



IDFI'S STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS

2009-2023



2024



Open Governance / Anti-Corruption



Priority Areas:

- » Watchdog activities
- » Capacity-building for activists
- » Transparent public procurement
- » Open Government Partnership

Over the years, IDFI's in-depth analyses and reports have **uncovered numerous high-profile instances of alleged corruption, abuse of power, nepotism, irresponsible financial practices, and other forms of wrongdoing**. These findings have attracted significant media attention and solidified IDFI's reputation as a key player in promoting greater accountability and transparency in governance. IDFI's shadow reports and alternative monitoring efforts have been acknowledged internationally by renowned organizations such as OECD ACN, UNCAC, GRECO, and others. IDFI also became a member of the Global NPO Coalition on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

From 2022 IDFI was a participant in four working groups involved in the implementation of priorities set by the European Commission for Georgia. The organization was involved in the working group on elaborating the concept/legislative amendments to reform the anti-corruption system of Georgia (4th priority of the European Commission), with 3 recommendations of the organization taken into account.

Through its capacity-building efforts, **IDFI trained hundreds of individuals** - civil society representatives, students, activists, and journalists - on effective methods of tracking government expenditures and performance, monitoring public procurement, tracking beneficial owners of companies, and monitoring political donations and finances.

In 2019, IDFI successfully **integrated its Certification Program in Fighting Corruption into the Faculty of Sciences and Arts at Ilia State University**, establishing it as four permanent academic courses. This unique program has served as a cornerstone in honing the capabilities of over **270 anti-corruption professionals** to this day, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to combat corruption effectively.



In 2017, as a result of IDFI's longstanding advocacy efforts, a **monitoring system for assets declarations of public officials was established**, and the monitoring process is now regulated by legislation. This achievement was noted and highlighted as one of prime

examples of a successful reform in the evaluation document of the European perspective for Georgia.

Since 2019, IDFI has laid the foundation for the first international annual conference on good governance in Georgia, entitled **Good Governance Forum (#GGForum)**.

Since its inception, the Forum **has been held 4 times, with the involvement of more than 380 participants and 88 speakers** from international and civil society organizations from 30 different countries, with the aim of exchanging regional and international practices for advancing good governance principles and reforms.



over 43 countries, who, aside from assessing their public procurement systems, actively cooperate with IDFI in advocacy efforts.

In 2016, IDFI created the **Transparent Public Procurement Rating (TPPR)** international platform, a unique global initiative that aims to examine and evaluate the public procurement regulations of various countries and to publish a rating based on these assessments. In 2020, **the Open Government Partnership (OGP) recognized TPPR as one of the main sources for the monitoring** of open government principles in public procurement and listed IDFI as one of its partner organizations in the domain of public procurement. As of 2023, the TPPR civil society network comprises **partners from**

IDFI has achieved significant milestones in promoting open governance and legislative reforms in the Parliament of Georgia and the Supreme Council of Ajara (SCA). By capitalizing on their expertise and leadership in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), IDFI's successful advocacy efforts resulted in the **Georgian Parliament joining the OGP** and receiving the CSO Prize for co-creation at the 3rd OGP Global Summit in Mexico, becoming the first and only parliament to do so.



Additionally, IDFI's Executive Director, **Giorgi Kldiashvili, previously served as a civil society member of the OGP Steering Committee**, demonstrating the organization's influential role in shaping the values and principles of the OGP.

For publications, go to:



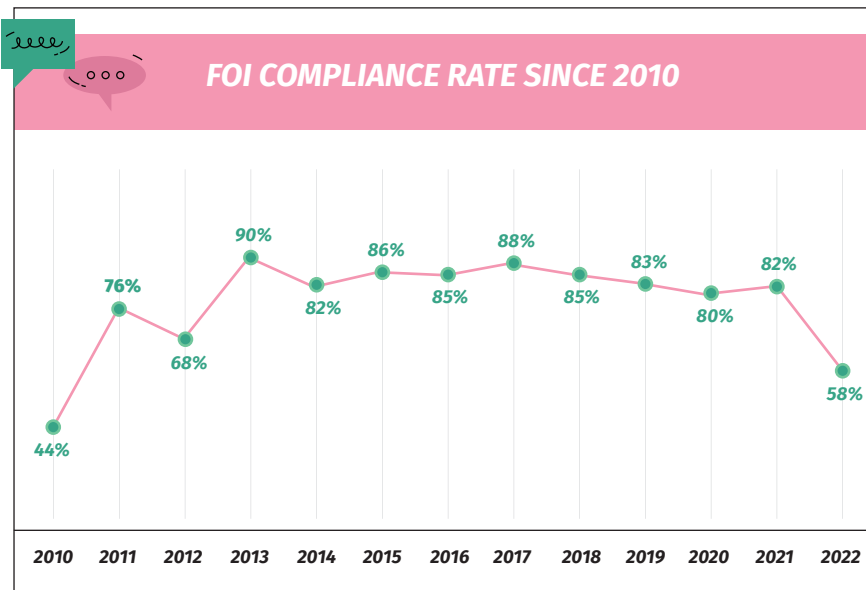
Access to Public Information & Open Data



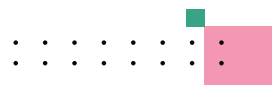
Priority Areas:

- »» Improving accessibility to public information
- »» Advocating for legislative reforms
- »» Advocating for the implementation of open data standards
- »» Promoting the use of public data for the public good and government oversight

IDFI's annual monitoring of compliance of public institutions with Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation requirements, as well as advocacy and awareness-raising activities, had a significant impact on the increased **overall response rate to FOI requests by public institutions in Georgia, which improved from 44% in 2010 to 82% in 2021**. However, a **sharp decline (-24%)** was observed in 2022.



Several major initiatives were undertaken by the Government of Georgia through IDFI's advocacy, such as the implementation of **standards of electronic requests and proactive disclosure of public information** adopted in 2013, the development of an open government data portal – www.data.gov.ge – in 2016, and **asset declarations of public officials** being made available in open formats (through API) in 2022, paving the way for potential creative civic monitoring initiatives in the future. In addition, in 2016, a change was introduced to the legislation to expand the list of public officials required to submit assets declarations. It should be noted that the heads of state-owned enterprises were included in the list for the first time, which is an exceptionally good practice on a global scale.

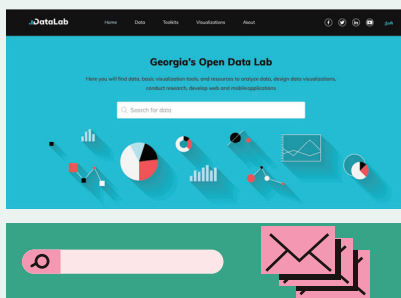


Through the analysis of public information, IDFI identified significant systemic deficiencies in state governance and successfully advocated for their improvement. For example, as a result of an active campaign by IDFI, the unfair compensation system in the public sector was legally regulated within the framework of the public service reform in 2018. In addition, since 2018, the record keeping protocol and availability of crime statistics have been improved.



Up to **9,000 individuals** (public servants at the national and local levels, journalists, students, civil society actors, and data journalists) **benefited from IDFI's awareness-raising activities in the areas of access to public information, data management, analysis, publication, and dissemination issues.** As a result of IDFI's local efforts, open data management practices were implemented and improved in **9 municipalities.**

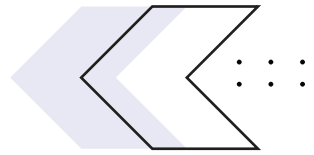
As an international recognition, IDFI became the **Regional Hub** for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (covering **12 countries**) for the **Global Data Barometer (GDB)** to produce a **large-scale global index** for measuring data governance, capability, availability, and use and impact of data for the public good. At the national level, IDFI developed a civic open data portal – **Georgia's Open Data Lab (DataLab.Ge)** – which displays more than **1,520 datasets in open formats** and enables users to explore, analyze, and download data, as well as prepare and share simple data visualizations.



