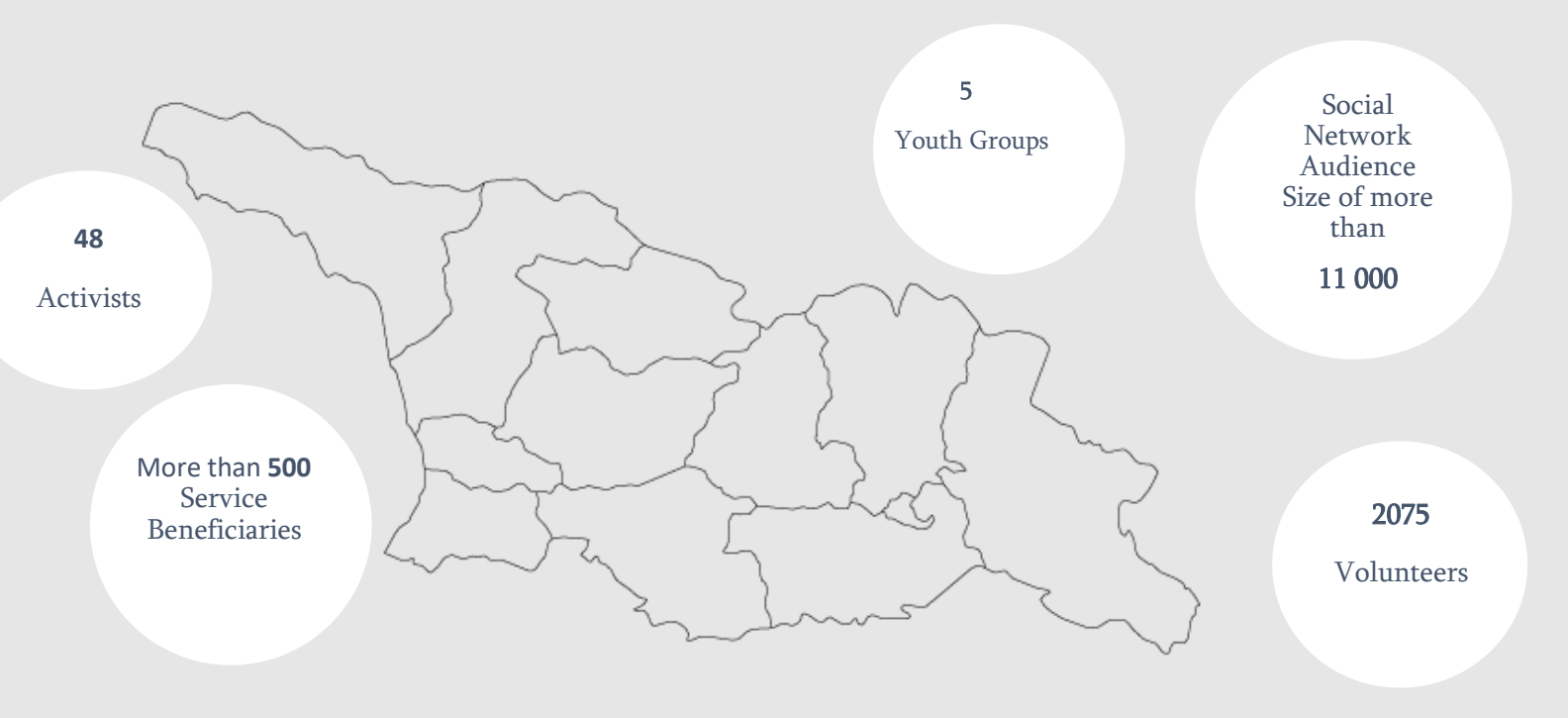
2022

# ASSOCIATION “HERA XXI” ANNUAL BULLETIN



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## Effective Advocacy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Over the years, with the initiative and participation of the association "HERA XXI", joint effort of civil society organizations and the support of international partners, many important processes were launched, which substantially improved access to comprehensive information, formal and non-formal education and human rights-based and high-quality services for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups of society. Advocacy and joint efforts for achieving gender equality, protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are crucial in the context when the historical opportunity of joining the European Union (EU) and the timely implementation of international obligations are hindered by stigma, stereotypes and attempts of ultra-conservative anti-democratic initiatives.

