

CARE



Baseline Study

Participatory Rural Development in Georgia

16

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Background information

Lagodekhi is located in northeast part of Kakheti. Its territory borders the neighboring country of Azerbaijan. The surface area is about 890, 2 km². About 38 979 ha is covered by agricultural land, which is 44% of the total area. Forests cover 41 162 ha (46%).

As of 2012, Lagodekhi municipality has the population of 52 502 people. 7 500 people live in the city, while 91% (45 002 individuals) of its population live in rural areas. There are 64 settlements in the municipality, only one is the city and others are villages.

Agriculture, tourism and trade represent the main sources of incomes for the municipality.

Lagodekhi municipality is ethnically diverse. Ethnic composition of the populations is following: Georgian 67,2%, Azeri 25,6%, Ossetian 4,9%, Russian 1, 7%, Armenian 0,3%.¹

Table.1.1 - The population distribution according to administrative units.²

Nº	Administrative units	Population
1	Lagodekhi	7500
2	Matsimi	965
3	Shroma	2700
4	Ninigori	2320
5	Tsodniskari	3500
6	Vardisubani	3300
7	Tchiauri	3100
8	Kartubani	3300
9	Baisubani	3100
10	Kabali	11057
11	Phona	500
12	Giorgeti	1200
13	Apheni	5960
14	Areshferani	1300
15	Leliani	2700
	In total	52502

¹ Geostat.ge

² <http://www.lagodekhi.org.ge/news/fzrayzzbbaxeib5xj/fbtyi1xln-sahacm/bsskwnwauprj6ttbq>

The Lagodekhi municipality has the following priorities ³:

1. **Defense, public order and security** – It implies the process of recruiting conscripts and mobilization of reserve. However, this priority is highlighted within the framework of the plan developed by the Defense Ministry.
2. **Infrastructure construction, rehabilitation and exploitation** - this priority is believed to be a necessary condition for the economic development of the municipality. The priority issues are also reflected in general strategic development plan of the Kakheti region. Here are united infrastructure construction, rehabilitation as well as maintenance of existing ones which includes the expenses of exploitation.
 - 2.1 **Road infrastructure construction-rehabilitation and maintenance.**It involves the rehabilitation of internal roads, as well as the roads leading to the central road and the villages. It should be noted that the municipality's priority document discusses the mentioned direction as the precondition for the growth of economic and tourism potential. Therefore, the strategies according to separate locations are needed to ensure the successful work of this direction.
 - 2.2 **Utility infrastructure construction, rehabilitation and maintenance.** Within this priority, the municipality plans to rehabilitate street lighting, clean the territories, make drainage channels, rehabilitate the water system and irrigation channels, as well as to finance other infrastructure projects. It should be noted that the expected final outcomes involve only immediate results, such as an illuminated region, improved sanitation, etc. Also number of rehabilitated facilities and amount of managed waste are identified as assessment indicators. Of course, the rehabilitation and maintenance of water system is crucial for the population living in the villages and cities. Rehabilitation and maintenance of outdoor lighting is a necessary condition for the population's comfortable and safe movement. However, it is necessary that the significance and impact of the above-mentioned priority direction on strategically important issues be emphasized (for example, such as agricultural development).
3. **Education.** Besides primary and general education, pre-school education is a priority issue for the municipality that implies the maintenance of kindergartens, creating relevant conditions, as well as opening of new buildings. There are 29 kindergartens in the municipality and about 1600 children are receiving primary education.

In addition, general development strategy of the Kakheti region also envisages harmonization of higher and vocational education with the demands of labor market and strengthening and ensuring inclusive and non-formal education.
4. **Culture, religion, youth support and sport.** The priority of this direction is youth development, as well as promoting healthy lifestyle. For instance, the municipality renders financial support to talented athletes. However, the document does not mention any measures or ways necessary to achieve the above mentioned goals⁴. As for the promotion of culture, the municipality is oriented to preservation and popularization of

³[Lagodekhi municipality priority document](#)

⁴[Lagodekhi municipality priority document](#)

municipal antiquities. In this direction, it is planned to improve the condition of cultural buildings and protect them, as well as to actively involve population in cultural activities. The document also focuses on the promotion of a religious organization.

5. **Health care and social protection.** The municipality sees providing different types of assistance and benefits to vulnerable groups as one of its priorities. In the direction of healthcare, the municipality carries out various activities on the local level within the target transfers of the state. This means taking relevant measures, among them: avoiding various infectious diseases and providing the protection for individual beneficiaries. Social protection of the population, as we have mentioned above, means providing people with different types of assistance. The final result of this direction is improvement of socio-economic and demographic situation. It is essential to note that the indicator of this direction is number of beneficiaries involved in the program. In this case, it does not provide an opportunity to assess the medium and long-term outcomes of the direction.

Table 1.2 – Budget 2013-2018– Percentage distribution (not including funding of representative and executive bodies)

Programs and priorities of Lagodekhi municipality	2013 year fact	2014 year plan	2015 maximum amount	2016 maximum amount	2017 maximum amount	2018 maximum amount
Defense, public order and security	8.3%	8.2%	11.4%	14.6%	13.5%	13.4%
Infrastructure construction, rehabilitation and exploitation	66.6%	51.1%	16.6%	28.6%	30.8%	30.3%
Education	10.0%	18.8%	32.6%	22.7%	22.6%	22.8%
Culture, religion, youth support and sport	11.3%	17.2%	29.9%	26.2%	25.2%	24.7%
Health care and social insurance	3.8%	4.7%	9.5%	7.9%	7.9%	8.8%
Total:	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The priority document ⁵has enclosed the budget according to each priority. It was revealed that in 2013-2014, a share of funding for infrastructure projects was the highest, while from 2015 it was relatively low (maximum amount). It is also interesting that in terms of spending, in 2014 and 2016 the education takes the second place, while in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2018 this place is taken by culture, religion, youth support and sport. The lowest share in terms of spending is allocated for health care and social protection.

⁵[Lagodekhi municipality priority document](#)

Qualitative research results – focus groups and in-depth interviews

Research method and tools

We chose a focusgroup and in-depth interview as qualitative research methods which enabled us to check the results of the quantitative research. As research tools we used a preliminary developed guideline for focus groups and an unstructured questionnaire for in-depth interviews. About 4 focus groups and 7 face-to-face interviews were conducted within the qualitative research. 41 individuals participated in the qualitative research.

Target Group

Local Action Group (LAG) members were identified as a target group of the qualitative research. In particular, participants of the research were representatives from the general assembly and the board of LAG. It is necessary to mention that Local Action Group is composed of the representatives of CSOs, private sector and local government.

Description of the process of focus groups

Each focus group lasted from 1 hour and 30 minutes to 2 hours. Focus groups were composed of both men and women. Participants of focus groups were from private, civil society and government sectors, meaning that the voices of different groups were heard. This was an important precondition for the results of research. Initially, moderators presented objectives of the research to the participants and explained the rules of discussions. The involvement level in focus groups was quite high and, more or less, it was equally divided according to the representatives of several sectors.

Basic results

Formation of Local Action Group (LAG) and its structure

Before the project initiation by CARE, existing problematic issues were not researched systematically in the villages of Lagodekhi. The representatives of local government were collecting information about the persisting problems in the community and were addressing them during their daily activities.

The opinion of local population was shared spontaneously only when the local government undertook to implement some projects in the villages. There worked “from the top down” approach, instead of “the bottom up” one.

There are active people in different villages of Lagodekhi municipality. Their resources and potential were not used effectively for the development of the municipality before launching the project. Although these people wanted to share their abilities with other representatives of the community, they did not know: 1) how to raise their interests and problems; 2) how to bring problems to relevant structures; 3) how to engage public resources in the process of problem

resolution; 4) how to prioritize on the problems and 5) how to integrate active members of the community in the process of ensuring effective activity of Lagodekhi municipality.

The main objective of LAG is to unite active members of Lagodekhi municipality. CARE was a facilitator between the residents of Lagodekhi and active members of the society, who want to use their resources for the development of Lagodekhi municipality. The first step of the project was the mobilization of communities. They covered all target villages and met with the population. They identified problematic issues in those villages. An important precondition of the project was to cover 15 communities. Visiting locations was essential, because, despite the fact, that there are some expectations about the common situation, it is crucial to verify them. Accordingly, primary sources of information were the residents of target villages. The next step was meeting with the representatives of each village. It was necessary to ensure the link between the project and the community. First of all, this caused the high level of awareness about the project. As one of the team members noted:

„When a new organization enters the region, the information is interpreted differently. Since one of the components is grant competition, we did not want to interest only specific group of people, because the aim of project is to work on the development of entire Lagodekhi municipality.“

The local government was informed about the project through the presentation. The project was also presented to local media and press office of the local government. Respectively, they have information about the objectives and budget of the project.

Intensive works are underway, The information about the project is being disseminated in public spaces. Project Managers have already met with the representatives of villages. Those representatives were united into one group. The key objective of setting up the group was to unite and engage active people in developing Lagodekhi municipality. This group was called Local Action Group (LAG). Creation of sub-groups was planned within LAG which should work on separate problematic issues. The groups will work on the issues of infrastructure, agriculture, environmental protection, tourism and social protection and youth engagement. SWOT analysis was conducted during the meeting with LAG members according to the above mentioned problematic issues. The group members identified strong sides and weak sides, as well as opportunities and threats related to separate spheres. Subsequently, the working groups were enlarged. Each group was asked to work on the project idea which was the preparation stage for future project proposals. Main purpose of this stage is to become aware of the process of project development which gives members an opportunity to gain specific skills related to their future plans.

General Assembly and Board of Local Action Group

A foundation meeting of LAG or General Assembly was held. LAG was composed of the representatives from private, civil and public sectors.. The General Assembly set as an objective to

elect the Board. The idea of creating the board was largely determined by the fact that it would be impossible to work with a large group and to mobilize it. So, it became necessary to set up the board which would be composed of 10-15 persons. Local Action Group sees the board as a pulling power. The board of LAG should develop the basic documents for LAG's future activities. The board has a president, a vice president and a secretary.

LAG is a union of individuals and it has no commercial and political purposes. LAG has the opportunity to work freely considering basic principles and objectives. If the group decides to become formalized, they have this opportunity and the project will serve as a facilitator in the formation process. It is important to consider that LAG should not be another passive organization. At this stage, Local Action Group is holding meetings for developing a charter.

Local Action Group members are considered to be information distributors and opinion cultivators. Local people will have opportunity to receive appropriate information about the project from the members of LAG. This will be additional credit for the future success of the project. Awareness of people will lead to the formation of active, principled and purpose-oriented Local Action Group.

One of the basic components of future actions is to increase the level of public involvement. It should be taken into account at the stages of the project development, planning and implementation that the project should encourage civic engagement. LAG is ready to cooperate with the local government on the level of consulting. They have signed the memorandum to prove the readiness for such type of cooperation.

Besides that, one of the major tasks for the Local Action Group is to work on strategic plan which is considered an important document for the development of Lagodekhi Municipality.

Priority directions of municipal development of Lagodekhi

As we have mentioned above, there are five directions of LAG's future activities and these directions are the following: agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, environmental protection and social protection and youth engagement. The members of focus groups were mostly talking just proceeding from the problems of their own working groups; however, they also specified some needs that were related to the community they were representing in LAG.

Environmental Protection

According to the members of focus groups, environmental protection is one of the core elements for the development of Lagodekhi municipality. They note that people do not perceive this direction as a problematic sphere. This may be caused by the fact that they fail to see what indirect effects will be brought by orientation to environmental protection in terms of improving their living standards. Focusing on environmental protection as on a priority area will lead to the development of other crucial spheres (e.g. tourism) in Lagodekhi.

The group members name waste management as an important problem, which is one of the reasons of environmental pollution. There are no special, modern, well equipped garbage trucks in Lagodekhi. On the contrary, existing trucks frequently contribute to the environmental pollution, because they do not meet relevant standards and pollute the environment.

„There are old garbage trucks in the municipality and frequently when they are carrying garbage out, they dump the garbage because the trucks are out of date“

In addition, focus group members said that garbage trucks arrive only at the central roads. This creates additional problems to the population and promotes street pollution.

Also, related to the waste management, there is the lack of landfills and rubbish bins. Frequently, they are placed very far from the population. Very often rubbish bins are placed only on central roads and internal roads are not provided with such equipment. Sometimes, landfills are located in several kilometers away from a particular settlement.

„There is such case that the distance to a landfill is so long that people throw away all their garbage on the roadside. Some people are old, some have no means of transport to take garbage out“

The group members identified another factor that causes harm to the environment – deforestation. Important natural reserves are used for cutting down the trees. Some participants of focus groups suppose that the central government should intervene in this case, because the National Forest Agency works on these issues. It should have an effective mechanism for avoiding similar threats. If Lagodekhi municipality is considered a tourist zone, the authorities should be interested in taking care of plant families which are rare and unique. Very often, local government cannot assume the responsibility when the problem is identified and redirection causes confusion and complicates the process of problem resolution.

As the participants indicated, environmental pollution is seen as a potential threat to human health. Lagodekhi municipality is rich in abundant rivers and lakes, but they are not treated properly. There is no practice of examining the structure of water in the rivers and lakes. Also in some villages (E.g. Heretiskari) the issue of bogging creates a threat of epidemic.

Using plastic bags in agricultural plots is another problem identified by the participants of focus groups. As they say, complete cleanup of plots from plastic bags is impossible. Plastic bags remain in the land and damage its structure. Besides the fact that there are some financial sanctions, they do not really work. They are not effective because it is difficult to identify similar cases because of inaction of relevant services. It ultimately leads to neglecting the problem.

Focus group members agree that a complex approach is needed to protect the environment. This problem will not be settled only by solving some problems that are visible nowadays. They see environmental protection as a long-term project and its implementation should start at the level of institutions like schools. They consider increasing public awareness as a solution – people will

not get interested in environmental protection until they analyze direct and indirect consequences of environmental impact. Increasing civic responsibility is targeted to long-term results.

„I worked in the Lagodekhi Protected Areas. When visitors were having a dinner, I was often ashamed to warn them not to throw away the garbage, because I knew they would receive it as an insult. When they left the area, it was littered. „

As the participants say, a network should be created at schools, which will work on raising awareness about environmental issues. This will also be crucial for connecting community members and school staff.

„People should be informed how to use waste for their own benefit. Residents do not know how to make natural pesticides themselves.“

As a solution the group members also name planning of information campaigns about environmental protection. This will promote the formation of public opinion. Receiving environmental education will promote the establishment of ecological awareness that will finally be beneficial for the development of Lagodekhi municipality.

Although awareness raising is considered an important project, they also note that without infrastructure and equipment necessary for environmental protection, it will be impossible to avoid ecological threats.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the issue which was the most actual for the participants. It is considered a key problematic area for municipal development of Lagodekhi. Lagodekhi municipality has big potential in this field because of its fertile land. There are no problems in growing primary products. Individual farmers grow crops twice a year. Relevant industries will increase the possibility of growing crops throughout the year. The greenhouse farming will be needed to ensure this. This will be beneficial for farmers, because greenhouses will ensure stable incomes for the farmers that, in itself, is associated with the community strengthening. In case of deficit, it will not be necessary to completely replace local products by foreign ones.

Participants tell a success story when a farmer arranged a strawberry greenhouse. They also note that he had relevant knowledge for realizing it.

Rural population frequently faces the problem of overharvesting when the harvest is rich and it is difficult to sell it. In such case, farmers sell their products at a very low price and frequently a great part of their harvest is simply spoiled. Focus groups explain it by the tendency, when there is a high demand for this or that product during a particular year and the price is respectively high; so, everyone tries to produce the same cultures next year.

„One year eggplant is sold well and next year everyone grows it. Then overproduction creates big problems to local farmers“

According to focus group members, these problems can be solved through several approaches. Refrigerating facilities can be one of the solutions. It will decrease the loss expected in case of overproduction. Farmers can grow rich harvest, store products and sell them at a good price. Building canning factories can also be an expensive though a necessity project. This also will eliminate the risk of loss and will offer an alternative of product realization to farmers. The participants agree that this is not an equal alternative, but it enables a farmer to stay functional and cover minimal expenses.

„It is better to grow a rich harvest, to store crops and sell them at a good price rather than to wait for the prices of canning factories. Canning factories will receive it at 5 or 10 Tetri,⁶that will not be enough even to cover fuel expenses.“

Drying facilities are also seen as the means for realization of products, because in case of fruits, the loss is minimal and the price of dried fruits is quite high on the market. The group members note that similar industries will create jobs along with crop realization that will ultimately lead to the community strengthening.

Focus group members believe that the introduction of the practice of creating cooperatives will be also acceptable. It provides an opportunity to form the links between the farmers and to mobilize resources. They suppose that the population is not ready for such changes; however, success stories will increase the motivation.

As the participants note, the role of farmer is the most crucial for the development of agriculture. So it is necessary to raise the awareness of the farmers. There are farmers, who are more or less successful but their disqualification is unavoidable if they are not informed and retrained properly. They should be provided with the consultations how to plan their activities, what to grow next year and so on. It is important to inform them about modern technologies. The low awareness creates additional barriers when it comes to innovations and introducing new agricultural products.

„There are talks about growing blueberries. It was said that growing them would be beneficial, but no one tried to do it. They are still growing eggplants and cucumbers while our plot is very fertile. When they see a success story of others, only then they will become more active “

As the group members say, the power of success stories is quite big. When the farmers see the result, their readiness grows. It would be great to create the successful experiences to show farmers what can be done.