For publications, go to:



Rule of Law and Media Freedom



Priority Areas:

- »» **Strengthening the Rule of Law and Democratic Institutions**
- »» **Supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic Integration**
- »» **Monitoring the State of Human Rights**
- »» **Defending Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression**

In 2022 and 2023, democratic institutions and enforcing EU priorities was the primary focus of the Direction. IDFI was a member of 4 working groups created in the Parliament of Georgia for the implementation of the 12 priorities of the European Commission and is involved in all principal processes related to this issue; The Parliament of Georgia took into account 4 key recommendations from IDFI that significantly improved the chances of Georgia attaining the candidate status. IDFI participated in multiple consultative meetings with the Venice Commission regarding the opinions on legislation adopted to implement the priorities.

For the past several years, IDFI has engaged in successful **strategic litigation, with significant results in promoting access to public information in Georgia**. Through court cases initiated by IDFI, important precedents have been established, such as the recognition of official email correspondence, administrative expenses, internal audit reports, and inspections of free industrial zones as accessible public information. IDFI's advocacy has led to the recognition and elimination of unconstitutional provisions that hindered access to court decisions. Additionally, IDFI has won **dozens of administrative complaints and court cases** against various central and local government institutions about individual instances of access to public information being denied.



IDFI has significantly increased its efforts to defend the freedom of the media, as well as the rights and safety of journalists. IDFI **has submitted over 550 applications to administrative bodies** on behalf of journalists. From 2022, IDFI launched a free legal aid program for the media. In that year alone, **IDFI initiated 215 legal proceedings, prepared 70 administrative complaints, and filed 28 administrative lawsuits** on behalf of journalists. Thanks to IDFI's legal support, **approximately 60% of the cases resulted in journalists obtaining public information of their interest regardless of the systemic unlawful challenges journalists are facing. Multiple impactful journalistic products were prepared based on the information we obtained for the journalists.**



In 2022, since the governing party initiated an active campaign to discredit and repress CSOs and human rights defenders based in Georgia IDFI commenced measures to defend the defenders. As a countermeasure IDFI proactively prepared the analysis on the Russian-style foreign agents law and its effects on Georgia. The analysis was published on the following day of the initiation of the draft amendments. The analysis played a crucial role in the intellectual fueling of the CSOs during the early days of resistance. In addition, we are helping foreign human rights defenders based in Georgia who were exiled from their countries and now they are being oppressed by Georgia. I.e. IDFI initiated a strategic litigation to protect the defender which was not allowed in Georgia upon returning home from an international conference.

The enforcement of the Constitutional Court's decision about the transparency of the judicial system, a result of IDFI's successful strategic litigation, became part of the 12 priorities defined by the European Union for Georgia to grant the candidate status. As a result, in 2023 the Parliament adopted new legislation, which will enter into force from 2024.

For publications, go to:



Economic and Social Policy



Priority Areas:

- **Evidence-based advocacy for policy changes**
- **Public-Private Partnership**
- **Public-Private dialogue**
- **Gender empowerment**
- **Improving the efficiency of the GoG budget programs at the national and local levels**

IDFI has produced numerous analytical reports on socio-economic issues. Most of the findings and recommendations in these reports have been discussed in detail with the government ministries, the National Bank, the State Audit Office, experts, other NGOs, international donors, as well as the wider public.

In some cases, IDFI's recommendations led to changes and improvements to the socio-economic programs of the country. For example, as a result of IDFI's long-term advocacy and communication with the public sector:

- The universal healthcare program was replaced with a targeted program with differentiated packages. Consequently, various vulnerable groups were given priority. In addition, the financing limits for the treatment of oncological diseases were raised.
- The exposure of the inefficiencies in the existing state policy regarding the provision of housing for internally displaced persons (IDPs) has led to the initiation of large-scale projects aimed at expediting the resettlement process for IDP families.
- IDFI's influential findings and recommendations led to the introduction of the "large family" status in legislation. This change enables parents with four or more children to access social benefits, creating a positive impact on family welfare.



