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

**Tskaltubo 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:** 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).

## Basic information

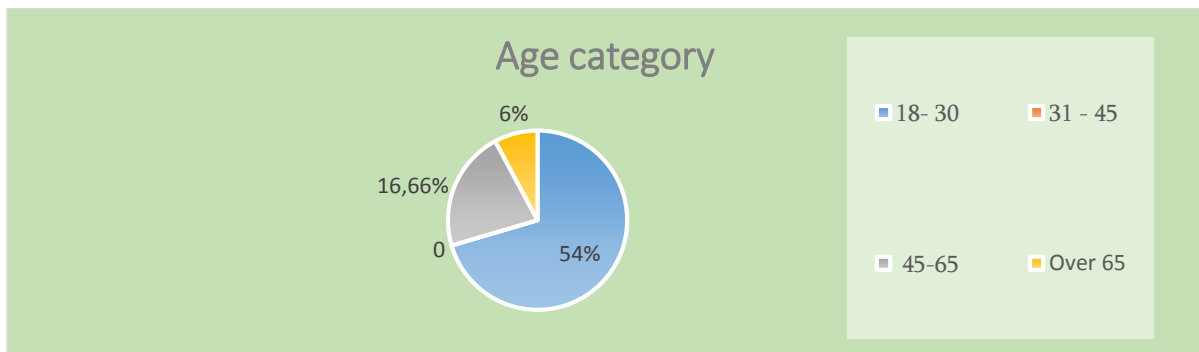
In order to collect quantitative data, 150 women were involved in the online survey process. 33 people participated in the process of collecting qualitative data, including one man (local expert). Since the survey aimed to study the needs of women, the target group was women. A small exception were the experts, involved in the format of face-to-face interview. The research identified the main threats, the existence of which decreases the degree of human security in women.

Totally 183 people (182 women, one man) were involved in the survey conducted in Tskaltubo Municipality.

## Block I: Socio-demographic characteristics of the research

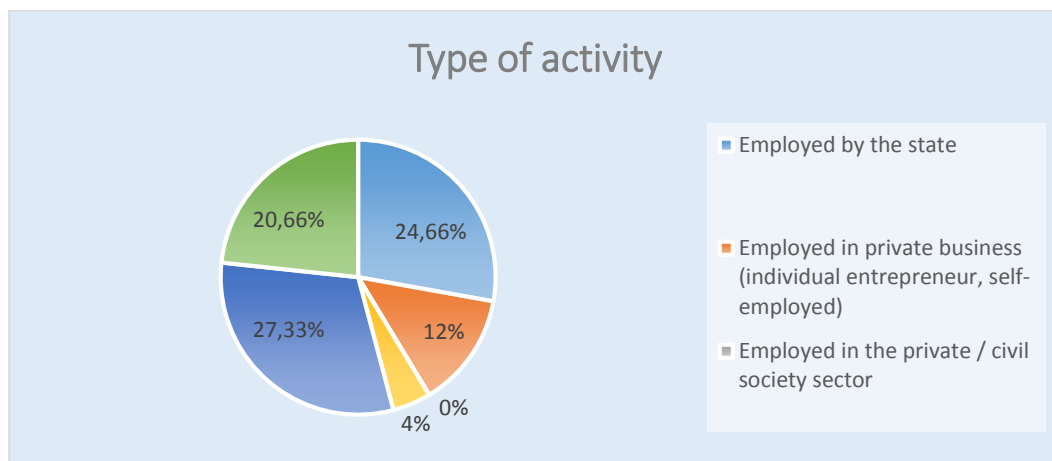
The main target group of the given needs research were women in the age category from 18 to 30 with the following socio-demographic characteristics: IDPs, locals, Socially unprotected, mothers with many children and single mothers, persons with disabilities and their families, teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, community leaders, pensioners, young people, local experts, etc.

The average age of surveyed respondents was as follows: 54% in the age category from 18 to 30. 22.66% covered the age category from 31 to 45. From 45 to 65 years old -16.66%. Over 65 years old - 6% and 1 respondent did not mention the age (**Diagram 1**).



**According to the Social Status**, the majority of respondents - 78% were locals. IDPs from Abkhazia - 12%. 12% of the respondents are socially unprotected, 2.66% - mothers with many children. The number of women with the status of single mothers is 4%, 0.66% are people with disabilities.

**According to the type of activity**, the survey shows high activity from the side of students, 27.33% of respondents were students. Based on the above mentioned, we may think that the positions of young people occupy an important place in the obtained data. The majority of respondents 24.66% fall into the category of employed by the state. This figure of unemployed women is slightly behind - 20.66%. Then comes the number of employed in private business -12%. 4% are engaged in agricultural work (**Diagram 2**).



## Block II: Economic Security

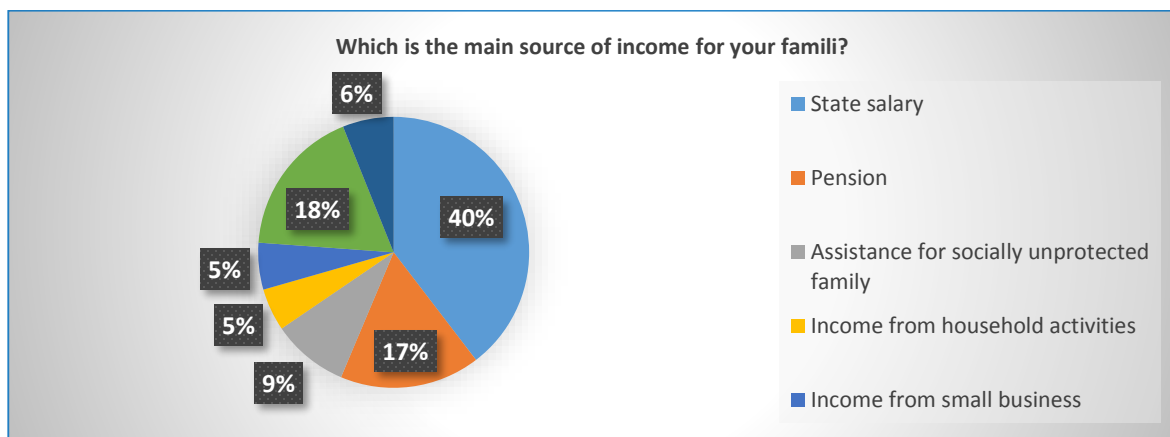
Based on the data accumulated in this block, it is clear how stable the indicator of women economic security is and, mainly, what income it is based on. The majority of respondents -52% rely on salary received from the state. Money transfers from abroad are used by 23.33%, for 22% the main source of income is the

pension. 15.33% consider that household activity is the main source of income. 12% live on the amount received from the allowance defined by the status of the socially vulnerable, 8% rely on the assistance from a relatives.

It is important to note that according to the data obtained by the segregation of IDPs and local women, the source of income for 85.89% of locals is the state salary, while only 5.12% of the IDPs receive a salary. It is noteworthy that for a large part of IDP women, the source of income to date is the IDP allowance and other incomes, which is also confirmed by the materials obtained from the focus groups:

*"Until now, my family's source of income is the IDP allowance, or if relatives send us money from Russia. Two children graduated from high school, but they have no job. They started a small business, but it is not stable. It is difficult to get the job in public service, there is a lack of jobs. Everyone is trying to go abroad. Family should have income to plan something". – M.P. 62 years old, IDP, employed.*

**(Diagram 3)**



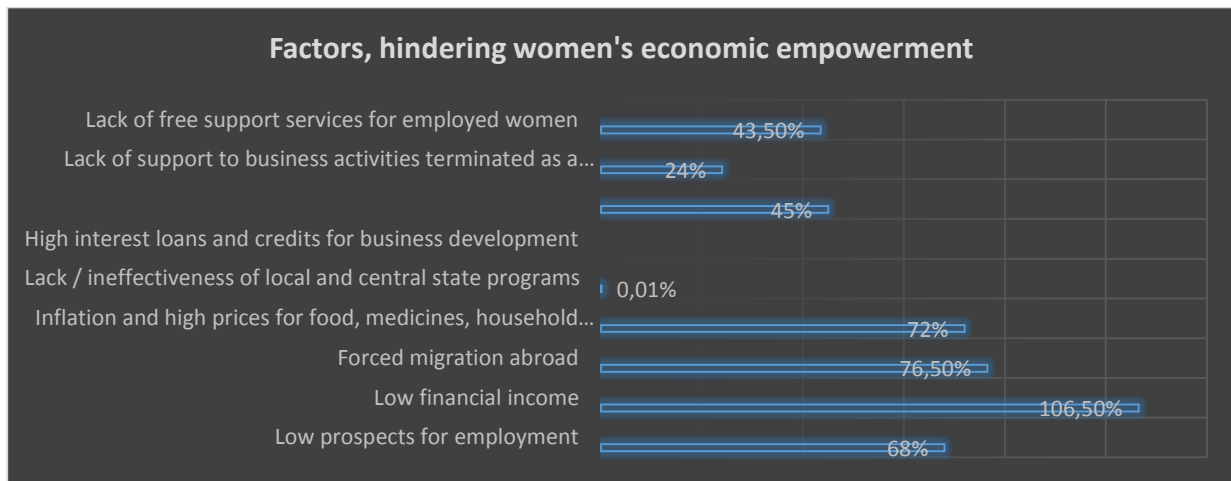
According to the survey, in addition to salary, money transfers from other countries are a major source of income. This once again highlights the urgency of women's migration in Tskaltubo Municipality and underlines the benefits of employment for women abroad, which is one of the most important guarantees for families' income.

The qualitative data obtained in parallel with the quantitative indicator show that among the prior problems in the **economic index of human security** are the **loss of jobs, which is related to the decrease of their family income**. The women involved in the research clearly point to the negative impact of the pandemic, which exacerbates the feeling of negative expectations.

*"The pandemic created serious financial problems to families. Despite the lack of jobs, people still managed to find a livelihood: some worked in the market, some - on daily jobs, some as a caregiver, a cleaning lady. Such works completely disappeared and everything was closed. There is a terrible fear of what to do, what will happen tomorrow, what to eat, what to live on". – M.D. 43 years old, IDP, employed.*

*"Most of the young people stopped studying because their families could not pay their education fees. Many issues became problematic in families, for example, someone stopped building houses, someone changed their mind about getting married and so on, a lot of new problems arose". – M.D. 36 years old, local, socially unprotected.*

In the data obtained from the quantitative survey, among **the factors hindering women's economic empowerment**, the highest rate 68% was given to lack of prospects for employment. Low financial income is considered a hindering factor for 47.33%, 34% believe that forced migration to foreign countries slows down the prospects for women's economic empowerment. 10.66% of respondents believe that there are no support programs for the recovery of activities, terminated during Covid-19, which significantly hinders the development of economics. High-interest loans and credits are considered to be a barrier for 20%. 19.33% consider, that there are no free support services for single mothers, families with many children, which is a significant barrier in terms of economic empowerment (**Diagram 4**).



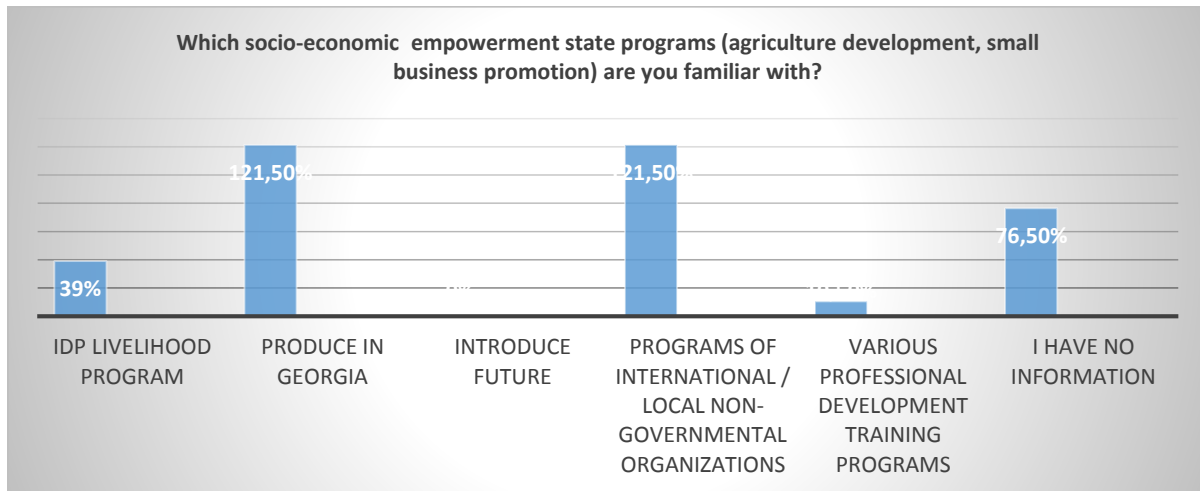
**According to the part of the respondents, responsibility for mentioned problems is responsibility of the state, which is confirmed by the data obtained from the qualitative research.**

*"After the problems caused by the pandemic, the people have no offer from the state, how to return to the previous condition, it is impossible to start the business again if there is no support from the government. The loans were suspended, but you have to pay the suspended loans with higher rates". - E.D. 54 years old, local, unemployed.*

In the qualitative data, the respondents indicate the need to introduce support programs for women, which is related to the Prolongation of time in kindergartens.

*"If a woman does not have anyone to held in the family, she can not start working. If a woman is not given more benefits in the field of employment, or the working hours of kindergartens are not prolonged, a woman with minor children will never be able to start working, she will be totally hindered." - T.K. 32 years old, local, mother with many children.*

**How much do women know about the state programs aimed at promoting socio-economic empowerment, which program do they remember the most?** Survey data on this question confirm that 54% of respondents are familiar with the program "Produce in Georgia." 54% are aware of the programs of international / local non-governmental organizations. The livelihood program for IDPs is familiar to 17.33%. 4.6% have information about various professional development training programs, while 34% of respondents have no information at all about existing programs. In the category of the uninformed, mainly local women are leading. The data obtained once again demonstrates the need to introduce and develop a new format in terms of informing. (**Diagram 5**)



The majority of respondents -54.66% believe that accessible loans are needed to create a favorable environment for promoting family farming, small business, and self-employment; 48.66% prefer small business support programs. 46.66% think that the existence of grant programs from the state is an important factor. Rural support programs are preferred by 40%. 19% think there should be business promotion programs. 14% prefer the availability of consulting services. 2.66% believe that more information is needed on the existing state programs.

**According to the obtained data, it is important to implement municipal grant programs to promote self-employment.**

Based on the research data, it is possible to determine the source of information about state programs. It turns out that the main source of information regarding the economic programs proposed by the local and central government is the municipality's website and Facebook page. This is confirmed by 52% of the respondents. 50.6% use online media outlets and Facebook pages to get information. 38.66% receive information through television and radio. 17.33% name non-governmental organizations primarily. 3.33% mention neighbors and acquaintances. 9% are informed from the website of the central government / ministry. It is noteworthy that only 9% of respondents name the Mayor's representatives and 4.66% - local deputy.

These data are significantly supported by the answers obtained by collecting the qualitative data:

*"The municipality has a website where any interested person can enter and see all programs, find out what he is interested in. Many people have internet, but they are lazy to search" - M.T. 65 years old, local, employed.*

*"Our settlement does not have complete information about what kind of assistance the City Hall provides. They know more about the areas they are interested in. Personally, I get information from neighbors, the internet can be used, but many do not have the internet, or do not know how or where to find these programs" - T.G. 54 years old, IDP, employed.*

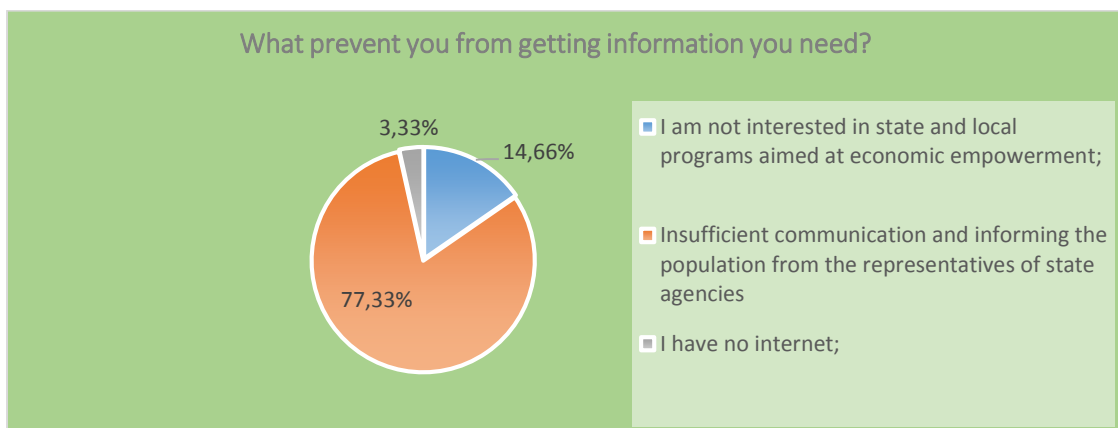
*"Those who are interested in the necessary information, find it themselves. I have seen a satisfied citizen who has benefited from a program of medic. "One woman told another, and so the information spread like a pandemic," M.B. 57 year old, mother of many children.*

*"Personally, I get information about the existing programs through the internet, and if I want to clarify something, I go directly to the City Hall. I always get comprehensive answers on the spot" – M.G. 41 years old, unemployed, socially vulnerable.*

*"For example, I am a mother of three children and when my third child was born, the social service called me and told me that my child is entitled to financial assistance in the amount of 150 GEL per month for 2 years, of course I went and received the assistance" Mother with many children, socially unprotected.*

**What prevents women and her family members from getting information they need? It is noteworthy that, a high rate of respondents - 77.33%** indicate that there is insufficient communication between the population and representatives of government agencies. It should be noted that 14.66% of respondents are not interested in state and local programs aimed at economic empowerment, which is based on the nihilistic attitude of the society, low civic activism. 3.33% admit that they have no internet at all and stay out of this information service (**Diagram 6**).

*"Women have lack of activity, someone has to activate them. When they find out that someone has won concrete program, they regret and say "Why I did not know it"? You did not know because you have not even asked. This is the truth, do not blame others". – N.D. 39 years old, employed, local.*



**What should be done to change the existing picture, the interviewed women offer their own versions:**

*"Majoritarian deputy should be more involved in the information process. He should meet the population not once a month, but once a week and speak about specific problems". – M.D. 42 years old, employed, IDP.*

*"People should be more informed, it needs to activate several resources. We had a TV channel in Tskaltubo and it was very good. Existence of TV channel would solve a lot of problems in terms of providing information". M.P. 46 years old, employed, local*

### **Block III: Food Security**

Food security is one of the most important segments among human security components. The survey also clearly shows that the abundance of dangerous elements and the risks in this area in particular exacerbate women's anxiety. The majority of respondents say that their family members do not have access to quality and varied food products. **90.66% consider the high cost of food to be the biggest threat. Then comes the lack of quality product, which worries 75.33% of respondents.**

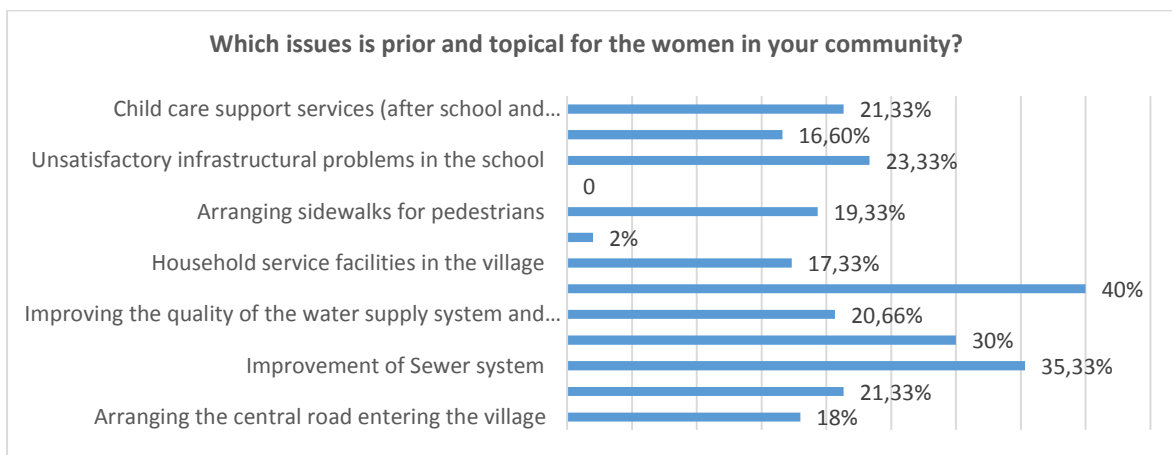


## Block VI: Public Safety

Public safety is quite extensive with its components and the combination of threats in this segment is due to the abundance of infrastructural, economic and social problems.

Quantitative indicator directly tells us that infrastructural problems in Tskaltubo municipality: roads, shortage of drinking water, faulty sewerage system - are the most urgent and prior for groups of women and indicate a high level of violation of their rights.

40% of respondents say that the issue of improving transport is important to them. 35.33% focus on the maintenance of the sewerage system. 30% believe that the improvement of internal rural roads is a priority. Unsatisfactory infrastructural problems in the school worry 23.33% of the respondents. Child care support services are a priority for 21.33%. The same number of people note that drainage channels requires attention. Lack of water supply and lack of drinking water poses problems for 20.66%. Lack of sidewalks for pedestrians is a significant problem for 19.33%. 16.6% believe that out-of-school circles for children should exist (**Diagram 7**).



This data also coincides with the position taken from the in-depth interview - the expert touches the issues of roads malfunction and water problems:

*"The most important problem for the population of Tskaltubo municipality, especially for the rural population, is the rehabilitation of roads and the arrangement of drinking water. There are wells used by the population in the main part of the villages. In summer and late autumn the waters dry up and there is almost no water in the wells. The existing problems cannot be solved all together, because there is a lack of finances in the budget", - a local expert, the self-government representative.*

**The quantitative indicator is followed by the qualitative data obtained through focus groups: the information obtained from the discussion makes the needs of women clearer:**

*"The problem of sewerage system is acute in our city. We know that all this is connected with serious amount of money, but it should have been arranged somehow! This problem is still unsolved". - D.G. 39 years old, local, employed.*

*"A woman can not live without water. As soon as summer comes, water shortage starts immediately. They changed the system as if to solve the problem, but there is still a lack of water, in the city as well as in the villages", A.P. 61 years old, local mother with many children.*

**The list of women's problems, women's needs includes the provision of entertainment places for children.**

*"Central Park is far from my precinct. The problem is the improvement of children's entertainment places, thank God we have a lot of children, they come from different precincts and children's entertainment places should be arranged better, in such places mothers are calmer, because the safety of our children is protected". E.K. 32 years old, employed.*

**One part of women mention, that concrete program should exist not only for mothers with four or more children, but for other categories of mother too, as their vulnerability should also be taken into account.**

"I am a mother of 3 children, therefore, I am not considered as mother with many children. If I have a fourth child, I will be considered as mother with many children, I raise 3 children and I have no one to help me, no one helps my category, there are no benefits, if you are socially unprotected, you will get into the program". – M.G. 31 years old, unemployed, local.

**Problems with single mother status have been identified.**

*"I am a single mother, but I do not have the status. I have no official document. Many women have this problem and I think official status should not decide everything. For years, I have been raising a child alone and because I have no status, I have no benefits. If the child has the surname of mother, then the mother is considered single. This creates many problems". – N.M. 50 years old, unemployed, IDP.*

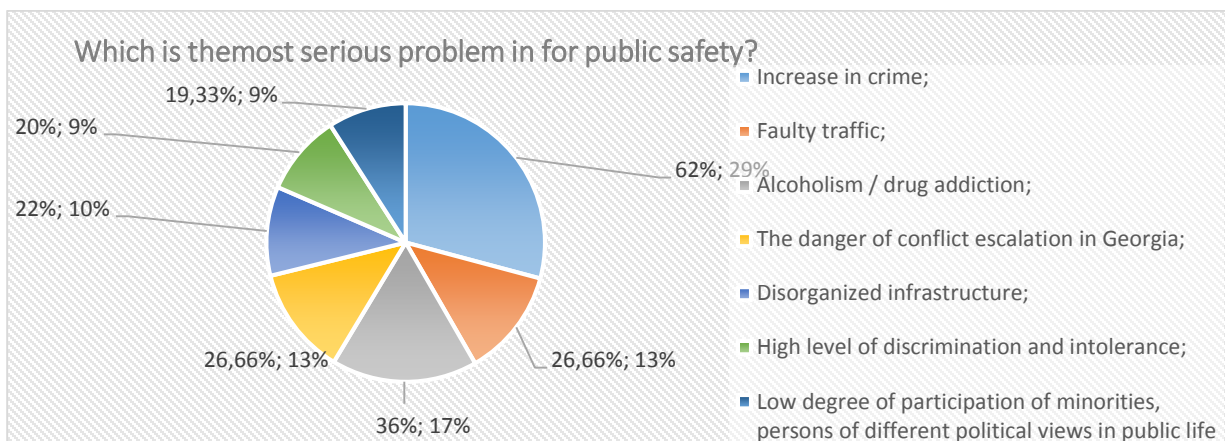
**The list of needs includes local social packages for pensioners.**

*"Therapeutic massages in Tskaltubo are known to everyone, but many Tskaltubo residents cannot manage to use this service, because it is quite expensive for pensioners. I have always dreamed and still have a suggestion for the local City Hall to have a social package or co-financing program for this category". – N.M. 54 years old, employed, local.*

**Qualitative data highlighted the need for another vulnerable group:**

*"After becoming 18 years old, when a person with disabilities stays home, all ways of employment are closed for him. Under the age of 18, the state takes care of this category. After 18 their need is less taken into account and they face many barriers in life. I was in one of the organizations in Kutaisi and I was very pleased that they were learning to make handicrafts. It is desirable to have similar programs in Tskaltubo as well". – Kh.D. 54 years old, local, parent of a person with disabilities.*

The urgency of the problems in the field of **public safety** was clearly reflected in the quantitative indicator. More than half 62% of women surveyed believe that increased crime seriously increases their fears. 71% of them are locals, 10% - IDPs. The next place is given to alcoholism and drug addiction - 36% .26.66% see a serious threat in the development of conflicts escalation in Georgia. 22% mentions disorganized infrastructure. 20% notice a high level of discrimination in the society. 19.33% think that minority participation in public life is low.



*"We see that apartments have been robbed. We have lots of problems and additionally the fear of someone rushing into our houses is too much. Everything will affect our health in the future"- N.D. 65 years old, local, socially unprotected.*

*"There are many car accidents, there are no traffic rules, everyone is given a driving license and they do not know how to drive, lots of young people died, it is very hard". – N.G. 62 years old, IDP.*

The data from the survey shows the problems related to **access to education** in the list of women's needs.

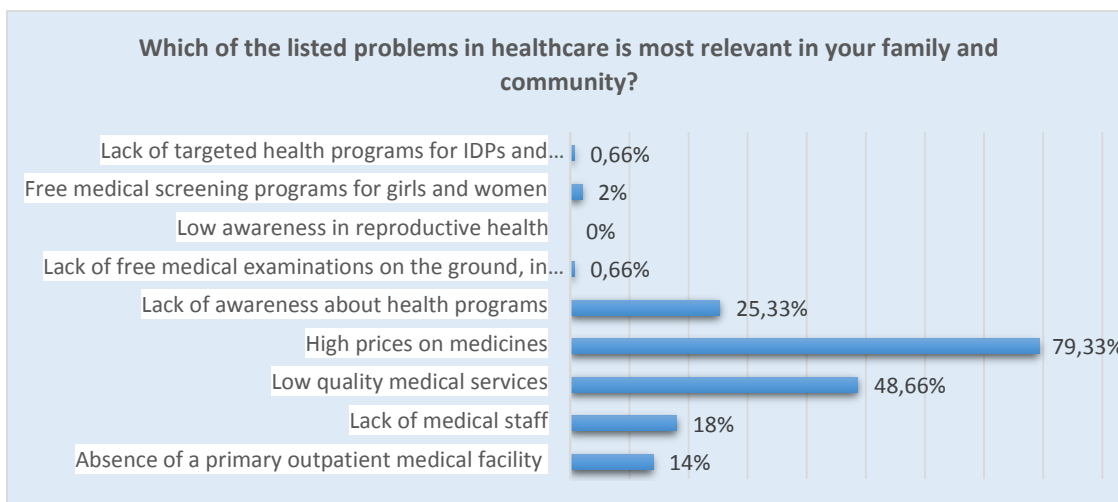
Majority of respondents - 38% state that the problem is the low quality of teaching. 35.33% mention that schools do not have the appropriate equipment, specialized subject classrooms. 28.66% believe that number of professional teachers is insufficient. 27.33% state that there is no proper school infrastructure, 26% think that the lack of high-quality internet to provide a remote process often leads to serious shortcomings in terms of education. 8.66% think that school is far from house, which creates problems with getting an education.

### Block V: Health Safety

The release of one of the circles in the chain of integrated human security systems cause new risks and is directly or indirectly related to the emergence of new risks in the health security segment. The danger increases even more. The figures show that a large proportion of women surveyed - 79.33% - clearly confirm that high prices for medicines exacerbate health risks.

48.66% of the respondents name the lack of free medical services in the list of priority problems, which is a serious signal from the society and indicates the need for reforms in this direction. 25.33% directly inform us that the public is not informed about healthcare problems, which is considered to be one of the most serious problems.

According to 18%, the lack of medical staff is considered a topical problem and the pandemic clearly showed it (**Diagram 8**).



*"The pandemic has shown so many things that we did not know before, first of all, we do not have enough medical staff, although we were not ready for the pandemic, but we could not retrain medical staff and we still have a lack of staff in case of necessity". - N.D. 69 Years old, local.*

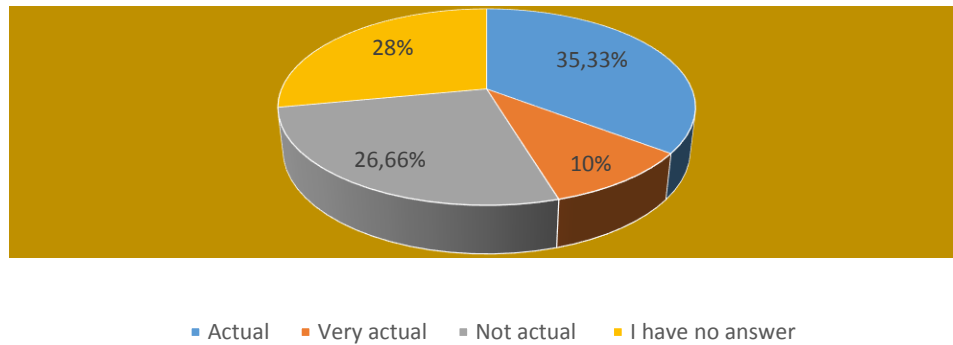
*"Why do all the complicated operations have to be done in foreign countries. So much money is paid per operation. They should train our local staff, let our students go abroad and give more jobs to the professionals". - B.G. 51 years old, pensioner, IDP.*

To the question, how they manage to solve the problem during health deterioration, it should be noted that 44% of respondents carry out in self-medical treatment. The obtained data reveals that this answer was given by women at the age from 40 to 65. 34.66% mainly use universal health care - most of them are local. 13.33% of respondents (local and IDP women) address those medicare, who treat at home, which may be caused by relatively low prices or a high degree of reliability. 4.66% use private insurance - most of them are local women. It is noteworthy that single mothers, mothers with many children are not in the category of private insurance beneficiaries. Envisaging the current reality, this picture is not a surprise, as private insurance is a luxury for this category.

## Block VI: Personal Security

The topic of domestic violence plays an important role in the personal security component. The imbalance in the received responses indicates that work is still being done in this direction. The majority - 35.33% of the respondents, believe that the problem of domestic violence is actual. 10% think - very actual. Among those who call the problem very urgent, 73.52% are local and 11.76% - IDP. 26.66% do not recognize the urgency of the problem. 28% have no answer to this question. Still unformed positions regarding this problem are based on public mood, which is supported by qualitative data (**Diagram 9**).

**In your opinion, how actual is the problem of domestic violence for you or in your community?**



*"We face lot of problems: increased prices for products, medicines, unemployment, the problem of violence has moved to the background, women's concerns have increased". V.D. local, Pensioner.*

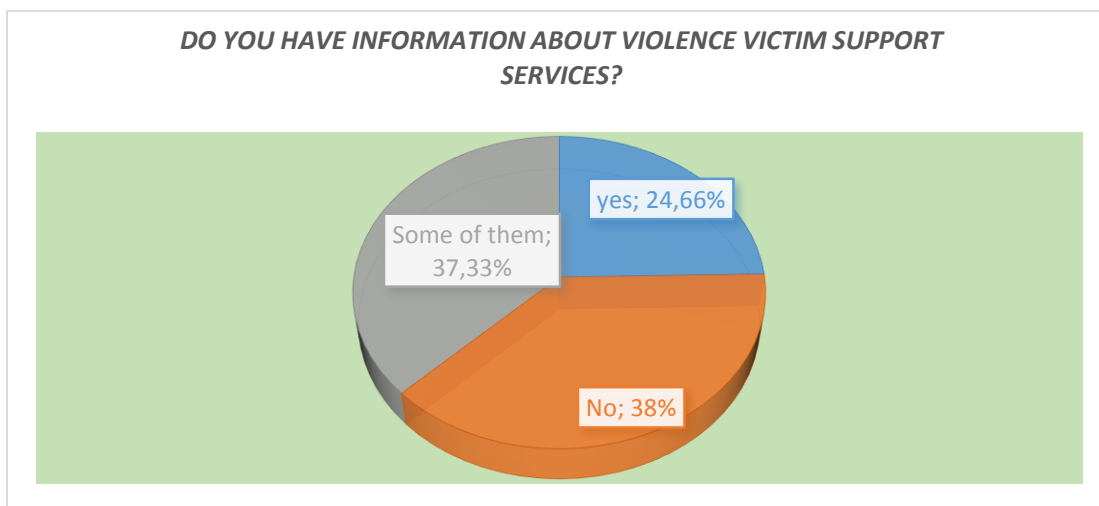
*"It is necessary for women to be informed about their rights, they should know that the state will take care of them. There is a lack of information in this regard, in most cases the victim does not know what to do, what levers can be used". – D.S. 47 years old, local.*

Quantitative data confirms that the most common form of psychological violence in society is manifested in verbal abuse. This opinion is shared by 62% of respondents. It is followed by 24.66%, who consider economical type of violence to be predominant, which is manifested in the prohibition of cash management, manipulation with funds. Demonstration of force, beating and humiliation is named by 11.33% of the respondents. The quantitative indicator clearly shows that the problem of domestic violence is actual for 35.33% of the respondents. 10% consider this problem to be very urgent. A radical position is fixed in the answers of other respondents. 26.66% confirm, that the problem is less actual. 28% are not ready to give a positive or negative answer to this question. The data obtained indicate the need to strengthen the work in terms of informing.

