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

Khoni 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.

Study aim and methodology

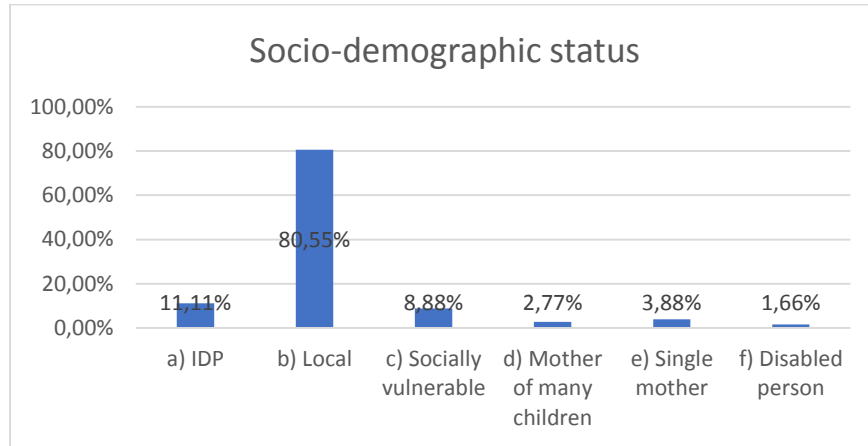
Study aim: In Khoni municipality, from April 1 to April 25, a survey was conducted to assess the population's (women's) human security and gender needs.

Study methodology: The study was conducted through pre-designed quantitative and qualitative questionnaires. A survey of 150 people was provided to collect quantitative data. However, 180 people were interviewed, 4 focus groups and 4 in-depth interviews with local experts (self-government representatives) were conducted regarding qualitative data. A man and 4 women participated in the interview, while 24 people participated in the focus group.

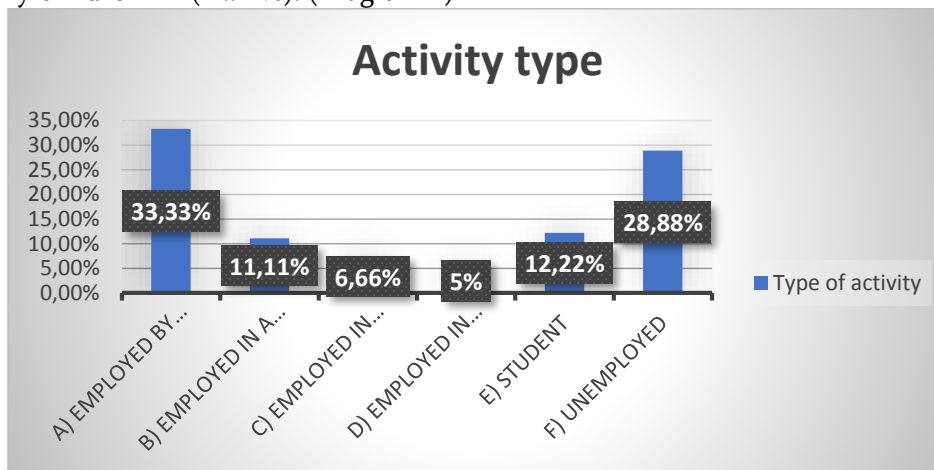
Block I: Demographic Data

The target group of the quantitative research consists of women aged 18 to 65 with different statuses, including IDPs, locals, socially vulnerable people, mothers with many children and single mothers, people with disabilities, young people, pensioners, teachers of schools and preschools, local experts in self-government issues, etc. The age of the respondents was distributed as follows: from 18 to 30 - 82 (45.55%), from 31 to 45 - 63 (35%), from 46 to 65 - 29 (16.11%) and over 65 - 6 (3.3%).

According to the socio-demographic status, the indicator is as follows: IDP - 20 (11.11%), local - 145 (80.55%), socially vulnerable - 16 (8.88%), mother of many children - 5 (2.77%), single mother - 7 (3.88%), disabled person - 3 (1.66%). (Diagram 1)



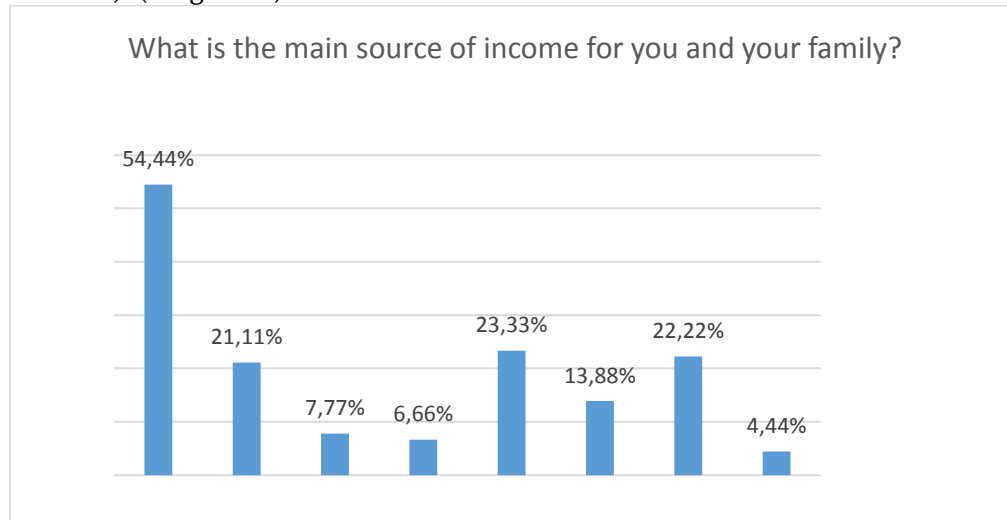
According to the type of activity, the data are as follows: employed by the state - 60 (33.33%), employed in the private/civil society sector - 12 (6.66%), employed in the agricultural sector - 9 (5%), student - 22 (1.11%), unemployed - 52 (28.88%), including: IDP - 9 (17.30%), local - 34 (65.38%), single mother - 0, mother of many children - 1 (1.92%). (Diagram 2)



