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Needs Assessment of Women and Youth under the Gender-Oriented Early Warning System (GREWS)

Tsalenjikha Municipality

Project 72011421CA00001

*„Overcoming the discord - among people initiatives
for conflict resolution“*

April, 2021

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*Opinions expressed in the study belong to the foundation "Sukhumi"
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Introduction

The Gender-Oriented Conflict Early Warning System (GREWS) implies the study of community needs and the establishment of an early response system in terms of the potential risks. The introduction of this (GREWS) system with a gender-oriented approach significantly reduces the risk of developing violence and conflict in society, facilitates the establishment of democratic principles.

Due to the unstable political environment of the country, the low social-economic rate, the fear of losing the job and income, environmental pollution, unstable guarantees for health care, the increased rate of violence and other threats limit the person's freedom of choice, hinders the possibility of high quality life and significantly increases the risk of violence and conflict in the society. In order to neutralize the aforesaid risks, early intervention and response are important.

The Gender-Oriented Early Warning System (GREWS) represents an important tool in terms of early response to problems in society as well as improving the quality of human security.

The determination of potential risks of conflict shall be based on a study of the population needs through a gender approach, the assessment of which and the inclusion in the early warning system will create a sense of sustainable peace and stability in the society.

The study conducted by the foundation "Sukhumi", on the "**Needs Assessment of Women and Youth under the Gender-Oriented Conflict Early Warning System (GREWS)**" will promote to identify women and youth priority problems and establish an appropriate early warning (GREWS) mechanism at the local level.

The aim and methodology of the research

Aim of the research: Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi" conducted a research from April 1 to April 25, 2021 in Tskaltubo Municipality. The aim of the research was the assessment of the quality of human security and gender needs of the population (women). The needs were assessed based on the analysis of the data obtained from the research, identifying relevant findings, trends and developing the necessary recommendations.

Research Methodology: The research was conducted in a format of quantitative and qualitative data collection. A pre-designed questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data. The data was collected in the form of Google, and qualitative data in the form of focus groups and in-depth interviews. Totally 4 focus groups and 4 face-to-face interviews were conducted with local experts (self-government representatives).

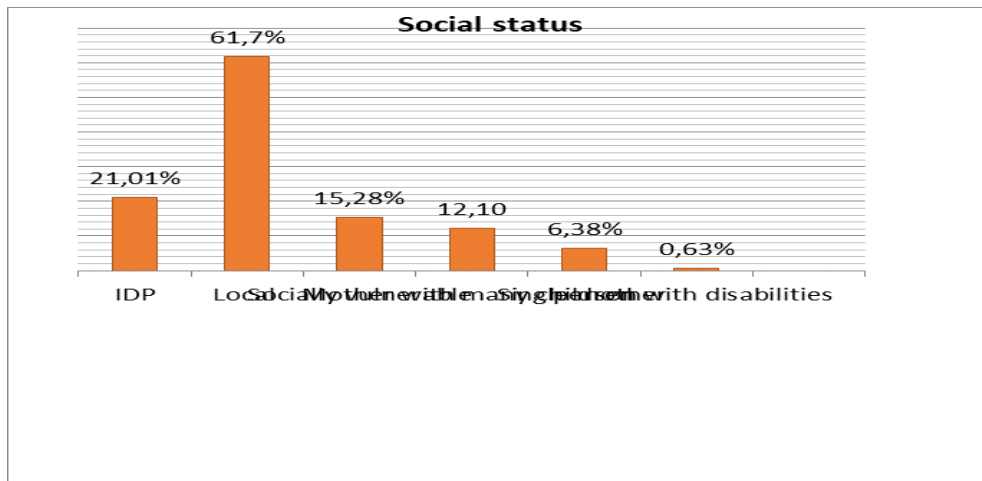
Socio-demographic characteristics of the study

A survey on citizens' needs involved women aged 18 to 65 living in Tsalenjikha Municipality, including IDPs, locals, socially vulnerable people, mothers with many children and single mothers, persons with disabilities, youth, pensioners, teachers of schools and preschool institutions, local experts in self-government issues. There were 157 women involved in the quantitative research, while 4 in-depth interview were carried out for the qualitative research with local experts (1 man and 3 women) and 4 focus group discussions with local women (30 women in total).

The participants involved in the quantitative research were divided by *age* as follows: the majority are represented by the middle-aged people - 18-30 years - 29.30%, 31-45 - 36.30%, 46-65 - 28.66% and over 65 - 5.74 %.

According to the **Social status**, 21.01% of respondents are IDPs, 61.7% - locals, 15.28% - socially vulnerable, 12.10% - mothers with many children, 6.38% of the respondents are single mothers and only 0.63% are people with disabilities.

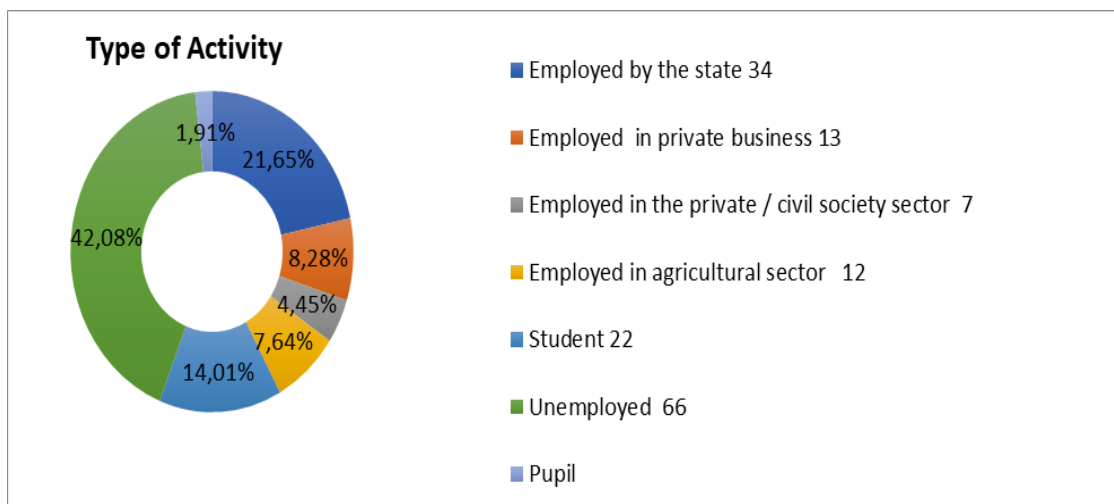
Figure#1



According to the employment status, the majority of respondents are unemployed 42.08%, also a large share comes from state employees, whose rate is 21.65%, 14.01% of beneficiaries are students, 8.28% are employed in private business, 4.45% are hired in the private / civil society sector, while 7.64% are engaged in agricultural work and 1.91% are students.

It is noteworthy, that **the data among the unemployed people according to social status was distributed as follows**: 37,11% locals and 45,45 - IDPs. As concerns, single mothers and mothers with many children, this figure among them are given as follows: unemployed single mother 50% and mother with many children - 47.36.