IDFI has been actively advocating for a reasonable increase in the Pension Agency's investment mandate and the riskiness of pension savings, which would provide some insurance against the inflation rate. With the change in legislation, citizens are given the opportunity to choose an investment portfolio for their pension savings.

IDFI has been actively studying the socio-economic impact of global crises (such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war) on Georgia. Through these studies, IDFI was the first to provide access to data of significant public interest. This included information about the migration of Russian citizens to Georgia and its effects on the financial sector, statistics regarding the enforcement of the sanctions regime in Georgia, information related to the management of COVID-19, and other topics.



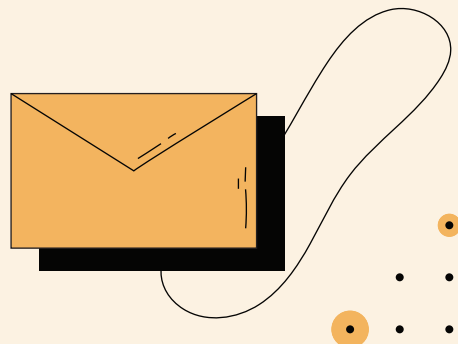
IDFI's design blueprint enabled the Ministry of Finance of Georgia to launch an online platform for budgetary transparency and accountability. This transformative initiative enhances public access to budget information, promoting transparency and accountability in financial management.

IDFI helped improve the partnership between business and government by making uniform standards of Public-Private Partnership between business and government accessible for all stakeholders and evaluating 75 pieces of legislation.

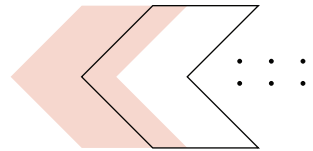


IDFI helped improve public-private dialogue by revealing what stands in the way of local government outreach to businesses and other communities affected by local government's decisions in collaboration with local governments/legislatures in Batumi, Zugdidi, Ozurgeti, Gori, Rustavi, Kutaisi.

For publications, go to:



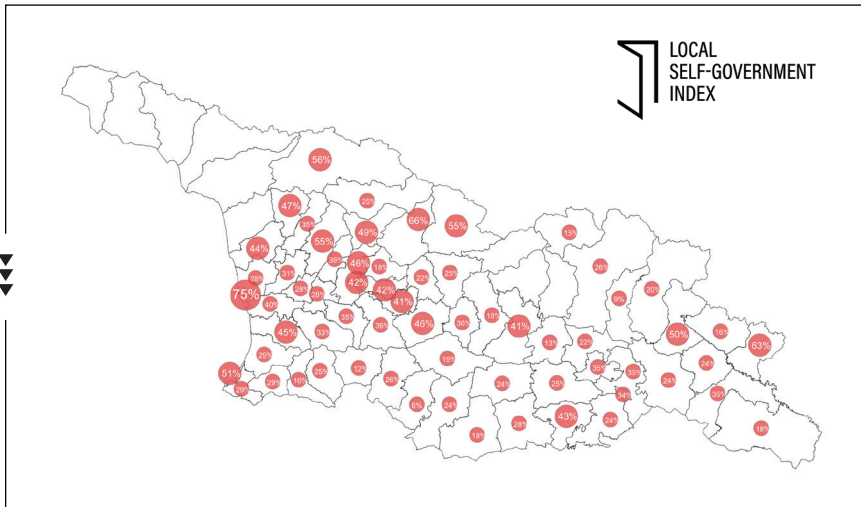
Local Government



Priority Areas:

- >> **Strengthening Local Municipalities and Advocating for Decentralization Reform**
- >> **Promoting Transparency and Accountability**
- >> **Empowerment of Local Stakeholders for Positive Change**
- >> **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals**

IDFI and its partner organizations created a **country-wide mechanism for assessing transparency and accountability in all 64 municipalities of Georgia** biennially in 2017 – **Local Self-Government Index**. The Index set transparency standards for municipalities, gaining local and international acknowledgment, and contributed to the improved performance of municipalities in open government reforms.