For years, Association HERA XXI has been actively advocating for increasing the accountability of decision-makers with regard to the implementation of international recommendations issued in the direction of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality, at the national, international, and local levels.

### Advocacy at the International Level:

#### Results:

- As a result of collaboration between civil society organizations and the EU Delegation to Georgia within the frames of an advisory group, a roadmap and a country-level implementation plan on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues were developed for Georgia;

- Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Georgia and the Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) for Georgia on issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) were updated;
- Association HERA XXI participated in the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2022). At the Conference, representatives of Association HERA XXI shared the best practices with international partners;
- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Follow up process - a leader organization of the thematic group of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence developed a follow up strategy;
- Association HERA XXI was nominated by the Secretariat of the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) as an organization responsible for the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy;
- Association HERA XXI participated in the process of approval of the global strategy for the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

### Advocacy at the National Level - Performance and Results of Working Groups

- In 2022, through the efforts of Association HERA XXI, social security issues were integrated into the state policy documents.
- Association HERA XXI participated in the process of development of the State Youth Strategy for 2023-2026 and the 2023 Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy.
- As a result of the work conducted by the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) Focal group, 4 advocacy fact sheets were developed.
- With the participation of Estonian partners, the Estonian model of youth-friendly services was presented as a good practice to the representatives of the Youth Agency, the Youth Issues and the Healthcare and Social Issues Parliamentary Committees, the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and the State Medical Holding.

### Advocacy at the Local Level

Association HERA XXI works to change attitudes, review and/or develop policies and introduce best practices in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

### Cooperation with local municipalities



#### Gender Equality Council of Bolnisi Municipality

- The Gender Equality Strategy and the three-year Action Plan integrating gender equality issues were approved.



### The Gender Equality Council of Kutaisi Municipality

- The Gender Equality Strategy and the three-year Action Plan incorporating mechanisms for fulfilling international obligations were approved;
- Cooperation with the Association is envisaged.

## Partnership with State Agencies



### The Juvenile Referral Center:

- Strengthening the skills of the center's multidisciplinary team based on the memorandum;
- Information meetings with beneficiaries;
- Introduction of the Flag System.

## The National Centre for Teacher Professional Development



### The National Center for Teacher Professional Development:

- A pilot programme of e-training course "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for Teachers" was developed as part of the partnership;
- Results of the pilot programme were presented and the course was accredited.

## Access to SRHR-Related High Quality Services

Timely access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services can save lives. Association HERA XXI has been actively advocating and supporting the promotion and delivery of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services for everyone, including for vulnerable groups, for years.

In 2022, in parallel with the online service delivery, the Association made on-site visits to provide services to internally displaced persons (IDPs). The members of the target group were provided with the full spectrum of gynaecological care by a reproductologist, and contraceptives were distributed free of charge based on individual needs. In case of detection of a pathology, beneficiaries were referred to the relevant service.

- Information Provision - considering the difficulties associated with information filtering (IF), Association HERA XXI offers beneficiaries reliable information about reproductive health and rights (RHR). The Association has its own digital platforms - Reproductive Health Centre and Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, where interested persons can read thematic articles, attend LIVE sessions and ask questions completely anonymously.
- Online Counselling - during the year 2022, Reproductive Health Centre was fully mobilized and engaged in online counselling, responding to the calls of the beneficiaries, answering the questions asked in the online chat, helping them selecting contraceptives, explaining to them the rules of using contraceptives and providing contraceptives on site, which is also a great support for vulnerable groups.

Online Counseling - 798 cases ● Referral Services - 24 cases ● Legal Counseling – 377 cases

Online Consultations with a Doctor Reproductologist - 251 cases ● Hotline Service – 308 cases

In 2022, systemic problems with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services such as family planning, contraception, safe abortion services and post-abortion care remained a challenge.

Despite the commitments made by Georgia at the international level, which implies making information about contraception and high-quality services available for women, providing family planning and contraception-related services as part of the Universal Healthcare (UHC) programme remain a significant challenge; consequently, these issues reinforce concerns about the affordability of contraceptives.