Figure #2



Basic Findings of the Study

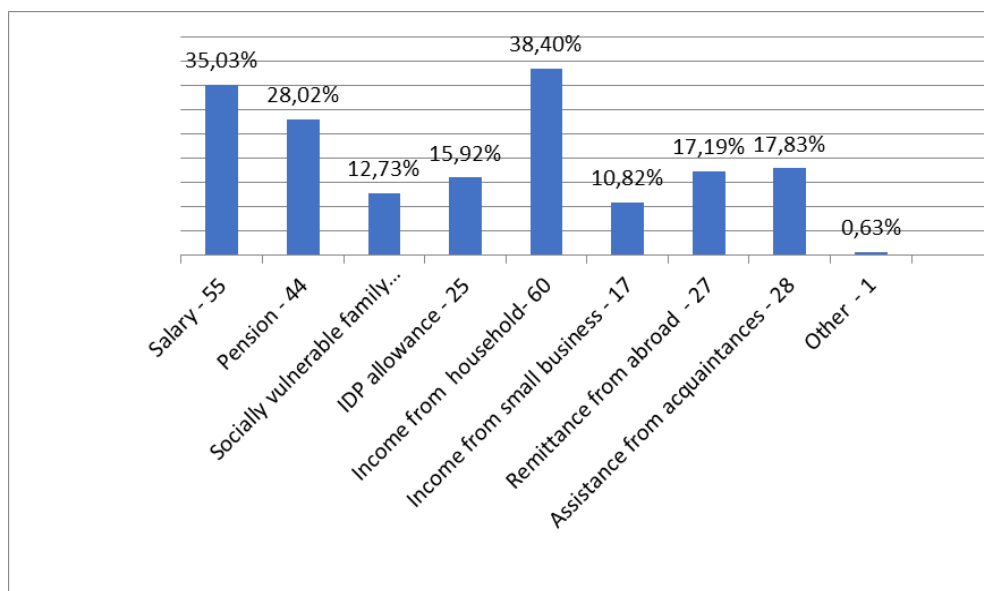
1. Economic Security

According to the results of the quantitative research, for the majority of the population of Tsalenjikha Municipality, **the main source of the families' income** is the income received from household - 38.4%, also,

a large share is distributed on state-paid beneficiaries - 35.03%. The pension was named as the basic income source by 28.02%. The state aid was distributed on the interviewed social groups as follows: socially vulnerable family allowance - 12.73%, IDP allowance - 15.92%. 17, 83-b. 10.82% keeps family with income from small business, 17.19% of respondents depend on migrants, and 17.83% are sustained with the help of the relatives.

It is interesting to *see the state remuneration rate for IDPs and local communities*, after analyzing the data we received the following picture: 27.27% of IDPs and 56.71% of locals benefit from the state remuneration. The source of income for mothers with many children and single mothers is mainly represented by pensions, state remuneration, household, remittances. The source of income for 42.10% of mothers with many children is a pension, the same number of mothers with many children benefits from household and state remuneration - 36.85%. As concerns, the single mothers, the source of income for 36.85% of them is a pension, and for 40% - remittances, 30% receives social allowance.

Figure #3

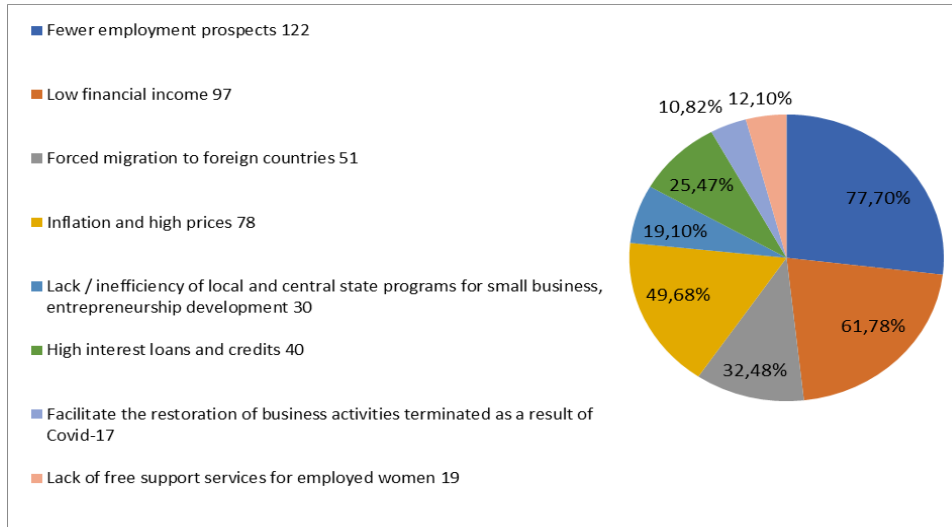


In the Economic Security Bloc, it was crucial to identify the hindering factors that exist for *women's economic empowerment*. In this regard, the less perspective of employment was named as the most important factor, which is significant for 77.70%. 61.78% allocated low financial income, while for 49.68% inflation and high prices for food, medicine, household items were a hindering factor. Then comes forced migration to foreign countries -32.48%. 25.47% of women believe that high-interest loans and credits obstruct their economic development. The following points were named as less important: Shortage / inefficiency of local and central state programs for small business, entrepreneurship development - 19.10%, assistance in restoring the business interrupted by Kovid-19 - 10.82% and lack of free support services for employed women - 12.10%.

It was turned out, that less employment prospects are significant for 75% of IDPs and 79% of locals. As for low financial income, the data were indicated as follows: IDPs - 63.65% and locals - 61.85%. The forced migration to foreign countries was outlined in the data, where we obtained the following figure: IDPs - 42% and local - 30%. No less important were inflation and high prices for food, medicine, household items, where the answers were distributed as follows: IDPs - 48.50% and locals - 66%. Interesting in identifying

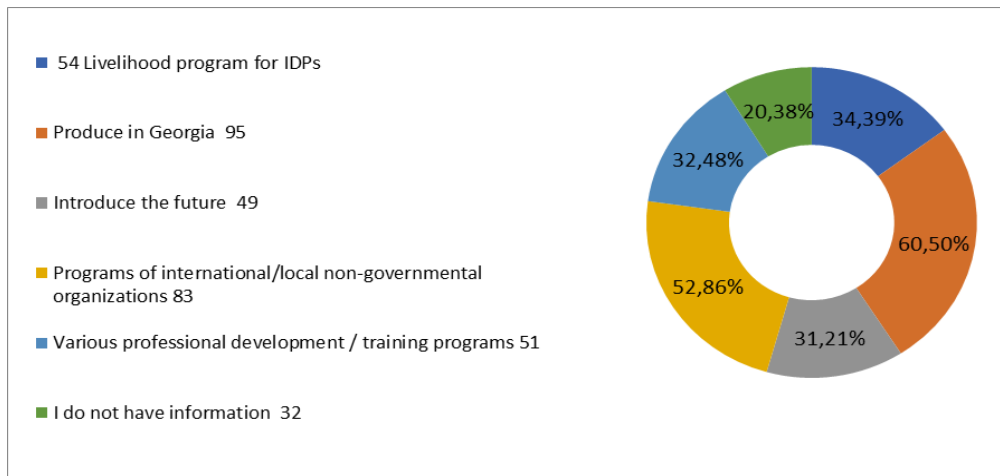
gender needs is the lack of free support services for single and large mothers. In order to reveal the gender needs, it is interesting to know how *important is the lack of free support services* for single mothers and mothers with many children as well. This problem was found to be less sensitive for single mothers, while it was named as the crucial hindering factor for mothers with many children - 26.35%

