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**Needs Assessment of Women and Youth
through
Gender Responsive Early Warning System (GREWS)**

Senaki municipality

Project 72011421CA00001

Bridging the Gap: People to People Initiatives for Conflict Resolution

April 2021

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Introduction

Gender Responsive Early Warning System (GREWS) involves studying community needs and establishing an early risk response system. Introducing this (GREWS) system with a gender-oriented approach significantly reduces the risk of violence and conflict in society and promotes democratic principles.

Country's unstable political environment, low socio-economic rate, fear of job and income loss, environmental pollution, unstable healthcare guarantees, increased violence rate, and other threats restrict human freedom of choice, hinder the possibility of a full life and significantly increase the risk of violence and conflict in society. Therefore, early intervention and response are essential to neutralize these risks.

Gender Responsive Early Warning System (GREWS) is a crucial tool in early response to societal problems, improving the quality of human security.

Identifying the expected risks of conflict should be based on the population's needs study through a gender approach. Its assessment and inclusion in the early warning system will create a sense of sustained peace and stability in the community.

Fund "Sukhumi"'s study on the "**Needs Assessment of Women and Youth through Gender Responsive Early Warning System (GREWS)**" will help identify women and youth priority issues and establish an appropriate GREWS mechanism at the local level.

The aim and methodology of the research

Aim of the research: The main foundation for the establishment of high standards of human security in the society is the protection of human rights envisaging gender characteristics, which should be based on the identification of problems existing in this area and the needs research.

The aim of this research is to study the needs of women in Senaki Municipality and to assess the quality of human security according gender characteristics based on the analysis of the obtained data.

The research was conducted by the Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi" from April 1 to April 25, 2021. During the preparation of the order, 18 people were involved in the field work, who were retrained through pre-trainings and workshops. The survey included representatives of Senaki Municipality local self-government, authorized persons of culture, infrastructure, gender, social departments as target experts. The Fund "Sukhumi" thanks the above-mentioned persons for their support and information.

Research Methodology: The research is based on the analysis of the materials, obtained by consolidating quantitative and qualitative results.

A pre-designed questionnaire was used to conduct the quantitative research. Which was placed in Google form and the survey process was conducted in online format. A focus discussion model and method of 4 in-depth interviews were used to obtain qualitative data.

Basic information

The questionnaire of quantitative research consisted of 8 blocks, the first block mainly reflected the demographic characteristics, the questionnaire of the other blocks was related to determining the quality of human safety according to economical, food, public, health, personal, ecological segments. The last, the eighth block combines general questions. 153 women were involved in the process of quantitative survey in Senaki Municipality. Totally 28 persons, as respondents, were involved in the process of collecting qualitative data, including one man (local expert).

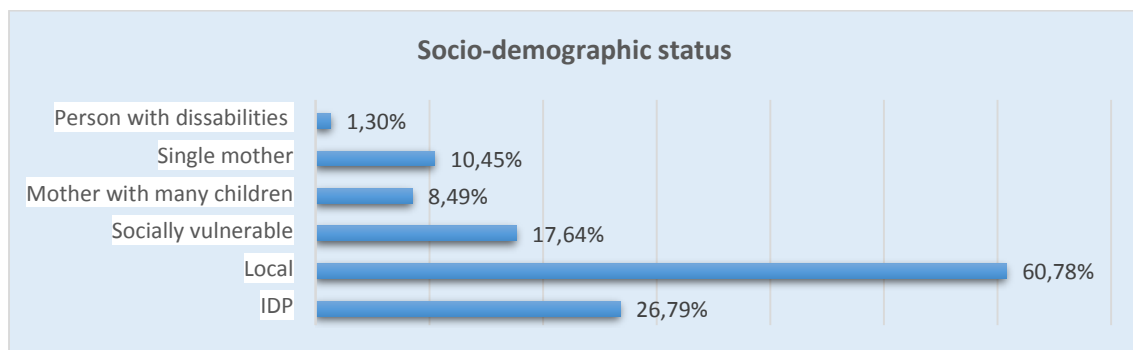
Totally 181 people (180 women, one man) from Senaki Municipality participated in the survey.

Block I: Socio-demographic characteristics of the research

According to the socio-demographic characteristics, the research included: IDPs, locals, socially vulnerable people, mothers with many children and single mothers, persons with disabilities and their family members, teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, community leaders, students, pensioners, youth, local experts, etc.

The average age of respondents in the research was distributed as follows: 35.06% of respondents in the age category from 18 to 30 were women. A similar number - 35.06% was observed in the age category from 31 to 45. 21.42% of the total number fell into the age category from 45 to 65. A relatively small part of women -7.84% are over 65 years old.

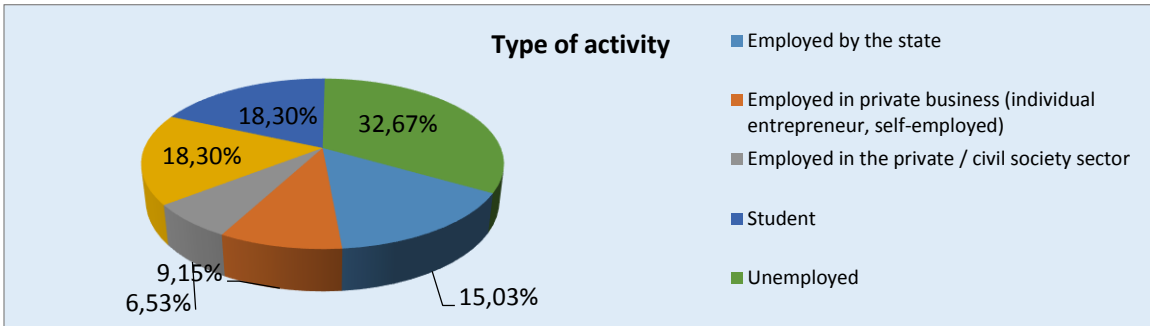
According to the Social Status, the majority of survey respondents - 60.78% are locals, 26.79% - IDPs from Abkhazia, and 17.64% are socially vulnerable people. It is important, that 8.49% of women were included in the survey with the status of mothers with many children and the number of women with status of single mothers was 10.45%, which allow us to study the needs of this vulnerable group. 33% of respondents are socially vulnerable. The survey identified 1.30% of women with disabilities, although this number is also valuable in identifying the needs of these vulnerable groups (Diagram 1).