Association HERA XXI presents:

**Research on Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Services among Young People**



Presentation of a documentary film about induced abortion - artificial termination of pregnancy



Motherhood, in Georgia, is considered women's primary responsibility, the culture implies encouraging women to have many children, and, therefore, the society does not properly understand the need for contraception; consequently, this can be considered as one of the barriers to access to contraception.

Lack of and/or insufficient information about women's reproductive health often leads to early marriage among girls and increases the risk of forced marriage.

Sexuality-related stigma often restricts women's access to the information, services and products they need. In particular, it is due to stigma that women often find it difficult to ask questions to doctors, discuss contraception or other issues related to their relations with their partners, and establish effective communication to obtain financial resources needed to meet their medical needs.

Neglecting women's bodily autonomy and the practice of involving partners and other family members in the related decision-making process frequent leads to violations of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls representing ethnic minority groups.

The control of women's sexuality, as it turned out, is another common practice among ethnic minority groups, which manifests itself in certain customs related to marriage and leads to actions that undermine the dignity of women.

Finally, the scarcity of national sexual and reproductive health programmes and services remains a significant challenge, and the lack of gender sensitivity and inclusiveness and low quality and administration problems related to the existing programmes also significantly impede women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services they need.

### Standing in solidarity with the women from Ukraine

Expressing its support and solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, Association HERA XXI offers women and young girls of childbearing age friendly services that are available to displaced persons in Georgian, Russian and English languages.



Coverage of gender-sensitive, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues in the Georgian media

Coverage of gender-sensitive, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues in the Georgian media

Evaluating Effectiveness of the Maternal and Newborn Health Promotion Action Plan 2017-2019



Evaluating Effectiveness of the Maternal and Newborn Health Promotion Action Plan 2017-2019



Reproductive health and sexual rights are a prerequisite for human well-being. sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are related to physical and mental development. This means that a person should be entitled to a satisfying and safe sexual life and have the right to free choice and to make informed decision regarding the number of children they want to have.

In order to maintain reproductive health, people need accurate and competent information about safe, effective and affordable contraception.

Reproductive health includes issues such as maternal and child health, pregnancy, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), family planning, access to modern methods of contraception, safe sexual life and safe abortion, prevention of oncological diseases of the reproductive system, screening, etc.

Based on the abovementioned, it is obvious that reproduction has a very important place in human life, although it is worth noting that reproduction is not confined to health issues but also involves legal issues. Every person has the right to make their own decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive behaviour in the environment which is free from any pressure, coercion or discrimination.

Women have the right to make an informed decision and choose for themselves when they want to have a child, how many children they want to have, and also the right to avoid unplanned and unwanted pregnancy. They should have access to services that will help them get pregnant, give birth to their children safely, and give birth to healthy children. It is this free choice, independent and informed decision that represents the human reproductive right.

Association HERA XXI is active in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), providing access to information and services related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), promoting formal and non-formal education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In 2022, a total of 1366 persons benefited from the friendly services provided by the Association.

In 2022, friendly services provided by Association HERA XXI became available to the population displaced from Ukraine

CONTACT US THROUGH HOTLINE

Зв'яжіться з нами через гарячу лінію:

032 20 11 221



Providing comprehensive sexuality education to young people and groups of specialists remains a challenge in Georgia. This is due to prejudices and stereotypes prevailing in the society, lack of effective trainings and relevant materials in the Georgian language. Association HERA XXI, with the effort it takes annually, contributes to the implementation of activities that serve the purpose of eliminating the above-mentioned gaps and providing comprehensive sexual education to society.

### Formal Education

Association HERA XXI offers the following courses on its platform - Ehera.ge:

- The Adolescent Reproductive Health and Development;
- Management of common reproductive health issues in medical practice;
- A course of Peer Education on issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) “Everything in One Course”;
- A training course for obstetrician-gynecologists and related service providers "Safe Reproductive Services/Safe Abortion";
- Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in Crisis Situations: A Distance Learning Module.


After completing the course, participants can take an online exam and receive a certificate.