„There was such a case when some people arrived at our village and presented drip irrigation system. Locals didn't believe and refused to use

⁶ Georgian currency

it. After 8 years, they bought it on credit. Briefly, for the local people it is quite difficult to believe in innovations. “

According to the members, it is necessary to concentrate farmers by different specializations. This means following: some of them should choose poultry, some of them pig breeding etc. Relatively, this would improve their situation on the market.

„One farmer concentrated on pig breeding and his activity is successful and stable unless pigs caught any disease.“

The big threat to the agriculture is credits on which the farmers are depended. Interest rate of bank loan is high and the harvest is uninsured. Accordingly, natural disasters and overproduction are the reason that farmer can't cover the loans. So, when there is a season to grow the crop again, they have no money and apply to banks again. They add new liabilities to old ones. Calculations of farmers are not cost-effective that ultimately creates great barriers to agricultural development.

Another crucial problem is the lack of professionals in relevant structures working at central and local levels to help local population increase the efficiency of agricultural production. There are some people on the level of decision making who have no qualification and also do not know much about the problems persisting in villages.

„A representative of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure arrived and gave some instructions to local government how to work. It was kind of training, but actually he had no information about the existing situation.“

According to the participants, generally, the qualification in the field of agriculture is very low in the region. Lack of qualified veterinarians and agronomists creates problems for local people as well as for the agriculture, as a whole. Absence of specialists leads to ignoring all safety standards of production.

„Cattles were vaccinated in the villages. It turns out that it is not allowed to eat dairy products for several days after vaccination. However, the cheese was sold so that no one knew about this regulation “

In addition, the lack of specialists with relevant qualification is also reflected on the harvest. When, for example, vineyard is ripening early and there are some qualified people who have proper knowledge, local people will receive consultations and the possibility of any risk will be minimized. As the members of focus groups noted, it is necessary to provide farmers with these services in the places where the Ministry of Agriculture has local offices. Thus, farmers will not appear in critical condition and will try to solve their problems at the very beginning.

Infrastructure

Although the infrastructure projects are named most often among the implemented projects, it is considered that the most important infrastructure problems have not been solved yet. According to the participants of focus groups, the problem of communications, such as water supply system, is still persisting. At present, it is planned to implement the project on water supply pipelines. The issue of faulty pipelines was identified as an important problem that creates a threat of flooding and spreading the diseases.

Repairing the irrigation system and increasing its availability is considered to be a crucial infrastructure problem by locals. Low availability creates additional problems for agriculture, because it creates water deficit for agricultural plots and leads to poor harvest. Also it results in the unused arable lands. Because of the significance of the problem, it would be better to develop the plan which will outline when the irrigation system of each village will be adjusted. Each village will be informed and farmers will wait for their turn. The crucial aspect of regional development of Lagodekhi is its trans-magistral location. If the infrastructure is developed in this direction, it will be a huge step forward for the Lagodekhi municipality. Building of relevant terminals for transport services will be an important infrastructure project for strengthening of the Lagodekhi municipality.

Another infrastructure problem is rehabilitation of kindergartens and ambulatories. Rehabilitation of culture houses remains among the problems of local people. As participants say, there were cases when the rehabilitation works were planned, funds were allocated and the ambulatory was rehabilitated. After several years the problem still arose because the building still needed rehabilitation. One of the participants also talked about the case when a road was paved and its thickness was below the norm. The population even did not learn about it. As the participants note, the failure of similar projects was caused by such “deviations”.

As it was revealed, the participants mostly focused on the quality of implemented infrastructure projects and stressed that spending of funds should be controlled.

According to focus group members, there are cases when certain infrastructure problems are settled through co-financing. Vulnerable groups have no funds to participate in it and others are skeptical towards such projects.

„Local government of Lagodekhi allocated funds for roofing. Therefore, hiring of workers is needed. This means that project needs co-financing, but people do not want to participate in it. They think that their financial resources will be used in an inappropriate way.“

The participants mention that the spheres of agriculture and tourism will not be successful without necessary infrastructure.

Tourism

Tourism is perceived as the field which is depended on the development of infrastructure, agriculture and environmental protection. The development of tourism itself is the key factor for solving the problem of employment.

Tourism infrastructure is one of the basic concerns that Lagodekhi municipality faces. Besides the fact that tourists are interested in local flora and fauna (which creates the precondition for developing ecotourism), it is necessary to develop the proper infrastructure to attract them – building roads, ensuring medical service stations, public toilets etc. Absence of services creates the barrier for tourist arrivals. In addition, there is lack of family hotels, guest houses and so on. Existing hotels and related infrastructure provides no proper conditions for the visitors. There are no attractions and squares. Some villages have no banking and pharmacy services which prevents the development of this field.

The participants of focus groups agree that it is crucial to share the experience of different countries considering the local context. The first step forward will be retraining of those individuals who are engaged in this sphere and link their future occupation with tourism. In this case, the community will become more involved. Trained personnel will promote business expansion. Successful precedents will create the readiness for better mobilization in this direction. The result of mobilization will be establishing the network of hotels and restaurants. Food industry is the direction which will be developed in this chain and will come into compliance with international standards.

According to the focus group members, when it comes to tourism development, civil initiatives may become an important impetus. As one of the participants mentioned, when there was the problem of littering the surrounding areas, he developed the practice of exchanging the garbage into the money. This turned out quite effective locally and promoted his hotel business because the area was cleaned.

The participants say that existence of travel agencies on the ground will contribute to the access to information for the tourists. The profit from tourism which is accumulated in the municipality is not calculated now. However, the participants say that in case of tourism development, the standard of living will increase significantly and the economic situation will become more stable.

Besides local involvement, they suppose that attraction of international organizations will be beneficial too. If tourism potential of Lagodekhi municipality is used properly, the field will become the pillar for improving the situation in the municipality.

Social protection and youth involvement

The current social background and social-economic situation of separate families is expressed in a large number of socially vulnerable families. According to the participants, the large number of applicants, who want to receive financial aid is the reason why the social protection system cannot provide all the applicants with the guaranteed minimum.

As the participants say, the work capability assessment should be done. This will be helpful because the limited amount of social financial aid will be concentrated to those who really need it. If an individual has a land and does not cultivate it, he/she should not receive the financial assistance. The members also note that the approach should be changed⁷and attention should be paid to the people who have special needs and belong to the relevant groups such as – IDPs, PWD etc. In other cases, when someone who is capable of working receives financial aid, he/she should have labor obligations. This is helpful for raising the social responsibility.

The participants realize that social conditions are quite hard and financial aid is an important livelihood for many families. However, they suppose that the emphasis on the poverty leads to neglecting the fact that someone may be capable of working but do not want to lose the aid.

„Once I talked to the individual who receives the financial aid and he said that he do not want to receive the compensation on bank account, because he will lose the status“.

One of the problems is a complicated process of receiving financial aid. If a beneficiary is refused once, he/she will not be able to apply during one year.

The members of the group say that the country should not have the status of a country with social assistance. People should not depend on “free money.”

„There was a case when a socially vulnerable person was offered to work on tractor, he refused because as he noted, the financial aid he received, was more than the promised salary. “

Participants also pay attention to optimal management of funds and say that some families do not receive benefits from this aid because of its poor distribution. They note that it is crucial to work in the direction of raising awareness to neutralize the risks that vulnerable families face.

According to the focus group members, the low level of youth involvement can be seen as one of the factors of maintenance of poor economic conditions and social stagnation. In this case, they emphasize that the majority of young people do not return to Lagodekhi after receiving the education. There is high rate of internal migration. Participants see the potential of the youth as

⁷“Law about targeted social assistance of Georgia“, http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?sec_id=35&lang_id=GEO .

the resource for development and at the same time they realize that so called brain drain created the deficit of qualified staff in different structures of Lagodekhi municipality.

Concerning the part of youth living in various villages of Lagodekhi, participants note that there is a problem of engagement in different activities. There are no stadiums, squares. There are culture centers in some villages, but they will not be functional before the rehabilitation. The members suppose that the lack of such places is an obstacle for strengthening social relationships between young people. There are no real social networks between them, which results in alienation and a village is not perceived by them as a common space.

There are some villages that have no drawing, dancing classes. Sport activities are not encouraged, due to the fact that there is no proper infrastructure. As the participants note, demand for such activities is high, but sometimes, for example, drawing classes are in a distance of 10 kilometers.

According to one respondent, there are different sport classes at schools. This promotes healthy lifestyle in children. Despite this fact, all the schools are not provided with such classes. However, as the respondent noted, local government always tries to identify the needs in villages.

Non-governmental organizations such as “Leli” and “Saga” try to encourage youth engagement – they plan events and trainings, teach young people how to write projects and find donor organizations. There are voluntary groups that are involved in such projects. This can be seen as a start of initiatives and activities throughout the communities. CSOs promote the coordinated work of the youth that will encourage establishing the links and exchanging experiences between the communities in future. “Leli” was the organization which worked on the rehabilitation of culture house in Leliani.

As the strategy for youth involvement, they see the foundation and development of community organizations. They believe that the relations between the local government and CSOs will create an important precedent. The needs will be identified by the young people.

“In the past, there was the case when GEL 5000 was spent on the excursions. First of all, youth should be asked about their priorities.”

The above mentioned approaches will increase youth involvement. They perceive themselves as the part of the community.

Participants noted that PWD integration is the issue that needs special attention. Their adaptation in the public space is considered the first step to work in the direction of their integration.

Community engagement in problem identification and resolution (level of awareness, civic responsibility, etc)

During the group discussions, attention was frequently focused on the readiness of public mobilization and involvement. When the issue of implementation of important projects was discussed, everyone agreed that the development of municipality has no perspective without public involvement and expressing its position in the process of decision making. They suppose that, in some ways, public readiness is behind the institutional development. It is problematic that the community is not aware of when to apply to the local government, etc. The level of awareness is quite low in the population. Even then when they are informed about a specific project, they have no trust. They are passive when there is an opportunity of funding some agricultural projects, because they suppose that their project will not be financed anyway and/or the engagement in such projects happens only through nepotism. The participants realize that these attitudes have their reasons which are related to their past experience.

For the population, it is difficult to realize that some projects may have no results in the present but they will be beneficial in the future.

„There are cases, when in one village the channels are constructed and when you say to another village residents that this channel will come to some part of their village and it will be beneficial to solve this problem at first, they refuse and the project is collapsing „

As participants note, individual residents face so many problems in their everyday lives that they cannot look to the future. Local people cannot recognize the need of solving common problems, until they have to think about saving their own families. It is hard to realize that the regional development of Lagodekhi will come to each household. Despite the fact, there are some cases when the village decides to implement the projects which will improve the conditions of only some part of the village.

„There was a case when a part of the village was not supplied with water and the village decided to collect money to settle the problem.“

Local inhabitants are, more or less, informed about the projects that are planned in their community. Meetings are organized with community members and often this is the way how local priority issues are defined. However, the attendance at similar meetings does not mean a high level of public involvement, as the community members do not perceive themselves as an important part of decision making process.

“Every time, when the Minister or any non-governmental organization arrives, I ask residents of my village to come to the meeting. However, their attendance does not mean that they have hope or trust. They often think that there will be no result, or ask the organizers if something is

really going to be done or it is another lie and nobody cares about their opinion”

Group members also spoke about what can be done to increase public involvement. One of the mechanisms is raising public awareness. First of all, community members should realize that they represent power and they should not be depended on the government. Focus group participants consider each community member as an important actor for the development process.

The community centers existing in Lagodekhi municipality are also believed to promote strengthening of public involvement. A community center is a huge resource, which is not used properly and has much more potential.

The local media representative thinks that there are important changes in civic engagement in recent years, but it does not mean that the involvement level is acceptable. Despite of cases when community members apply to local authorities, general situation has not improved significantly and the population remains passive.

It is essential that local inhabitants feel themselves as a part of the municipality. This will be the first step for the municipality development. When successful cases of cooperation between local authorities and local inhabitants will be created, community will have more motivation to become involved.

The role of various sectors (civil society organizations, private sector and local government) in the development of Lagodekhi Municipality

Local Action Group often mentions diversity as one of the main determinants of effective and development-oriented work. Focus group participants highlight the importance of civil sector due to the existing experience. They note that the community is more active and involved in local processes when civil society organizations are operating in their community. So, civil sector is considered an essential part of LAG.

“For instance, a privilege of Leliani is the existence of organization Leli there. Civic activity is the result of projects implemented by Leli.”

When the results of implemented projects are visible and local inhabitants are engaged in the activities organized by civil society organizations, the population's trust and motivation increases. Civil sector is able to mobilize the community and that's why it is considered an important part in the chain of increasing civic engagement. However, local media describes the activity of civil sector as “not enough”. One of the NGOs was monitoring the local budget. Nowadays, nobody works on this task and this fact is problematic in terms of democratic processes.

When the focus group participants were talking about development of tourism and agriculture, they highlighted the importance of making the private sector more active. It is supposed that there are small farmer associations aspiring to development and strengthening. However, this does not

change situation regarding the level of effectiveness of this direction. Low access to the necessary information impedes them from progressing and becoming aware of new technologies.

“If I, as an entrepreneur, do not have an opportunity to raise my qualification, it means that I will stay on the same place and won't be able to move forward. Everyone has the same attitude, and this prevents private sector from development.”

During interviews it was noted that local entrepreneurs create some kind of a closed circle. They do not have appropriate contacts and a strategy of development. They also try to avoid increasing the scale of their business, because they don't have expectations of success.

Tourism business and hotel industry is also considered to be less developed, though their potential is high. Focus group participants noted that this sector has no experience. Only few business organizations are developed in Lagodekhi municipality. In the opinion of LAG, mobilization of successful and active persons is an important step towards development of Lagodekhi municipality. Making the private sector more active will create new employment opportunities and strengthen the municipality, in general.

Engagement of local authorities in LAG is assessed as crucial, because without close cooperation and collaboration, problem resolution will be impossible. The fact that local authorities are engaged in LAG, attaches additional importance to LAG – local authorities will be accountable to other members of LAG and respectively, its work will further strengthen. Problem identification process will be more effective, as LAG members are aware of local problematic issues very well. So, this will be beneficial for the local municipality as well.

Assessment of already implemented projects

Focus group participants paid special attention to already implemented projects. As one of the objectives of LAG is working on specific projects, participants considered past experience as an important source of learning.

The main problem is the fact that after the projects are completed, no further monitoring is conducted. The same is for the rural assistance projects – investor spends money, project is implemented but no further monitoring is conducted and this reflects project sustainability.

“The bath house was built in one community, but a few years later it was not supplied with natural gas anymore.”

Based on the existing practice, participants think that it is important to have information about problematic issues for the community. Community is the actor, who should decide which project needs to be implemented. Frequently, it is not enough to gather a group of people and receive information from them.

Focus group members also speak about the importance of comprehensive approach in project implementation process. It is necessary to consider possible impacts of the project and readiness of beneficiaries for its implementation.

“Previous local council (Sakrebulo) allocated GEL 30000 for plastic litter bins. Despite the fact that the need for this bins was high, local inhabitants damaged them and a few months later those litter bins were out of order.”

The municipality was spending allocated funds according to the priorities in the past period too, although sustainable and “real” outcomes were not provided. The reason is defragmentation of resources and addressing problematic issues not considering the general context. This kind of approach does not ensure development of Lagodekhi municipality in a long-term perspective.

Local Action Groups’ vision and goals for the municipal development of Lagodekhi

Focus group participants think that LAG knows local problems very well, and this will ensure effectiveness of their activities. Also, as LAG members are nominated by local inhabitants, it means that they have gained trust (based on their past activities).

Members of the Local Action Group think that the main goal is not just to implement several projects. They think it is important to create conditions for more local inhabitants and initiative groups to initiate projects. The Board of LAG wants to teach its members how to write a project, raise funds, etc. This will give the community members an opportunity to become main actors for the municipality’s regional development.

Participants consider informing and advocacy as one of the main functions of LAG. Local Action Group sees itself as a self-sustained organization that people trust. Main principle of LAG is “the bottom up” approach and participants think this will make LAG effective and oriented to real problem resolution.

Members see LAG as an independent organization which is at the stage of formation and has a great potential. LAG is perceived as the organization, which will provide opportunities to any member of the community to initiate projects. LAG will perform the function of a consultative body if necessary. Successful cases (implemented projects) will encourage other members of the community too.

LAG’s future success may be largely determined by diversity of the members. Individuals with different specialization and qualification working together can exchange experience and ensure broad vision.

We can only talk hypothetically about institutional development of LAG. Organization is at the stage of formation; however, its informal structure already indicates its potential to become a developed local organization.

Although the establishment of LAG was supported by CARE project, we can say that it was formed upon a local civic initiative. Recently, the society came to the idea of necessity of local

councils for addressing local issues and for carrying out advocacy campaigns effectively in various areas. One of the obstacles on the way of setting up local councils is the lack of recourses. This issue is addressed effectively with the support of CARE. So, the project initiative fits the situation on the ground very well.

Presently, the strongest side of LAG as an organization is its human resources (they are elected by local residents and enjoy public trust).

It can be said that all the directions selected by LAG are based on the needs of local community.

During the research period the Board of LAG was working over the document involving the mission and goals.

It is worth noting that the members of LAG represent independent organizations (CSOs, business, local authorities) with the experience of managing finances independently. Different researches revealed that one of the civil society organizations' weaknesses is communication with business organizations. The case of LAG will be an exception where business will be involved in the organization's activities. So, LAG will benefit from sharing experience from business.

Nowadays, LAG cooperates effectively with local authorities, media, civil and business sectors. This is one of the strong sides of its organizational development. In addition, local authorities have positive expectations towards LAG. LAG members are perceived as experts in solving local issues and defining strategic directions of the municipality.