Figure #4



To the question, which are the *state socio-economic empowerment programs the interviewed beneficiaries have information on*, we received the following answer: 60.50% of the respondents are familiar with the program "Produce in Georgia". 52.86% of the respondents have information on programs of international / local non-governmental organizations, and 34.39% know about the IDP livelihood programs. 32.48% are aware of various vocational development / training programs. As concerns, the state program "Introduce Future", 31.21% have information on it, while 20.38% of the respondents do not have information about such programs at all. According to the results of the quantitative research, two priority directions have been revealed: "Produce in Georgia" and programs of international / local non-governmental organizations. The IDP and local community rate were distributed as follows: 57.60% of the IDP community is familiar with both directions, 62.90% of locals know about the program "Produce in Georgia" and 51.55% - on programs of international / local non-governmental organizations.

Figure #5



In order to improve the economic situation, it is important to **create a favorable environment for family farming, small business and self-employment**. In this regard, 64.33% considers that affordable loans are necessary, while 62.42% think that small business promotion programs are no less important. The share of IDPs and locals in these two outlined issues was almost equally distributed. Availability of affordable loans is important for 69.70% of IDPs and 62.90% of locals, while 65% of locals and 60.61% of IDPs paid attention on small business support programs. 45.85% of the quantitative research participants believe that rural support programs are of utmost importance as well, and 26.75% prioritizes grant programs. Local self-government programs were named to support agriculture, greenhouses and other types of activities, which were found to be significant for 30.57% of respondents. Low awareness of the population on state programs was clearly observed, which was observed by 52.86% of respondents. Only 12.10% responded to consulting services and assistance in business projects creation/writing.

During the qualitative research, **important issues for women's economic development** have been observed: "It is necessary to facilitate women's vocational training. There are women in the village who want to be specialized in the profession or raise their knowledge. Their help is important in this regard" (Kindergarten employee, local, 55 years old).

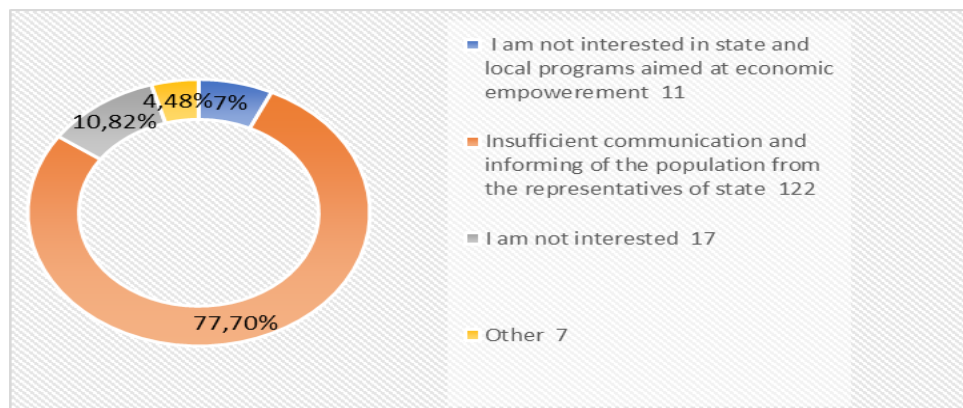
"I want to start a small business, but I cannot afford it due to the lack of funds. If there is support, it will give us an incentive to implement any kind of project" (Teacher, local, 57 years old).

"It would be great, if someone implements any measures in our village: raised awareness in this direction, assistance in project writing, provision of interest-free or low-interest loans, co-finance, etc." (Unemployed local, 30 years old).

The survey showed that 75.15% of the population **receives information** about the above-mentioned programs through television and radio. Also, online media outlets, social networks (59.87%) and neighbors and acquaintances (35.03%) were named as the primary source to gain information. 31.84% of respondents obtain information from non-governmental organizations. As for the involvement of local self-government, 22.92% note that they receive information through the website of municipality and Facebook page, 11.46% are informed with the help of local MPs and only 8.91% receive information through leaflets and information boards. The lowest rate was observed in terms of information dissemination by the mayor's representatives in the communities - 5.73%. As concerns, the central government and the ministry, 14.01% of respondents receive information from their website and Facebook page.

77.70% of the respondents name insufficient communication and informing the population from the representatives of state agencies as a **hindering factor to obtain necessary information**. The problem of internetization is also named as a significant one - 10.82% of respondents indicated it as a priority. 7.0% named low interest of the population toward economic enhancement state and local programs as an obstacle as well.

Figure #6



Responses to the question: *Insufficient communication according to social status and informing the population from the representatives of state agencies*, are defined as follows: IDPs - 23.71%, locals - 81.44%. 6.06% of IDPs surveyed and 16.50% of locals “are not interested” in this regard. 9.29% of locals and 18.18% of IDPs have a problem with internetization.

As it was clarified from the qualitative survey, the most of the participants have no information on local services. Periodically, the local municipality surveys the population needs, meets the interested groups of the population on the spot and on the bases of the obtained information determines the priority directions of the rural development program. However, according to the members of the group, they have never sought the proper information on their own initiative, to familiarize with the self-government programs. They suggested that the best way is more communication and active collaboration among community members and public figures.

“The population should have information about all the programs that the municipality has outlined in its plan. The situation is particularly bad in terms of the medical field, expensive examinations are not financed, only one-time assistance is provided” (Housewife, local, 23 years old).

“Recently, during the relationship with the foundation “Sukhumi” we have heard that the municipality has stipulated some money for the rehabilitation of schools, we demanded and the roof of the school was replaced. So awareness is important” (Teacher, local, 50 years old).

„We do not have any information regarding existing programs of municipality. We have no information on social, infrastructure, education and other programs. We only meet the representatives of the self-government during the rural program and they often come with preliminary decided programs”. (Local housewife, 57 years old).

„We do not acquire information on how the needs are studied, or who works on such issues, probably the trustee. However, it is clear that this is insufficient. Maybe municipality has some form developed in this direction, I do not know” (Housewife, local, 42 years old).

“We do not have information on how our needs are studied. Probably, the trustee of the village is working on such issues with the majoritarian MP, to whom the population addresses with statement on various problems, such as assessing the social status of the family, health problems or other issues” (Teacher, local, 42 years old).