IDFI supported over **20 municipalities** throughout the country in updating their websites equipped with various transparency and citizen participation e-tools.

9 municipalities started to implement effective mechanisms for openness, transparency, and citizen participation as a result of enacting the first-ever evidence-based Transparency and Integrity Strategies and Action Plans.



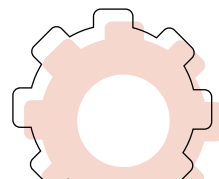
IDFI's locally focused **watchdog activities have uncovered numerous instances of potential corruption risks**, mismanagement of public funds, and wrongdoing in budget spending, staffing, and remuneration policies within local public institutions. These findings have received extensive coverage in both local and national media outlets, sparking significant public discourse.

IDFI made significant contributions to the **nationalization and subsequent localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in Georgia by supporting the Government in the institutionalization of national SDG mechanisms, strengthening data-collection and reporting capacities, **developing an Electronic Monitoring System for SDGs**, integrating SDG targets into the local policy framework, and developing capacity-building and awareness-raising materials for local stakeholders.

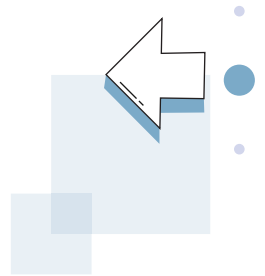


IDFI **advanced the capacity of up to 500 local stakeholders** - public servants, civil society representatives, students, activists, and journalists - on the issues of tracking government expenditures, monitoring public procurement, transparency and accountability, public participation, SDGs, etc.

For publications, go to:



Civic Tech and Innovations



Priority Areas:

- »» **E-Governance**
- »» **Innovations**
- »» **Civic Tech and Civic Engagement**
- »» **Access to the Internet, Digital Freedoms, and Literacy**

As a result of IDFI's successful advocacy in 2018, **access to and unrestricted use of the Internet** was recognized as a **fundamental right** of the citizens of Georgia.

To promote e-governance in Georgia, IDFI participated in developing the E-Governance Strategy of Georgia and successfully advocated for the establishment of a **citizen e-petition platform** (ichange.gov.ge).

Media and digital literacy of more than **40,000 people** were improved as a result of IDFI's awareness-raising activities and capacity-building materials on digital literacy and cybersecurity.



In recognition of IDFI's noteworthy contributions to the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), **IDFI became the Regional Hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia** (covering **12 countries**) for the **Global Index of Responsible AI (GIRAI)** to produce a large-scale global index designed to equip governments, civil society, and stakeholders with the evidence needed to advance rights-based principles for the responsible use of AI.



IDFI has been a major contributor to global initiatives assessing the **quality of Georgia's digital freedoms**, such as the Freedom House's Freedom on the Net, The Global Data Barometer, CSO Meter, and others.

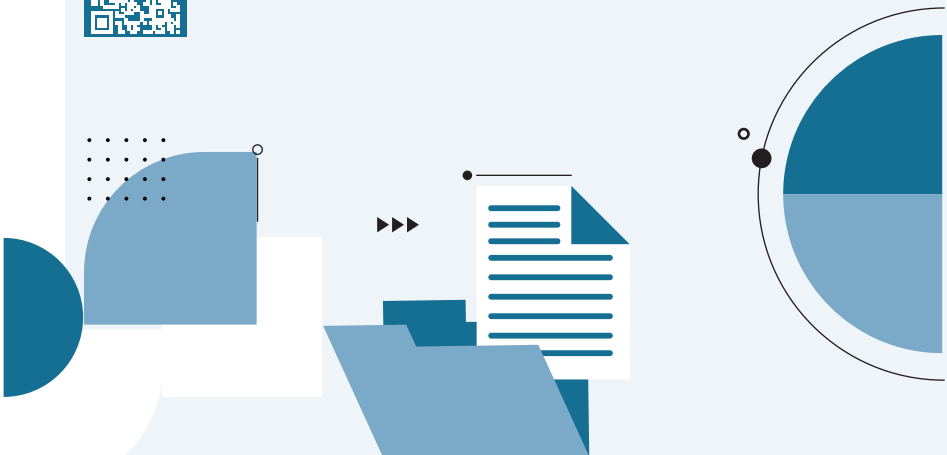


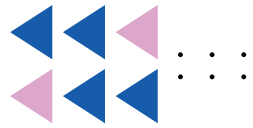
Global Data Barometer

As a result of IDFI's outreach efforts, numerous **recommendations were considered by national regulators and lawmakers**, such as the National Bank of Georgia.