In conclusion, we can say that institutional capacities of LAG are at the stage of development. LAG has the potential to become a self-sufficient, developed organization.

[Awareness about the priority document of Lagodekhi municipality and visions in terms of development of strategic plan](#)

Lagodekhi municipality has developed the priority document (2016-2018),⁸ which determines main strategic issues for the municipality.

Most participants of the research haven't seen the document, although they mention that they have information about the priorities determined by the municipality (priorities are discussed in chapter 2).

Some of the participants think that this kind of document should be elaborated more carefully. Indicators for each priority goal should be very clear and measurable. Also, priorities should be supported by the central government; otherwise document will not be functional.

“Kindergartens are the priority for the entire country as well as for the Lagodekhi municipality. Infrastructure rehabilitation is one of the main

⁸[Lagodekhi municipality priority document](#)

issues. For instance, maintenance of the central heating system costs much more than using a wood-burning stove. In such cases, central government should allocate more money”

As we have already mentioned, one of the main goals of LAG is to develop a strategic plan for Lagodekhi municipality. Working on this document will be interesting because different visions will be considered and issues will be analyzed from different points of view.

LAG members see this document as important and result-oriented. They think that strategic development plan should be clear and reflect the plans according to various directions.

Quantitative research results - Household Baseline Survey

Methodology (quantitative research)

Research was conducted in 33 villages of Lagodekhi municipality. In total, 1095 respondents were interviewed.

The research was conducted with structured interview (questionnaire Annex A).

Sampling was based on the size of villages; interviews were conducted in every fifth family of each village; according to sampling size, a margin of error is $\pm 3\%$ at a 95 percent level of confidence.

Table 1. Sampling

Sampling			
N	Community	Village	Number of respondents
1.	Lagodekhi	Lagodekhi	100
2.	Matsimi	Matsimi	35
3.	Shroma	Shroma	35
4.	Ninigori	Ninigori	30
5.		Gelati	28
6.		Zemo Gurgeniანი	30
7.	Codniskari	Codniskari	35
8.		Sheerteba	25
9.		Chaduniani	30
10.		Tela	35
11.	Vardisubani	Vardisubani	30
12.		Svideba	28
13.	Chiauri	Chiauri	35
14.		Heretiskari	30

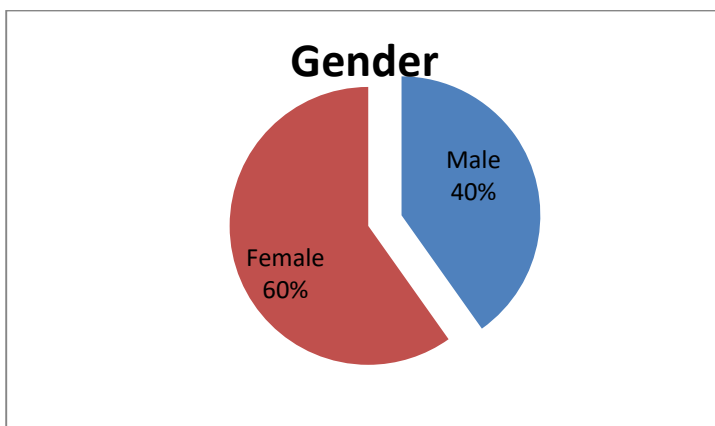
15.	Kartubani	Kartubani	35
16.		Bolokiani	35
17.	Baisubani	Baisubani	35
18.		Zemo mskhalgori	30
19.	Kabali	Kabali	35
20.		Kharadgala	35
21.		Zemo Phona	28
22.	Phona	Kvemo Phona	28
23.	Giorgeti	Giorgeti	37
24.		Pichkhisgori	21
25.	Apheni	Apheni	35
26.		Baghdati	35
27.		Chabukiani	30
28.	Areshpherani	Areshferani	28
29.		Zemo Bolkvi	28
30.		Kvemo Bolkvi	28
31.	Leliani	Leliani	30
32.		Kalkva	28
33.		Mirkiseuli	28
Total			1095

1. Household Demographics

1.1 Distribution by gender

60% of respondents were female, 40% - male;

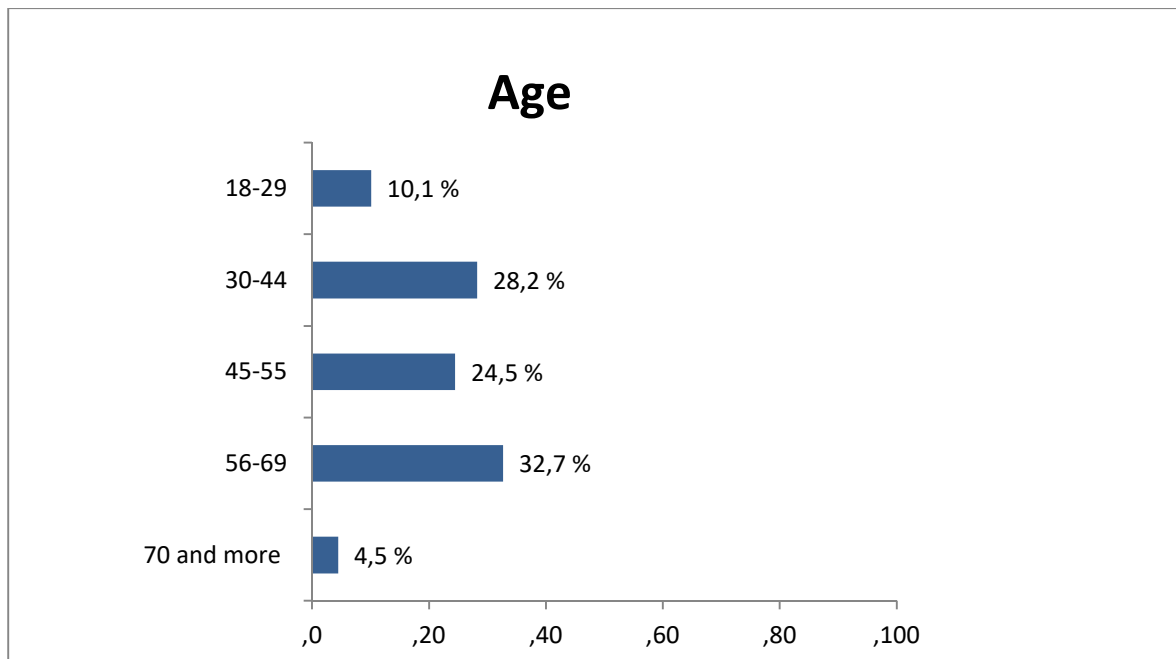
Chart 1.1



1.2 Distribution by age

Most respondents were economically active citizens (aged 18-65);

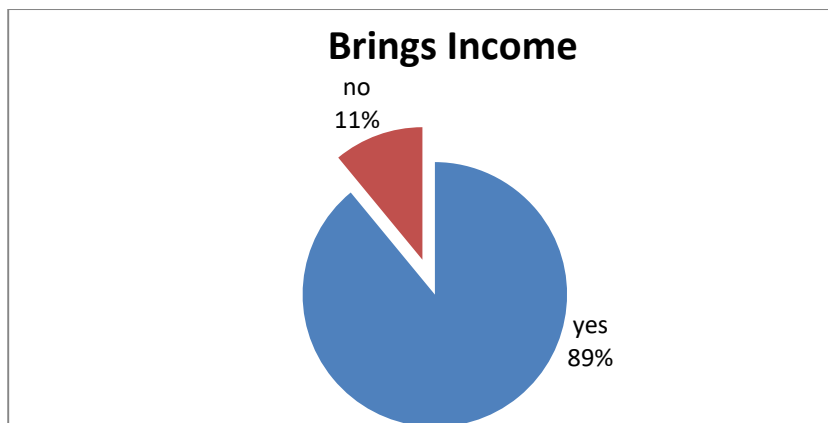
Chart 1.2



1.3 Income/ Source of income

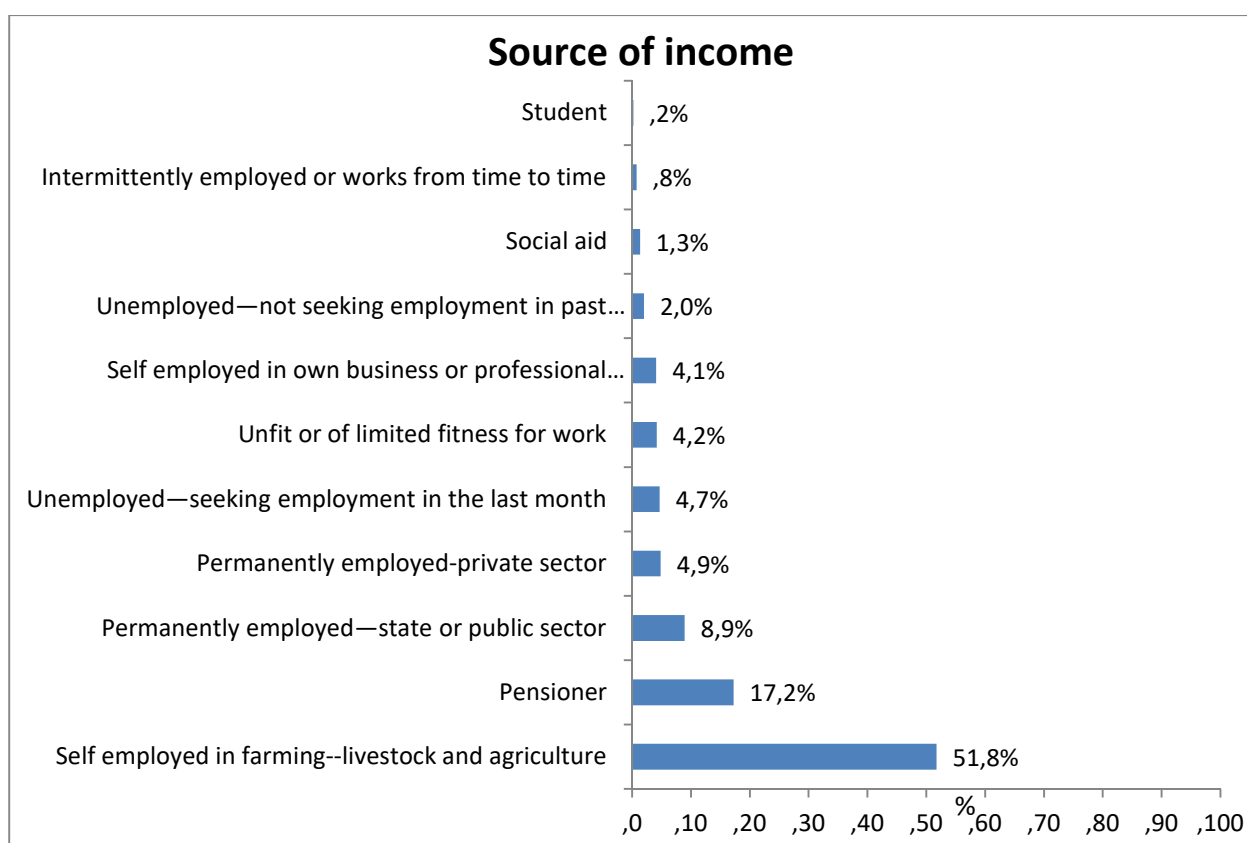
89% of respondents have an income (including pension and social aid);

Chart 1.3.1



Respondents were asked to name the source of their income. More than a half of them (51.8%) are employed in farming – livestock or agriculture.

Chart 1.3.2



According to employment status and income, average numbers are given in the table below; on average **1.95** family members are employed, and **2.5** has income (including pension and social aid) from each household.

Table 1.3.3

	Average number of family members (Employed/Brings income)		
	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Employed	0,00	7,00	1,95
has income	0,00	8,00	2,5

1.4 Attendance at trainings

Within the framework of the research, respondents were also asked if they or any other of their household member had attended trainings in different fields (Professional Education, Agriculture, Business Management). Only **one** respondent had attended training in **Tailoring**;

2. Household Economic Conditions and Vision for the Future

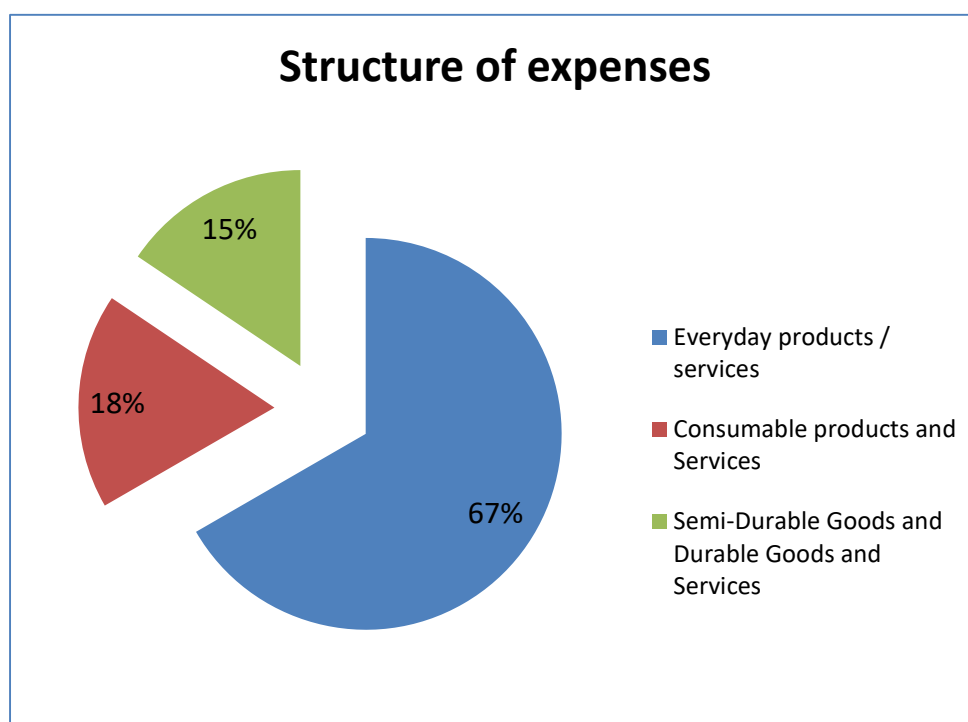
2.1 Structure of expenses

The research has shown that most part (**67%**) of expenses are related to **everyday products and services**, such as food (meat, vegetables, fruits, dairy, grains, starches, potatoes, etc.), non-alcoholic beverages (mineral water, juice, soda, tea, coffee, etc.), alcoholic beverages and tobacco, salt, sugar, honey, sauces, condiments.

Expenses for **consumable products and services** like fuel and electricity for the household, transport and communication (tires, tubes, taxi/bus fares, benzene and diesel fuel); communication (mobile phone, mobile phone credit, internet service); cleaning and personal hygiene (washing powder, soap, shampoo, detergents, etc.); restaurants and hotels, culture and recreation; savings, loans to family, friends, others; transfer to neighbors, friends, others are **18%** of total expenses;

Only **15%** of expenses are used for **Semi-Durable Goods and Durable Goods and Services**, such as clothing and footwear; household goods (furniture, radio, bicycle, phone, refrigerator, washing machine, air conditioner, satellite dish, other appliances); education; health and medical care (e.g., doctors, medicines, hospital/clinic charges); cattle / investment in agriculture; residential property, including home improvements (purchased/leased/);

Chart 2.1



2.2 Average expenses of family

Average expenses of household for everyday products and services, consumable products and services and semi durable goods and durable goods and services are GEL 22.5; average expenses in GEL for each category are given in tables below;

Table 2.2.1

Average daily expenses	Daily (GEL)
everyday products and services	12,2
consumable products and services	5,6
Semi-Durable Goods and Durable Goods and Services	4,7
Total (for the household)	22,5

Table 2.2.2

everyday products and services	Weekly (GEL)	Daily (GEL)
Food (meat, vegetables, fruits, dairy, grains, starches, potatoes, etc.)	65,81	9,40
Non-alcoholic beverages (mineral water, juice, soda, tea, coffee, etc.)	5,19	0,74
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	10,21	1,46
Salt, sugar, honey, sauces, condiments	4,17	0,60

Table 2.2.3

consumable products and services	Monthly (GEL)	Daily (GEL)
Fuel and electricity for the household	88,5	2,95
Transport and communication (tires, tubes, taxi/bus fares, benzene and diesel fuel)	43,1	1,44
Communication (mobile phone, mobile phone credit, internet service)	15,8	0,53
Cleaning and personal hygiene (washing powder, soap, shampoo, detergents, etc.)	12,2	0,41
Savings	5,3	0,18
Restaurants and hotels	4,0	0,13
Culture and recreation	0,1	0,003