Local experts also emphasize the need to inform the population: “a citizen should know what kind of social aids are available from the state and the municipality, what projects are being implemented in terms of infrastructure in the village. For example, rural programs start in villages, and before the beginning of these programs, meetings were held in all villages. Residents were invited to the meetings. The population itself does not know what should have been done in that district, village. It is necessary to involve the population in the state and municipality deeds” (Representative of the city municipal assembly).

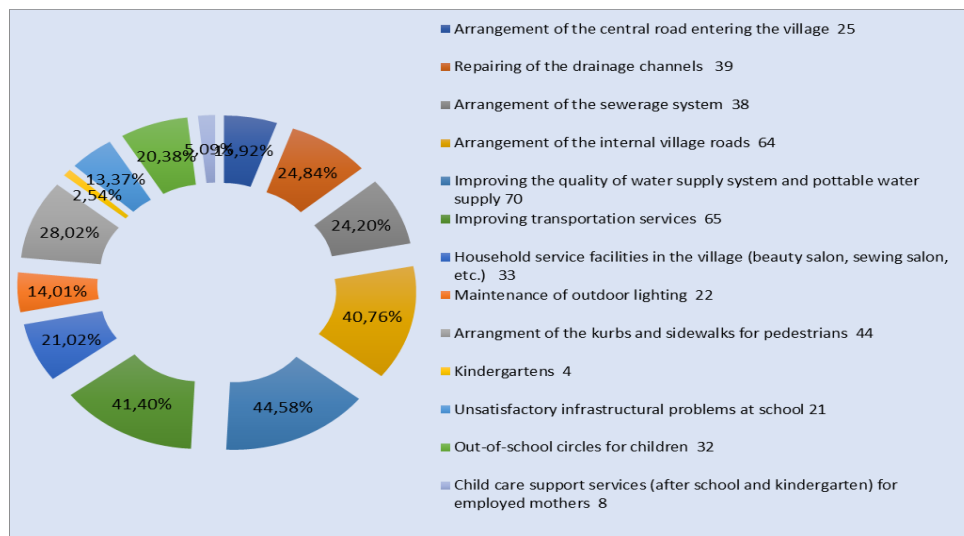
2. Food Safety

The subject of food safety is a priority gender issue. On the question, *which factor poses the greatest threat to food safety for you*, 92.99% answered that the important factor is high prices on products, and 73.88 – responded the lack of quality products. 24.84% named the absence of a grocery store nearby. In these responses, the proportion of IDPs and locals was distributed as follows: High prices on products represent a significant threat to 94.85% of locals and 84.85% of IDPs. While the availability of quality products is a priority for 60.60% of IDPs, a lower indicator was observed in terms of the local community - 5.15%.

Regarding the absence of the grocery store nearby, the data is allocated equally for both social groups: locals - 24.75% and IDPs - 24.25%.

3. Public Safety

Among the women involved in quantitative research in Tsalenjikha Municipality, **three issues are named as the most relevant for public safety**, with the following percentages: improvement of water supply system and potable water supply - 44.58%, improvement of transportation services - 41.40% and improvement of inside rural roads - 40.76%. In terms of infrastructure improvement, for 28.02% arrangement of curbs and sidewalks for pedestrians is important. The following issues are significant for the almost equal number of respondents: construction of drainage canals - 24.84%, maintenance of sewerage system - 24.20%, household service objects in the village - 21.02%, arrangement of the central entrance road to the village - 15.92% and maintenance of outdoor lighting - 14.01%. The survey identified unsatisfactory infrastructure problems in the school, which is important for 13.37% of respondents, as well as the importance of circles out of school for children (20.38%). A relatively low percentage was revealed on issues such as child care support services (after school and kindergarten) for employed mothers (5.09%) and kindergartens as well (2.54%). **Figure #7**



The acute infrastructural environment of the **local community** was observed by focus groups, which is related to the unarranged or complete unsolved water supply to the population in the community.

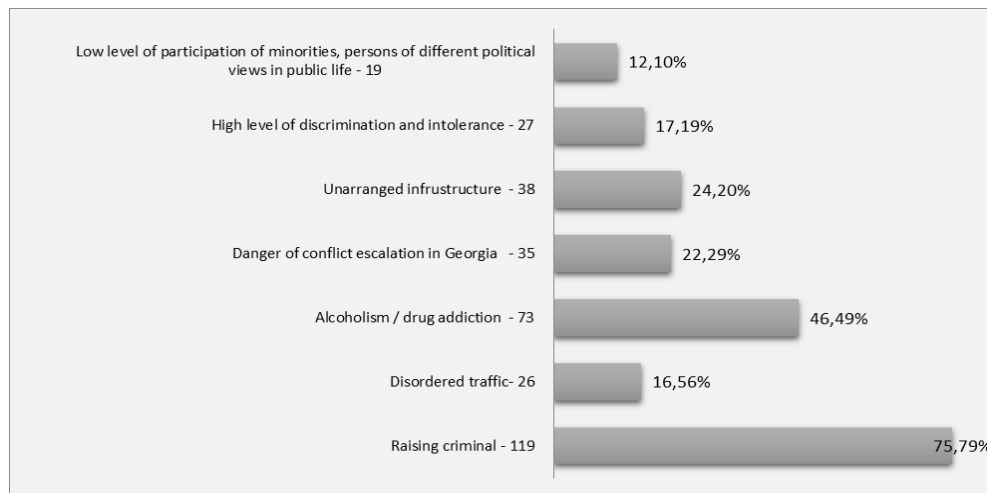
"The hindering factor is the unarranged water supply at the head, there is even talk that the water is polluted and useless for drinking. This water is still not available to everyone because the village is mountainous. The way out in such places is a well, which is expensive" (Kindergarten employee, local, 55 years old).

The most of the attendees talk about the infrastructure problems of the school and they see the solution in the construction of a new school. *"Our school is also important because students study here from Abkhazia, in particular, from the village of Saberio, who are still unable to attend learning process. These children and their families really need relevant support from our government. Environment where the school process will be attractive to them"* (Housewife, local, 37 years old).

"There was talk that the basic school should be transformed into a secondary school, i.e. students should finish twelve classes on the spot, not to have to go to another village. Children have difficulties to adapt to new environments. Students are victims of the bullying" (Housewife, 42, local).

The focus was made on the problem of public transportation: “There is no transport that impedes the movement of the population. There are private minibuses, but in the event they do not have enough passengers, they can refuse to transport them. These minibuses used to make two races, but after the pandemic, when the road to Abkhazia was closed, passengers were reduced and drivers switched to one race. Of course, this situation has affected us badly and we have to use taxis. Many women, who use to take out household products in Zugdidi, stopped taking them out ”(Housewife, local, 57 years old).