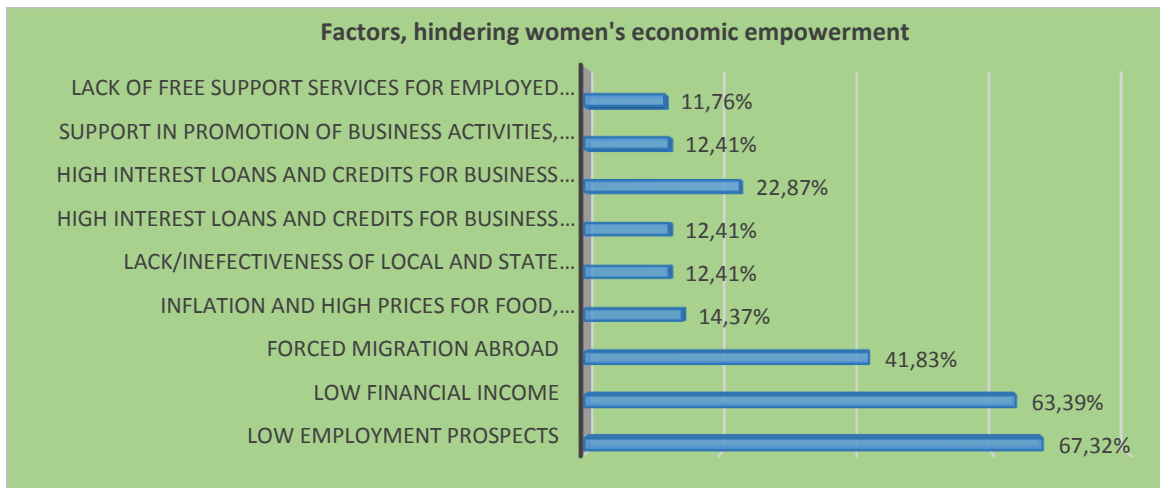
According to the type of activity, 32.67% of the survey respondents are unemployed. Then comes a total number of students -18.30%. 16.99% of the general indicator is engaged in agricultural work. The number of persons employed by the state is slightly behind the mentioned data - 15.03%. 9.15% of respondents fell into the category of those involved in private business. The number of women employed in the private / civil society sector was 6.53%. 1.30% of retired women fell into the category “other”.

If we look at the diversity of categories we can assume that the obtained data represent the needs of women working in almost all fields (Diagram 2).

Block II: Economic Security



Economic empowerment is based on financial income of the family, which is often determined by income stability. The picture obtained from the survey shows to what source is the financial income of the population tied to. 33.98% of the respondents consider salary as the main source of income. For 25.49%, money transfers are the source of family income, which is based on the high migration of women from this municipality to different countries. Pension is the main source of income for 22.97%. 14.97% are engaged in the household business and are supported by the income received from it. 15.03% use the assistance of relatives. 14.37% receive income from small business, the allowance for socially vulnerable family was noted by 12.41%. (Diagram 3).



Low employment prospects were cited as a significant hindering factor to women's economic empowerment by 67.32%. These data are slightly higher than 63.39%, who believe that low financial income is hindering factor to economic empowerment. 41.83% consider that, such a barrier is forced migration from the country. Inflation and high prices are considered to be a hindering factor for economical empowerment for 14.37%, while 22.87% of the respondents name high-interest loans and credits. 12.41% of respondents say that there is no environment promoting business, in the opinion of exactly the same number of respondents, it is impossible to restore the business, terminated due to a pandemic, without the support of the state. If women are not supported in terms of employment, even with childcare services in kindergartens and schools, in these conditions, single mothers and mothers with many children will find it very difficult to be involved in economic activities - 11.76% of respondents agree with this opinion.

"Those who can work, leave Georgia. You can not find anyone for help, if anything happens. A while ago a neighbor on my street died and they could not find men to help. Now the migration of women has also increased. What will make our economy prosperous? There are no working people left "- M.B. 57 years old, employed, local.

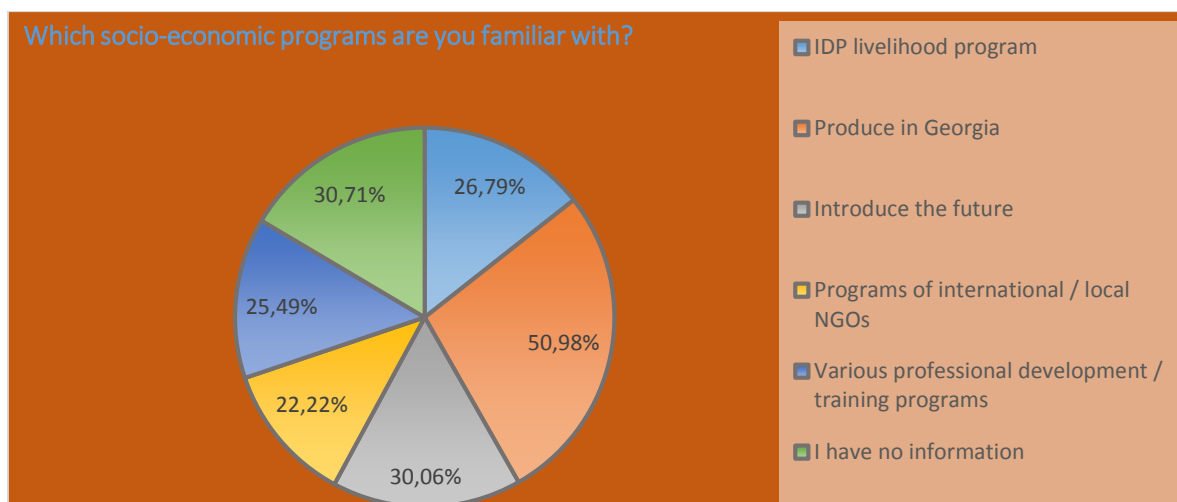
"Banks have high interest rates, those who started a business with a loan taken from the bank, all went bankrupt. Now everyone is intimidated, no one trusts the banks "- M.B. 42 years old, IDP.