### 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 – “Everything in One Course” developed by UNESCO. The course was completed by 90 young people in 2022. 13 young people improved their coaching skills and became peer educators. As a result of sessions conducted by peer educators, 1,039 young people were trained in 8 municipalities of Georgia.
- In 2022, Association HERA XXI became an award-winning organization of Amaze.org, within the framework of which animated videos about sexual and reproductive health (SHE) were translated into the Georgian, Azerbaijani and Armenian languages. The videos were also adapted into sign language. With the support of the Association, and with the help of volunteers from the Association visiting various educational institutions, the videos were integrated into non-formal and formal education programmes.
- Training for Family Doctors - As part of the cooperation between Association Hera XXI and Eesti Seksuaaltervise Liit, family doctors were trained in the provision of friendly sexual and reproductive health services and counseling. The training was conducted by expert trainers invited from Estonia.

The number of young people who are involved in the activities implemented by the Association and thereby contribute to the promotion of reproductive health and a healthy lifestyle among peers is increasing annually. Considering the above mentioned as a priority, the Association chose not to step off the path and contribute to the development of young people, support relevant ideas and their realization. The year 2022 turned out to be significant in terms of implementing youth activities at the municipal level. Five youth groups operating on the basis of the Association are successfully working in different municipalities of Georgia: Tbilisi, Gori, Tserovani, Kutaisi and Akhaltsikhe. Currently, 48 young people, 2.4% of whom are boys, are the members and/or activists of these groups.

The Association is focused on creating equal environment and opportunities for both girls and boys. The activities of the youth groups help strengthen the culture of volunteering and promote the development of leadership skills.



"In my opinion, the collaborative project of the Association Hera XXI and the Gori Municipality Mayor's Office "Youth for a Healthy Future" is one of the result-oriented projects..."

"I'm happy that I have to interact with my peers and talk about a topic that is aimed at raising awareness. Their sparkling eyes are what motivate me..."

"Getting information about a healthy lifestyle and sharing it with others is one of my main goals..."

In 2022, the youth groups joined a 16-day international campaign against violence against women, planned the activity "Empowerment of Women using Digital Technologies", which was conducted with the participation of local young people living in different municipalities of Georgia.

The best outcome of the cooperation of the Association at the municipal level is the project "Youth For Healthy Future", which was implemented within the framework of the co-financing programme of Gori Municipality. Within the framework of the project, 12 young people living in Gori Municipality were trained as peer educators. They conducted 90 educational sessions and trained more than 800 young people.

## Digital Activism

In 2022, young people were enabled to reach out to their peers through social networks, voice the messages developed by them and promote the development of digital activism. The voices of young people were heard on the platform of Association HERA XXI, which has an audience of more than 2,000.

In times of war, humanitarian and basic needs of young people are to be met



## Culture, Values, Human Rights and Sexuality

Mariam Abuladze



August 21  
18:00



## Youth activities based on knowledge sharing

In 2022, the Association actively cooperated with experienced volunteers, activists and members of the youth groups in order to share the knowledge acquired at different times.

This sharing, in turn, helps young people to acquire knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in a short period of time and to effectively implement projects through collaboration with experienced volunteers, while acting as full-fledged members of the team.

In 2022, such meetings were held in Kutaisi and Akhaltsikhe municipalities.

Young people were able to get different experiences, share their beliefs and ideas and establish an interregional youth network.



16 Days  
16 Votes  
1 Movement



Today, now and here, speak up! Expose the abuser and be free! Every woman deserves a harmonious and happy life.