Table 2.2.4

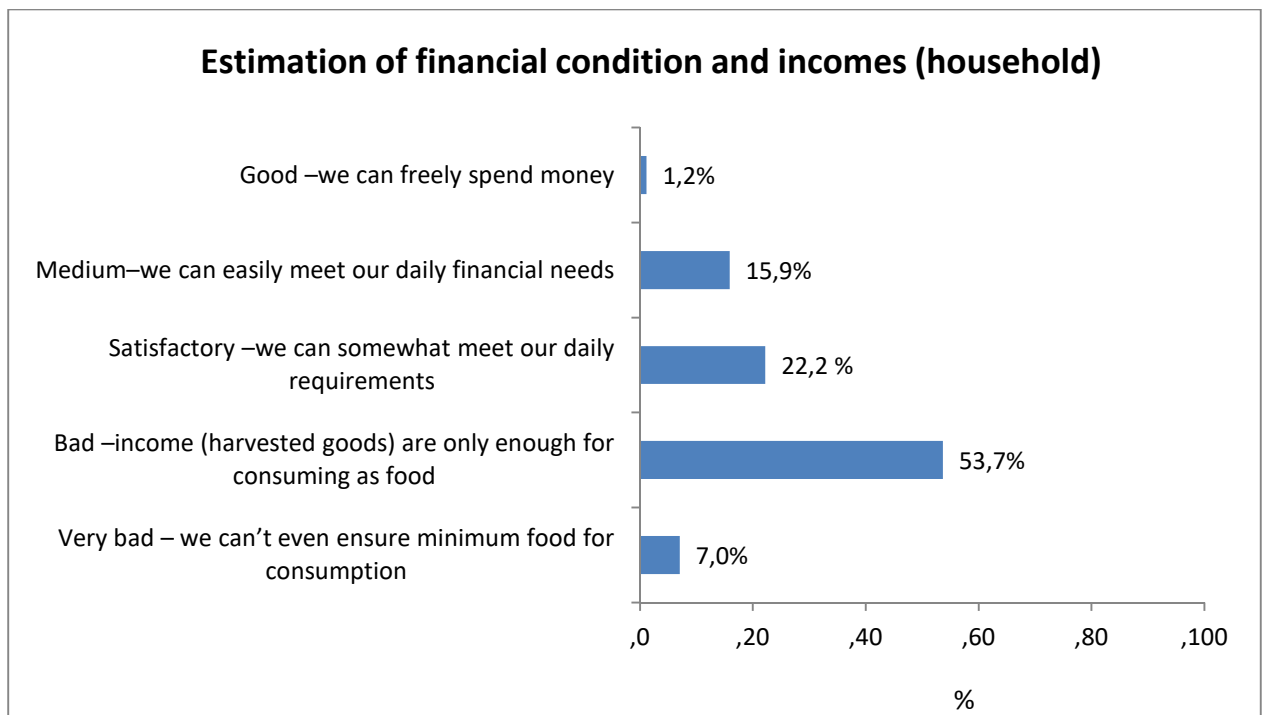
Semi-Durable Goods and Durable Goods and Services	In a year (GEL)	Daily (GEL)
Health and medical care (e.g., doctors, medicines, hospital/clinic charges)	735,6	2,02
Clothing and Footwear	284,1	0,78
Household goods (furniture, radio, bicycle, phone, refrigerator, washing machine, air conditioner, satellite dish, other appliances)	242,5	0,66
Education	186,1	0,51
Cattle / Investment in Agriculture	143,0	0,39
Residential property, including home improvements (purchased/leased/)	107,1	0,29

2.3 Economic Self-Perception

Respondents were asked to estimate financial condition and income of their households. For this purpose, they were given five possible answers regarding their financial status;

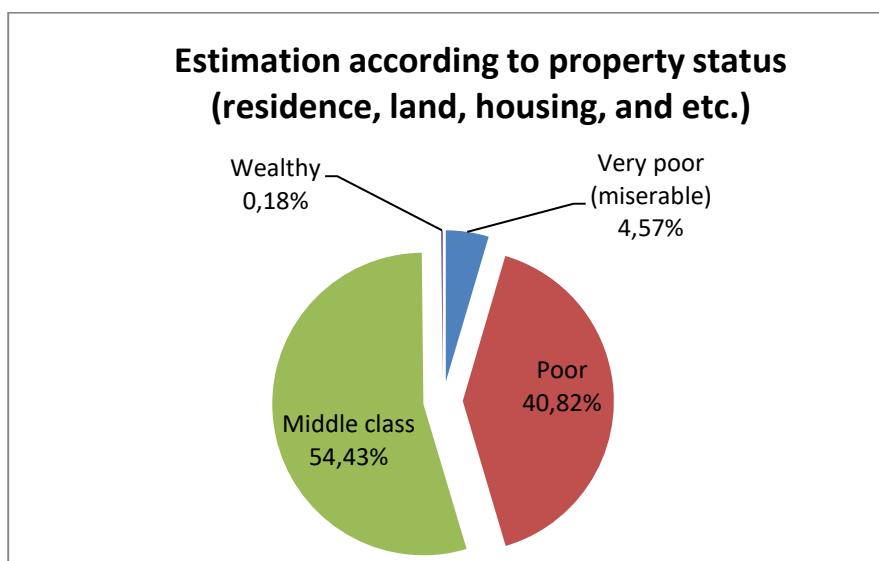
More than half of respondents estimated financial condition of their family as **bad** (53.7%) or **very bad** (7%); and only 39.3% -**satisfactory, medium** or **good**;

Chart 2.3.1



According to property status, 54% of respondents estimate themselves as middle class (54.43%) and 40.82% - Poor;

Chart 2.3.2



According to property status, respondents who estimated their property status as “poor”, mostly estimate their income as “bad”

The middle class according to property status, nearly equally frequently estimate their incomes as **Bad, Satisfactory** and **Medium**;

Table 2.3.3

		According to your property status (residence, land, housing, and etc.) to which category among those listed below does your household belong?			
		Very poor (miserable)	Poor	Middle class	Wealthy
How would you assess the financial conditions of your HH regarding income	Very bad – we can’t even ensure minimum food for consumption	42	32	2	0
	Bad –income (harvested goods) are only enough for consuming as food	6	402	179	0
	Satisfactory –we can somewhat meet our daily requirements	0	12	231	0
	Medium–we can easily meet our daily financial needs	0	1	172	1
	Good –we can freely spend money	0	0	10	1

The research has revealed, that the economic estimation is higher among the respondents with higher per capita⁹;

Table 2.3.4

Estimation according to property status	Per capita (GEL)	%
Very poor (miserable)	5,5	4,57%
Poor	5,4	40,82%
Middle class	8,3	54,43%
Wealthy	13,1	0,18%

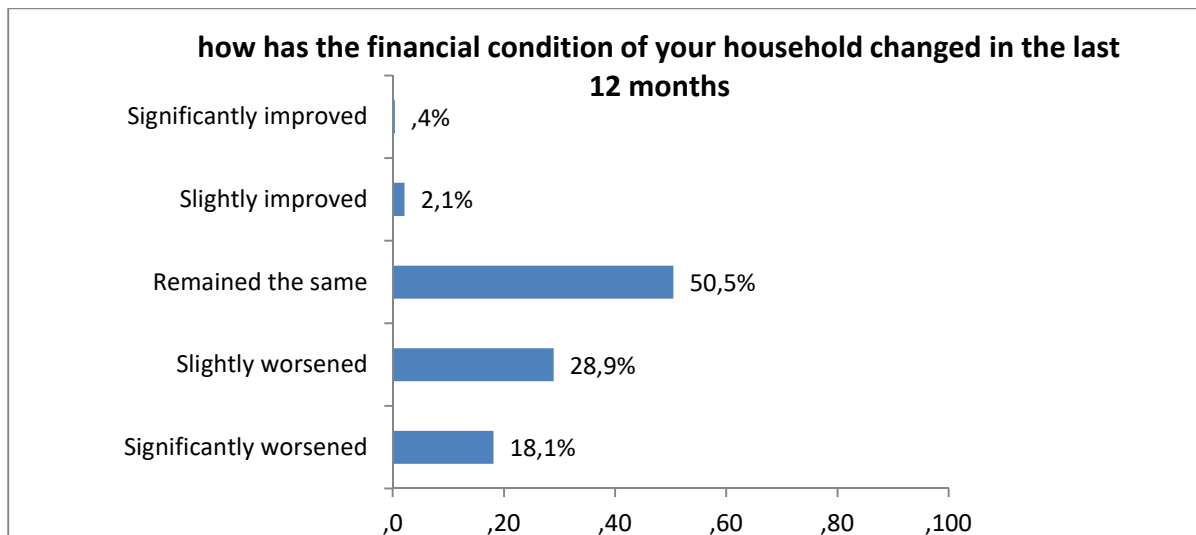
2.4 Assessment of changes in financial condition /vision for the future

Respondents were asked to assess a change in financial condition of the household for last 12 months and make forecasts for the next 12 months;

Nearly half (50.5%) of the respondents noted that the financial condition remained the same for past year, other part thinks that it has slightly or significantly worsened (28.9% and 18.1%);

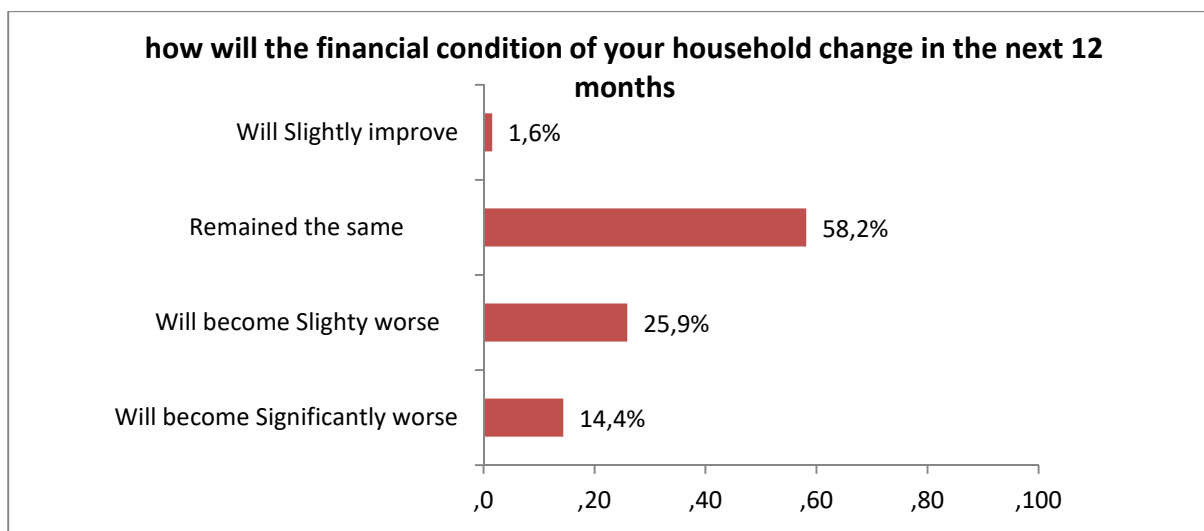
⁹ Amount of money spent on one person in a day

Chart 2.4.1



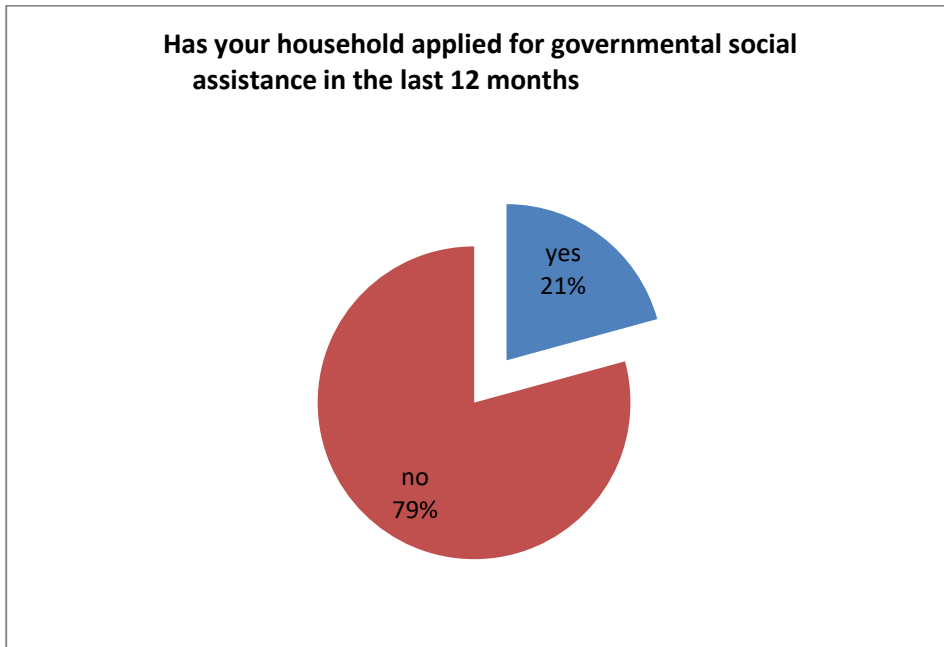
The forecasts for the future are the same, nearly 60% thinks that their condition will remain the same, 25.9% - will slightly worsen and 14.4% - will significantly worsen.

Chart 2.4.2



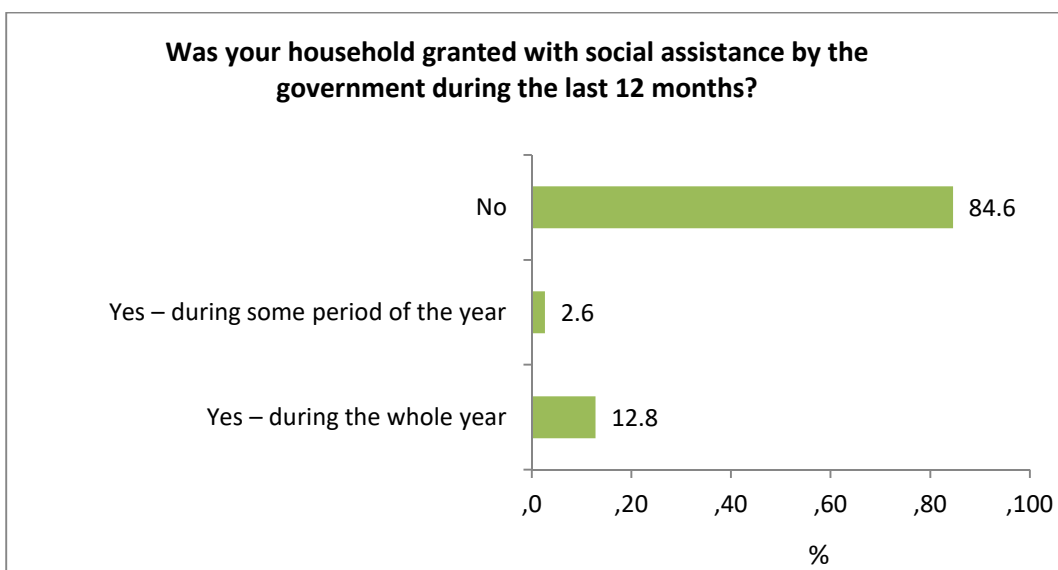
Only 21% of respondents were granted with social assistance by the government during the last 12 months (middle, poor and very poor by property status).

Chart 2.4.3



From the applicants, only 15.4% were granted social assistance during the whole or some period of the year. Most of them describe their property status as “poor”, “very poor” and “middle class”; 84.6% of respondents failed to receive assistance.

Chart 2.4.4



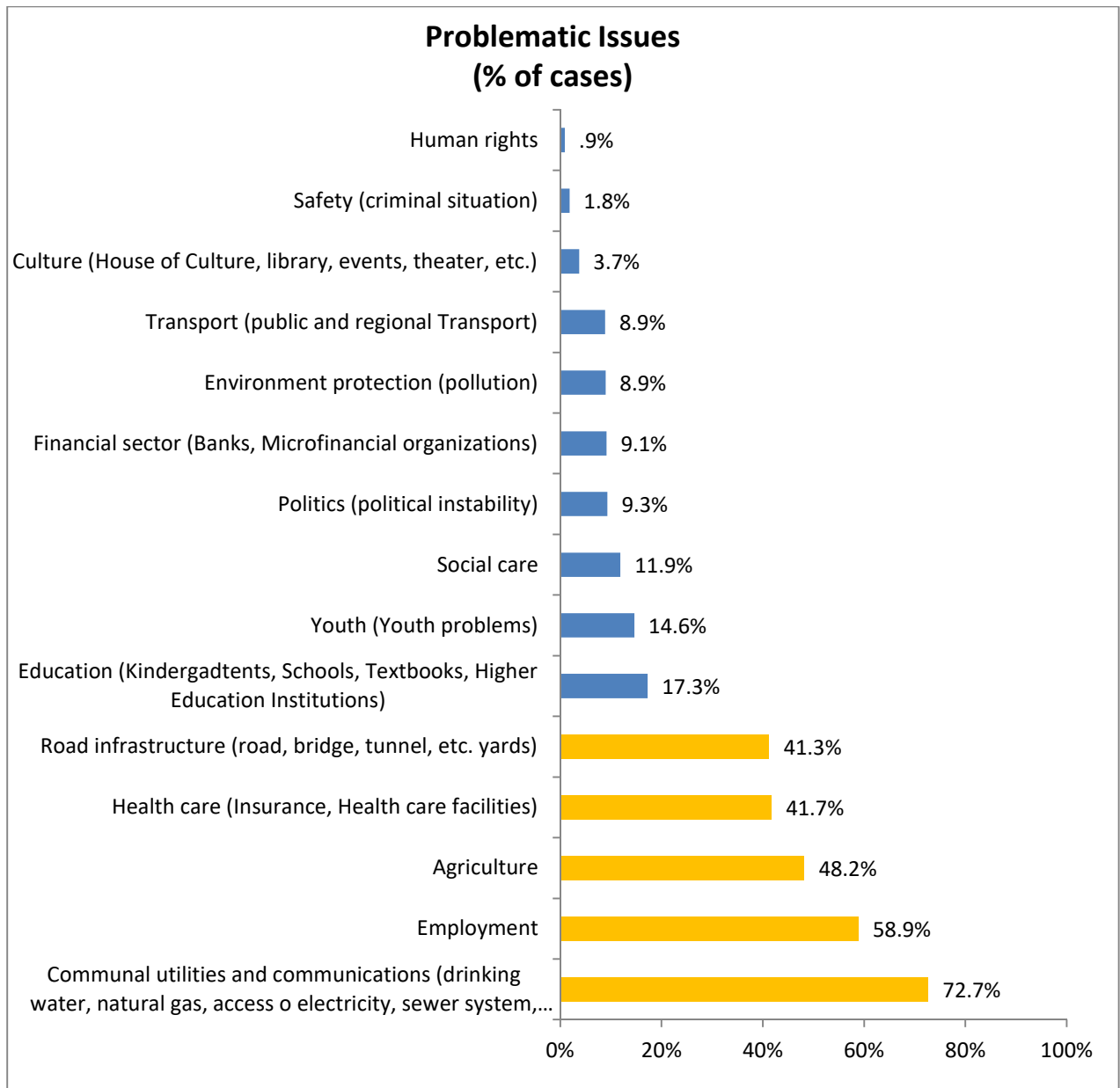
3. Local Issues

To identify local issues, respondents had an opportunity to name main problematic areas for their community (five possible answers to choose from the given list of local problematic issues);

The research has shown, that the most problematic issue is **communal utilities and communications** -72.7 % of respondents have named this issue;

Employment is problematic for 59% of respondents; agriculture – 48%; health care and road infrastructure - 41%;

Chart N3



Respondents specified those important issues, which are believed to be parts of the problems named by them.

3.1 Communal utilities and communications

With respect to communal utilities and communications, problematic issues that were named most frequently are natural gas availability, drinking water supply and natural gas tariff;

	Frequency ¹⁰	Percent
Natural gas availability	307	37,9
Drinking water supply	163	20,1
Natural gas tariff	137	16,9
Electricity Tariff	70	8,6
Drinking water quality	36	4,4
Landfills, waste bins Availability	34	4,2
Sewage and drainage system availability	26	3,2
Access to Electricity	21	2,6
Internet access and quality	9	1,1
Refuse frequency	4	,5
Access to Payboxes	2	,2
Drinking water tariff	1	,1
Old electric power transmission lines	1	,1
Total	811	100,0

3.2 Employment

Regarding employment, respondents see the main problem in the lack of local industry (60.8%) and business (36.6%) development.

	Frequency	Percent
Local Industry Development	497	60,8
Local Business Development	299	36,6
The lack of qualified local staff	21	2,6
Total	817	100,0

¹⁰Total frequency means the number of respondents who named specific direction as problematic. See chart #3

3.3 Agriculture

In terms of agriculture, improvement of the market of selling agricultural goods is problematic for 27.8% of respondents. Selling agricultural goods is named by 25% of respondents.

	Frequency	Percent
Improvement of the market of selling agricultural production	147	27,8
Selling agricultural production	134	25,4
Land property	81	15,3
Processing of agricultural production	43	8,1
Storage and refrigerating	36	6,9
Hiring and fixing agricultural appliances	24	4,5
Providing with pesticides	23	4,4
Veterinary and other related services	23	4,4
Pasture maintenance	17	3,2
Total	528	100

3.4. Health care and social care

In health care and social care, 60.9% of respondents see the problem in existing health fees.

	Frequency	Percent
Health fees	283	60,9
Existence of municipal social programs	59	12,7
Access to primary health care (outpatient, clinic)	50	10,8
Insurance availability	26	5,6
Effectiveness of municipal social programs (Effective procedures and purpose)	19	4,1
State health care institution's facilities (conditions, hygiene, service)	13	2,8
Doctors Qualification	10	2,2
Access to municipal health care programs (Effective procedures and purpose)	4	,9
Existence of Municipal health programs	1	,2
Total	465	100,0

3.5 Infrastructure

For 92.8% of respondents, the most problematic issue in infrastructure is condition of internal roads;

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Condition of internal roads	454	92,8
Yards (for flats)	24	4,9
Bridges	5	1,0
Drainage	4	,8
Conditions of squares, parks	2	,4
Total	489	100,0

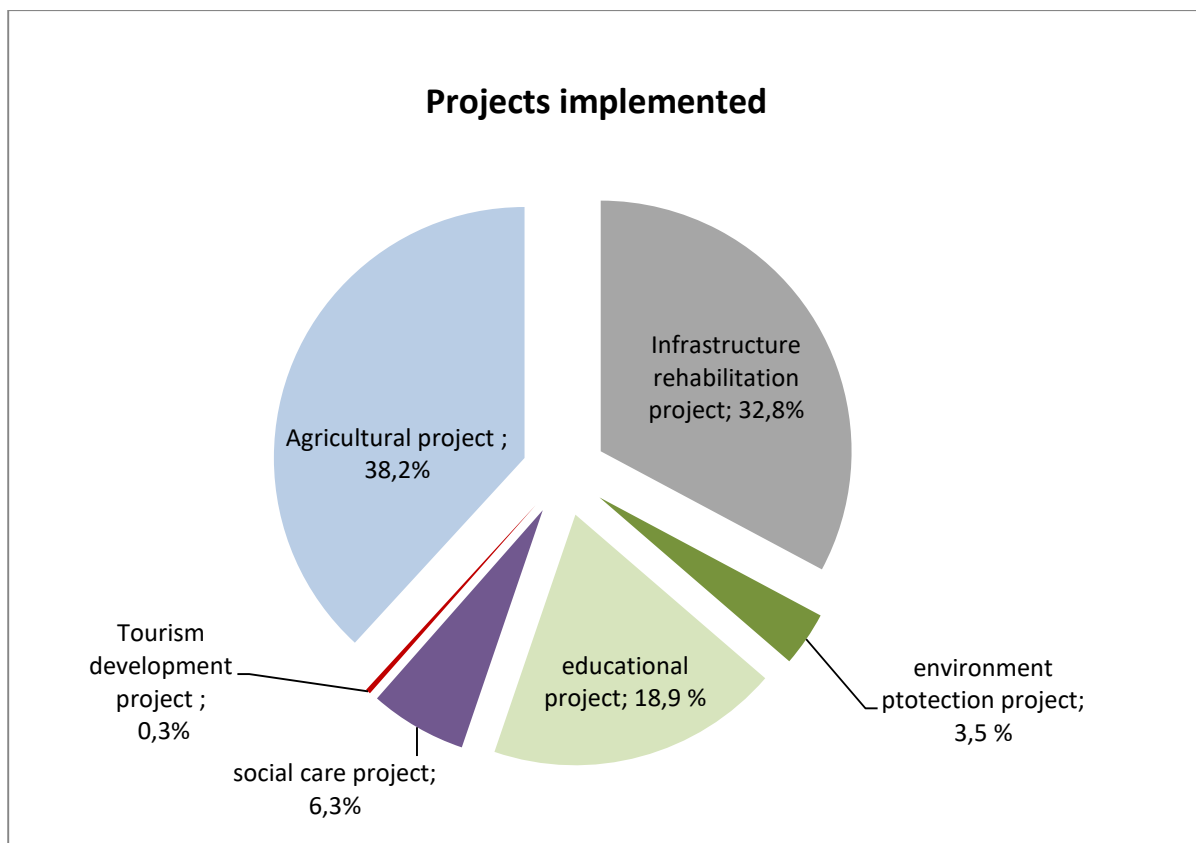
4. Implemented Projects and Civic Engagement

Respondents were asked to share information about projects implemented in their community. Six major areas have been allocated (from which five are main focus areas of LAG);

-) Infrastructure
-) Agriculture
-) Tourism
-) Social care
-) Education
-) Environmental protection

In total, according to respondents' answers, most projects are implemented in agriculture (38.2%) and infrastructure (32.8%) and only 0.3% in tourism (8 responses);

Table 4A



Respondents were also asked to name projects implemented in their community in the past 12 months;

Implemented Projects according to areas;

Table 4B

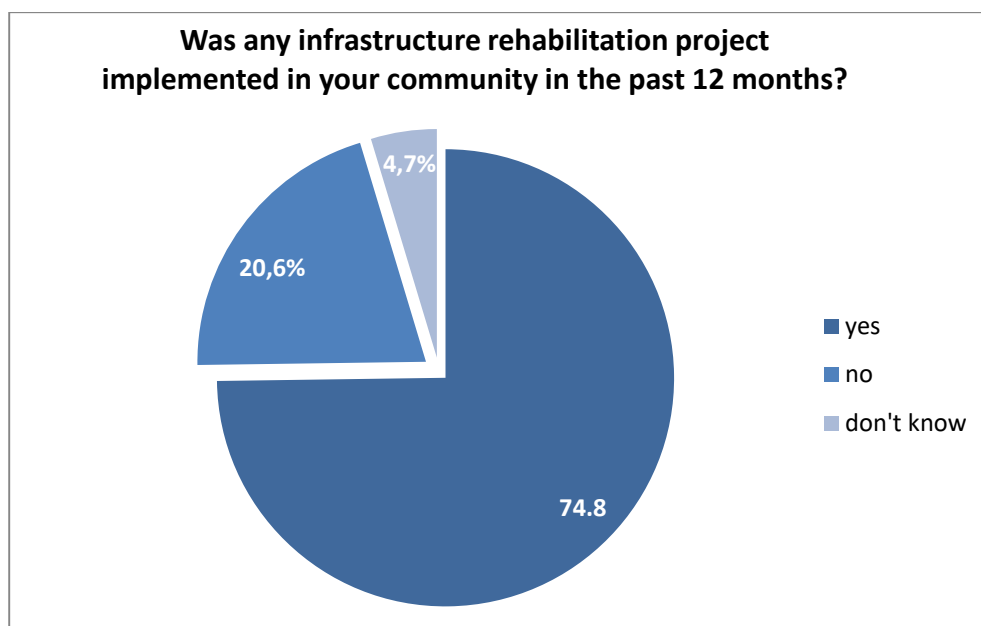
Area	Project
Infrastructure	Roads
	Water pipes
	Gas pipe network
	Electricity supply system
	Local roads
	Irrigation system
	River- banks
	Cemetery maintenance
	Hall
	Stadium

	Drainage
	Transformer
	Warehouse
	Outdoor lights
	Roof repair
	Internet
	Church building
	Bridge
Environmental protection	Greenery
	River Cleanup
	Landfill arrangement
	Arrangement of recreation park.
Education	Preschool institutions renovation / construction
	School renovation / construction
	Student Programs / Projects
Social care	Single financial aid
	Aid to a large families
	Aid for single mothers
	Provision with firewood or any other heating facilities for winter/Provision of vouchers
	roof repair
	Support with products
Tourism	Tourism routes
Agriculture	Assistance in soil treatment
	Vouchers for pesticides

4.1 Infrastructure rehabilitation projects;

Overall, the biggest part of projects mentioned by respondents comes to various infrastructure projects. 74,8% of respondents say that infrastructure rehabilitation projects were implemented in their community in the past 12 months;

Chart 4.1.1



Project developer

According to respondents, most infrastructure rehabilitation projects were implemented by the **central** and **local** governments.

Table 4.1.2

Projects	Local government	Central government	Local inhabitants	Donor organization /NGO	Business	Don't know
Roads	71	254	0	17	2	22
Water pipes	145	174	1	16	0	36
Gas pipe network	76	404	0	22	0	36
Electricity supply system	50	146	0	16	0	24
Local roads	6	7	0	0	0	1
Irrigation system	10	16	0	0	0	2
River- banks	8	4	0	0	0	0
Cemetery maintenance	8	21	0	6	0	0

Hall	9	11	0	0	0	1
Stadium	38	80	1	2	0	3
Drainage	3	0	0	0	0	0
Transformer	2	1	0	0	0	0
Warehouse	1	2	0	0	0	2
Outdoor lights	4	39	0	1	0	0
Roof repair	0	2	0	0	0	0
Internet	9	16	0	1	0	0
Church building	1	1	3	0	0	2
Bridge	0	0	0	1	0	1

Table 4.1.3

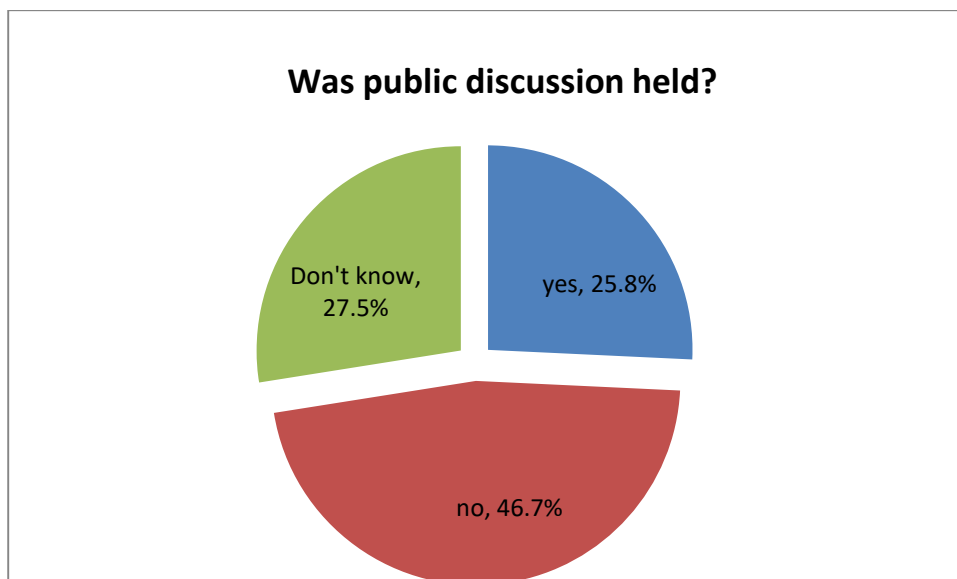
Infrastructure rehabilitation projects implemented in villages																		
		Roads	Water pipes	Gas pipe network	Electricity supply system	Local roads	Irrigation system	River- banks	Cemetery maintenance	Hall	Stadium	Drainage	Transformer	Warehouse	Outdoor lights	Roof repair internet	Church building	Bridge
Arepshenari	Arepshenari	√	√	√	√		√											
	Zemo bolkvi		√	√		√												
	Kvemo bolkvi	√		√														
Codniskari	Sheertebe		√	√	√		√		√									
	Tela		√	√		√	√	√										
	Codniskari				√	√	√		√						√		√	√
	Chaduaniani	√	√	√	√													
Ninigori	Ninigori		√			√												
	Gelati	√	√						√	√								
	Zemo gurgenia	√	√	√	√				√	√			√	√				
Matsimi	Matsimi	√																
Leliani	Kalkva		√	√														
	Leliani	√		√														
	Mirkiseuli	√		√					√	√					√			
	lLagodekhi	√	√	√	√	√	√											
Baisuban	Zemo mskhalgori	√																

Kartubani	Kartubani	√	√															
	Bolokiani	√																
Vardisubani	Svideba	√	√								√							
	Vardisubani	√		√			√		√	√	√							
Phona	Kvemo phona	√	√															
	Zemo phona		√	√	√													
Shroma	Shroma	√	√	√	√							√						
Apheni	Baghdadi	√		√	√	√												
	Chabukiani	√		√		√	√											
	Apheni	√	√	√												√		
giorgeTi	Giorgeti			√	√						√							
	Pichkxhisgori			√			√	√										
Wiauri	Heretiskari	√	√	√	√													
	Chiauri	√		√	√						√	√				√		
kabali	Kharadgala	√		√	√													
	Kabali	√	√	√	√		√	√										

Public discussions/Attendance at public discussions (any member of household)

To assess civic engagement in the project initiation/implementation process, respondents were asked to mark if there were public discussions held about the projects implemented in their community. Only 25% answered that public discussion was held (27.5%- don't know, 46.7% - no).

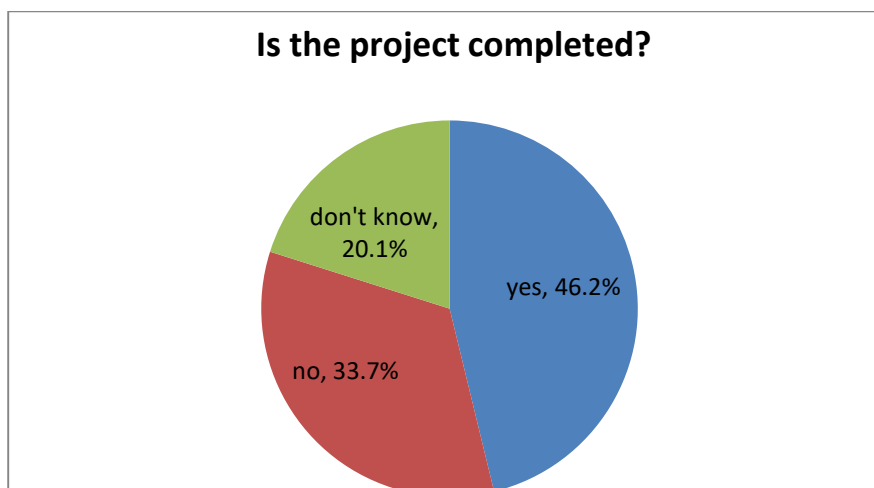
Chart 4.1.4



In case when **public discussions were held**, **38.1%** of respondents or their family members attended the discussions.

46.2% of infrastructure projects implemented in various communities are completed (20.1% - don't know, 33.7% - no).

Chart 4.1.5



Respondents were asked to assess if the infrastructure rehabilitation projects named by them were beneficial for their community. The percentage distribution of responses is given in table below:

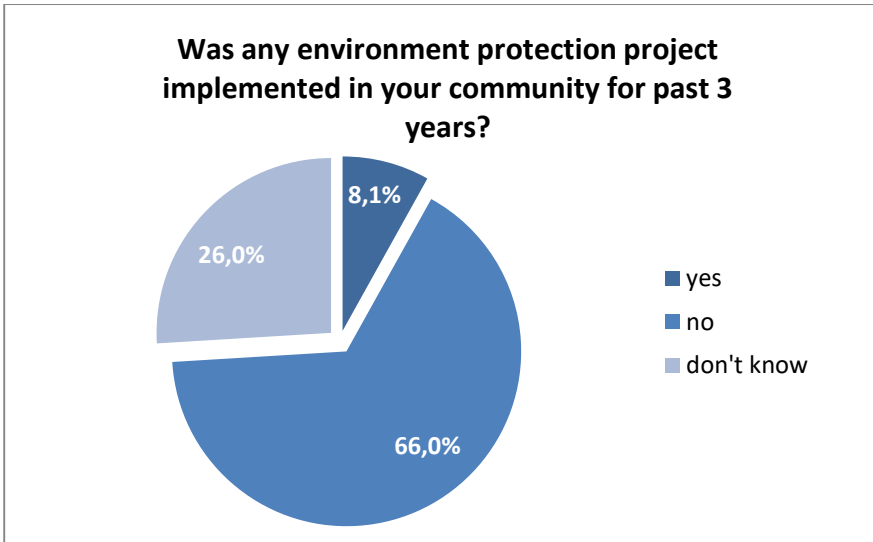
Table 4.1.6

Was the infrastructure rehabilitation project beneficial for your community?				
	Yes, it is still beneficial	It was beneficial but is not beneficial any more	No, has never been beneficial	Don't Know
Roads	87,1%	1,1%	2,5%	9,3%
Water pipes	75,5%	4,3%	5,2%	14,9%
Gas pipe network	89,8%	0,7%	3,5%	6,0%
Electricity supply system	91,1%	3,0%	4,2%	1,7%
Local roads	64,3%	0,0%	21,4%	14,3%
Irrigation system	82,1%	7,1%	10,7%	0,0%
River- banks	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Cemetery maintenance	88,65	2,9%	5,7%	2,9%
Hall	35,3%	0,0%	5,9%	58,8%
Stadium	86,3%	5,6%	7,3%	0,8%
Drainage	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%
Transformer	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Warehouse	40,0%	0,0%	60,0%	0,0%
Outdoor lights	93,2%	0,0%	2,3%	4,5%
Roof repair	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Internet	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Church building	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%

4.2 Environmental protection projects

Only 8.1% of respondents say that infrastructure rehabilitation projects were implemented in their community in the past 3 years; only four projects were implemented in nine locations (villages);

Chart 4.2.1



Project developer

Environmental protection projects are implemented mainly by local government. Only landfill arrangement project was named as implemented by both, the central and local governments.

Table 4.2.2

Projects	Local government	Central government	Don't know
Greenery	9	1	1
River Cleanup	10	0	2
Landfill arrangement	33	19	3
Arrangement of recreation park.	30	0	0

Table 4.2.3

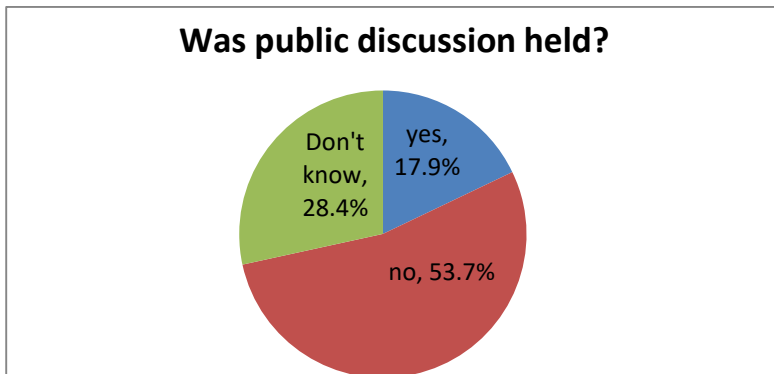
Environmental protection projects implemented in villages					
		Greenery	River Cleanup	Landfill arrangement	Arrangement of recreation park.
Codniskari	Chaduniani			√	
Leliani	Kalkva	√			

	Leliani		√	√	
Lagodekhi	Lagodekhi	√	√	√	√
Shroma	Shroma		√	√	√
Apheni	Baghdadi		√		
	Chabukiani	√		√	
	Apheni			√	
Gorgeti	Gorgeti		√		

Public discussions/Attendance at public discussions (any member of household)

Public involvement in implemented environmental protection projects is quite low; only 17% answered that public discussion was held (28.4%- don't know, 53.7% - no)

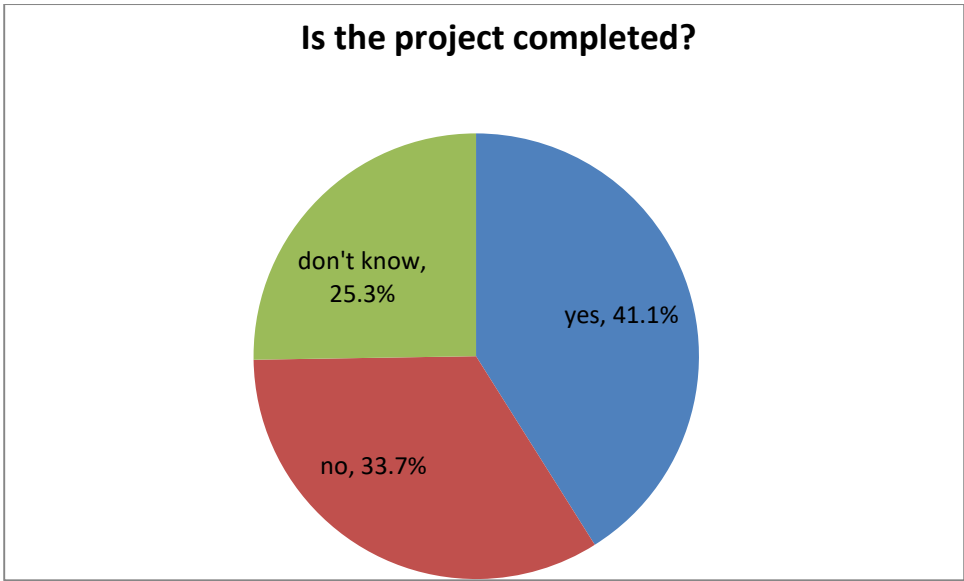
Chart 4.2.4



In case when public discussion was held, only **6.7%** of respondents or their family members attended the discussions.

41.1% of implemented environmental protection projects are completed in different communities (25.3% - don't know, 33.7% - no).

Chart 4.2.5



Respondents assess environmental protection projects as beneficial for their community, only 8.3% of responses about river cleanup project was negative (it was beneficial but is not beneficial any more)

Chart 4.2.6

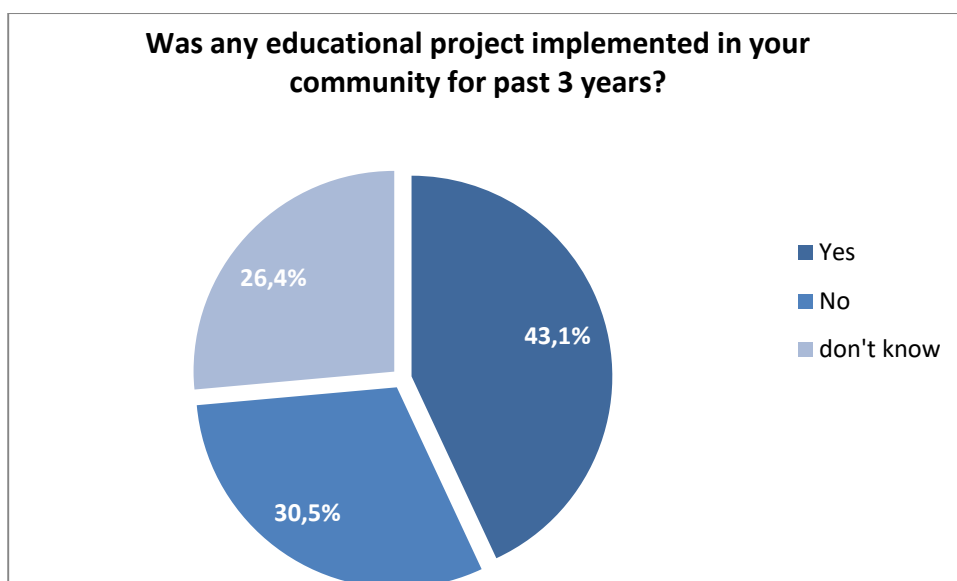
Was the Environment protection project beneficial for your community?

	Yes, it is still beneficial	It was beneficial but is not beneficial any more	Don't know
Greenery	90,9%	0,0%	9,1%
River Cleanup	91,7%	8,3%	0,0%
Landfill arrangement	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Arrangement of recreation park.	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%

4.3 Educational projects

Almost half (43.1%) of respondents noted that educational projects were implemented in their community in the past 3 years (26.4% - don't know, 30.5% - no);

Chart 4.3.1



Educational projects were mostly implemented by the central government, but approximately in 1/6 cases - by the local government. Respondents also mentioned donor organization/NGO as the developers of educational projects (in Lagodekhi).

Table 4.3.2

	Local government	Central government	Donor organization /NGO	Don't know
Preschool institutions renovation / construction	98	620	5	4
School renovation / construction	46	545	5	5
Student Programs / Projects	0	1	1	0

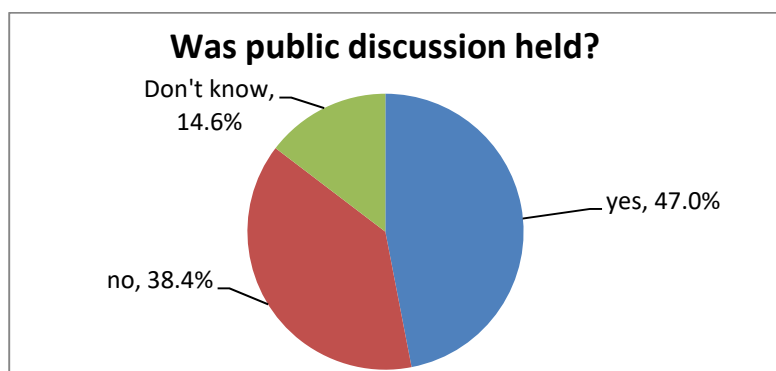
Table 4.3.3

Educational projects implemented in villages				
		Preschool institutions renovation / construction	School renovation / construction	Student Programs / Projects
Codniskari	Sheertebe	√		
	Tela	√		
	Codniskari	√	√	

	Chaduaniani	✓	✓	
Ninigori	Ninigori	✓	✓	
	Gelati	✓	✓	
	Zemo gurgenia	✓		
Matsimi	Matsimi	✓	✓	
Leliani	Leliani	✓		
	Mirkiseuli	✓	✓	
Lagodekhi	Lagodekhi	✓	✓	✓
Baisubani	Baisubani	✓	✓	
	Zemo mskhalgori	✓	✓	
Kartubani	KarTubani	✓	✓	
	Bolokiani	✓	✓	
Vardisubani	Vardisubani	✓	✓	
Phona	Kvemo Phona	✓		
	Zemo Phona	✓		
Shroma	Shroma	✓	✓	
Apheni	Baghdadi	✓		
	Chabukiani	✓	✓	
	Apheni	✓	✓	
Giorgeti	Giorgeti	✓	✓	
Chiauri	Heretiskari	✓	✓	
	Chiauri	✓	✓	
Kabali	Kabali	✓	✓	

The highest civic engagement was revealed in the discussion on educational projects. Almost in half of the cases (47%) public discussion was held.

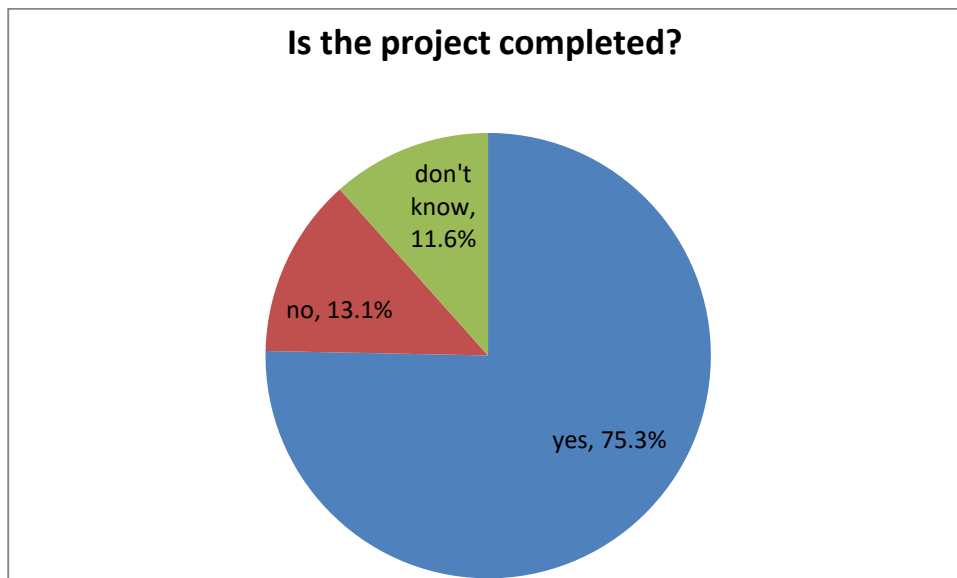
Chart 4.3.4



In case when public discussion was held, **88.7 %** of respondents or their family members attended these discussions.

In three-fourths of cases (75.3%), educational projects are completed (11.6% - don't know, 13.1% - no).

Chart 4.3.5



Mostly, educational projects are assessed as beneficial for the community.

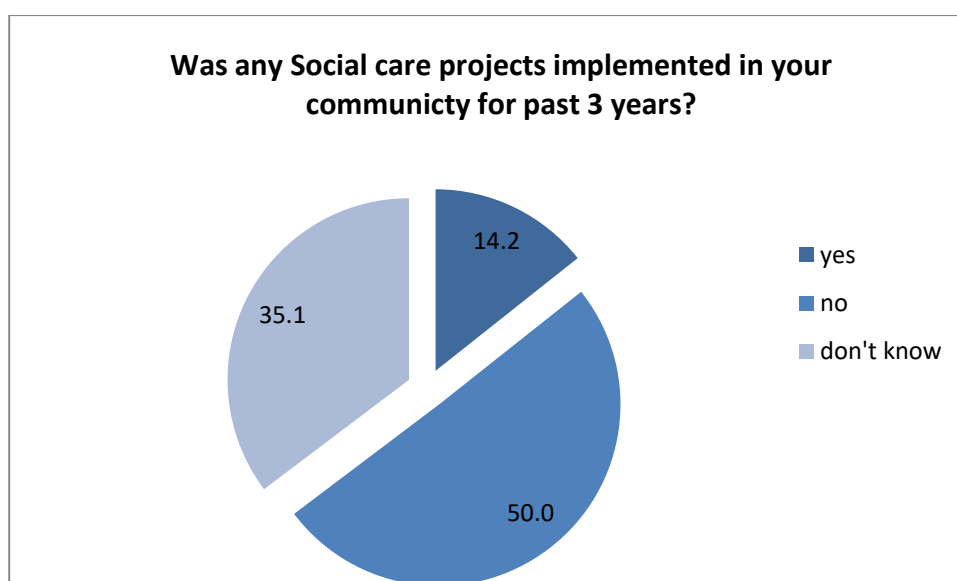
Table 4.3.6

Was the Educational project beneficial for your community?			
	Yes, it is still beneficial	It was beneficial but is not beneficial any more	Don't know
Preschool institutions renovation / construction	99,0 %	0,6%	0,4%
School renovation / construction	99,1%	0,7%	0,2%
Student Programs / Projects	50,0%	0,0%	50,0%

4.4 Social care projects

Only 14.2% of the respondents answered that social care projects were implemented in their community (35.1% – don't know, 50% - no).

Chart 4.4.1



In most cases projects are implemented either by the local, or central government. Only in case of one-time financial aid, the local government was mentioned more frequently. Also, roof repair project for vulnerable groups was implemented by local government.

Table 4.4.2

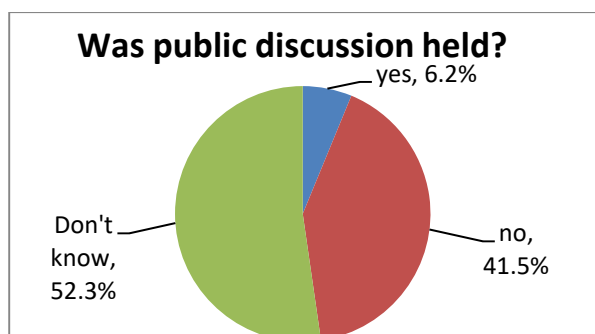
	Who implemented the project?		
	Local government	Central government	Don't know
One-time financial aid	101	65	4
Aid to large families	74	53	0
Aid for single mothers	13	10	0
Provision with firewood or any other heating facilities for winter/Provision of vouchers	50	46	3
roof repair	17	1	0
Support with products	3	0	0

Table 4.4.3

Social care projects implemented in villages							
		One-time financial aid	Aid to large families	Aid for single mothers	Provision with firewood or any other heating facilities for winter/Provision of vouchers	Roof repair	Support with products
Areshphferani	Areshphferani	√	√		√		
	Zemo bolkvi			√	√	√	
	Kvemo bokvi						√
Codniskari	Chaduaniani	√			√		
Ninigori	Ninigori	√	√	√	√		
	Gelati	√	√	√	√	√	
Leliani	Kalkva	√			√		
	Leliani	√	√		√		
	Mirkiseuli	√					
Lagodekhi	Lagodekhi	√	√	√	√		
Phona	Kvemo phona	√					
	Zemo phona	√					
Shroma	Shroma	√	√	√	√	√	
Apheni	Baghdadi				√		
	Chabukiani	√	√		√		
	Apheni	√					
Gorgeti	Gorgeti	√					
	Pichkhisgori	√	√				
Chiauri	Heretiskari	√	√				
	Chiauri	√			√		

In terms of civic engagement, social care projects were less discussed publicly. Only 6.2% of respondents mentioned that public discussion was held (52.3% don't know, 41.5% - no).