Qualitative data show that the pandemic has become one of the most serious obstacles to the development of the economy. According to the participants, it is necessary to create new support programs to overcome this barrier.

"If you stop a business for a year, it is finished for sure. It is very difficult to start all over again without assistance from the state. More and more programs are needed now to enable people to start the business again. Single assistances can not change anything "- F.D. 61 years old, local, employed.

The obtained data shows **how much the population is informed about the state programs of agricultural development, small business promotion.** The majority of respondents (50.98%) remember "Produce in Georgia", 30.06% were familiar with the program "Introduce the Future". 26.79% of respondents have some information about IDP livelihood programs. 22.22% say they have information about the programs of international and local NGOs. 25.49% of the total number are familiar with various professional training programs. Against this background, a serious imbalance is created by the statement of citizens, who have no information about such programs at all. Envisaging the reality, that such a contingent is 30.71%, the need for dissemination of information is clear.

What is most needed to create a favorable environment for promoting family farming, small business, and self-employment? - The majority of respondents - 59.47% name available loans. Small business promotion programs can create a favorable environment - this is the opinion of 53.59% of respondents. 43.13% believe that the abundance of grant programs would have a significant effect in this regard. 35.94% of respondents consider the introduction of rural support programs as a solution. According to 21.56% support for agriculture, greenhouses and other types of activities would create favorable conditions for the development of the household business. 6.53% request consulting services in drafting business projects. 29.41% directly indicate that the population needs more information about existing state programs (**Diagram 4**).



If we look at the data obtained, it is clear that concrete part of citizens still need a serious informing, to fill the information deficit. At the same time, it is obvious that a significant part of the respondents have information about state programs. The next question provides an opportunity to find out **where citizens find information about economic programs**. 45.09% of the respondents name radio / television as the first source. 40.52% use the website of the municipality and get information from there. The same number says that they rely on online media outlets and social networks. 22.22% use the information sheet and information boards as the first source, and for 26.79%, a neighbor or acquaintance becomes a provider and disseminator of information. A relatively small part - 11.11% use the information received from the Mayor's representative.

The survey confirms that 16.33% use the websites of the Central Ministry. Only 1.37% name the NGOs as the first source, which may be due to the lack of local NGOs in Senaki Municipality. **To fill this gap, it is important to increase the role and mission of the non-governmental sector as a disseminator of information.**

"The village attorney is the main source that provides the population with the latest information. Communication of any citizen with the Mayor of the municipality is available. The population also spreads information among themselves"- N.G. 49 years old, local, mother with many children.

"The population is not informed about many programs implemented by the municipality. It should be printed in the form of booklets and distributed to the population, as a large part of the population does not have the skills to use the Internet". - D.G. 34 years old, IDP, socially unprotected.

"If the Internet is not available to the population, it has a village attorney and can get comprehensive information from him. During the rural meetings, the population participates to address an important issue for the village. Social networks also allow to address the Mayor and write about their problems. There is also a City Hall hotline where the population receives comprehensive information"- D.L. 34 years old, local, employed.

"The main source of information for me is the official website of the City Hall. All activities carried out by the City Hall are given here. This information is available to those interested, but it should be envisaged that this service is not available to majority of middle-aged people living in rural areas and therefore it is desirable to introduce other alternatives"- I.R. 38 years old, local, employed.

"As a pensioner, I do not have access to the Internet and therefore I receive information mainly from neighbors, relatives. Booklets can be published at the beginning of each year, where all the programs of the City Hall will be given. It will be more available. M.S. 68 years old, socially unprotected, local.

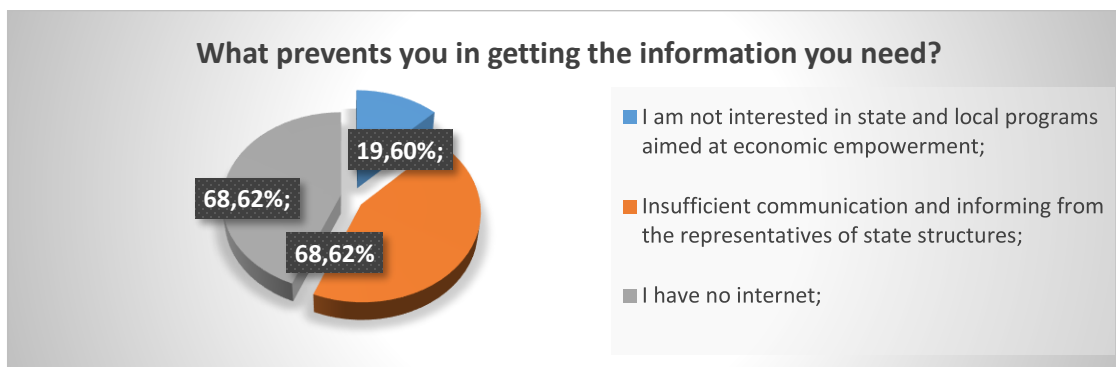
Interesting versions are offered by the category of respondents, who can not or do not get the necessary information. **What prevents you from getting the information you need?** - 68.62% of the respondents clearly state that there is insufficient communication between the population and government officials. 19.60% are not interested in state and local programs, which is based on nihilism and mistrust.