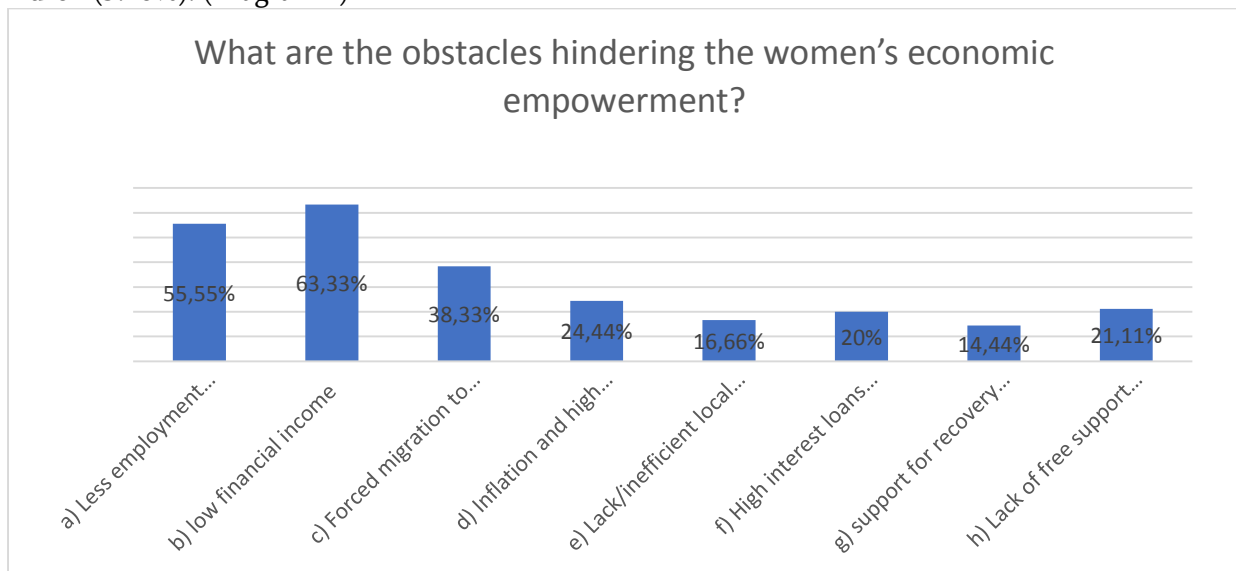
Block II: Economic Security

According to the quantitative study, for the majority of the Khoni municipality population main source of income is salary - 98 (54.44%), including 5 (5.10%) IDPs and 92 (93.87%) locals, 3 (3.06%) single mothers, 1 (1.02%) mother of many children. Besides, other sources are: pension - 38 (21.11%), socially vulnerable family allowance - 14 (7.77%), IDP allowance - 12 (6.66%), household income - 42 (23.33%), income from small businesses - 25 (13.88%), remittances from abroad - 40 (22.22%), assistance from relatives - 8 (4.44%).

There are five (5) mothers of many children. The source of income for 3 of them is a household, 1 - a pension and remittances from abroad, and 1 - a salary and an IDP allowance. There are 7 single mothers (one receives a salary, one receives household income, one receives salary, pension and remittance from abroad, 1 - salary, pension, 1 - pension and remittance from abroad, 1 - remittance from abroad, income from the household). (Diagram 3)



The participants identified obstacles hindering the economic empowerment of women as well. They are as follows: fewer employment opportunities - 100 (55.55%), low financial income - 114 (63.33%), including 14 (12.28%) IDPs and 93 (81.57%) locals; forced migration abroad - 69 (38.33%), inflation and high prices of food, medicine, household items - 44 (24.44%), lack/inefficient local and central state programs for small business, entrepreneurship development - 30 (16.66%), high-interest loans and credits - 36 (20%), support for recovery of business activities stopped due to Covid-19 - 26 (14.44%), lack of free support services for employed women (including extended child care services in schools and kindergartens for single mothers, large families) to enable them to be actively involved in economic activities - 38 (21.11%), including 4 IDPs (10.52%), 31 locals (81.57%), 3 single mothers (7.89%) and 2 mothers of many children (5.26%). (Diagram 4)



Focus group participants talked about issues that would help empower women.

T.P., a woman of 27, employed: It is essential to train women professionally and promote their employment. In addition, a particular group must work on successful marketing.

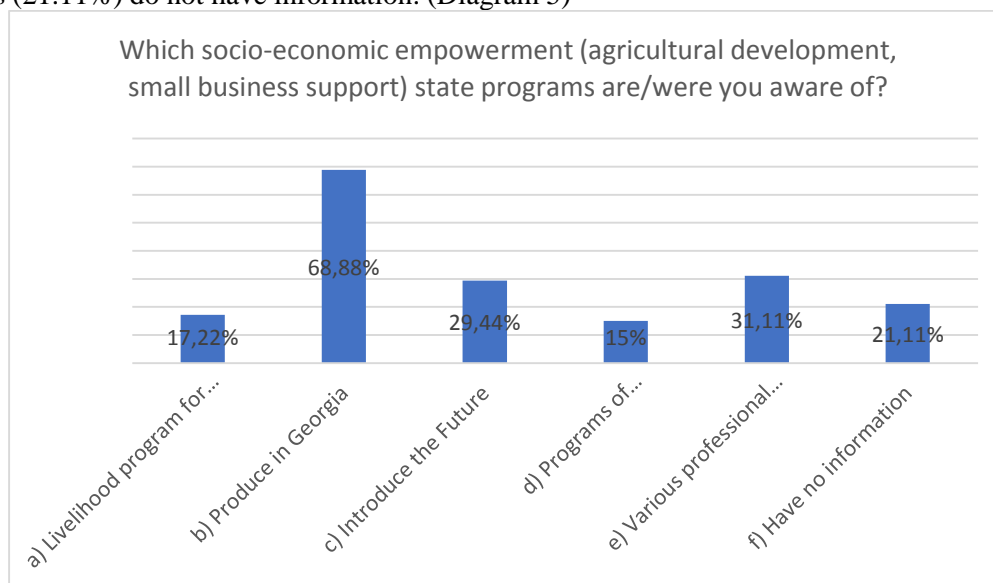
N.J., a woman of 55, housewife: It is necessary to overcome the cultural-religious and social obstacles on the way to women's empowerment.

I.B., 63, Female, teacher: Women are often uninformed about free courses.

S.G., a woman of 22, employed: Some finances are necessary to support the activity.

N.K., a woman of 54, employed: It is good to allocate small grants in villages and communities to be employed.

To what extent are women aware of the state programs promoting socio-economic empowerment, and which programs are they primarily aware of? The data obtained from the survey showed that they best know Produce in Georgia - 124 (68.88%), including 13 IDPs (10.48%) and 106 locals (85.48%), various professional development/training programs - 56 (31.11%), Introduce the Future - 53 (29.44%), IDP livelihood program - 31 (17.22%), programs of international/local non-governmental organizations - 27 (15%), 38 respondents (21.11%) do not have information. (Diagram 5)



112 (62.22%) respondents, including 14 (12.5%) IDPs, 88 (78.57%) locals, believe that affordable loans are necessary to create a favorable environment for promoting family farming, small business and self-employment, support through grant programs is also considered by 54 (30%) respondents, 51 (28.33%) of them make focus on small business support programs, the existence of rural support programs is significant for 79 (43.88%), local self-government programs to support agriculture, greenhouses 46 (25.55%) and support for other types of activities are emphasized by 73 (40.55%), 29 (16.11%) respondents consider consulting services and assistance in writing business.

The survey has shown that 104 (57.77%) interviewees get information through the municipality website/Facebook page. Online media, social networks are also available for 82 (45.55%). Television and radio is a source of information for 81 (45%). Neighbors/acquaintances were named by 52 (28.88%) of them. Central government/ministry website/Facebook page was identified by 36 (20%), mayor's representative in the community is a source of information for 19 (10, 55%), information received through NGOs was reported by 14 (7.77%), 10 (5.55%) of them chose information leaflets/information boards in the community, and 9 (5%) is informed by local MP.

The women had a different opinion regarding informing. Some of them think that everyone is informed, while others see less awareness in the population.

A. Sh., a woman of 32, socially vulnerable: The municipality is the primary source of information for the majority of the population.

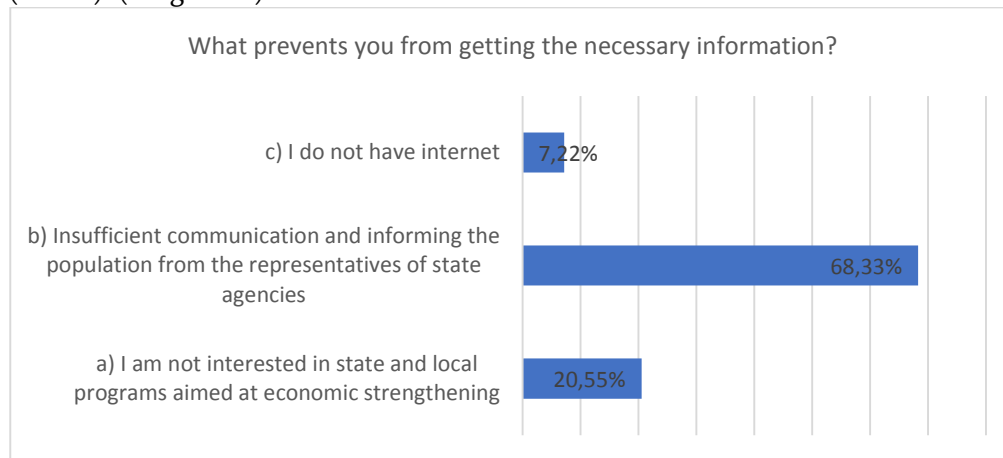
A.P., a woman of 30, employed: I have been informed about the existing service in recent years. As a result, the population has become more informed about the existing local programs. In addition, the employees of the local municipality and non-governmental organizations make a significant contribution to it.

S.E., a woman of 22, single mother, employed: Young people and individuals who use social media are more informed than vulnerable groups.

N.K., a woman of 54, employed: Our population is aware of social and health services. They get information via the internet or neighbors and enjoy services.

M.P., a woman of 37, employed: The whole municipality (local 140 beneficiaries and through the internet) knows about the social program "Charity House".

123 (68.33%) of the respondents, including 17 IDPs (13.82%) and 99 locals (80.48%), consider the lack of communication and informing the population from the representatives of state agencies as an obstacle to obtaining the necessary information. 37 (20.55%) of them are not interested in state and local programs aimed at economic strengthening, including: 3 IDPs (8, 10%) and 33 local (89.18%) and 13 (7.22%) report the lack of internet access, including: IDPs - 0, local - 9 (69.23%), socially vulnerable - 3 (23.07%), single mother - 1 (7.69%). (Diagram 6)



One of the disruptive factors is considered to be the internet problem.

K.K., 58, employed: Pensioners do not have access to the internet. That is why we need more contact with the population, more information and a PR campaign.

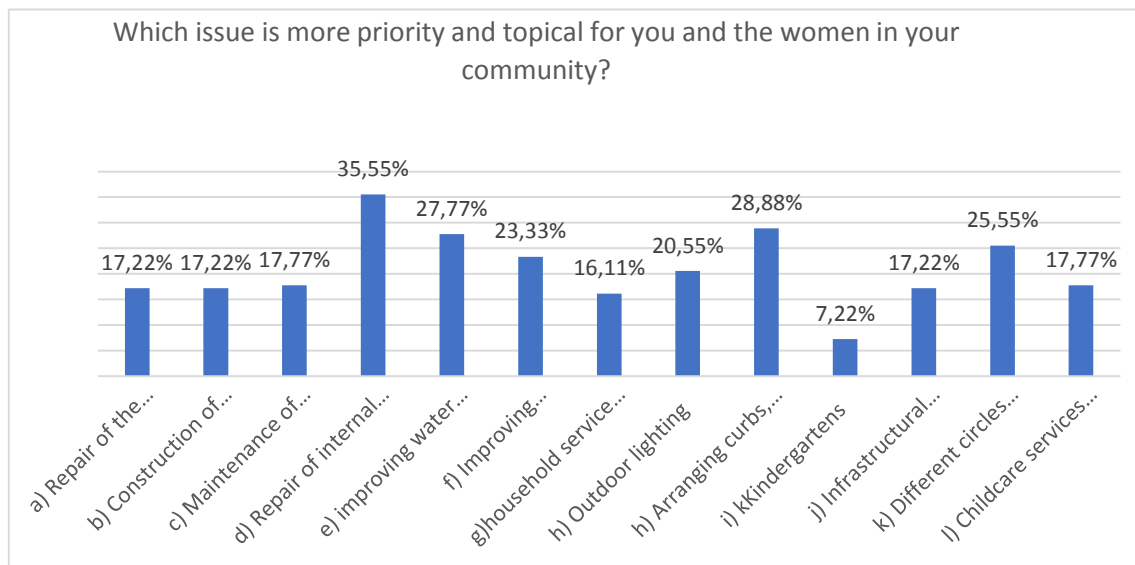
Block III: Food Security

Food security is one of the most important components of human security. When asked which factor poses the greatest threat to food security for you - 171 (95%) respondents, including: 20 IDPs (11.69%), 145 locals (84.79%) mentioned expensive products, absence of quality products bothers 128 (71.11%) respondents, including: IDPs - 12 (9.37%), local - 110 (85, 93%), about absence of a grocery store nearby complain 20 (11.11%) respondents, including: 3 (15%) IDPs, 15 (75%) local respondents.

Block IV: Public Security

The most relevant issue for the public security for the respondents in Khoni Municipality is a repair of internal rural roads - 64 (35.55%), arranging curbs, sidewalks for pedestrians - 52 (28.88%), improving water supply system and drinking water supply is vital for 50 (27.77%). The answers according to their priority were arranged as follows: different circles for children - 46 (25.55%), improving transport

services - 42 (23.33%), outdoor lighting - 37 (20.55%), maintenance of the sewerage system - 32 (17.77%), childcare services (after school and kindergarten) for employed mothers - 32 (17.77%), repair of the central road to the village - 31 (17.22%), infrastructural problems at school - 31 (17.22%), construction of drainage channels - 31 (17.22%), household service facilities in the village (salon, sewing workshop, etc.) - 29 (16, 11%), kindergartens - 13 (7, 22%). (Diagram 7)



Different issues were emphasized during the qualitative research.

E.J., a woman of 36, local expert: We have one-time health and social assistance and various social programs. There are no people in the municipality who have addressed and been refused to help. This year, several major infrastructure projects will be completed within the framework of the Regional Development Fund (e.g. outdoor lighting, drainage canals). Some initiatives will definitely be considered in next year's budget.

G.M., a man of 33, local expert: A critical problem today is the Covid pandemic, and all the structures are involved in the fight against it. Healthcare is fully mobilized.

TB, 42, woman, local expert: Employment is the first and most relevant problem. Low salaries are also a problem. For example, salaries in kindergartens are so low that it is still a problem for the employee. We also have a problem with education. Vocational training centers is a good finding. Training courses should be provided according to local needs.

M.G., a woman of 51, local expert: During a pandemic, priority is given to health and social issues. We were able to mobilize all the resources quickly to deal with Covid 19. Volunteer groups took lunch to those over 70. We helped 470 families along with the business sector.

T.P., a woman of 27, employed: People face problems such as lack of access to medical care, family conflicts, increased migration.

A. Sh., a woman of 32, socially vulnerable: The cause is the political and economic instability in the country.

I.B., a woman of 63, employed: In my community, restoring the squares and mini-stadiums is a priority. For an educated young person, sports activities are necessary. In addition, people need a place where mothers can take their little ones for a walk. So far, I have been sceptical about resolving these issues. However, with the help of Fund "Sukhumi" and the developed electronic petition, I think we will solve these two issues.

NK, a woman of 25, MA student: Young people who have received higher education and acquired the desired professions can not use their knowledge and experience in our city. There are no job opportunities here. As a result, the city is losing right-minded youth resources.

SG, a woman of 25: The most actual problem for me is transportation. Municipal transport does not work, and I have to walk to the city every day to get to work on time.

S. E., a woman of 22, employed: Economic and food problems are a priority. I am employed, but the salary is not enough. In addition, food prices are increasing, and we can not afford to buy them.

E. U., a woman of 30, employed: Due to the epidemiological situation, we study and work online. But, unfortunately, we do not have access to fast internet in our community.

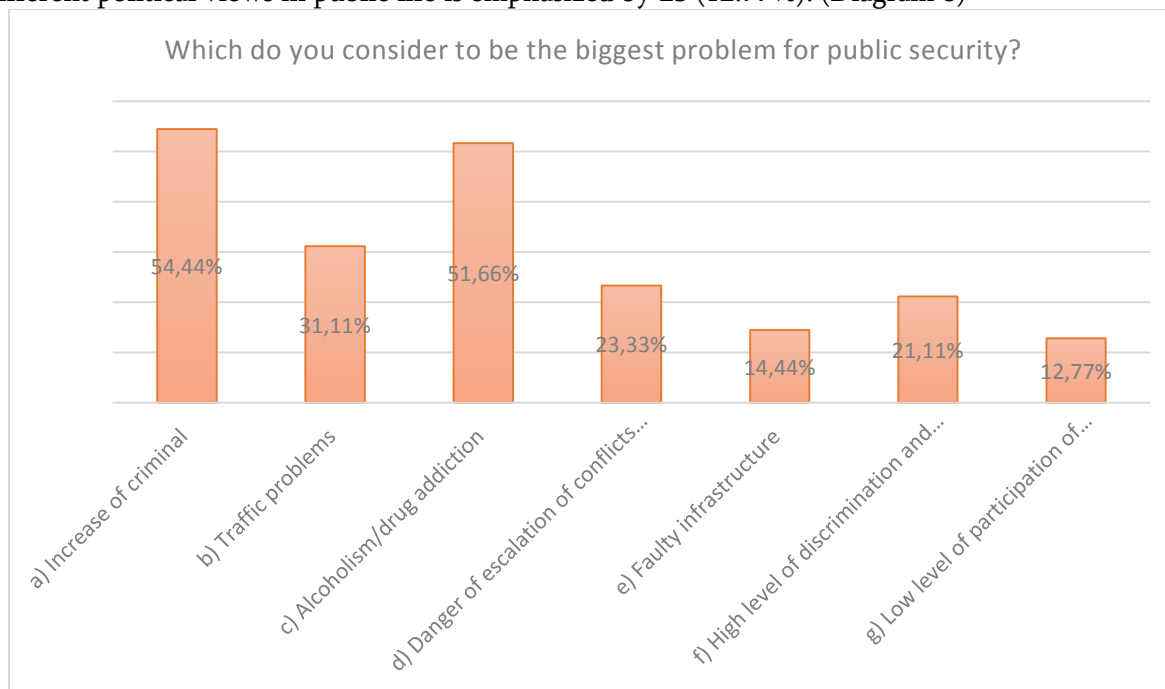
M. P., a woman of 37, employed: I live on a central road, and street lighting is crucial for me. Sidewalks should also be repaired.

A. Ts., a woman of 40, employed: I live on a central road, and there are dangerous turns. Accidents resulting in casualties are common. Therefore, it is necessary to arrange an artificial barrier.

I.J., a woman of 50, employed: It would be good to have a children's playground.

M.M., a woman of 50, employed: Land cultivation and a tractor service is the most relevant issue for us.

Quantitative research shows that there significant threats for the Khoni Municipality population is the increase of criminal - 98 (54,44%), including IDP - 14 (14.28%), local - 76 (77.55%). No less dangerous is alcohol/drug addiction - 93 (51.66%), including: IDP - 14 (15.05%), local - 71 (76, 34%). As for traffic problems, it bothers 56 (31,11%) participants. The danger of conflict escalation in Georgia is reported by 42 (23.33%). A high level of discrimination and intolerance towards women is emphasized by 38 (21.11%). Faulty infrastructure is dangerous for 26 (14.44%). The low level of participation of minorities and persons of different political views in public life is emphasized by 23 (12.77%). (Diagram 8)



To the question - "Do your children, grandchildren, or acquaintances have access to quality higher education?" the following answers are recorded: 84 (46.66%) women mentioned partially, including 9 (10.71%) IDPs, 70 (83.33%) locals, 2 (2.3%) single mothers, mother of many children - 0. 8 (9.52%) are socially vulnerable. 82 (45.55%) respondents have access to quality education. Quality education is not available for 14 (7.77%) respondents, including 1 (7.14%) IDP. 12 locals, one of them is socially vulnerable (85.71%), single mother - 0, mother of many children - 0.1(7.14%) socially vulnerable, disabled person -0.

Through quantitative research, we could also find out impeding reasons: low quality of education was reported by 86 (47.77%), few professional teachers is pointed out by 50 (27.77%), faulty school infrastructure (depreciated, old building, faulty sewerage system, lack of water, etc.) is mentioned by 28 (15, 55%), school is far from home for 11 (6.11%), lack of appropriate technical equipment in the school (computers, internet, specialized subject classrooms (physics, chemistry, biology, etc.) is reported by 38 (21.11%), poor Internet connection (for distance learning process) is mentioned by 56 (31.11%).

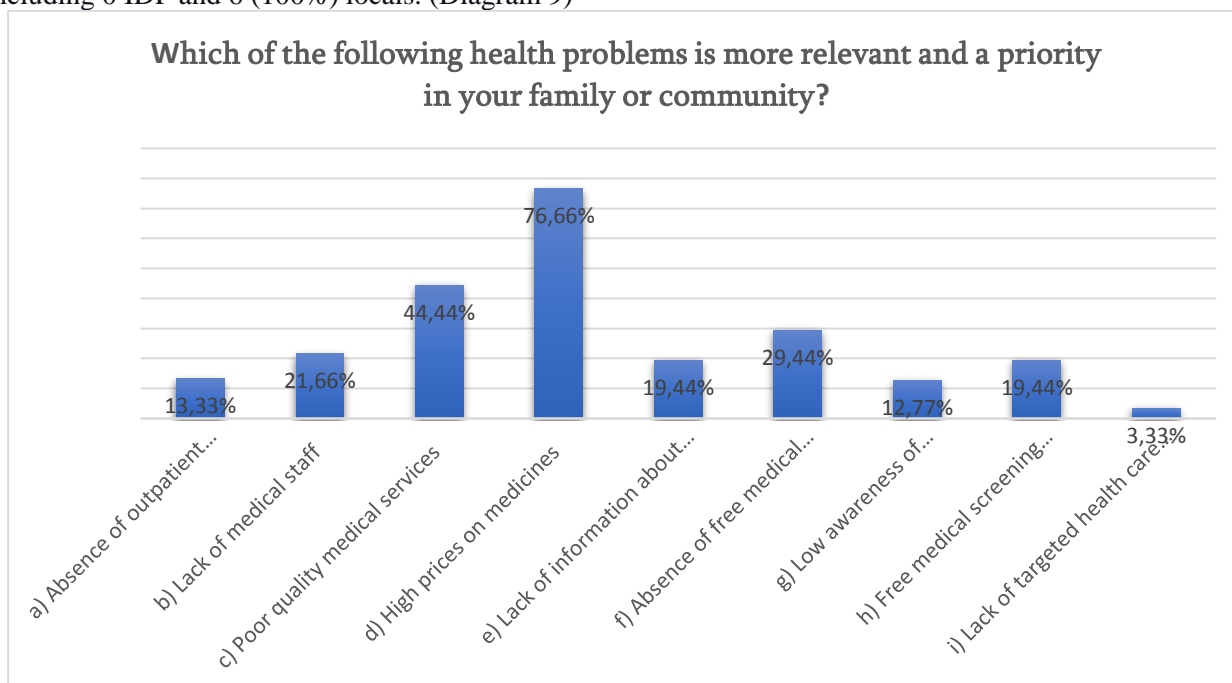
The survey data showed that 94 (52.22%) respondents have access to higher education. It is partially accessible to 75 (41.66%) respondents and not available to 11 (6.11%).

The respondents emphasize the following problems preventing getting higher education: 33 (18.33%) think that there are no vocational guidance courses in schools, which prevents the entrant from choosing the best profession, free accommodation in the city is an obstacle for 46 (25.55%), the high tuition fee is reported by 87 (48.33%) and low-quality tuition is a problem for 14 (7.77%).

Block V: Health Security

The quantitative research did not ignore the problems in the field of health care. The participants mentioned the current and priority problems for them:

- Absence of outpatient medical center is a problem for 24 (13.33%) women, including: 7 (29.16%) IDPs , 16 (66.66%) locals. Lack of medical staff is reported by 39 (21.66%), including: 6 (15.38%) IDPs, 32 (82.05%) locals. Poor-quality medical services is a problem for 80 (44.44%), including: 9 (11.25%) IDPs, 66 (82.5%) locals. High prices on medicines are the most pressing problem for 138 (76.66%), including 14 (10.14%) IDPs, 113 (81.88%) locals. Lack of information about health programs is relevant for 35 (19.44%), including: 2 (5.71%) IDPs, 30 (85.71%) locals. The absence of free medical examinations on the ground in villages is a priority issue for 53 (29.44%), including 5 (9.43%) IDPs, 44 (83.01%) locals. Low awareness of reproductive health is pointed out by 23 (12.77%), including 2 (8.69%) IDPs, 18 (78, 26%) locals. Free medical screening programs for girls and women is problematic for 35 (19.44%), including 3 (8.57%) IDPs, 26 (74.28%) locals. The lack of targeted health care programs for IDP and conflict-affected women is relevant for 6 (3.33%), including 0 IDP and 6 (100%) locals. (Diagram 9)

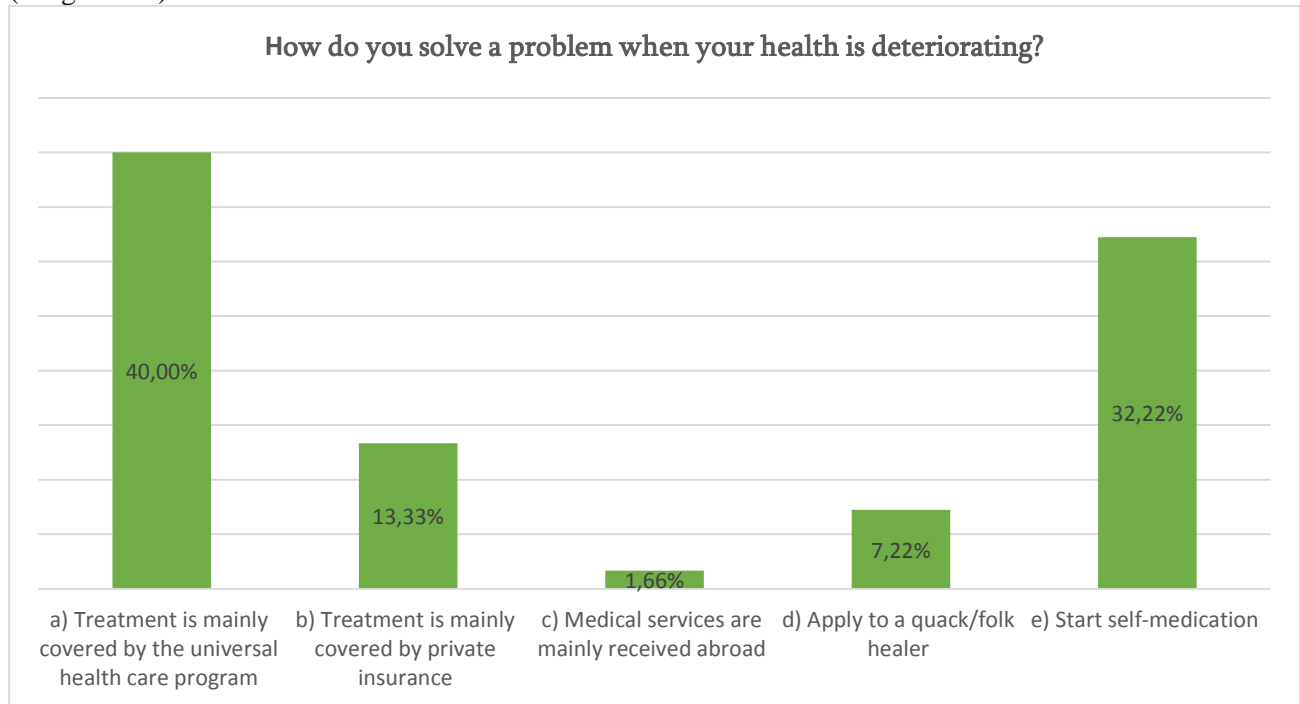


Healthcare problems have been identified through a qualitative study.

M.G., a woman of 51, local expert: We conducted a survey and found that we have 1046 beneficiaries with disabilities. As for Covid 19, all Khoni dwellers are given 150 GEL as one-time assistance to undergo any medical examination.

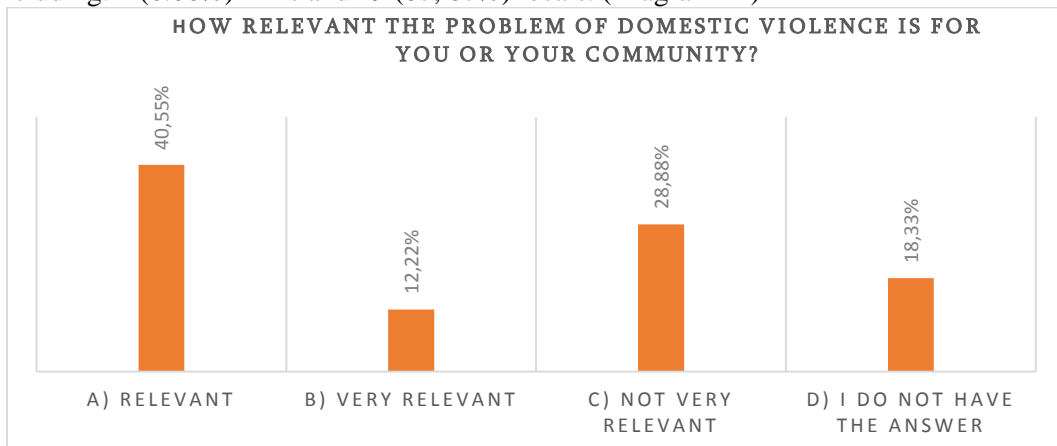
L.K., a woman of 59, local expert: Medical packages for the blind, cancer patients (malignant tumours), persons with disabilities, inpatient and outpatient services with medications have been increased. We have renewed the council of persons with disabilities. The mayor is its chairman, and the council has developed a particular program.

It was interesting how women manage to solve a problem during a health deterioration. The following answers have been recorded: for 72 (40%) treatment is mainly covered by the universal health care program, 24 (13.33%) benefit from private insurance, 3 (1.66 %) receive medical services mainly abroad, 13 (7.22%) apply to a quack/folk healer, 58 (32.22%) start self-medication, including 8 IDPs (13.79%), 46 (79.31%) locals. (Diagram 10)

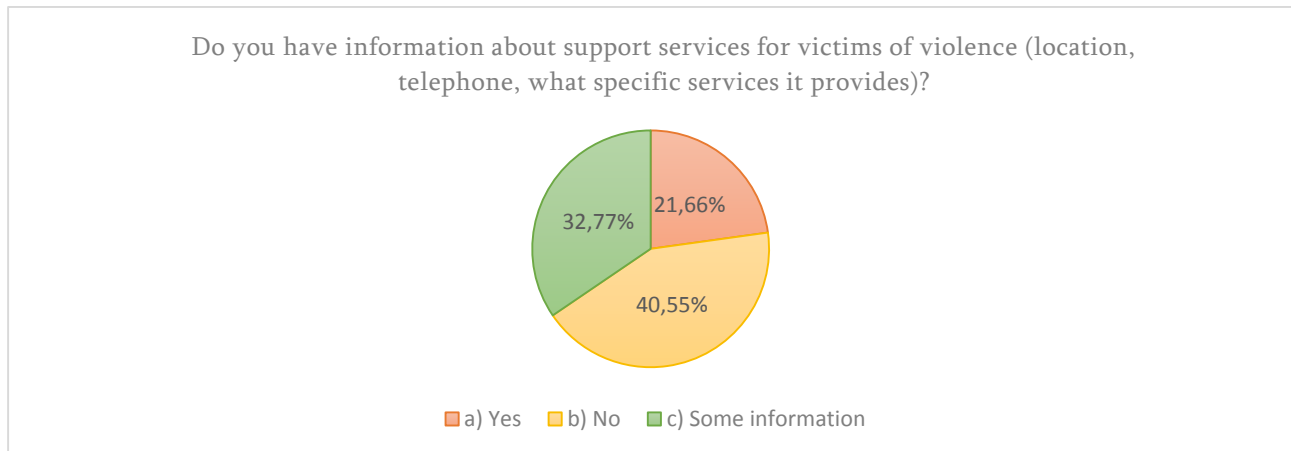


Block VI: Personal Security

Quantitative research has revealed the problem of domestic violence. The research has shown that the problem of violence is considered urgent by 73 (40,55%), including: 10 (13,69%) IDPs, 57 (78,08%) locals, 2 (2,73%) single, 3 (4,10%) mothers of many children, 7 (9,58%) socially vulnerable ones and 22 (30,13%) unemployed respondents. The problem is very relevant for 22 (12,22%), including: 4 (18,18%) IDPs, 17 (77,27%) locals, 1 (4,54%) single, 0 mother of many children, 1 (4,54%) socially vulnerable and 4 (18,18%) unemployed respondents. For 52 (28,88%) respondents it is not relevant and 33 (18,33%) ones do not have answer, including: 2 (6,06%) IDPs and 29 (87, 87%) locals. (Diagram 11)



The survey has also represented the data on the most common form of violence. The answers to this question are following: physical (beating, etc.) is pointed out by 31 (17.22%), the majority of respondents 115 (63.88%) emphasized psychological violence (humiliation, verbal abuse, swearing, neglect, etc.), economic violence (manipulation of funds, financial dependence on one family member, seizure of money, ban on cash management, etc.) is reported by 32 (17.77%) and sexual (rape, sexual harassment) by 2 (1.11%). **Survey analysis shows whether the respondents have information about support services for victims of violence.** 73 (40.55%), including: 9 (12, 32%) IDPs, 56 (76, 71%) locals do not have information. 59 (32.77%) have information about some services, and 48 (21.66%) women are aware of them. (Diagram 12)

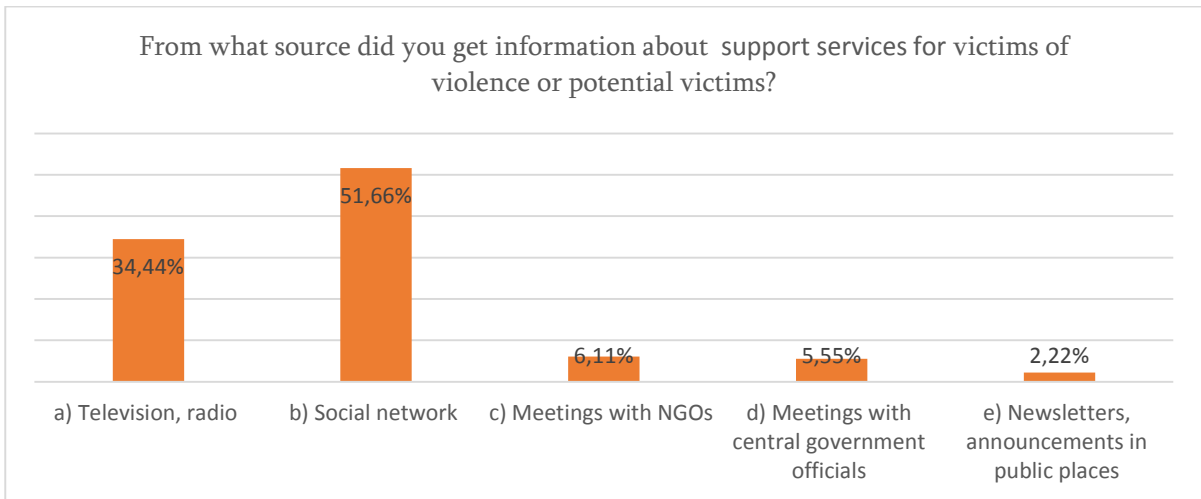


If you are aware, list them:

- State and NGO crisis centres - 8 (4,44%);
- State and NGO shelters -13 (7,22%);
- State Legal Services - 5 (2,77%);
- Hotline - 96 (53,33%);
- NGOs and their services - 14 (7,77%);
- Municipal Services - 14 (7,77%);
- NGOs working on issues of violence - 10 (5,55%).

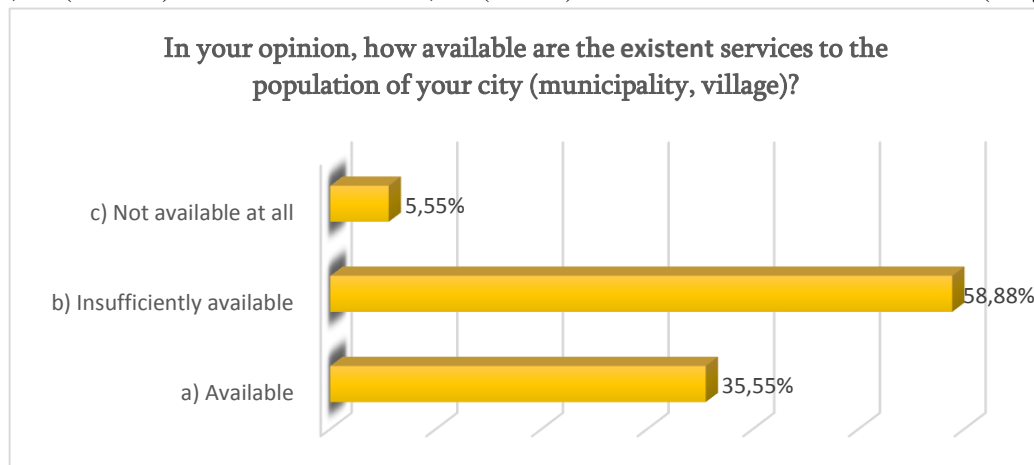
E.J., a woman of 36, local expert: We have a program to rent an apartment for a victim of violence, which is a novelty in our budget. We try to provide information to people through social networks or meetings.

The survey materials have revealed the source of information they get information about support services for victims of violence or potential victims. The responses were distributed as follows: television, radio is a source of information for 62 (34.44%) women. In most of the answers, 93 (51.66%) respondents pointed out social networks. Meetings with NGOs is a source of information for 11 (6.11%) and meetings with central government officials for 10 (5.55%) respondents. Newsletters, announcements in public places were pointed out by 4 (2.22%). (Diagram 13)



T.B., a woman of 42, local expert: The active part of the population has more information. However, there is a second category - less informed. Many do not have access to the internet. At the time of Covid 19, when we moved to remote work, this became more apparent. A large percentage do not have internet access. Nevertheless, information is available, and its primary source is the internet. If a person wishes, s/he can get it.