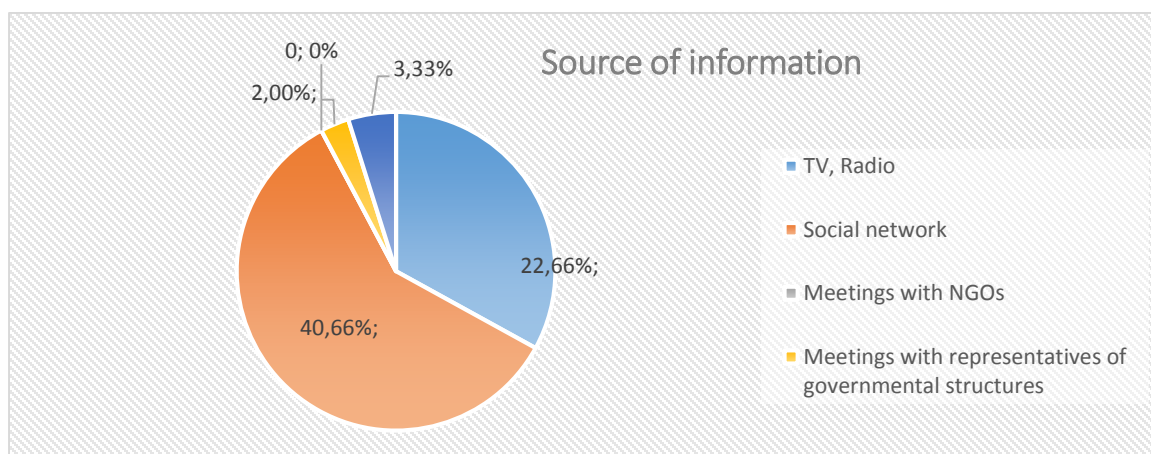
**The survey shows that 62%** believe that the most common form of violence is psychological violence. 24.66% state that economical violence is quite spread. 11.33% consider physical violence to be a common form and 0.66% name sexual violence.

On the background of current reality, it is important to understand how well informed the population is about **victim support services**. 24.66% say they have information about such services. 38% is informed about some of them, 3.33% have no information at all.

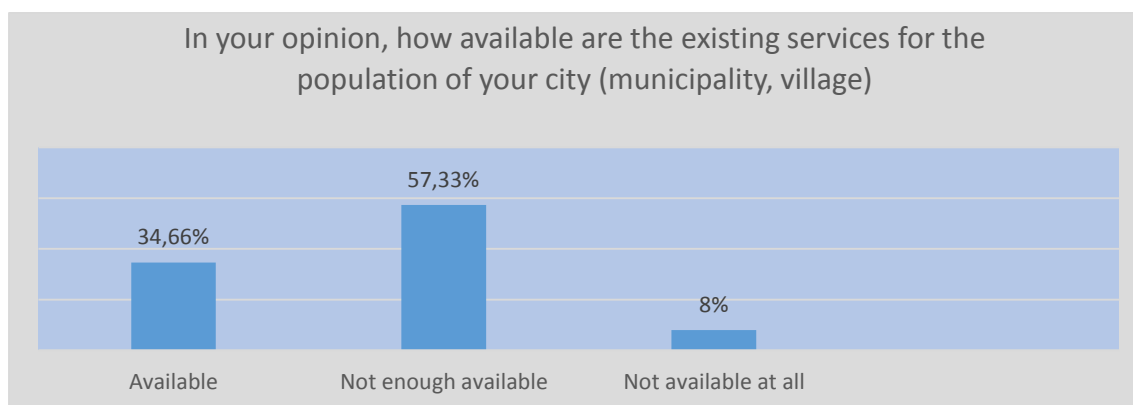
The answers show that the majority of respondents - 81.08%, are aware of the existence of a hotline. 18.91% are familiar with non-governmental organizations and their services. Municipal services are familiar for 10.81%. 10.81% are familiar with shelters based on state and non-governmental organizations. 5.4% have information on crisis centers, the same number knows about the activities of legal services (**Diagram 10**).



About 40.66% name social networks as the source of information regarding victim or potential victim support services. 22.66% receive information from radio and television. The same number - 22.66% receives information from NGOs. Newsletters, ads are the primary source of information for 3.33%, 2% receive information from the central government representative (Diagram 11).



The survey shows **how accessible the existing services** are to the population. 57.33% say it is not available enough; for 8% is not available at all. Availability is confirmed by 34.66% (Diagram 12).

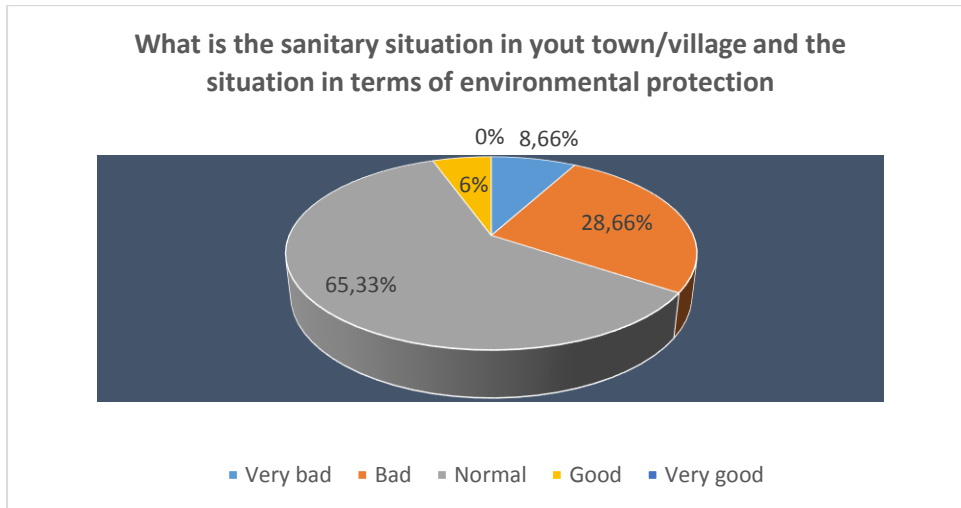


**How sufficient are the programs introduced by the local self-government to respond to violence against women.** To this question, 26.66% say that is partially sufficient. 17.33% confirm that it is quite sufficient.

15.33% state that the existing services are insufficient. According to 10.66%, it is necessary to diversify the programs.