IDFI has developed and maintains numerous high-impact **digital tools and platforms** to monitor and reveal possible wrongdoings in the public sector as part of its watchdog activities, such as [DataLab.Ge](#), [FOI.IDFI.Ge](#), and Freedom To Internet.

For publications, go to:





Priority Areas:

- 》》 **Preservation and Modernization of Archives**
- 》》 **Archival and Memory Studies**
- 》》 **Countering Disinformation and propaganda**

Following IDFI's advocacy campaign, the most important records from Georgia's history in the 20th century **were saved, restored, digitized, and made accessible to the wider public**, preserving valuable historical information and providing access to crucial archival materials.

IDFI has laid the foundation for an international ranking of the openness of state archives, which by 2022 **encompassed a total of 40 archival institutions in Eastern European countries and former Soviet republics** and entailed publishing recommendations for improving the archival field for 20 countries.

Over the years, IDFI has assisted **over 1,500 individuals** in accessing archives. In an attempt to reach even wider audiences, IDFI conducted **over 30 public awareness campaigns** in collaboration with local and international institutions, enhancing public awareness about the openness of archives, promoting memory studies, shedding light on the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, and disseminating scientific information based on archival documents.

According to the changes in the 2024 State Budget of Georgia, the household subsidy for the victims of political repression was increased. It took several years of advocacy from the Society "Georgian Memorial" and IDFI to achieve the mentioned change.

IDFI played a pivotal role in investigating mass graves in Khelvachauri near Batumi, revealing the victims of the Great Terror of 1937-1938. The conferences dedicated to the history, memory studies, and archival openness have been successfully continuing over the last few years, attracting prolific Researchers and distinguished scholars of the field. Since 2018, five annual conferences have been held.



IDFI's counter-disinformation efforts have garnered extensive coverage in both local and international media. In partnership with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and the Investigative Media Lab of the University of Georgia (UG), IDFI shed light on the connections between Soviet and modern propaganda. With the joint efforts of IDFI and



the University of Georgia (UG), more than 50 students were trained within the framework of the program Disinformation and Propaganda Studies: History, Theories and Means of Debunking.

IDFI's strategic achievement in the NATO-funded project "Overcoming Barriers to Combat Disinformation in Ethnic Minority Communities" involved combating disinformation in vulnerable ethnic minority communities, particularly among Armenians and Azerbaijanis in Georgia. The initiative, which included training sessions, workshops, and videos, directly reached 240 individuals and indirectly impacted 20,000 through media channels.



In 2022-2023, IDFI provided extensive research on the influence of Russian capital on Georgia, which provided valuable insights into the extent of the country's economic dependence on Russia, fueled policy discussions, and raised awareness about reducing such dependencies, as well as promoted a more sustainable and self-reliant economic environment. IDFI updated a study similar to the one conducted in 2015, reflecting changes in the business landscape over the past 7 years. The update evaluated the impact and provided current information on this issue.



IDFI has been strategically active in the Shida Kartli region along the Russian occupation line to raise public awareness of the needs of internally displaced persons, the occupation, and the biggest challenge that remains—Russian disinformation and propaganda. IDFI provided opportunities for economic empowerment and tourism development. These activities included supporting local farmers to reduce reliance on the Russian market. In its way, the project "Solidarity Branding - Promotion of Entrepreneurs Living Near the Occupied Territories in the Shida Kartli Region" resulted in the brand gaining worldwide recognition - "Fruits of Heroism." This achievement found success in the international arena and garnered several awards at prestigious festivals.



For publications, go to:



