



**Research of gender needs of civil groups
of Ozurgeti Municipality
for integration in the budget**

2016

1. Summary

In the municipality of Ozurgeti (both in the city and in the villages), the research conducted among gender groups revealed the issues that are necessary to determine the needs of different social groups and for the prospects for their further solution.

It was revealed that the majority of respondents are more or less informed about the programs of the local government budget, and the rest of them know only those programs that concern them. According to the respondents, in terms of inclusion in the decision making process of local government, often the very society is not active, but there were cases when the issues raised by the society have been taken into account by local government (for example, the issue lead processing factory).

The majority of respondents consider local gender priority, the issues of young people and their development, creation of jobs for young people to return them back to the villages. Also they named creation of a professional school that will be the basis for the creation of employment programs.

There were named local programs, which in the opinion of society have a great effect and also infrastructure projects. Roads were built and lot of buildings were repaired.

The majority of respondents believe that the state takes into account the priorities of different social groups. Following the example of their families, many respondents say that the state helps and takes into account their needs. Especially significant is the program to encouraging students.

In general, residents positively assess the activities of agricultural support. They believed that the village revived, but still lot of things should be done. It is necessary to increase the motivation of farmers, also support traditional women's farming.

It was identified respondents' anxiety due to the degree of internal and external migration. There is a very large scale migration of youth and women, especially from the villages.

Most of respondents believe that the budget mostly envisages questions of mothers of many children, IDPs, persons with disabilities, socially unprotected. Also there was identified one of the most involved social group, as the IDPs. It is also actual facilitating the implementation of programs for their integration.

Respondents believe that it is necessary to issue long-term loans, so that the population had opportunity to start a business. It is also necessary to create new enterprises. The majority of respondents positively evaluate the project "Made in Georgia" as business promotion. According to the citizens, opening the centers, refrigerators, is very significant, where they will have the opportunity to deliver their agricultural products. Many people believe that on the local basis people should start production and import of agricultural products, and the state should contribute to this. Experts have proved the need for monitoring to find out what is the situation in terms of phytosanitary. In what condition is the soil, the risk of what diseases exist, what pests are spread, also what educational programs /advice are necessary for farmers.

Respondents evaluated positively co-operation of the local government, society, NGOs with a gender perspective at the local level.

It was pointed change of women attitude: Most of them believe that the opinion and role of women was raised and appreciated in the last period, but still it was called the necessity to increase their level of protection.

It was noted that the priority should be the care of children health and to carry out periodical checks in kindergartens and schools in order to study the health of children.

2.Main part

Research in Ozurgeti Municipality "Research of needs of social groups" was conducted by the order of the fund "Sukhumi" and there were mainly involved the members of Ozurgeti GAC.

The research was held on the basis of qualitative and quantitative information, using the method of inquiry, focus-groups and in-depth interviews.

Totally the research was participated by 240 respondents (200 of them in inquiry, 36 – in focus groups and 4 – in in-depth interviews).

2.1. Quantitative research

In the quantitative research, 200 respondents participated. Among the 81.5% women 18.5% men. Following social groups were interviewed: young people, socially unprotected, women in small business, ethnic minorities. The survey was conducted in the villages - DidiLaituri, DidiNarudzha, Dvabzu, Tshemlisdziri, village Ozurgeti, Gurianta, Nagomari.

Age of respondents was from 16 to 30 years-44%, 30 to 50 years - 32% higher than 50 -48%. Among them 16% were living in the city, 84% in villages. Among respondents in the city 100% were young people (64% of young people participated in the research).

42% of respondents have incomplete secondary education, 29% Secondary professional, 14% - incomplete high, 16% -high education. The majority of respondents with higher education were from the group of small businesses (32%).

On the question whether you have a steady income - positively answered 35%, 65% negatively. Out of the surveyed families the average monthly income for the 24% is 200 GEL, 60% - 600 GEL, for 17% - up to 600 GEL. Among them, the average monthly income of up to 200 GEL indicated 62% of the socially disadvantaged. From the group of representatives of small business 84% have an income of up to 600 GEL. Above 600 GEL indicated young people - 48%.

On a question **whether you have relevant information about the programs of the local budget?** - 48% of respondents have complete information. Less informed was the youth - 4%; from socially disadvantaged 32% have information on budget programs. The answer - "I have little information," was noted by 35% (48% of them - youth). The answer "donotthaveinformation" indicated 41%.

Respondents assessed the level of communication between the society and local authorities. This communication was considered as positive by 32% of the respondents. The biggest rate is rate among ethnic minorities - 58%, and small businesses - 46%. The lowest among youth -8%.

Answer - "unsatisfied" was chosen by 36%, mostly young people (52%). 29% indicated that it is difficult to answer (40% of young people, socially disadvantaged - 36%, small business20%, ethnic minorities 18%).

The interviewer had the opportunity to assess the local social and health programs. These programs are considered satisfied by 52%; among them are the representatives of small businesses (70%) and ethnic minorities (74%). Dissatisfaction was considered 23%. Most often young people think so (32%) and vulnerable (32%). 26% was difficult to answer (youth 36%, disadvantaged 36%).

Respondents answered the question – how important is to equally envisage problems of women and men while drafting the budget (also specific groups of society.)

The issue was considered very significant by 65% of respondents; less important was considered by 21%; 1% believes that the issue is not significant; 13% could not answer. The lack of a strategic approach to the issue was fixed in the group of socially disadvantaged (36%).

Respondents were asked to choose which areas are more a prior at the local level in terms of funding. They had opportunity to choose 3 options.

Healthcare was chosen by 27% of respondents, social protection -19%; education - 19%; economic Development - 7%; civil security -13%; Infrastructure - 14%. Mostly education was named by the youth and small business group representatives. The need for infrastructure programs was called by ethnic minority and representatives of small businesses.

Respondents were asked to choose needs of the groups which should be by no means envisaged in the budget. They had opportunity to choose 3 versions.

"Young families" were chosen by 8% of the respondents; IDPs -4%; Pregnant -6%; children without care 7%, disadvantaged families - 20%; ethnic minorities - 7%; elderly - 9%; people with disabilities - 9%, single parents - 4%; representatives of small bizness- 7%; students- 3%; a victim of domestic violence - 7%; large families - 10%.

In most vivid needs, which are necessary for socio-economic development, respondents named 3 main options.

- a) Improvement of living conditions of -9%; Employment - 23%; availability of qualified education - 19%; integration into local social programs- 11%;
- e) Protection of labor rights - 14%; support of family members - 8%;
- h) Affordable loans -15%.

Improving the living conditions was mostly highlighted in the responses of ethnic minorities - 5%; the need for employment was called by socially unprotected - (33%) and young people (28%); the need for available credits was named by small businesses - 31%.

Do you think it is necessary to encourage activity in unpaid sector (reproductive work – children care, also elderlies, sick people and domestic issues) from the side of local self-government.

We received the following answers: yes - 63%; no - 22%; difficult to answer - 16%. Least of all the need for this issue was mentioned by young people (40%), mostly representatives of small businesses (92%), ethnic minorities were difficult to answer (20%).

Respondents fixed their attitude to the question: what will help to reduce unemployment among women.

To their opinion, first of all it is necessary to create jobs (32%), also local tourism development - 23%; creation of information centers promoting to employment (20%); the need to create better adapted social infrastructure (improving service of kindergartens) saw only 10%. To this question more pragmatically answer disadvantaged 23%. The output dial reduce unemployment among women 15% believe the creation of specific municipal programs of small business development.

Respondents named important activities promoting education and development of youth, which should be done at local level.

Encouraging successful students – municipal voucher, internship – 21%.

This issue was the most essential for the youth (72%).

Funding the students from unprotected families were named by 15 out of total amount of respondents.

More positively look at this issue the youth (58%).

Opening the day centers for the children from socially unprotected families – 8%. The issue was acute in the group of socially unprotected – 30%.

Funding of youth programs – 15%. The program was most of all necessary for the group of youth – 52%.

The answer: support of “young families” was chosen by 20%. This issue was underlined by 72% of socially unprotected.

Providing qualified internship programs was stressed by 18%. This question is important for young people and 60% for ethnic minorities -72%. The answer "other" was fixed by 4%.

Respondents while announcing social and other needs of the most vulnerable groups of [population (IDP, people with disabilities, single parents, mothers of many children, young families) considered following sides as key figures:

Gameoba/City Hall – 37%, Sakrebulo – 34%, NGOs – 11%, active group of citizens – 13%, media – 6%.

It should be mentioned that important role of active citizen’s group is named by the youth – 46%, their role is not seen by representative of small business group (3%) and ethnical minorities (8%).

Role of IDPs is mostly mentioned by group of socially unprotected – 26%. Least of all - by representatives of small business group – (5%).

Respondents defined what structures out of listed below, do they consider the most actively involved in activities of prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence. after choosing 3 main versions, following picture was seen.