106 (58.88%) respondents of the quantitative survey believe that the existing services are not available to the population, 64 (35.55%) consider it accessible, 10 (5.55%) do not consider it available at all. (Diagram 14)



According to the quantitative survey participants` opinion, the programs implemented by the local self-government to address violence against women are partly sufficient 56 - (31.11%). On the other hand, 55 (30.55%) women do not have information about the mentioned local self-government programs, 35 (19.44%) consider them insufficient, for 17 (9.44%) of the respondents they are sufficient and 17 (9.44%) talk about the diversity of the programs and the adaptation to the specific needs of the victims of violence.

Qualitative research has revealed the following answers:

TP, a woman of 27, employed: It is necessary to inform the population more, if necessary, not to abstain from referral.

A.Sh., a woman of 32, socially vulnerable: Programs are never sufficient, though they are pretty effective.

N.J., a woman of 55, housewife: They are not sufficient because violence against women continues.

T.N., a woman of 28, student, employed: The problem is that the female victim has nowhere to go, there are shelters in some regions, but even there, the victim can stay for some time and then she is left without shelter.

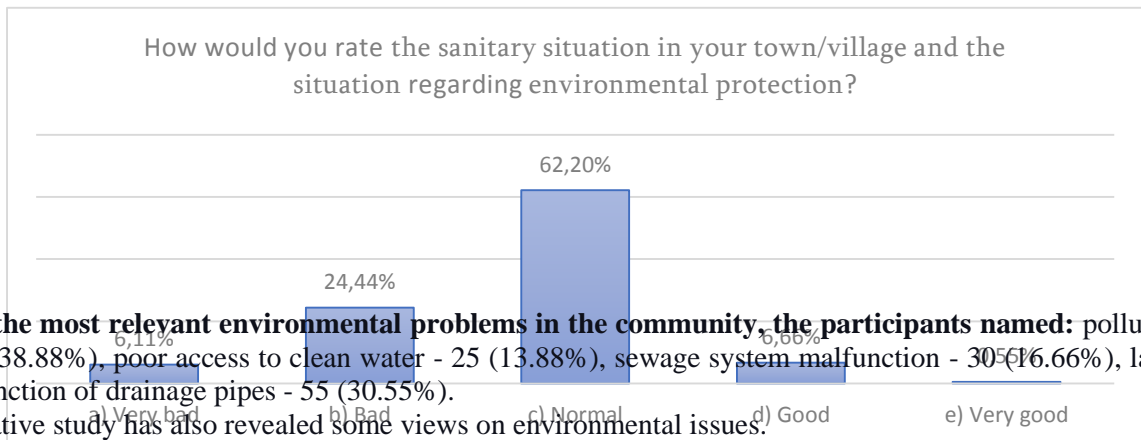
I.B., a woman of 63, teacher: Today, many women are victims of violence, and they have a feeling of insecurity. They can not apply to law enforcement agencies. Many do not know how to behave at this time.

S.G., a woman of 22, employed: Violence response programs are not sufficient, and they need to be further developed. In addition, community's awareness should be raised, and they should not refrain from the referral if necessary.

N.K., a woman of 25, M.A. student: The statistics of violence against women are alarming. Various discussions and trainings addressing violence should be actively organized, and competent persons should be invited. Women victims of violence will be informed about the programs or organizations that protect them.

Block VII: Environmental Security

Quantitative survey participants assessed the sanitary situation in their town/village and the environmental situation as well. 11 (6.11%) respondents marked a very bad situation, the situation is bad for 44 (24.44%) respondents, the current situation is considered normal by 112 (62.2%) respondents, 12 (6.66%) women rated it well, meanwhile, and 1 (0.55%) is satisfied. (Diagram 15)



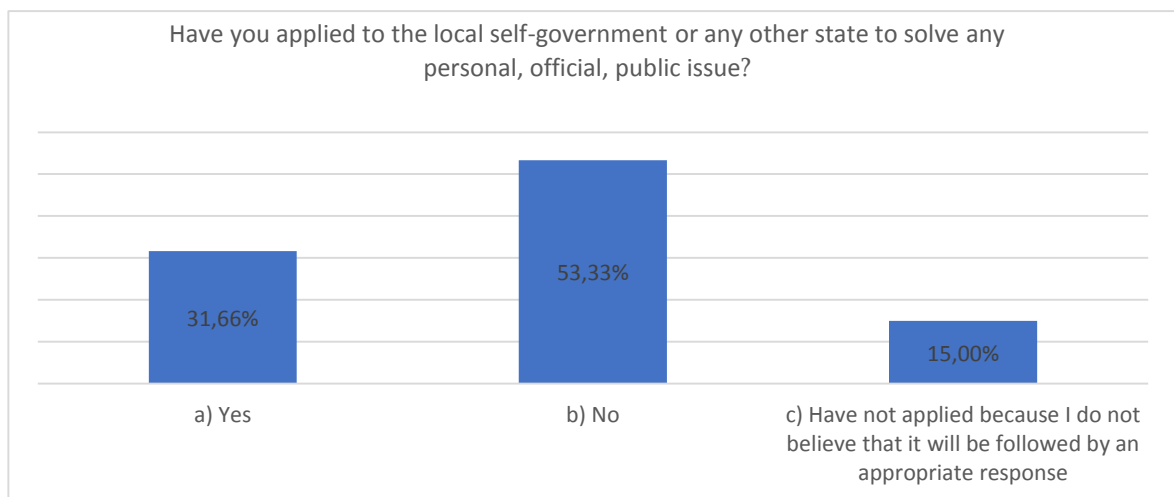
Among the most relevant environmental problems in the community, the participants named: polluted air - 70 (38.88%), poor access to clean water - 25 (13.88%), sewage system malfunction - 30 (16.66%), lack or malfunction of drainage pipes - 55 (30.55%).

A qualitative study has also revealed some views on environmental issues.

K.K., a woman of 37, employed: A significant problem is an ecological condition caused by vehicle emissions.

Block VIII: General Questions

What kind of communication the population have with the local government and whether they have applied to the local self-government or any other state body to solve any personal, official, public issue, the respondents gave the following answers: 57 (31.66%) answered "yes", 96 (53, 33%) respondents have not applied, 27 (15%) respondents have not applied to them because they do not believe that they will receive an appropriate response. (Figure 16).



A qualitative study has identified several categories of people: some have addressed and resolved their problems, some have not addressed, some have not addressed yet but hope for support.

T.N., a woman of 28, student, employed: I have addressed the local self-government for social assistance, medical assistance, and they have granted my requests.

T.Ch., a woman of 85, employed: I have addressed them, and they have helped me.

I.B., a woman of 63: I have applied, and I have been funded. They did not neglect my appeal, and now, my street has outdoor lighting.

S.G., a woman of 22, employed: I have not applied. If I need it, I will apply. I hope there will be an appropriate response from them.

E.U., a woman of 30, employed: Relatives around me applied to the City Hall to fund the operation, and they have been provided with assistance.

A.Ts., a woman of 40, employed: I have addressed to them, and there was a prompt reaction.

M.P., a woman of 37, employed: I applied to them to fund expensive medical tests, and I was funded.

M.M., a woman of 50, employed: I need to be operated, and I was partially funded, and my health condition is satisfactory now.