As a quantitative research shows, **the following threats are not less important for the population of Tsalenjikha Municipality** : increase in crime - 75.79% and alcoholism / drug addiction - 46.49%. Unarranged infrastructure was named as important for public safety by 24.20% of respondents. Escalation of conflicts in Georgia is considered as a threat by 22.29% of respondents. 17.19% of respondents highlight high levels of discrimination and intolerance as a threat, while unorganized traffic is a threat for 16.56%. 12.10% note the low degree of participation of minorities, people of different political views in public life as an important for public safety. There are crime and alcoholism mostly observed in the answers. It was interesting for us, how this rate was distributed among IDPs and local respondents. As a result of the analysis, we have the following figures: increase of crime is deemed as a threat by the 71.13% of the interviewed locals and by 60.60% of the IDPs, and 49.50% of locals and 42.43% of IDPs name alcoholism and drug addiction. **Figure #8**



Pursuant to the quantitative research, the degree of access to education has been determined. To the question, whether their children, grandchildren or acquaintances have access to quality secondary education or not, the answer of 58.59% polled was - partly. 58.76% out of them are locals and 51.52% IDPs, 54.16% socially vulnerable, 47.37% mothers with many children and 30% single mothers. Quality secondary education is not available for 10.20%, out of which, according to the socio-demographic status the following picture is clear: local - 5.15%, IDPs - 21.21%, socially vulnerable - 20.83%, single - 30% and only 5.26 % with many children. 31.21% of respondents state that their children, grandchildren and acquaintances have access to quality secondary education.

Quantitative research allowed us to find out the reasons: 29.29% of the respondents named low quality of education, 12.10% - insufficient number of professional teachers, for 36.30% the priority is unarranged school infrastructure, 4.45% think that the reason is that the school is not near the vicinity of the house. 47.13% of the respondents consider the absence of appropriate technical equipment in the school as a problem, and 36.30% consider low quality internet to provide distance learning process.

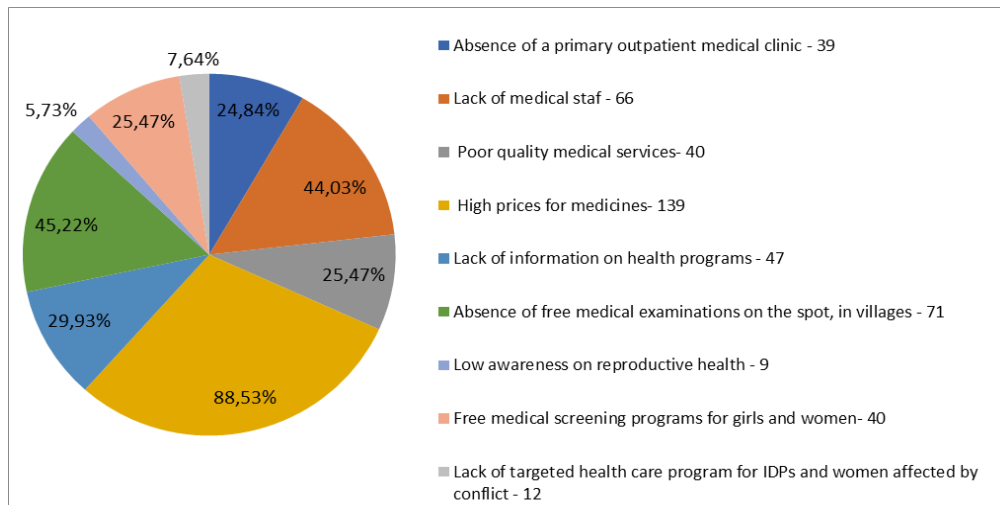
In terms of access to higher education, the survey revealed that 48.40% of respondents' family members and acquaintances have access to higher education. Only 9.55% do not agree with this, 42.03% think that it is partially available. In terms of the higher education, the following problems were identified: there are no vocational guidance courses in schools - 23.56%, free accommodation is not available for the student in the city from the region - 34.39%, high tuition fees - 38.85% and low quality education - 2.54%.

The problem of internetization was raised in the qualitative research by participants as well. This was emphasized as a hindering factor to both secondary and high education: *“Internet malfunctions have impeded the involvement of students and teachers in online lessons. We use “Silknet” internet, but it does not work well and we have to buy internet packages. We addressed to the company MAGTI, but in vain. The deputy of the village notified us, that tender was announced and the winner was the company “Silknet” and that the problem was tackled. It was another frustration” (Housewife, local, 40 years old).*

4. Health Safety

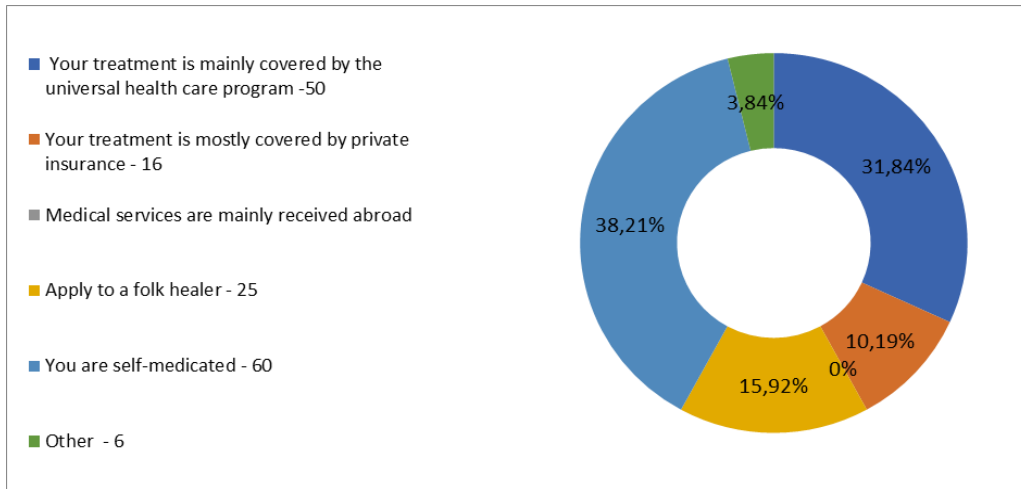
The quantitative research referred to the **health problems**. The interviewed women had the opportunity to identify the priority and actual issues in families and communities. The absence of a primary outpatient medical point is a problem for 24.84% and the lack of medical staff for 44.03%. 25.47% name the problem of poor quality medical services. Quite a large part - 88.53% named high prices for medicines as a problem, while for 45.22% the problem is the lack of free medical examinations on the spot, in the villages. 29.93% of the respondents indicated the low level of awareness. Low reproductive health awareness was named here as well by 5.73%. 25.47% of respondents have a problem with free medical screening programs for girls and women. Only 7.64% stated a shortage of targeted health programs for IDPs and women affected by conflict.

Figure #9



In the whilst of the existing health care problems, in terms of the research it was interesting how do the women of the quantitative research manage to solve the problem during the deterioration of the health. It was turned out, that treatment for 31,84% is mainly covered by the universal health care program, while 10,19% are covered by private insurance and 15,92% refer to a healer (wise woman) and 38,21% are self medicated.

Figure #10



The health care problems were considered as urgent by representatives of the qualitative research:

"I would emphasize the children with chronic diseases, they need special attention, often they do not receive proper medical care due to lack of funds. It is necessary to study the needs of such children" (Teacher, local, 58 years old).

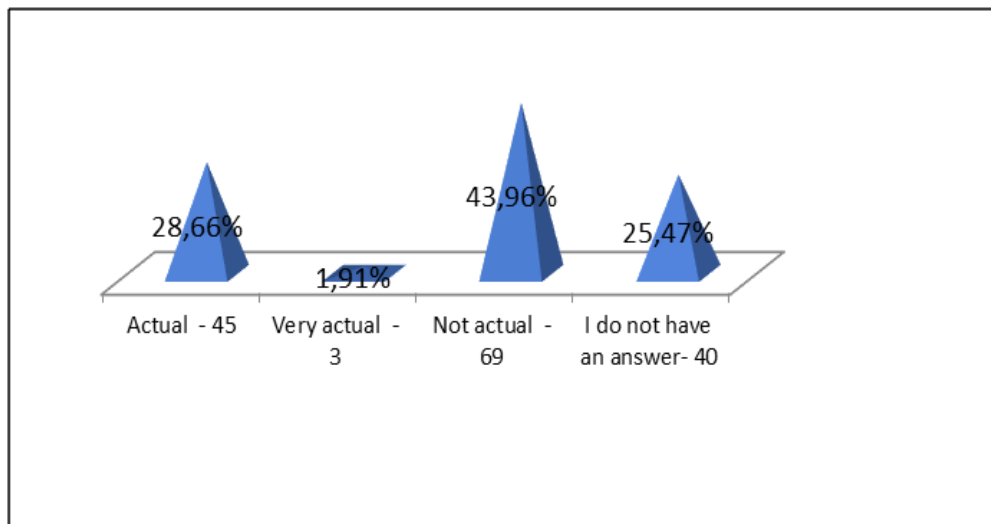
"Attention should be paid to people with health problems, lonely elderly, single mothers. The allowance received by them is meager and does not meet their needs" (Teacher, Local, 36).

„We do not have an outpatient clinic in the village, which creates an additional problem" (Teacher, local, 60 years old).

5. Personal Safety

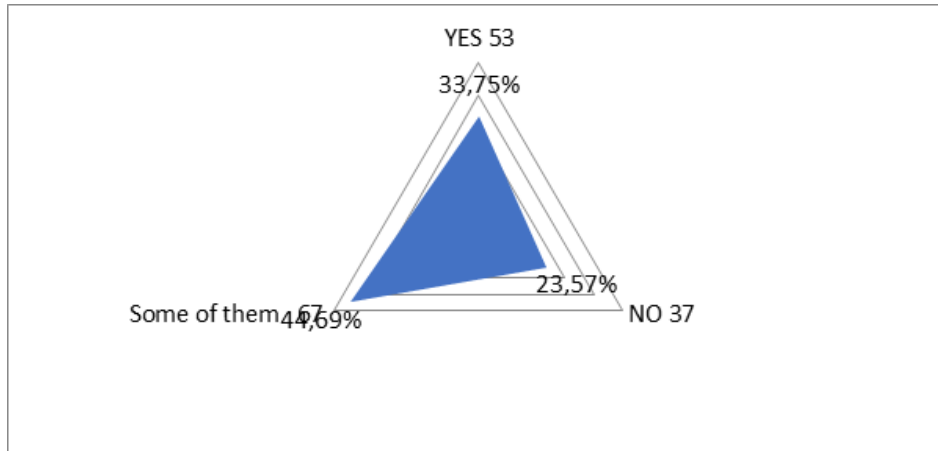
Within the frames of the quantitative research were revealed sensitive problems such as: **domestic violence issue and informing the population of Tsalenjikha Municipality in this regard**. The survey showed that 28.66% consider the problem of violence to be urgent, 1.91% to be extremely urgent, 25.47% have no answer, and 43.96% of the respondents do not consider the problem to be actual.

Figure #11



61.15% of the participants name psychological violence as the most common form of violence, 29.30% - economic violence, 9.55% - physical. It was observed during the research that 33.75% have information on support services for victims of violence, 23.57% know nothing, and 44.69% have information about some services.

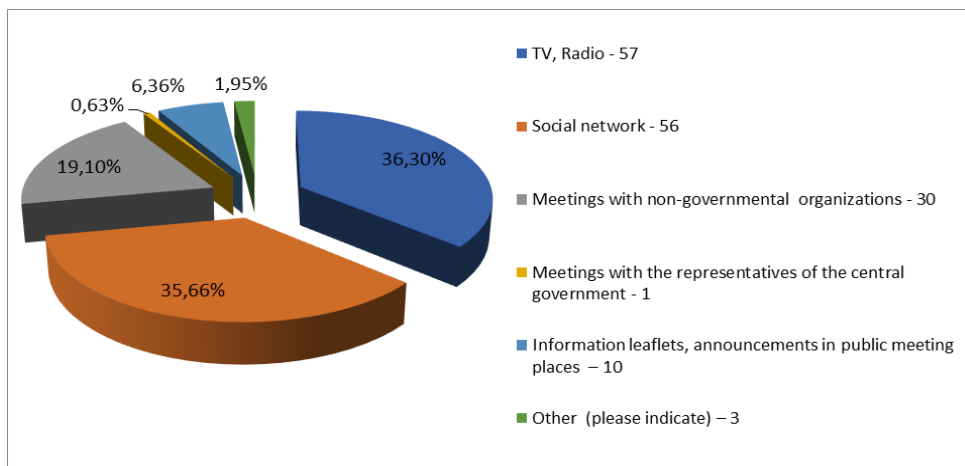
Figure #12



The participants have no information at all on hotline and municipal services from listed services. They are most informed about NGOs and their services (24.16%), NGOs working on violence issues (12.50%). Participants have information on shelters based on state and non-governmental organizations (7.5%), crisis centers at the governmental and non-governmental level (4.16%) and state legal services (3.33%).