"I do not believe in such programs, you will take part in the competition and then such people will win, you will be surprised" – M.F. 37years old, unemployed.

Also noteworthy is the fact that 9.80% can not receive information due to lack of internet. Those who have the internet, also do not have the relevant skills to search for the necessary information on the electronic portal (**Diagram 5**).

"We can not understand anything on the Internet, because we do not have it. Even if we have the Internet, only Facebook is not enough, more than half can not enter the site, where such programs are given" – M.D. 61 years old, pensioner, socially unprotected.

"Senaki City Hall has a very good Facebook page. Information is available to everyone. Unfortunately, sometimes the population itself is less willing to do it. In most cases, the population does not have enough knowledge, how to use the existing services". – M.K. 48 years old, local.

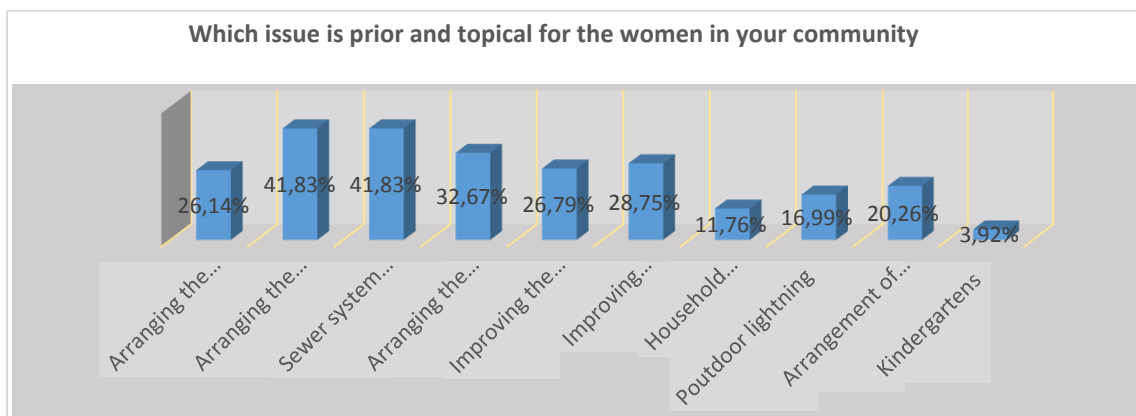


Block III: Food safety

The threats existing to the food safety component are mainly related to the price and quality of food products. 83.66% of respondents including 21.09% IDPs and 50% - locals see great threat in the high cost of products. For 68.62%, the lack of quality products is a particular threat. 12.41% name the absence of a product store nearby their settlement, as the main problem, which raises the risk, existing in the food safety component.

Block IV: Public Safety

The survey in the public safety component is mainly based on the identification of prior problems in the community. Respondents had the opportunity to prioritize the most actual issues. The obtained data show that 41.83% list the absence of drainage channels in priority issues. 35.29% name the maintenance of the sewerage system as a priority problem. 32.67% consider the arrangement of rural internal roads as a topical issue for the community. For 28.75%, improvement of transport services is a priority, 26.79% are concerned about improving the quality of the water supply system and drinking water. Arrangement of sidewalks is considered a significant problem for 20.26% of respondents. 16.99% indicate the need for outdoor lighting. 11.76% consider the lack of household services sewing houses, salons in the village - as a topical problem. Absence of out-of-school circles worries 13.72% of respondents. For 11.76% of working mothers, child support services are relevant (**Diagram 6**).



The data obtained from the focus interview participants coincides with quantitative data. As it turns out, the absence of drainage and sewerage system poses a serious threat to the population, especially women in the security component. A specific community is also named, for example, the IDP settlement, the so-called "military city", where the problem is more visible.

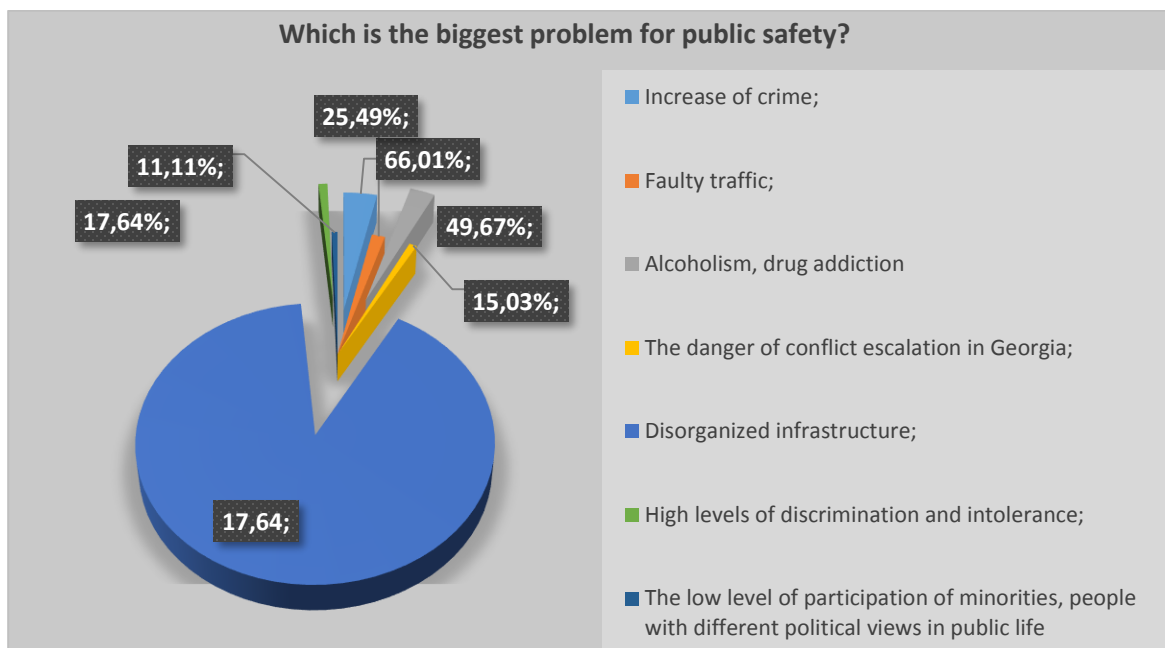
"The main problem in Senaki is the lack of separation of drainage and sewerage canals. For example, this problem exists in the IDP settlement, the basements are filled with water during rains. The streets are completely flooded. In 2008, repair works were carried out, as a result of which the old sewerage system was demolished and a new one was built, which does not flow into the central collector, because it reclined back, which causes the flow of sewage masses into the drainage channel. M.S. 45 years old, IDP.