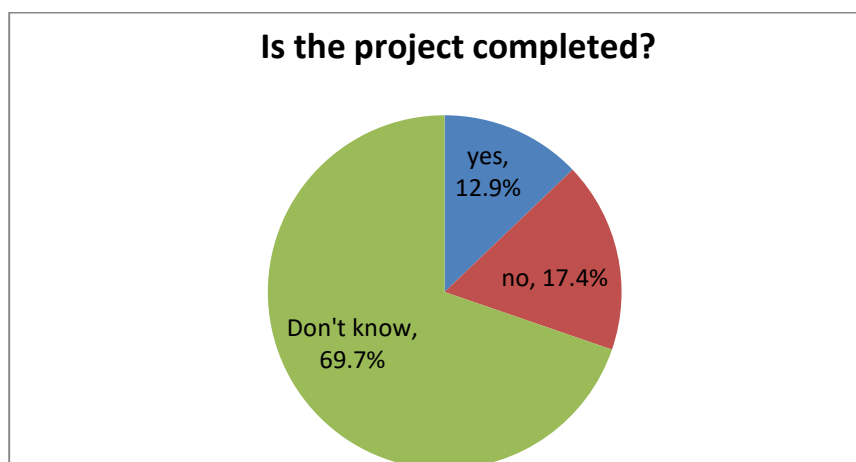
Chart 4.4.4



In case when public discussion was held, **4.5 %** of respondents or their family members have attended discussions.

Only 12.9% of respondents noted, that the mentioned social care projects are completed. It might mean that those projects are temporary. Similar data distribution may be explained by the fact that a share of beneficiaries of social care projects among respondents is low.

Chart 4.4.5



Mostly, social care projects are assessed as beneficial for the community.

Table 4.4.6

Was the social care project beneficial for your community?

	Yes, it is still beneficial	It was beneficial but is not beneficial any more	No, has never been beneficial	Don't Know
One-time financial aid	88,9 %	6,8%	0,6%	3,7%
Aid to large families	86,3%	8,9%	0,0%	4,8%
Aid for single mothers	91,3%	0,0%	0,0%	8,7%
Provision with firewood or any other heating facilities for winter/provision of vouchers	90,2%	3,3%	1,1%	5,4%
Roof repair	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Support with products	100,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%

4.5 Tourism development projects

Only two tourism development projects were named by respondents, in Mirkiseuli and Lagodekhi (touristroutes) (0.7% of respondents).

Respondents noted that the project was implemented both by the local and central governments; public discussion was not held, so no one has attended it;

These projects are assessed as beneficial for the community;

Chart 4.5.1

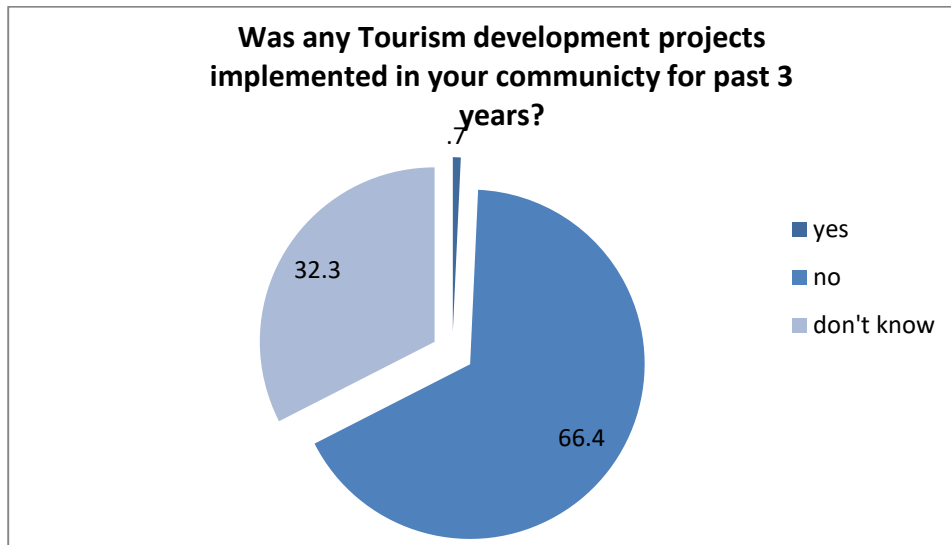


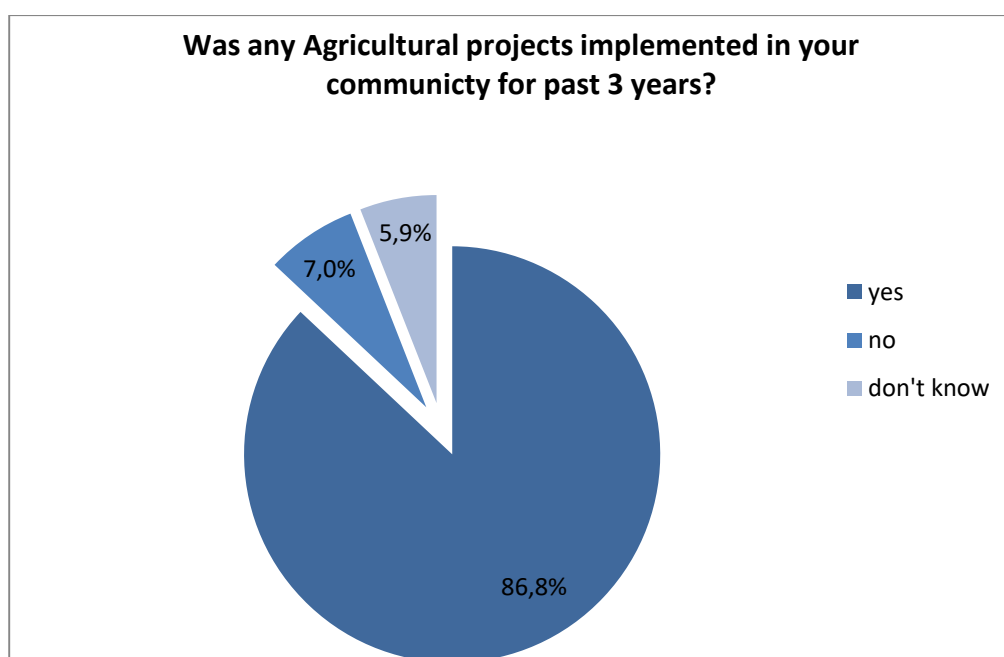
Table 4.5.2

Tourism development projects implemented in villages		
		Touristroutes
leliani	mirkiseuli	✓
Lagodekhi	lagodekhi	✓

4.6 Agricultural projects

Agricultural projects are implemented most frequently than other projects (86.8% - yes) and cover most part of villages in the sampling or the research.

Chart 4.6.1



Both projects, assistance in soil cultivation and vouchers for pesticides, were implemented by the central government.

Table 4.6.2

Who implemented the project?				
	Local government	Central government	Donor organization /NGO	Don't know
Assistance in soil cultivation	160	1341	5	28
Vouchers for pesticides	181	1357	6	33

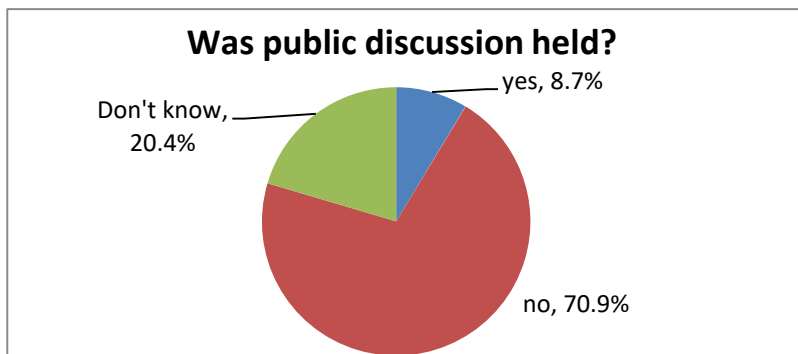
Table 4.6.3

Agricultural projects implemented in villages
--

		Assistance in soil cultivation	Vouchers for pesticides
Areshpherani	Areshpherani	√	√
	Zemo bolkvi	√	√
	Kvemo bolkvi	√	√
Codniskari	SheerTeba	√	√
	Tela	√	√
	Codniskari	√	√
	Chaduaniani	√	√
Ninigori	Ninigori	√	√
	Gelati	√	√
	Zemo gurgenia	√	√
Matsimi	Matsimi	√	√
Leliani	Kalkva	√	√
	Leliani	√	√
	Mirkiseuli	√	√
Lagodekhi	Lagodekhi	√	√
Baisubani	Baisubani	√	√
	Zemo mskhalgori	√	√
Kartubani	Kartubani	√	√
	Bolokiani	√	√
Vardisubani	Svideba		√
	Vardisubani	√	√
Phona	kvemo phona	√	√
	Zemo phona	√	√
Shroma	Shroma	√	√
Apheni	Baghdadi	√	√
	Chabukiani	√	√
	Apheni	√	√
Giorgeti	Giorgeti	√	√
	Pichkhisgori	√	√
Chiauri	Heretiskari	√	√
	Chiauri	√	√
Kabali	Kharadgala		√
	kabali	√	√

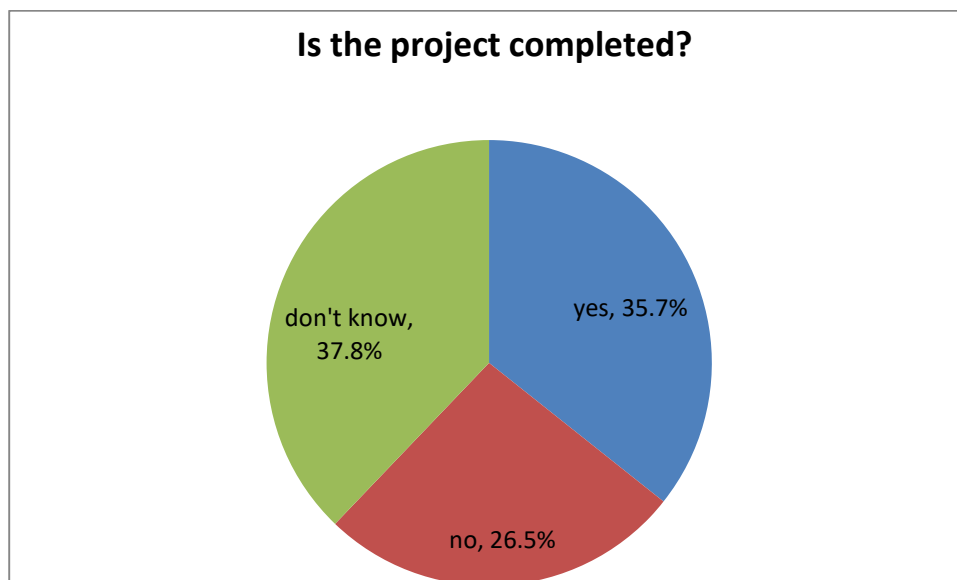
Public discussions were held in few cases (8.7%);

Chart 4.6.4



In case when public discussion was held, **14.1 %** of respondents or their family members have attended discussions.

Chart 4.6.5



Agricultural projects are mostly assessed as beneficial for the community.

Table 4.6.4

Was the agricultural project beneficial for your community?

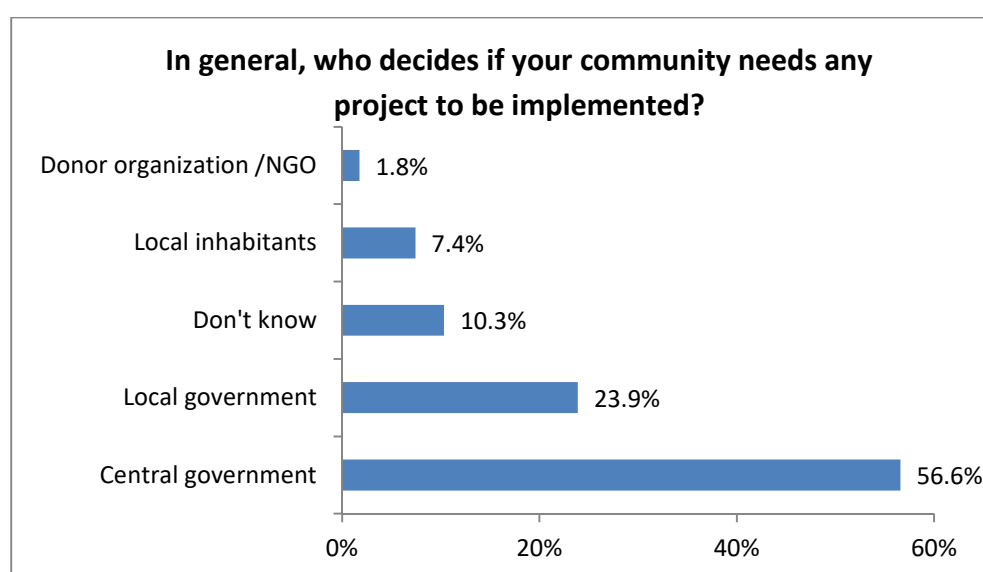
	Yes, it is still beneficial	It was beneficial but is not beneficial any more	Don't Know
Assistance in soil cultivation	95,9	3,2	0,9
Vouchers for pesticides	95,7	3,3	1,0

4.7 Civic engagement

Civic engagement in the projects implemented in the communities was not high (attendance at public discussions). As civic engagement means participation in decision making, respondents were asked to name, who decides if the community needs any project to be implemented.

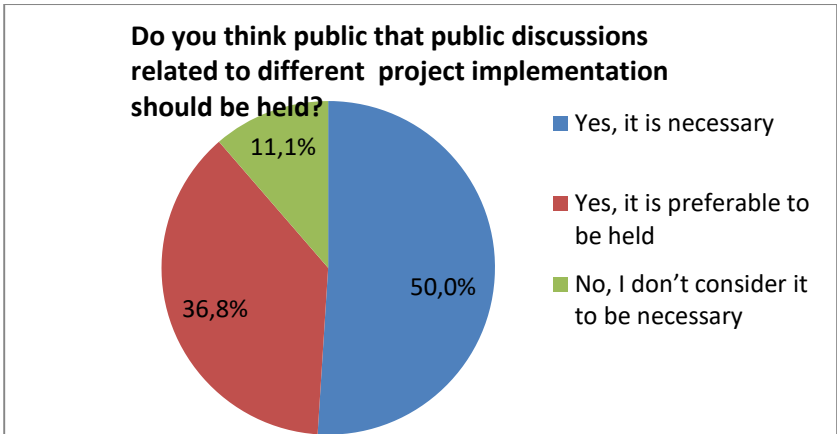
The research revealed that in general, the central government make decisions on the need of projects, more than half (56.6%) of respondents think so. In 23.9% of cases, local government makes decisions. Locals as main actors in decision making are named in 7.4% cases.

Chart 4.7.1



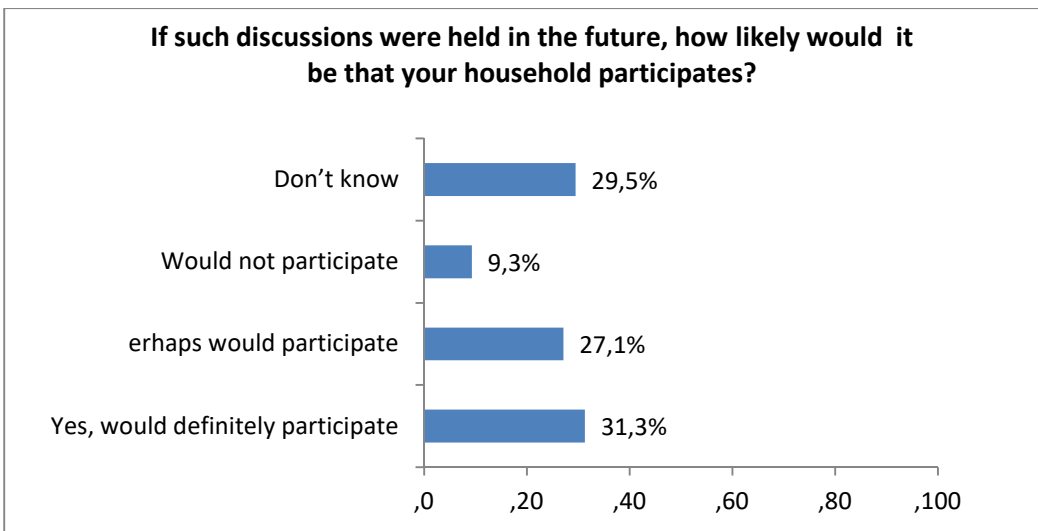
Respondents also evaluated the need of holding public discussions for implementing various projects. 50% of respondents think that it is necessary to organize such meetings; for 36.8% - it is desirable. Only 11.1% does not consider it necessary.