- a) Social workers
- b) law enforcement structures (police, prosecutor) – 21%
- c) educational structures – 12%
- d) NGOs – 8%
- e) Local government – 6%
- f) Public defender – 14%
- g) Media – 2%

The role of social workers, the least of all sees a group of young people -10%; a very significant is considered by socially disadvantaged 33%; the role of law enforcement agencies consider important small businesses (23%) and ethnic minorities (29%); the role of the Ombudsman recognizes small businesses -23%; youth-19%; socially disadvantaged 12%; ethnic minorities -1%.

2.2. Qualitative research

For receiving qualitative data there were held 4 focus-groups (total number of respondents 36 people) and 4 in-depth interviews with the experts (4 resp.). total number of research participants was 40 people, 31 women and 9 men.

According received information there was revealed the level of inclusion of different social groups in self-government.

Study participants have different opinions regarding the level of local self-government communication with the public. Some believe that the communication is not provided, *"we are in an information vacuum, if we will hear something by ourselves, we do not possess official information."* Most of the study participants are more or less informed about the programs of the local government budget. They obtain information by media, television or have the information from the community centers. The rest only know the programs that concern them. But they are not included in the budget discussion and decision-making.

The active part of the community believes that if desired, it is possible to obtain necessary information timely and without problems. *"I am interested in ongoing processes, attend the meetings of the City Council and try to get all the information." "I have information as I am interested in it."*

There were opinions that often nihilism, existing in population define the low level of their interest. *"if anyone has a desire, he can attend the discussion, but do the people have a will to attend and participate?"*

Part of the respondents consider that each person has right to participate in the process of composing the budget, but only that part, which has connection with self-government, has the interest. The reason of this is inertness of the society, also they believe that it is necessary to increase the consciousness of society.

"The budget is a live body, till formation of which it is necessary to determine priorities. Discussion may be attended by everyone but still the discussions last for a month, but the society is inert and does not take part, and when facing the problems, great needs appear. It is necessary to increase consciousness of society."

In order to better identify existing resources it is required the active inclusion of citizens in the budgeting process: "The more opinions is heard during the formation of the local budget, the better it will be."

There was identified the most involved social group represented by IDP: "We IDPs also represent a social group, and we also do not participate, because do not have information when and how the budgeting process is implemented. In order to ensure greater inclusiveness it is required to inform the society in advance, that were able them to participate."

IDPs positively appreciate the attention of the local government, but it is required that local authorities must cooperate with the Ministry of Resettlement, for long-term solutions of their problems.

"Living conditions are very hard, and it will be good to pay attention in this direction. The first thing is to solve this problem and then develop Programs of employment, creation of small businesses. Such enterprises should be created, to ensure the employment of population. It will be a long-term, and the best way to employment."

Civil groups of Ozurgeti very well see the need to participate in self-government: *"I think it is necessary, to base on the needs of citizens in order to implement budget. It is possible with the help of their informing. They should have the information, when and how they can participate. All social groups also should be included as much as possible and make decisions together."*

It was positively evaluated the fact that there is created a database of those, who are interested in activities of local self-government. They are informed about meeting two days earlier, pointing place and time.

"If there will be protected gender balance in this database it will be good. But the society still is not active and involved in decision-making process of local government. For equal participation it is necessary to activate the society, increase the level of civic education, conducting appropriate trainings".

It should be planned different activities, in order to increase inclusion of society. *"It is very good to observe meeting of Sakrebulo in online mode, which I believe will increase public awareness."*

Experts believe that in the process of adopting government decisions, society is not often involved, but of course there are individual cases when the issues, raised by the society have been taken into account by local government (for example, the issue of factory lead recycling).

Participants of the research called the effective costs of local government: "Providing housing for 90 families (affected by disasters and their homeless families), improvement of roads, construction of kindergartens, street lighting ..."

According to them, calculating the effect is possible, if we will study how many people have benefited from the program, how much were satisfied. *"Effective costs should give feedback, so that every penny invested in education was profitable."*

In the opinion of the part of respondents in the local budget the most effectiveness costs are the infrastructure projects and, accordingly, these costs are reasonable. An example of this is that into the city during the rainy season there are no longer flooded streets.

Most of the respondents mentioned health care and social sphere, all agree that in spite of small budget of the municipality, important programs are funded in this direction for. Especially effective was the projects implemented by the GAC, it was highlighted the project - "Cancer is not a verdict."

During the collection of qualitative information there were named groups, which according to respondents need support.

"...Pensioners need support, of course the state take care of them as much as possible, but it would be good if specific amount of money will be allocated from the local budget.

... Problem of homeless families was somehow decided, but there the ones who do not have a home, it is necessary to allocate accommodation for them too.

... Reconstruction of internal roads may be called as priority."

The majority of respondents name young people and their development, they see the need to create jobs for young people to return them back to the villages. One of the priorities was creation of professional schools and also ensuring further employment of graduates.

Some respondents named the needs of persons with disabilities. Their problems were also touched by the experts. "The main problem is the problem of parking in front of the building of local government, which is limited only by signs. Really, it is impossible to put the car."

According to them in addition to parking, persons with disabilities have many obstacles. Non-standard ramps and absence of an appropriate elevator for persons with disabilities. The problem is also that when creating a project and during its implementation builders do not envisage standards and nobody checks it.

“There is also a problem of the blind and visually impaired people: in different supermarkets are very slippery floors, which prevents their movement. It is also a problem for people, who use wheelchairs, and a catastrophe is for those who move with crutches. This is all taken into account when our recommendations are envisaged, there is no suitable service for deaf - mute persons. It is uncomfortable when you come into the food market and ask where the toilet is and face a narrow stairway or door. While putting the question why people with disabilities do not appear in public, the answer is when people face similar problems they do not even want to enter such places.”

There was shown a need for teachers: it is necessary to cover communal and transport costs for the rural teachers from the budget. *“Teachers work, but when only one person is employed in a family with 5 members, his work is not enough. Also important is development of agriculture, for employee family members of teachers”.*

“In the costs of rural development programs, it will be fine to envisage ambulance services. It is already two years that these costs are foreseen and it is necessary to continue this process. It will also be good to buy equipment for medical centers. ”

“It will be good to perform the periodic monitoring of drinking water in schools and kindergartens.”

“For safety reasons, before schools and kindergartens special signs and barriers should be placed and equip parks for young and elderly.”

The respondents identified local programs that are more adapted to their needs. The majority of respondents expressed their gratitude to the local government, based on a fact that in the budget there were reflected additional costs for the patients, which are not financed by the state. In this case, the municipality allocates the remaining amount. Also, respondents are satisfied with the fact that the budget has one-time assistance in the amount of 150 GEL, for purchasing medicines.

“We must mention amount for oncology patients, grant proposals, by which the municipality finances the costs of the operation for the patients. Besides the fact that there are state programs, the patient needs certain costs: for transportation, for full coverage of package that is provided by municipality with local cost”.

In the process of the research, respondents noted what spheres need funding and how, what programs are necessary for improving socio-economical condition of the citizens (for example decrease of unemployment, development of economics) in long-term prospect.

Majority of respondents consider prior the youth and their development, they see necessity of creation of working places, in order to return the youth back to the villages. One of the priorities is creation of professional colleges and also promotion of further employment of the gradulators.

“The main task is creation of working places, which will contribute to the fact that the youth will return back to the village”.

Majority of respondents consider that for improvement of socio-economic condition it is necessary to open new enterprises and support to their employment. According to them important is agricultural program, gas and well arranged streets.

Majority of respondents speak about support of business and think that one of the most important employer should be private business and the state should care about it.

"It will be good if there will be activated program of employment. If the local government will give a piece of land, we will plant nuts and somehow solve the problem."

"Shemokmedi is a big village and it will be good if even one factory will function".

"It will be good to create effective program for socially unprotected and single mothers. For rural development it is necessary to do everything. It will be good if the state will help local people to clear abandoned land with the help of rural programs."

Respondents believe that it is necessary to open a center where people can come and deliver agricultural products. In their opinion it is necessary to increase the motivation of farmers and greater popularization of this direction.

According to respondents for the local budget priority should be agriculture. First of all monitoring should be carried out, what is the situation, to determine the phytosanitary conditions, the risk of what disease exists, what pests are spread.

"The soil should be studied. In this regard, there are very old materials, after all this time the soil is exhausted, changed, and study is needed. It is necessary to determine the type of soil and what agricultural products is desirable to grow. It is desirable to determine not only which products are more fruitful, but also products are in demand. This should be done at all levels and we should help each farmer."

In their opinion it is necessary educational /advisory program for farmers. We should make canneries, freezers. It is necessary to create a place where periodically farmers will have trainings with invited experts to find ways to solve their problems. Creation of nurseries for the cultivation of new varieties is important. Strengthening of agriculture is not possible without an increase of number of specialists. It is necessary to clarify what is in deficit and then it is necessary to develop recommendations by experts.

For the given moment there is already identified one problem, there are no experts on the tea growing. *"We have Anaseuli Institute, where we have many experts, it is necessary to use them and also use the technical base of Ozurgeti"*.