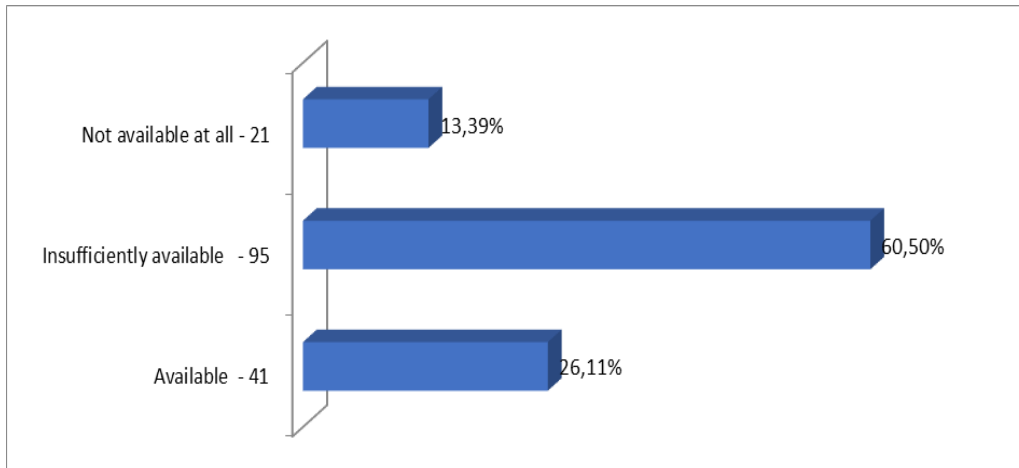
It was emphasized that the *beneficiaries received information about the services of victims of violence or potential victims from the following sources*: 36.30% - TV and radio, 35.66% - social network, meetings with non-governmental organizations - 19.10%, meetings with central government representatives - 0, 63% and 6.36% leaflets, announcements in public meeting places.

Figure# 13



How affordable are existing services to the population of the Tsalenjikka Municipality, 60.50% of the population considers that they are not available enough. 26.11% believe that these services are available, while 13.39% reports that they are not available at all.

Figure #14



26.75% of the quantitative research participants believe that *the programs implemented by the local self-government to respond to women and domestic violence* are partially sufficient, 14.64% think that it is not sufficient, and 9.55% consider that it is sufficient. 24.84% do not acquire information about the mentioned programs of the local self-government, 24.22% think that it is programs diversification is necessary and to adapt them to the specific needs of the victims of violence.

Focus group discussions referred to domestic violence and existing challenges in this regard. While assessing the response to the violence against women, it was mentioned that much remains to be done in this direction. The reason of problem unsolved, on the one hand, is the established mentality in the society. It was also suggested that more support and assistance from the state would be the best solution to raise public awareness and establish mutual assistance. Moreover, it was mentioned that many cases of violence against women remain without responses. Society is accustomed to ignoring the facts of violence in everyday life and the role of local self-government is unclear:

“We only know that we have to call 112. It turns out that there are various victim assistance services and we are notified about them only while meeting with you. There should be an appropriate service that will work in the community in this direction” (Housewife, local 40 years old).

“In general, the issue of violence is a closed topic in the village, there is no appeal for some reasons, we are less informed about the programs implemented to respond the violence. It is necessary to diversify such programs in order to raise awareness amongst the people in this direction” (Teacher, local, 50 years old).

The self-government makes sits effort to promote the prevention of domestic violence within its competence. This was outlined during the individual interviews with local experts:

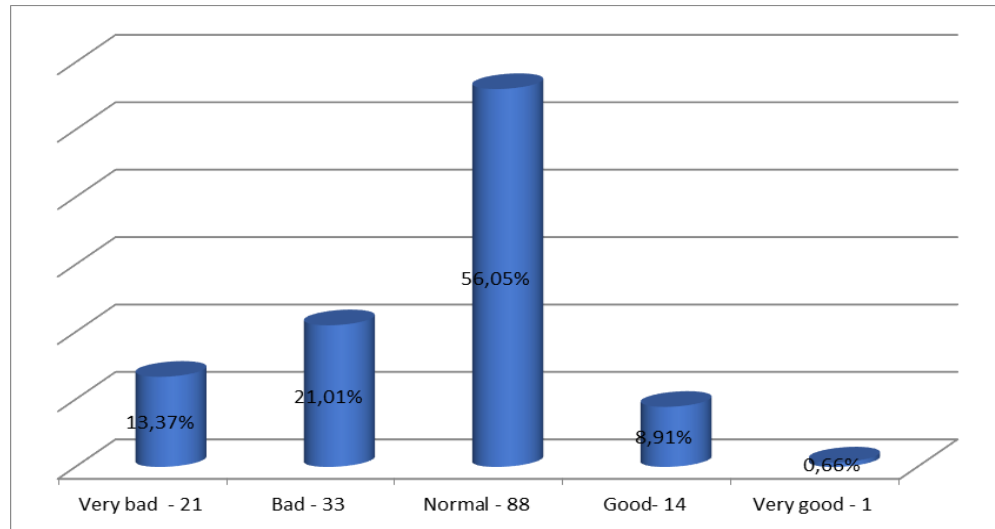
“It is the second year since we have a program for the protection of victims of domestic violence in the social program. We donate 200 GEL once to whom applies to us as a victim of domestic violence. Last year, in 2020, we were addressed by three citizens, to whom we provided financial assistance in an amount of 200 GEL. No one has applied yet, maybe it is a mental issue, maybe there is a domestic violence, but no one wants to reveal it. Whoever addressed to us, we assisted” (City Municipal Assembly representative).

“There are fewer complaints in terms of violence problem in our municipality, there is still a stigma. We had three cases last year, this year we do not have any at all. The reasons are insufficient level of awareness, the feeling of fear as well as what kind of response there might be if they address on this fact” (representative of the City Municipal Assembly).

6. Environmental Safety

Participants of the quantitative research assessed sanitation and environmental condition in their city/village. As a result we received the following data: 13,37% consider, that there is a difficult situation in this regard, 21,01% believe that situation is bad, 56,05% or respondents assess as normal and only 8,91% evaluated as good, 0,66% as very good.

Figure #15



In the community, following was named as the acute problem: polluted air - 28,66%, improper access to clean water - 32,48%, unarranged sewerage systems - 15,94%, absence of drainage pipes 36% or malfunction - 22,92%.

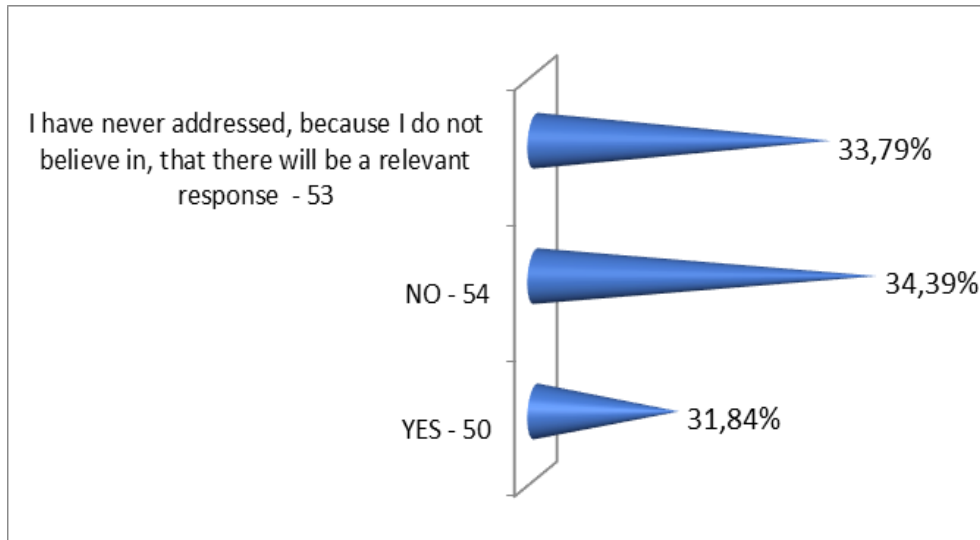
In terms of the environmental safety during the qualitative research the problems caused by the absence of garbage was identified. *"Garbage is thrown on the street, on the river bank and pollutes the river and environment. There is one litter bin near the dividing line of Abkhazia and vehicle comes for only it, but litter bins are really needed near the school, kindergarten, the shops in the center"* (Housewife, local, 42 years old).