"There is a small resource of drinking and technical water in the village. The village has no water supply, and from spring to autumn the water level in wells and boreholes decreases. At this time of the year, the population draws technical water from the river Tekhura, and is forced to buy drinking water. We have applied to the City Hall several times, but they do not have the financial resources to solve this problem".

Citizens' positions are fully shared by the local expert. According to the information received from the face-to-face interview, the infrastructural problems are still a serious problem for Senaki Municipality:

"The lack of a sewerage system is a priority problem for the municipality. Sewer canals flow into the drainage canals and this causes, of course, the greatest inconvenience and discomfort. The problem is complicated by the lack of a proper water supply system. In the central districts of the city, in fact, the water supply is inadequate, there are frequent shutdowns due to repair works or accidents, which irritate the population". V.P. local expert.

A high degree of public safety is based on a sense of security, of stability. To the question: **What do you consider to be the biggest problem for public safety?** - the high rate - 66.01% of surveyed women name the increase of crime. 25.71% of them are IDPs, 59.40% are local. Women are particularly concerned about the prevalence of alcoholism and drug addiction in the community - 49.67%. Faulty traffic frightens 25.49% of respondents. Disorganized infrastructure is a particular concern for 17.64%. 15.03% of respondents are concerned about the danger of conflict escalation in Georgia. 17.64% believe that the high rate of discrimination in the society is a serious problem. 11.11% notice the low level of participation of minorities, people with different political views in public life (**Diagram 7**).



"There is a road in our community, where there is a sharp turn. Road accidents are frequent in this place. It is desirable to install "smart cameras" or so-called "Lying policeman" - a speed limit barrier, which avoids tragic accidents. These problems also affect the psychological condition of the population" - M.S. 49 years old, local.

"Due to the malfunction of the access road to the kindergarten, it is difficult for parents to take their children to the kindergarten, because the road is the central highway, where the so-called trailers move with high intensity and due to the lack of sidewalks for pedestrians, movement is dangerous" V.D. 34 years old, local, mother with many children.

"There is practically no sidewalk in the vicinity of the hotel "Versailles", there is no space for parking, which blocks the pedestrian road. Previously, the traffic here was one-way and the situation was more or less better. It is desirable to restore this previous regulation" - N.K. 56 years old, local.

Access to qualified education is an indicator of a high degree of public safety. The data obtained from the survey show that 64.05% have only partial access to education. This category includes single mothers - 14.28%, women with many children - 10.20%. Only 23.52% say that they have access to education, answers of 12.41% is negative.

Among the main reasons in negative answers 49.67% name the incomplete process of remote learning and low quality of internet. 26.14% consider low quality of teaching as a serious reason. 24.83% see the problem in the number of insufficient professional teachers. 15.68% say that school is far from their houses. According to 4.57%, faulty school infrastructure significantly reduces access to quality education.

"I think the issue of education is problematic in our community. Children do not have internet, cannot attend lessons during the pandemic, and can't follow educational process. The village representation should promote the internetization of the villages" - V.G. 39 years old, local.

"There is no stadium in the village, there is no need to talk about the village library. We have a club, but it is not arranged. What can young people do?!" - Ts.P. 44 years old, local, employed.

"I have three children and a lot of problems with education. I can not hire additional teachers in all subjects. It is expensive and I do not have much money". – M.D. 31 years old, single mother.

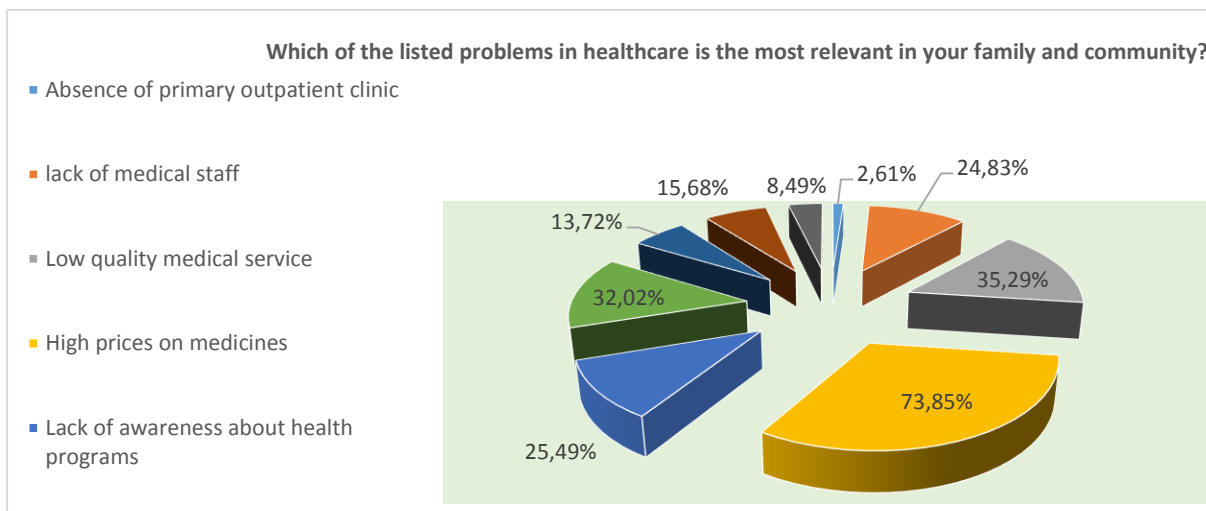
"I am sorry for the young people, you will not find one interesting place in all Senaki for young people, where they could gather and arrange events. The IDP settlement has a community organization, there are many programs for young people. There should be more such community organizations, young people should have possibility to realize themselves"- M.S. 36 years old, local mother with many children.