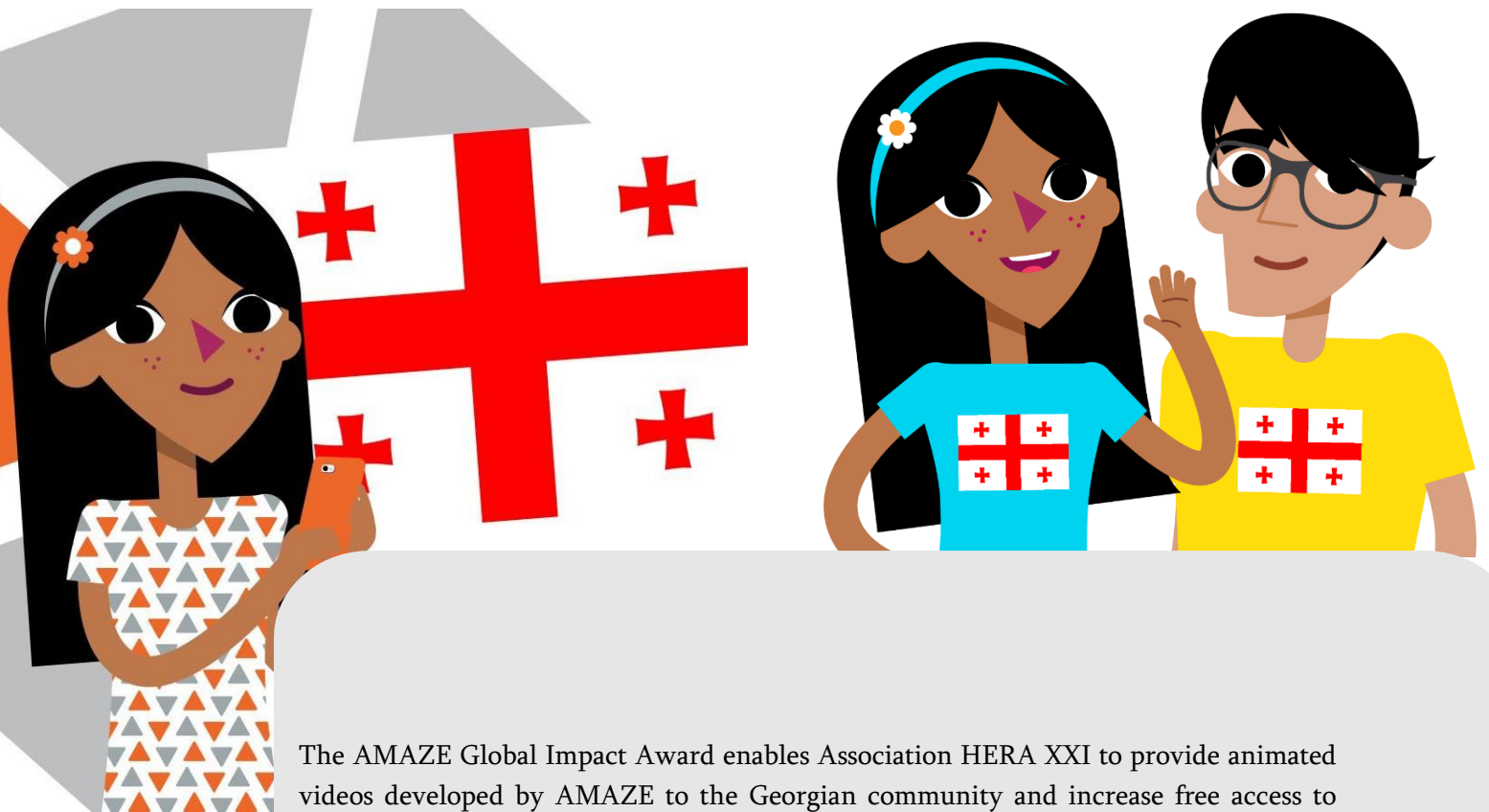


Giorgi  
Tseradze

## Volunteering

In 2022, the number of volunteers totalled 2,075. Targeted coordination of activities and properly selected mechanisms helped the Association to create a strong and successful volunteering platform, where interest and resources of each volunteer are considered.

In order to improve communication with volunteers, Association HERA XXI operates the platform “HERA XXI - Alumni Network” functioning on the basis of the Association. The hub has 507 youth members. It is a space for self-realization, personal development, experience-sharing and effective implementation of activities.



The AMAZE Global Impact Award enables Association HERA XXI to provide animated videos developed by AMAZE to the Georgian community and increase free access to information and resources related to reproductive health and healthy lifestyles.

Association HERA XXI is the exclusive partner of AMAZE in the Caucasus region.

# Association HERA XXI on Social Media



ჩვენს პირობებში მატარებთ თქვენს სახარტულს

სამომავალი:

კავშირების შექმნა ჩვენს მთელს მსოფლიოს მსოფლიო კავშირების ქსელში

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ჩვენს ქვეყნში, რომელიც მსოფლიოს მსოფლიო კავშირების ქსელში

● თუ გაინტერესებს, სასკოლო განათლებისა და თანამედროვე ცხოვრების პირობებში, რამდენად გარჯად ერკვევი სექსუალური და რეპროდუქციული ჯანმრთელობის შესახებ მნიშვნელოვან საკითხებში, ეს ტესტი სწორედ ამაზე გაგცემს პასუხს.



