



### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Women with disabilities are one of the most marginalized groups in the world. In the country of Georgia, women with disabilities face a multitude of challenges beginning in childhood, one of which is the general lack of understanding about their capabilities, which leads to their exclusion from economic activities. In the absence of state policies and programs, women with disabilities often face double discrimination, as they not only lack access to social services, but are also hindered by sexist norms that limit women in their choices for leading an active and engaged life.

### OUR GOAL

WomEntrepreneur is a social enterprise model that puts women with disabilities in Georgia in charge of their destiny. This model provides a sustainable mechanism for improving women's quality of life and social integration while also challenging social stigmas by encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship.

WomEntrepreneur first addresses the gaps in business and technical capacities of women with special needs and advocates for their rights. Business ideas submitted by women with disabilities are then collected and reviewed for further development of proposals. Finally, the model commits to supporting the most economically viable business proposals with the most potential for social change.



### PROGRESS

Currently, there are eight active social enterprises employing 47 women. In just 1.5 years of operation, the enterprises have proven to increase women's income and expanded awareness of the needs of women with disabilities among their families and communities. To add to these remarkable successes accomplished in such a short time, all the enterprises are sustainable and are generating a profit.

Seeing the success of these enterprises, local authorities have started supporting them through in-kind contributions and have

financed the local promotion of the enterprises. There were also business links established with local private sector actors. Overall, women engaged in the social enterprises increased their income by a minimum of 50%, with some of them becoming the main breadwinners in their families.

### LOOKING FORWARD

So much work remains to be done. There are approx. 50,000 women with disabilities in Georgia, but the real numbers are much higher and are estimated to be around 200,000. By building an alliance of partners, CARE plans to scale WomEntrepreneur across the entire country, and hopes to replicate the WomEntrepreneur model in other countries, as well.