The survey reveals how much higher education is available. According to the information received, 64.05% say that it is partially available. 33.33% have a positive answer. 6.53% believe that they do not have access to higher education. 47.71% underline high fees as the main reason, 28.75% admit that free accommodation is not available for students coming from the region, which is a serious problem. According to 18.95%, there are no profession orientation courses in schools, which hinders the high school student to choose the best profession for him.

Block V: Health Safety

A high coefficient of health safety is often determined by the abundance of health programs, free screening programs, the presence of professional doctors, quality medicines and treatments. The figures from the survey actually reflect the attitude of women towards the problems in this area and show the **urgency and priority of health problems in their families or communities**. A large proportion of respondents - 73.85% clearly indicate that high prices for medicines are a particular threat to them. 35.29% are frightened by poor quality of medical services.

32.02% are concerned about the lack of free medical examinations in rural areas. 25.49% say that the population does not have information on health programs, which further complicates the situation in this area. 24.83% see elements of risk in lack of medical staff. Absence of free medical screening programs for girls and women is a particular priority for 15.68%. 13.72% think that the population has a low awareness of reproductive health and considers this problem a priority. 8.49% think that the lack of targeted health care programs is a topical issue for IDP and conflict-affected women (**Diagram 8**).



The abundance of problems in the field of health care is well reflected in the information obtained from qualitative data:

"There is an outpatient clinic in the village, but we cannot take patients because there are no conditions, the infrastructure is faulty. The elderly find it difficult to move around the city, so if it is not too difficult they do not go to the doctor. There is no pharmacy in such a big village. This is a problem of the whole village "- M.S. 59 years old, local, Senaki.

"It is necessary to inform the elderly about the state programs of universal health care, as well as about medical and social programs at the local level. My mother has been sick for a long time? Her pension is not enough for medicines. I just recently learned about the medicines, which cost one GEL. Such information should be known to the population"- S.D. local, socially vulnerable.

"Most of the elderly have poor health condition. Therefore it is important to increase access to medical services and medicines. It is also important to study the medical needs of the socially vulnerable and the elderly at the local level, where the village attorney and village deputy should be actively involved".
– M.A. 59 years old, local.

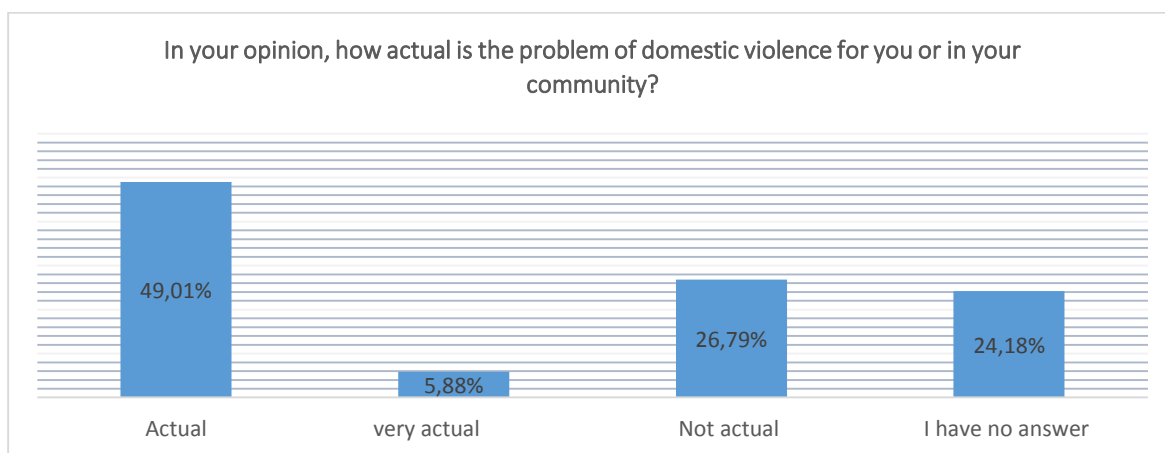
"The situation is aggravated by the daily increase of prices for medicines, pension is not enough to buy them. It would be good if the prices of medicines are regulated and do not fluctuate every 10-15 days. Despite the fact, that there are cheap medicines for pensioners according to the Ministry of Health, but the list does not include many medicines that I need systematically. "- M.S. 66 years old, IDP, pensioner.

How do the population manage to overcome the above-mentioned problems, what means do they use in case of health problems? - The survey shows that 39.86% of treatment costs are mainly covered by the universal health care program. It is noteworthy that according to the data obtained, 33.98% carry out self-treatment, which is caused by a number of reasons.

"No one goes to the doctor timely". Only when you can not stand on your feet , you address the doctor, or we carry our diseases and work as long as we can. We treat ourselves as long as our health allows us, when the condition worsens, only then we go to the doctor"- M.B. 48 years old, employed, local.

Block VI: Personal Security

The main focus of this block was on the problem of domestic violence: the survey unequivocally confirmed that 49.01% consider domestic violence to be topical and 5.88% to be very topical. However, it is noteworthy that for 26.79% of respondents the problem is not relevant until today. Even more alarming is the position of 24.18% who say, that they have no answer to this question at all (Diagram 9).