"The problem is the lack of drainage systems. The access road to the school is flooded even during the little rain and the children have difficulties in moving. To solve the problem, we applied to the village administration, both in writing and orally, but it still unresolved. We were redirected to the Road Department" (Teacher, local, 42 years old).

7. General Questions

Within the frame of the quantitative survey, the respondents were given the opportunity to express their opinion on **whether they applied to the local self-government or another state body to resolve any personal, job, public issues**. 31.84% answered "Yes", 34.39% answered "No" while 33.79% did not apply because they do not believe that they will be responded accordingly.

Figure #16



Those, who used the local self government resource in order to solve the certain issue *The following forms for civic engagement are used to communicate with local government:* settlement/village assemblies - 49,68%, attendance in City Municipal Assembly - 5,73%, listening of the reports from the mayor, City Hall services - 6,36%, petition - 2,54%, Mayor's Advisory Board, Gender Council, Council of Persons with Disabilities - 3,82, electronic form of communication - 31,85%. It was assessed *how the services and programs provided by local governments are tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations.* 14.64% of respondents believe that local programs address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, while 35.70% think that the programs do not reflect the specific needs of individual vulnerable groups. 48.68% think that the practice of assessing the specific needs of vulnerable population and programs for assessing their satisfaction is not implemented.

Citizens consider that the needs of vulnerable groups are inadequately reflected in the programs and the level of awareness about these programs is low, but the following comments were indicated in individual interviews: "While compiling the municipal budget, the needs of the people are taken into account, and work is underway on what can be included in the next year's budget. The municipality conducts research to study the needs of the population, the submitted applications are considered" (City Municipa Assembly representative).

"Information on the programs available in the municipality is posted on the official website of the City Hall. The population is informed by the heads of the social service of the City Hall and the administrative unit as well" (City Hall representative).

The comments were made on programs needed to be refined hereby:

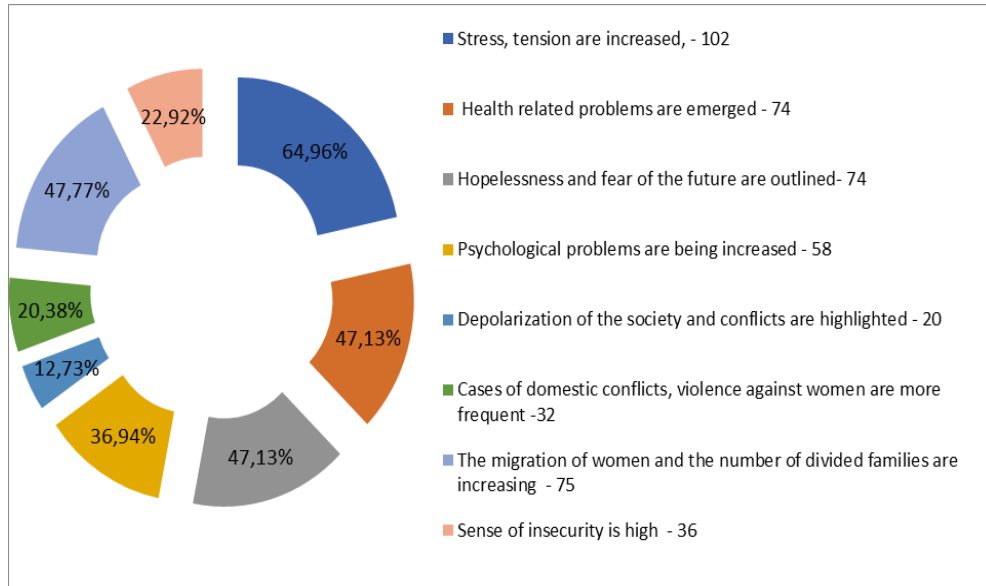
"In my opinion, the vulnerable groups are most needed in help, such as lonely elderly people who have taken pension in advance and in fact, are left without means of support. Also, young families who are raising children, are unemployed and do not know how to deal with the problems. Unfortunately, they are not involved in any of the programs. Such families should be researched and provided some kind of assistance. In such situation, the facts of violence are frequent as well - the economic problem often leads to violence" (Representative of City Municipal Assembly).

"Assistance with local programs is mostly needed to socially vulnerable families such as: people with disabilities, orphans and single mothers and the elderly people. If I could afford, I would implement a

program to provide a housing program for homeless people, especially, a program of examination and treatment of the dangerous diseases” (City Hall representative).

The participants of the quantitative research expressed their opinion on **how the increased threat in terms of the human security affects the situation of the population**. 64.96% of respondents stated that the stress is increased, tension, 47.13% think that health related problems are appeared, 47.13% think that hopelessness, fear of the future are expressed, 36.94% report that psychological problems increases. Other data are as follows: depolarization of society and conflicts - 12.73%, increased cases of domestic conflicts, violence against women - 20.38%, increased migration of women and the number of separated families - 47.77%, high sense of insecurity - 22.92 %.

Figure #17



Conclusion and Recommendations

During the assessment of the quality of human security and gender needs of the population in Tsalenjikha Municipality, it was revealed that the communication system is important between the local self-government and the population, especially for disseminating the information on programs and services. This will help to reflect the population needs in the local budget and solve their everyday problems.

- It is important, that the practice of information dissemination to be widely introduced by municipality on all programs and municipal services in the local budget, in this regard, it is appropriate to use all available resources of the self-government (Facebook, website, media outlets, direct meetings with the population);
- While developing local programs and service planning, maximum consideration of the priority needs of vulnerable groups living in the municipality and introduction of a system for determining the degree of population satisfaction;

- It is essential for citizens to have access to the details of the planned City Council assemblies, public hearings, village meetings and other meetings and issues to be discussed - through the media, social media and the website, which will increase public engagement in local political processes;
- Elaboration of a program at the local level for development of small and family businesses, which will gain economic stability to women;
- Establishment of a system of consultation and vocational guidance by the local government for women who want to start their own business - with the help and involvement of the non-governmental sector working in this profile;
- In terms of the health care, to review programs stipulated by the local budget and to provide/support of vulnerable groups with accessible diagnostics and treatment;
- Creation of affordable tuition fee system for students living in villages;
- To raise the problem of internetization both at local and central levels and promotion of high quality education by problem solving.