To the question "What form of civic engagement did you use to communicate with the local government?", the answers are as follows: settlement/village meetings - 70 (38.88%), attendance at the City Council session - 5 (2.77%), listening to the Mayor`s reports, City Hall services - 12 (6.66%), petition - 12 (6.66 %), Mayor's Advisory Council, Gender Council, Council of Persons with Disabilities - 8 (4.44%), civil budgeting - 3 (1.66%), electronic form of communication (email, window for sending a letter on the municipality's website) - 70 (38.88%).

It appeared that some of the focus group respondents use different forms, while some are dissatisfied with the fact that the government does not study their needs, and there is a lack of communication.

T.P., a woman of 27, employed: We receive information from village representatives.

K.K., a woman of 37, employed: Communication and consultations with citizens are not frequent. They do not study the population's satisfaction as well.

TP, a woman of 28, employed: The local or central government study population`s needs more or less studied, though not so often.

T. Ch., a woman of 85, employed: Economic problems hit the state. Everybody talks about the problems, but nobody studies the reasons.

I.B., a female teacher of 63: The rural population suffers from a lack of communication. A strong state stands on a strong village. So, social programs must be tailored to the village.

N.K., a woman of 25, M.A. student: The approach regarding communication and consulting is different in a village and city. Most people do not even know about the free circles of the League of Youth Unions in my village. However, many gifted children are unable to go to these circles due to a lack of money.

G.M., a man of 33, local expert: Our municipality is small, and we have close communication with the population. We are always ready to listen to their problems. We do not need special reception days for this. We try to solve problems and not limit ourselves to just reviewing the applications.

E.J., a woman of 36, local expert: Self-government informs the population through the Internet, website, Facebook page and information meetings. The official reception days with the mayor are Tuesday and Thursday. Municipalities can not afford to conduct surveys. It is quite an expensive pleasure. However, we are successfully cooperating with the NGOs that work in this direction, and we use the results of their studies very well. The recent monitoring aimed to identify the degree of transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness of the City Hall work and study the current situation in this direction. We have successfully implemented two projects within the Fund "Sukhumi" project framework, and now we have a hotline in the municipality and a modernized website. These two services are very effective. Population referrals and inclusiveness have increased. Local visits and a hotline are available. Besides, written referrals are very effective.

M.G., a woman of 51, local expert: Rural meetings are often held, and the represented problems are always promptly responded to.

The question: "To what extent are the services and programs provided by local authorities tailored to (or reflect) the specific needs of vulnerable groups?", was answered as follows: local programs address the specific needs of vulnerable groups - 78 (43.33%), programs do not address the specific needs of individual

vulnerable groups - 49 (27.22%), the practice of assessing the specific needs and satisfaction of vulnerable population with programs is not introduced - 53 (29.44%).

T.B., a woman of 42, local expert: The Adult Education Center in Khoni is tailored to the needs, there are free computer, accounting and language courses.

M.G., a woman of 51, female, local expert: We try to tailor the social program to each person. Due to the referral, we changed the rehabilitation program for autistic children. It used to serve children from 0 to 7. Now the program includes children up to 15. There are 16 autistic children in total, each of whom is given 200 GEL every month. Children are our priority, and we decided to set up a child support department at City Hall to study children’s problems thoroughly. We are thinking of creating a temporary residence in Khoni, where the beneficiary will stay for 10 days. The City Hall will fund her apartment rent and three meals a day. Up to 30 letters are received at the City Hall every day, so the work is routine.

L.K., a local expert, 59: We give 50 GEL a month to beneficiaries with severe visual impairment. There are 56 such people in Khoni. The reintegration program is also effective. The children we brought back to the families feel comfortable. This program aims to empower families. We have helped 4 such families. The program has been working for 3 years. We give 1500 GEL to each family a year. There is a guesthouse in Khoni, where one of these families lived, and with the money received from this program, the mother was able to leave the hotel with her children and start a new life.

T.P., a woman of 27, employed: Women need to be economically empowered - they leave the country to find work.

K.K., a woman of 37, employed: People with disabilities find it challenging to get a job because they do not have the proper equipment in the city.

T.N., a student of 28, employed: In the regions, mainly people with disabilities need help.

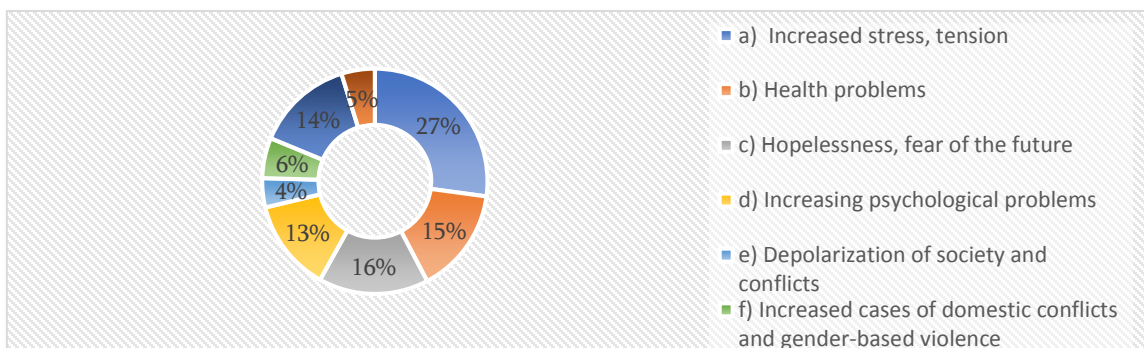
A.P., a woman of 30, employed: Nowadays, all the target groups, large families and socially vulnerable ones need help with specific local programs.

S.E., 22 years old, employed: As for me, people with disabilities are the target group that most needs to be helped with similar programs.

S.G., 22 years old, employed: For me, the priority segment is elderly, for whom medication is vital.

N.K., 25 years old, M.A. student: I would emphasize gifted young people. They need to realize themselves so that they do not have to migrate to other cities or countries. They need our support, and their support is the way to success for our country and community.

Quantitative research has also revealed how the increased threat to human security affects the state of the population. 136 (75.55%) believe that stress, tension are increased. Health problems are relevant for 76 (42.22%) respondents. 79 (43.88%) women have a fear of the future. 66 (36.66%) believe that psychological problems are growing. Society is depolarized for 21 (11.66%) women. Cases of domestic violence and violence against women are increasing, which is reported by 29 (16.11%) respondents. 70 (38.88%) report an increase in the number of migrating women and split-up families. 24 (13.33%) respondents have a high sense of insecurity. (Diagram 17)



Recommendations

During the qualitative study, respondents discussed the challenges in their community or the municipality in general and their solutions. Based on them, the following recommendations can be suggested:

- The local government should implement programs focused on women's economic empowerment;
- It is desirable to establish small enterprises in cooperation with the local government, where women will be able to study and work in certain activities;
- It is desirable to increase the women`s inclusiveness in the elaboration of municipal programs;
- More live or online communication is desirable to identify and study local problems;
- It is desirable to encourage local or central government officials to meet with women and promote their economic empowerment through appropriate programs;
- It is desirable to study the effectiveness of existing programs, make appropriate adjustments and develop new programs based on needs;
- It is desirable to activate electronic communication in the municipality as much as possible: hotline, petition;
- The active cooperation of the local government with the youth center and the center for adults is encouraged, which contributes to the involvement of more people, including vulnerable groups, in free educational circles or courses;
- It is necessary to solve various problems (creating a home care service; outdoor lighting; so-called artificial barriers on the roads; arranging a lying police officer; arranging children's playgrounds and squares; facilitating land cultivation) according to the needs identified during the research.