61.43% of respondents named the psychological violence as the most common form of violence, while 19.60% believe that the most common form is physical violence. 18.95% of respondents claim that economic violence is also quite disseminated form of violence.

"Gender equality is heard everywhere, but culture and traditional attitudes present women's functions quite differently in terms of family and entrepreneurial activities. Woman in the kitchen, - man in outer activities. Such a tendency is still strong in the village"- M.Ch. 57 years old, local.

"A woman should work in a family, it is the opinion of men in the village. Women's position is not envisaged in decision making, income is in husbands' hands. Gender equality is just on a sheet of paper. Psychological violence is not considered as violence" – L.G. 32 years old, local.

It is important to find out what kind of information the population has about **victim assistance** services and where they get information from. A majority 50.32% of respondents say they know some of them. As 20.26% say they are familiar with the existing services. 29.41% have no information.

48.38% of those who gave positive answers, state that they know the hotline number from the victim support services. 12.90% know the existence of a shelter. Same percentage owns information about municipal services and free legal services. Only 6.45% are aware of the services of non-governmental organizations. None of the respondents has information about crisis centers.

"The programs that exist in our municipality are quite effective. The problem is that the population is not aware of these programs. It is desirable to introduce the programs to the population"- M.D. 42 years old, socially unprotected.

"Now, at this meeting, I heard that there exist concrete assistance and support for women - victims of violence. I would like to know more about such programs, how to get information about them and whom to address. Does our attorney know about this? He should tell us"- V.G. 32 years old, local.

"There is a program in Senaki municipality called the Program of Violence Victims. Victims of violence, who will present protecting order from the police, are given a single assistance in the amount of 200 GEL. The victim can be either a woman or a man. Within the framework of this program, the City Hall provides the victims of violence with accommodation", - local expert.

TV channels, as the source of information about violence victims assistance services is named by 41.17%. 35.29% of respondents receive information from the social network. NGOs are named by 11.11%, while only 5.88% receive information from central government officials. 5.2% name public places and information leaflets (**Diagram 10**).



An interesting question is how accessible the existing services are to the population. The positions of the surveyed women were expressed as follows: 48.36% stated that they are not available enough, 44.44% confirmed the availability, and 48.36% said that they are not available at all.

To what extent are the programs to respond to violence against women implemented by the local self-government sufficient - a survey of this issue confirms that 43.79% think that it is partially sufficient. 18.95% are not familiar with any program at all. 15.68% confirm that the programs that work in self-government are quite sufficient. 11.11% think that it is important to diversify these programs and adapt them to the specific needs of violence victim.

The focus - group participants also speak about the need for diversity the programs and confirm the need to conduct meetings with self-government.

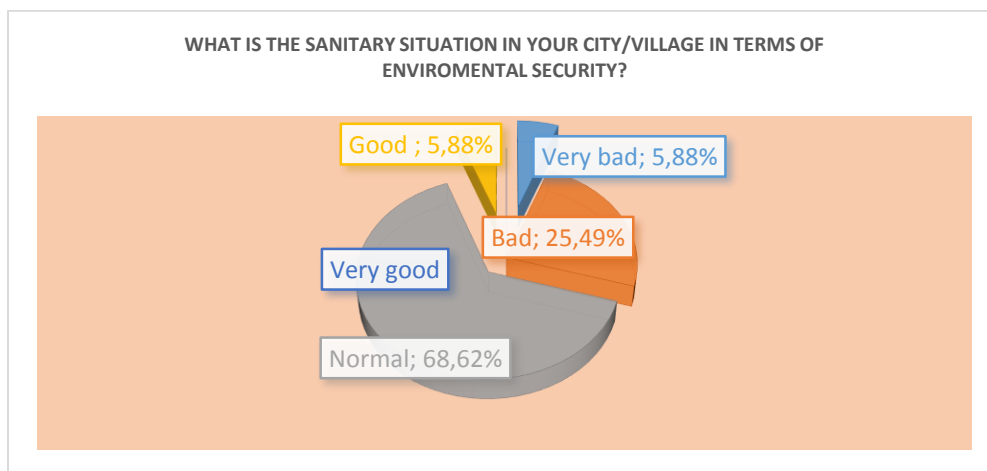
"The format of the meeting between self-government and population should become necessary. There should be public meetings with the group of population. However, it happens that a personal problem needs to be addressed. In this case, I prefer an individual meeting" - V.L. 31 years old, local.

"The local government must gain the trust of the population. For this, it is necessary to get acquainted with local problems. More activity is needed. Citizens should not address the government only in case of solution of existing problem, they should also have communication before the problem". - M.Kh. 51 years old, local, socially unprotected.

"The main thing is to make communication with the population more effective. The information format should be chosen. Volunteer groups can be formed according to the districts, which will provide information to the population"- D.Z. 48 years old, IDP.

Block VII: Environmental Security

In the segment of ecological safety, women are concerned about the unsatisfactory situation that exists in their community in terms of sanitary and environmental protection. Despite the fact that the majority - 68.62% thinks that the current situation is normal, 25.49% give a negative assessment and call the current situation bad. For 5.88%, the ecological situation is very bad (**Diagram 11**).



Among the most important environmental problems are: sewer system malfunction - 30.71%, lack or malfunction of drainage pipes - 26.14%. According to 29.41%, the air is polluted. For 13.72%, inadequate access to clean water is the main problem.