ON.GE  
ტესტი: როგორ ერკვევი სექსუალურ და რეპროდუქციულ ჯანმრთელობაში?

ინფორმაციის მისაღებად დაეხმარება ჩვენს მსოფლიო კავშირების ქსელში

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- რეპროდუქციული ჯანმრთელობა
- საინფორმაციო ტექნოლოგიები

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Association HERA XXI

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ForTeachers  
მასწავლებლებისთვის

განხილეთ თქვენი ტექსტი

HERA TEACHERS

განხილეთ თქვენი ტექსტი

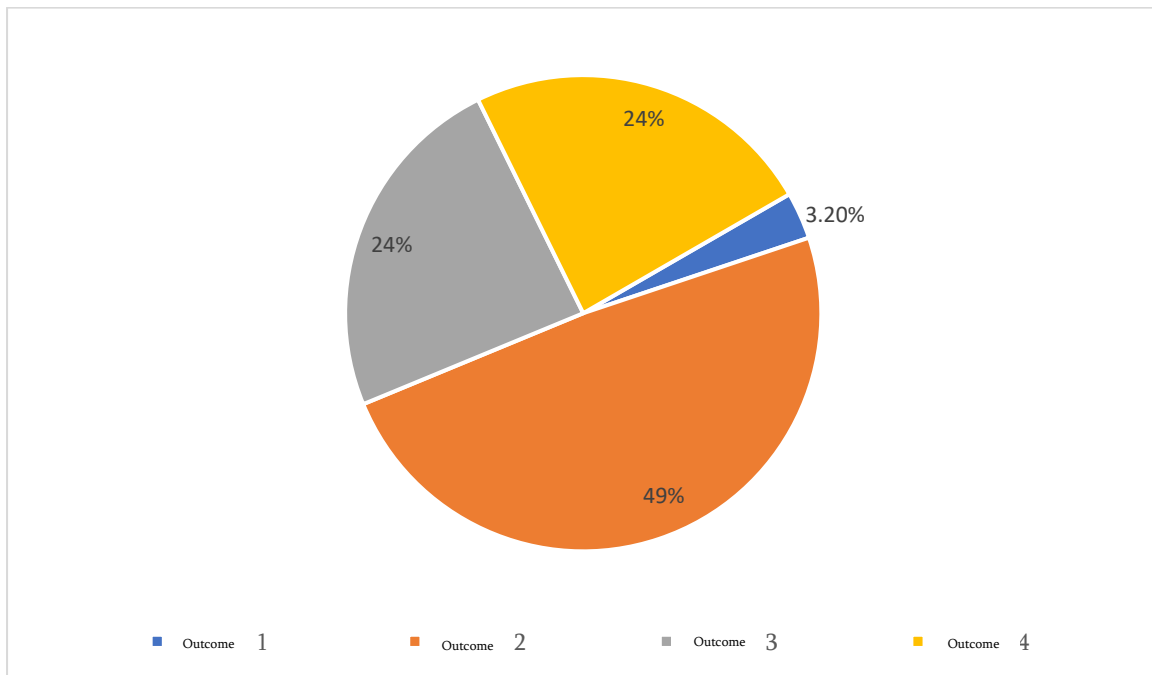
YOUTHnet of Association HERA XXI

განხილეთ თქვენი ტექსტი

HERA PARENTS



## *Distribution of Resources to the Strategic Directions Identified by the Association*



### **Outcome 1**

*The political, social and economic environment for successful implementation of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the country has been improved through the government's increased commitment to international obligations*

### **Outcome 2**

*Most young people in Georgia are aware of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), make free choices and exercise their rights*

### **Outcome 3**

*A substantial part of the poor and vulnerable groups of Georgia's population have access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services.*

### **Outcome 4**

*Association HERA XXI is a financially sustainable organization and leads a strong volunteer-and-activist-based public movement*

Address: Apt # 2, Building # 9, Block II, Gamsakhurdia Ave., Tbilisi, Georgia

E-mail: [xxihera@gmail.com](mailto:xxihera@gmail.com)

Phone: 032 201 12 21

[Hera-youth.ge](http://Hera-youth.ge)