### Block VII: Environmental Security

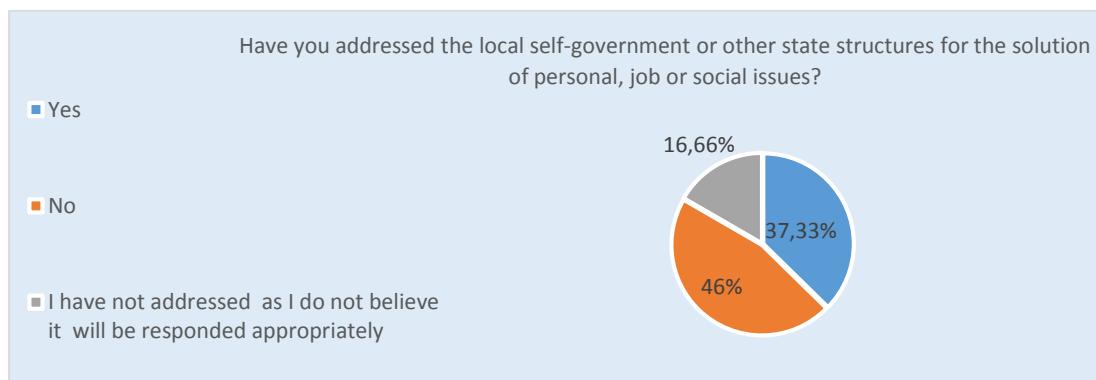
The threats in the ecological segment cause the concern of the respondents, to the question: **what is the sanitary situation in your town / village and the situation in terms of environmental protection**, 28.66% state that it is a bad situation. According to 8.66%, the situation is very bad. According to 6.53% - normal, 6% call the situation good (Diagram 13).



The most important problem among environmental problems is the malfunction of sewerage systems - 36%. The absence of drainage pipes is named by 30%. Polluted air is considered the most harmful by 25.33%. Improper access to clean water is named by 0.86%.

### Block VIII: General Questions

Against the background of the above-mentioned problems, **what is the relationship of the population with the self-government, whom they address and with what intensity, the results of the research confirm the information on these issues:** 46% have not applied to the self-government. 16.66% have not applied because they do not believe in a proper response. 37.33% say they had communication with self government (Diagram 13).



The next question reveals **what form the women or their family members use to communicate with the local government.**

35.33% attend settlements or villages meetings. 23.33% use the electronic form. 15.33% use City Council sessions for communication. 13.33% listen to the reports of different departments of the City Hall, 10.66% participate in the civil budgeting, 2% apply to the advisory councils.

48% of respondents think that local programs address the specific needs of vulnerable groups. 28.66% say that the practice of assessing the specific needs and satisfaction of vulnerable populations with programs is not introduced. 23.3% believe that local programs do not reflect the specific needs of individual vulnerable groups.

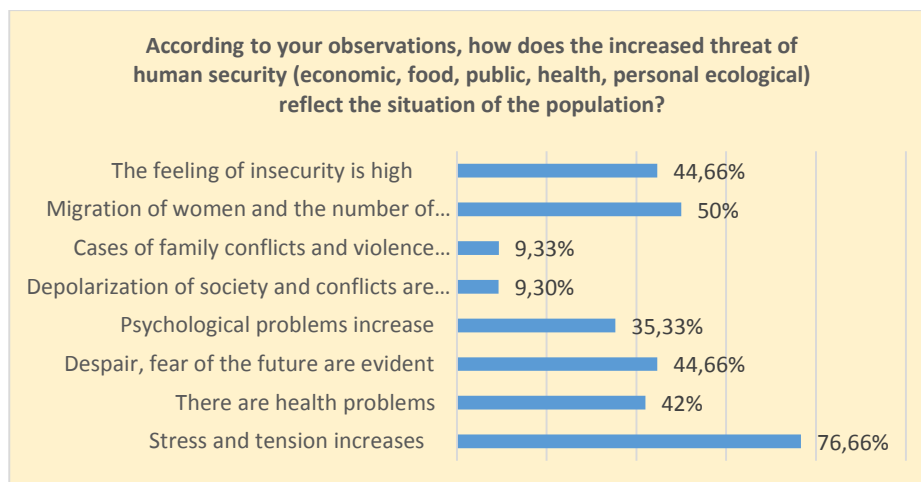
*"Socially unprotected people have assistance programs. I have tested it on myself and I am very satisfied. My family member, my grandmother needed funding - half of the amount for operation was funded and I am satisfied". – N.D. 32 years old, local, socially unprotected.*

*"To tell you the truth, I learn more about the programs from the neighbors and if necessary I go to the City Hall and write a statement. My mother-in-law had an operation a year ago and 50% of the amount was funded by City Hall. It happened in 24 hours". – D.S. 49 years old, local.*

*"If thy were closer to the population, they would know more about their needs, all programs are necessary of course, but these programs should be changed every year, new ones should be added, we do not feel that". – M.D. 64 years old, IDP.*

*"People do not know much, the booklet should reflect, where a person should go for treatment of concrete disease, what assistance he will have. For example, my neighbor, a mother of three children, did not even know she had some assistance until she came to the municipality because of a problem". – R.D. 39 years old, local.*

What is caused by the listed problems, that are fixed in all segments of human security. The survey shows that the increased threat to human security has a negative impact on the condition of the population. 76.66% believe that stress, tension has increased. 44.66% indicate hopelessness and fear of the future. A feeling of high insecurity worries 44.66%. 42% notice the abundance of health problems, 35.33% - psychological problems. 9.33% indicate cases of increased family conflicts and violence against women.





## **Conclusion**

Based on the data obtained, the problems of infrastructure, sewerage system, water supply, internal transport malfunctions are special priorities for women in the municipality. The data also shows the need to introduce programs to support women's economic development. The diversity of information delivery tools to municipal programs, victim assistance services is highlighted.

## **Recommendations**

- ❖ Study the needs of women in order to create a Gender Responsive Early Warning System
- ❖ Introduce and launch of local municipal projects to provide economic support to women and their economic empowerment
- ❖ Support of the grant programs encouraging women's initiatives to support small businesses
- ❖ Promotion of the development of household activities to support self-employed women
- ❖ Introduction of relevant projects in the municipal budgets by determining the priority of infrastructural problems
  
- ❖ Strengthening of educational and informational activities on women's rights, local services of domestic violence, through relevant campaigns to raise public awareness.
  
- ❖ Increase of the effectiveness of healthcare programs, introduction of programs aimed at women/girls' needs on the ground.
- ❖ In order to increase access to medical screening programs, it is important to introduce the practice of conducting these programs on the ground, in the villages.
- ❖ Informing the public about central and local healthcare programs by distributing relevant information flyers and information booklets.
- ❖ Involvement of civil society in the process of local budget formation, support of the initiatives of women groups, activists and strengthening of gender aspects in the budget.