"The farmer is not determined by the amount of land, it is the mental attitude of a person to agriculture. There are farmers who do not have a large amount of land, but they have a vision. For example growth of seedlings."

According to experts, Guria region is not economically strong. Unfortunately a lot of able-bodied women do not go to the doctor, proceeding from the fact that they know they do not have money for treatment.

"We have a high level of oncological disease and it is necessary to held a treatment in the centers existing in the region. It is necessary to create real jobs, so that they can be treated accordingly."

Experts believe that in the region only 10% of inhabitants can satisfy their needs. "It's very little. The same situation is fixed in relation to an inclusive environment, on this issue we are almost at zero. "

According to respondents the local budget in the long term prospect is still able to contribute to the socio-economic development if there will be created real jobs and will fit the budget. "We have different undefined NNLE (non-profit, non-commercial, legal entity) created by local government,

in which there are many surveyors, who really are not necessary. These money can do many useful things.

Particular attention was paid to strengthening of women, creation of relevant environment. "It will be fine if the municipality could prepare investmental projects for women, promote to development of business, fund trainings for development of relevant skills, encourage active women".

According to the respondents is possible to reduce unemployment among women, if the advisory councils will be created in the villages, garment factories. For example, Ozurgeti, it can be opened the enterprise of clay in Askantia and also nurseries. They believe that if the jobs will be created, women migrants also will return. The budget should envisage supporting programs of such activities. Also, the respondents believe that for socially disadvantaged it is needed to ensure free education at the college level. *"For example, with regard to the culture of tea it will be good to invite experts. Then periodically retrain them, to be ready to fight new pests, diseases. Unfortunately, there is no alarm and quarantine service in agriculture, which determines and helps to avoid problems in agriculture."*

Respondents appreciated the cooperation of the local government, the community and NGOs on gender issues at the municipal level: *"If we compare Ozurgeti with other municipalities, this process is much better here. But this does not mean that all is well with us, and at the highest level."*

Respondents believe that in order to eradicate domestic violence it is needed to create a center of psychosocial rehabilitation.

Also it was mentioned that gender balance should be protected: *"Some people think that gender means protection of women's rights. It is not so. It is equality of women, men, children, elderly and etc."*

"In this regard it is necessary to envisage amount in the budget, for defining in which direction there will be violations and this very direction should receive increased funding".

Experts believe that the local government should have more autonomy in planning *"determination of the cost of social programs is the prerogative of the local government. The local self-government have very few power to this direction, the budget also does not give a lot of opportunities. But still financing of individual programs is carried out, which should be welcomed. With regard to taking into account obtained results, it is necessary to conduct a study to see the existence or non-existence of the results."*

There were opinions that the region has a unique resource for the development of tourism. Also it was mentioned that it is necessary to use the NGO resource for communication with the public, *"for each segment a specific program is carried out, but often they do not know about these programs. Therefore it is necessary to disseminate information to interested persons to enable them to use this program. It will be good if local government and local NGOs will help in it."*

Experts believe that *"the budget is gender equal when its development is equally carried out by all social groups existing in the municipality and received budget will accordingly reflect the needs of these groups."*

According to respondents, there is local practice of creating gender budget. *"I think that compared with previous years, situation has improved somehow. For example activity of Ozurgeti GAC, but still more active work is necessary."*

According to respondents, more active work should be carried out, in order to improve cooperation of local government, NGOs and society in the direction of domestic violence and victims assistance.

"Violence has a long-term results, it means that a woman victim of violence needs not only timely help, they also need long-term care, because they have psychological problems, can not independently support family and children."

"We need to work as much as possible, to increase the involvement of social workers and village representatives to identify the problem. It is necessary to increase the educational level of the society, to overcome the problem."

Recommendations

- To provide clearing of abandoned land in frames of rural support program
- More autonomy and initiatives while planning social programs
- Promotion of IDPgroups integration, their inclusion in the processes of local government.
- To cover communal and transportation costs of the rural teachers from the budget.
- Creation of strategic plan of municipality development
- Summarization of the research results submission of the report to the society.
- The need to stop migration, implementation of youth programs, settlement of rural infrastructure.
- Caring for the health of children. Periodic inspection in kindergartens and schools.
- Periodic monitoring of drinking water in schools and kindergartens.
- Creation of psycho rehabilitation centers at the local level.
- For decreasing unemployment among the women – creation of advisory councils in the villages. Contribute to activation of clay factory in Askania. Facilitating the establishment of nurseries.
- Creation of strategic development of tourism. Usage of existing resources.
- Studies Pito sanitary condition of the soil.
- Promotionof dissemination of information. Cooperation with NGOs and media in this direction.