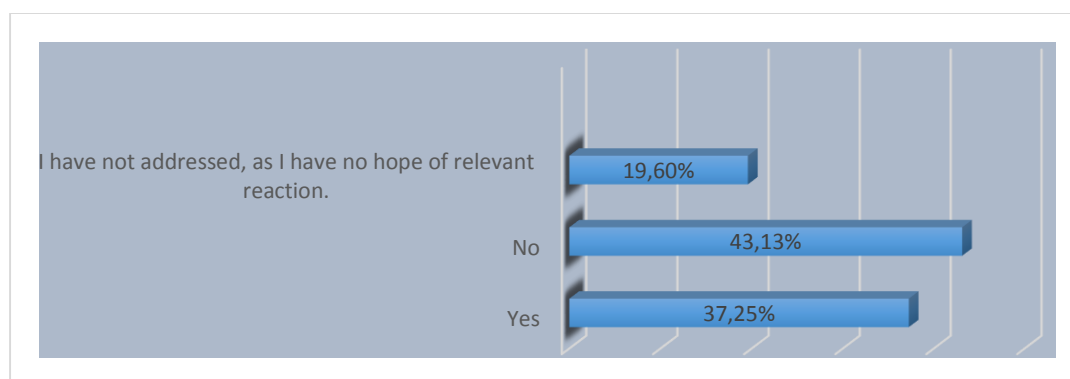
“The territory of the railway is polluted, as this facility is the property of the Railway Department, Senaki City Hall has no right to carry out infrastructure works (lighting, cleaning). People are moving in this area and they have serious discomfort”, D.S. 42 years old, local, employed.

"The sanitary-hygienic condition in our settlement can lead to the deterioration of the population's health. There are risks of spreading infectious diseases. Polute water, which flows into drainage canals, is drunk by cattle. The population is fed with the meat and milk of these cattle. Of course, there is a danger of infectious diseases. If we take into account the fact that babies are fed with this milk and milk products, the situation is even more difficult"- M.D. woman, IDP, socially unprotected.

Block VIII: General Questions

The general questions include issues that reflect the role and the intensity of communication of local self-government in addressing the problem of human security.

To the question, have you applied to the local self-government, or to another state body to solve a personal, official, public issue/problem? 43.13% of surveyed women said they have not applied. The opinion of 19.60% is also negative, citing distrust as the reason and saying that they have no hope of reaction. Communication with self-government is confirmed by 37.25% of respondents (**Diagram 12**).



"During the 2013 flood, my house was seriously damaged. At that time, the City Hall paid enough attention to me, but the problem is still unresolved. We have the conclusion of gelologists that the

house is located in a landslide zone and life there is dangerous. Then this issue had no continuation" – M.D. 54 years old, local.

"During my mother's illness, I asked for help and the second issues was to clean the drainage channel next to my house. Not a single problem was solved. Great was damage during the flood. That was years ago and today I already think that local authorities can not solve such problems. Consequently, I am not active in communicating with them. Moreover, I have no desire to have communication with them". – M.S. 49 years old, local.

"When I had the operation and was given the documents to submit the request for funding to the City Hall, I deliberately did not apply to the City Hall, I did not have hope for funding". – S.G. 61 years old, socially unprotected.

50.98% name the village assembly as the **most effective format for communication with local government**. Qualitative data also confirm that the population receives the most necessary information from these congregations. It is worth noting that, 26.14% use the electronic form of communication. The number of respondents who attend City Council sessions is 6.53%. The same number hears the Mayor's reports, are involved in the budgeting process and participated in the petition.

How do the programs provided by the local government meet the specific needs of the vulnerable population? – The quantitative indicator obtained by the survey confirms that 46.40% think that the local programs address the specific needs of vulnerable groups. 26.14% of respondents believe that the programs are not designed for vulnerable groups. 27.45% refrain from categorical assessments and state that there is no practice of assessing the specific needs and satisfaction of vulnerable populations with their programs, which would give us a definite answer to this question.

Data from qualitative information confirms that budget programs based on population needs research and reflecting the interests of all vulnerable groups are becoming increasingly important.

"It is necessary to conduct researches based on the needs of the population. I have not heard anything about such activities. Communication with the population should not be implemented only during the elections. This should be systematic and programs should be developed as a result of the research" – S.D. 42 years old, local".

"There is no program for a person in my condition. I had a stroke and can not work. I am not given a disability pension due to my age. I can do a job that does not require physical activity. Maybe programs will be developed for people in my category that will help our civic integration". – M.D. 53 years old, local.

The increased rate of human security in economic, food, public, health, personal, environmental directions has a negative impact on women's health and is reflected in various problems. 79.73% of women confirm that stress and tension in the community is increased. 49.01% focus on health problems.

47.05% record that hopelessness and fear of the future is a serious problem. The same number of respondents point to psychological problems. According to 30.71%, the existing problems alarmingly increase the migration of women. 13.72% mention increased facts of domestic violence and cases of violence against women, 13.72% are particularly frightened by the depolarization of society and conflicts. According to 12.41%, the feeling of insecurity is very high.

Conclusion: According to the obtained data, it is important to expand communication with the population in order to raise awareness of local programs in the municipality and to take into account the interests of various vulnerable groups by studying the needs.

Recommendations

- To introduce relevant programs in the local budget to solve priority infrastructure problems.
- To study local needs by considering gender aspects and elaborate appropriate programs.
- To establish volunteer groups to improve communication with the public and inform the population about self-government programs.
- To support youth initiatives.
- To establish community organizations and introduce youth programs.
- To introduce the student programs in order to increase access to education in the field of education.
- Infrastructure maintenance and equipping of medical health centers in villages in order to eliminate the threats in the health safety component.
- Installation of "smart cameras", "lying policemen" on the central highway in cooperation of local government and relevant structures in order to raise the security level of people.
- To introduce programs for the provision of medicines for the elderly in the social programs of the City Hall.
- Screening programs in the villages in order to prevent women's and girls' health.
- To establish mobile medical teams for the elderly citizens.
- To inform citizens, women about local programs for the protection from domestic violence and assistance to victims by printing information leaflets and informational materials.