Chart 4.7.2



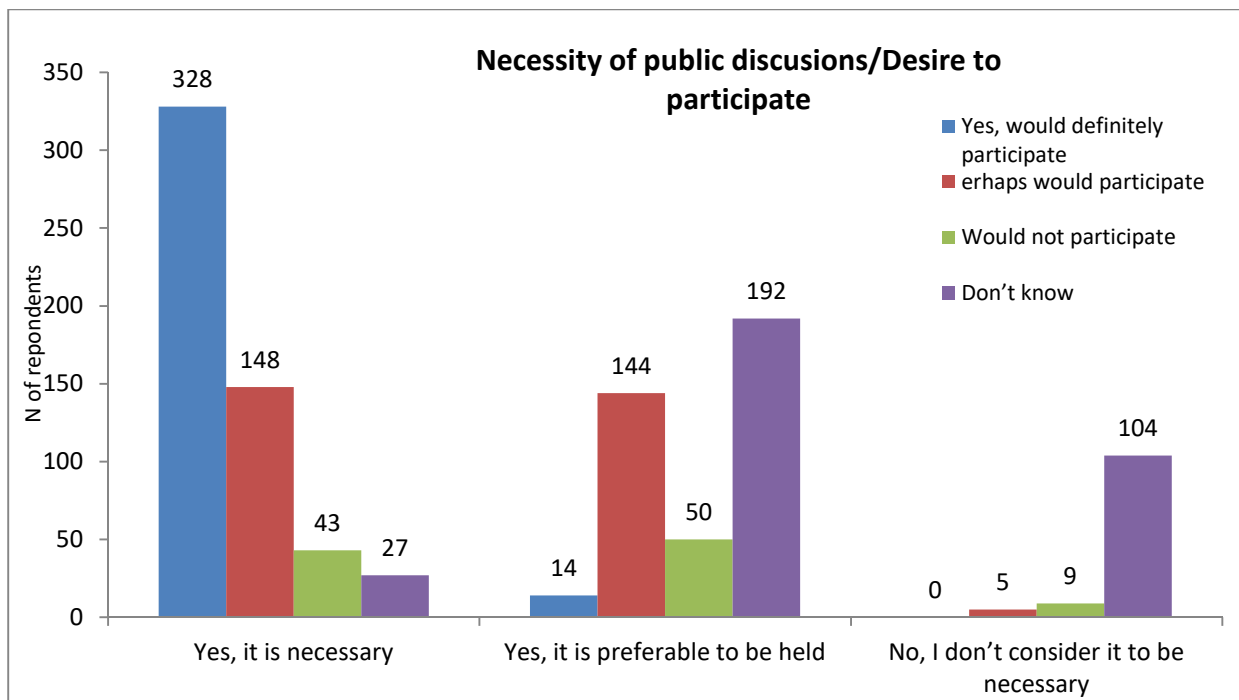
The desire of participation in the discussion was expressed by 58.4% of respondents (31.3% - Yes, would definitely participate, 27.1% - perhaps would participate). Number of respondents who have not decided yet, is large (29.5%).

Chart 4.7.3



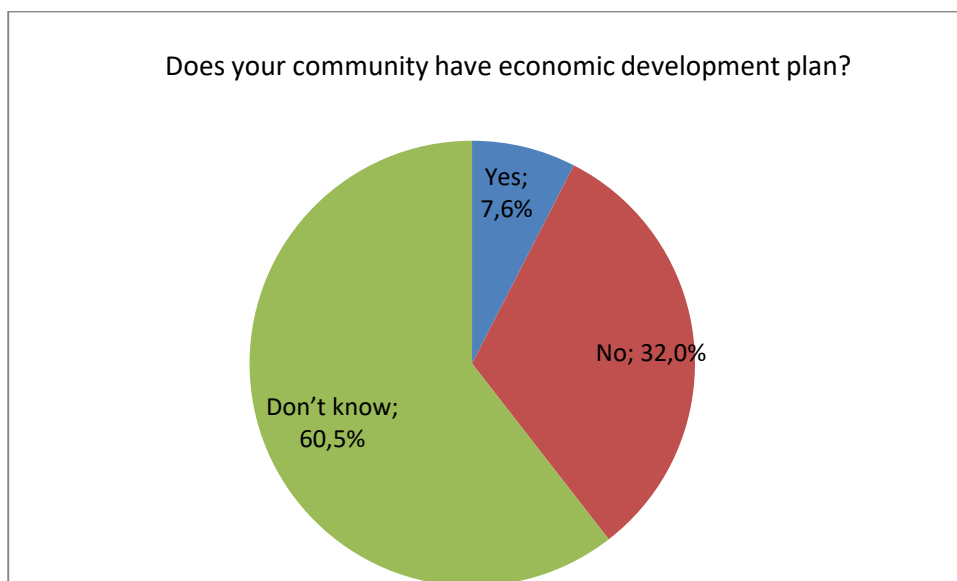
As shown in Chart 4.7.4, even in cases when respondents consider public discussion “desirable to be held”, there are a lot of respondents, who do not know if they will participate in these discussions. The same is observed among those respondents who don't consider discussion to be necessary.

Chart 4.7.4



Respondents were asked, if their community had economic development plan. In general, only 7.6% answered – Yes.

Chart 4.7.5



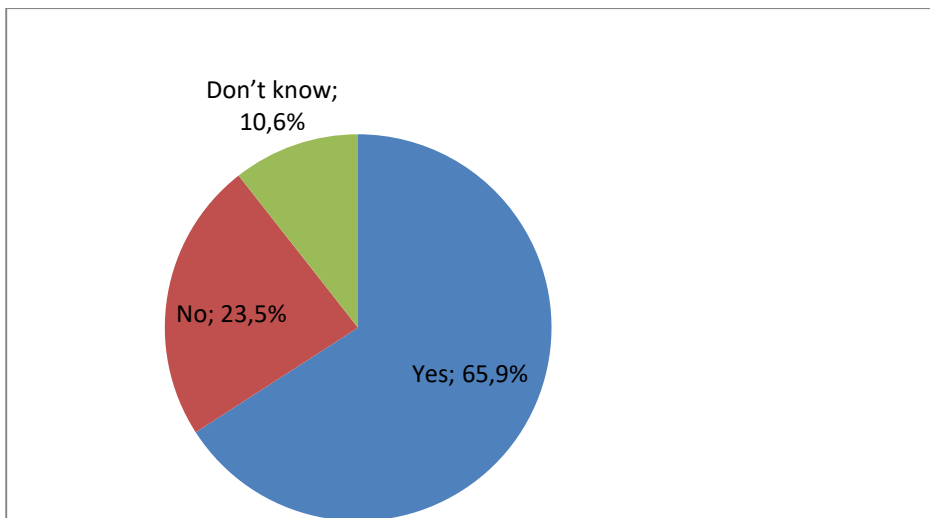
Data distribution by Sakrebulo and villages;

Table 4.7.6

		Does your community have an Economic Development Plan?
Sakrebulo	Village	Yes
Areshpherani	Areshpherani	√
Codniskari	Sheerteba	√
	Tela	√
	Codniskari	√
	Chaduaniani	√
Ninigori	Ninigori	√
	GelaTi	√
	Zemo gurgenia	√
Matsimi	Matsimi	√
Leliani	Leliani	√
	Mirkiseuli	√
Lagodekhi	Lagodekhi	√
Baisubani	Zemo mskhalgori	√
Kartubani	Kartubani	√
	Bolokiani	√
Vardisubani	Vardisubani	√
Shroma	Shroma	√
Apheni	Chabukiani	√
Giorgeti	Pichkhisgori	√
Chiauri	Heretiskari	√
	Chiauri	√
Kabali	Kharadgala	√
	Kabali	√

Out of those respondents, **who say that their community has an economic development plan**, 65.9% noted that a public discussion was held in the process of developing this plan;

Chart 4.7.7

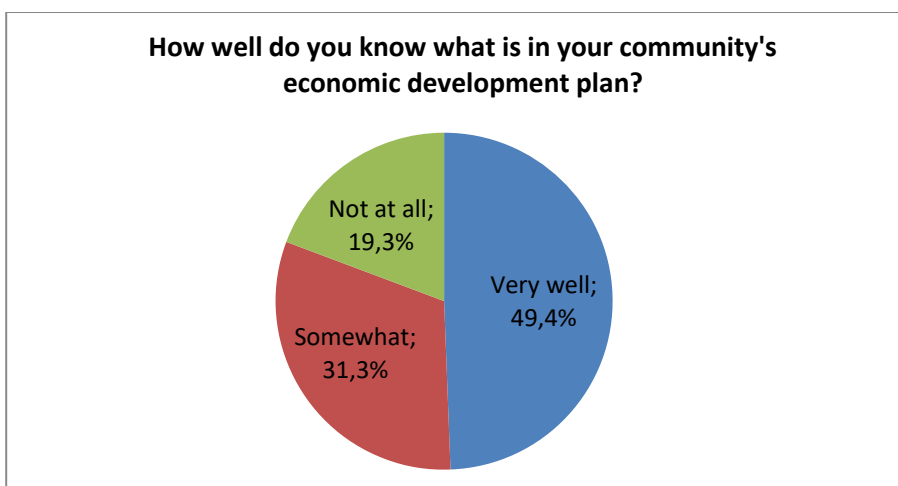


Out of those respondents, **who said that there was public discussion** on development of the plan, more than half (58%) participated (or other family member attended) in the discussion process;

Half of respondents, **who noted that their community has an economic development plan**, know its content very well (31.3% - somewhat, 19.3% not at all)

The research also revealed that these respondents name the same problems although their community has an economic development plan;

Chart 4.7.8



5. Civil society engagement

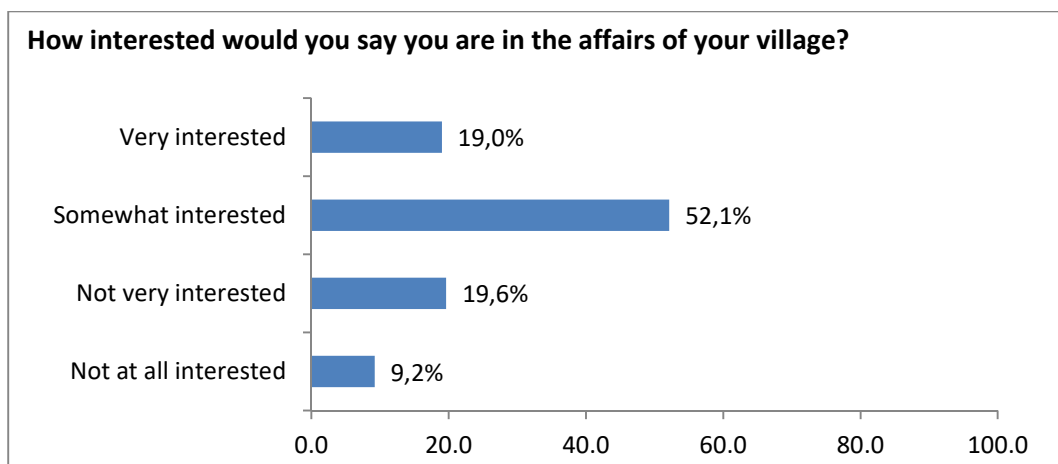
One of the preconditions of self-government's success is high level of community engagement in the process of solving local problems. We wanted to measure the level of public activity and

readiness of population for involving in these kinds of activities. The research also aimed at identifying the awareness about the importance of their activities and the ways to become more active and involved.

We asked people to what extent they are interested in the life and problems of their village.

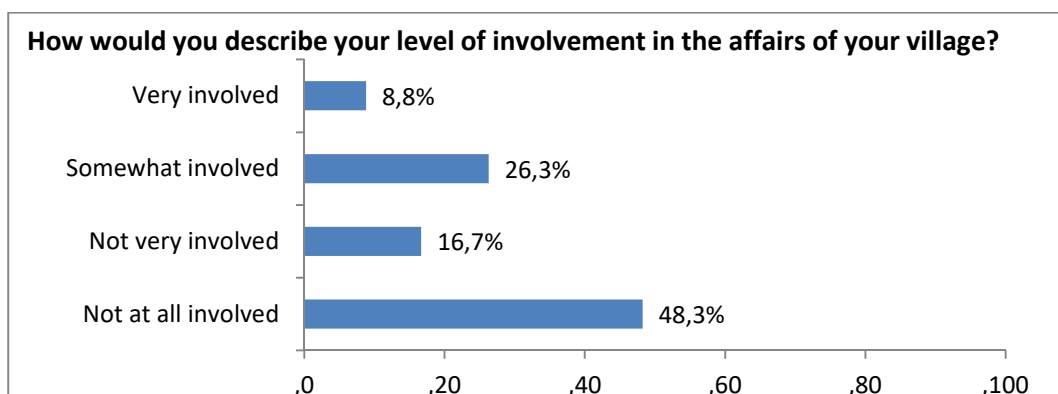
As the chart indicates, the majority of respondents are more or less interested. 19.6 % of them appeared not very interested. About 19% of respondents specified that they are interested in the affairs of their village.

Chart 5.1



It is essential to know how those people evaluate the level of their own engagement. The data shows that almost half of respondents (48.3%) say that they are not involved at all. About 26.3 % of them think that they are more or less engaged. Only about 8.8 % claim that they are involved.

Chart 5.2



Respondents were asked whether or not they are aware of some issues that refer to the local government. They were offered 4 options for each question (4 – Know well; 1 – Don't know at all)

All results are below average.

Table 5.3

Do you know...	Mean
How you can get involved in local decision making and solving village problems	2,35
How to contact a local government official	2,28
What services the local government is providing	2,17
What quality of service you should expect from the local government	2,13
Where to get information on what the local government is doing	2,17
Whether the local government is delivering on its promises	2.23

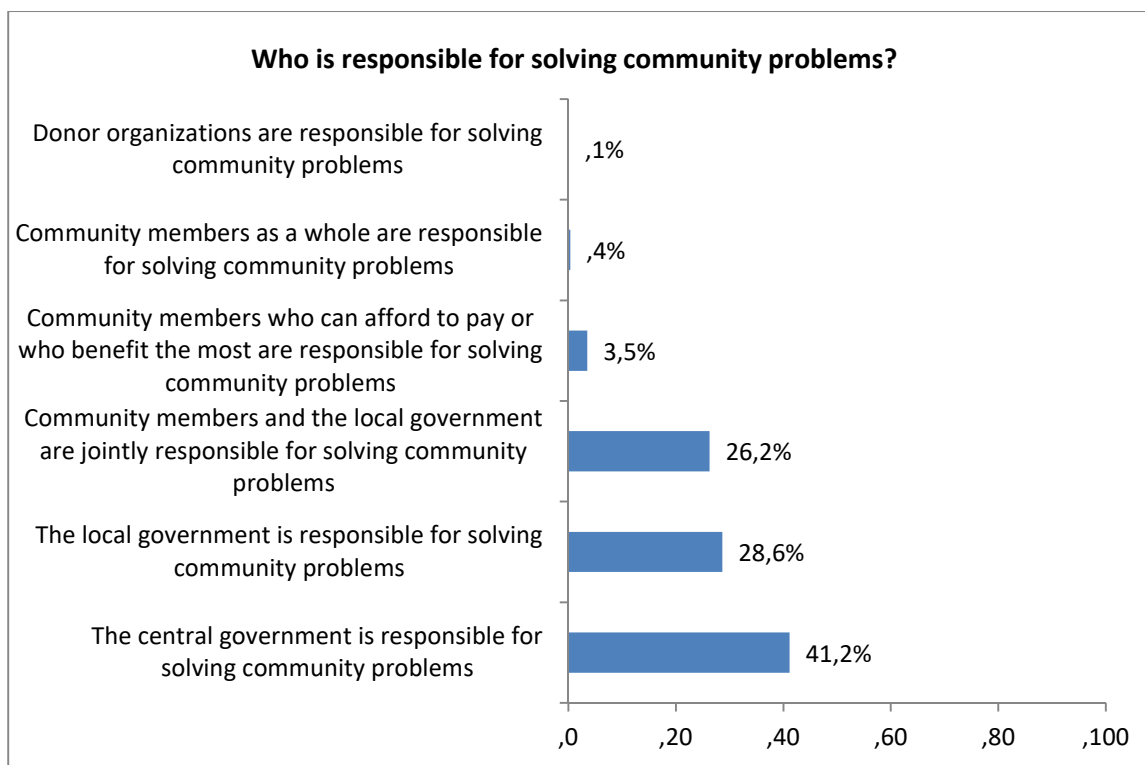
When assessing the opportunities of participation in solving local problems, respondents were given five possible answers to each question (5 – Strongly agree, 1- Strongly disagree). All data are below average.

Table 5.4

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statement	Mean
I am aware of opportunities to participate in solving village problems	2,91
I am satisfied with opportunities to participate in solving village problems	2,71
I can make a difference in my community by working with other people to solve village problems,	2,64
In the future, I will become more involved in working with other people to solve village problems	2,60

According to respondents, people mostly consider the central government as responsible for solving community problems (41.2%). Data is nearly the same regarding considerations that local government alone or jointly with community members is responsible for problem resolution (28.6% and 26.2%).

Chart 5.5



After assessing the possibilities of involvement in decision making, respondents were asked to name in fact how many times they (or other members of HH) had actually been involved in the activities that imply civicengagement.

According to the data, 50% of respondents attended public meetings once or several times. The same is for the meeting with local government officials.

In total, 37.1% of respondents say that they have united with residents of other villages to raise an issue or address a problem.

Other kind of activities, like attending a demonstration or protest rally, contacting media to raise awareness about a problem, writing a letter to a local government official or performing volunteer work have been carried out rarely or never.

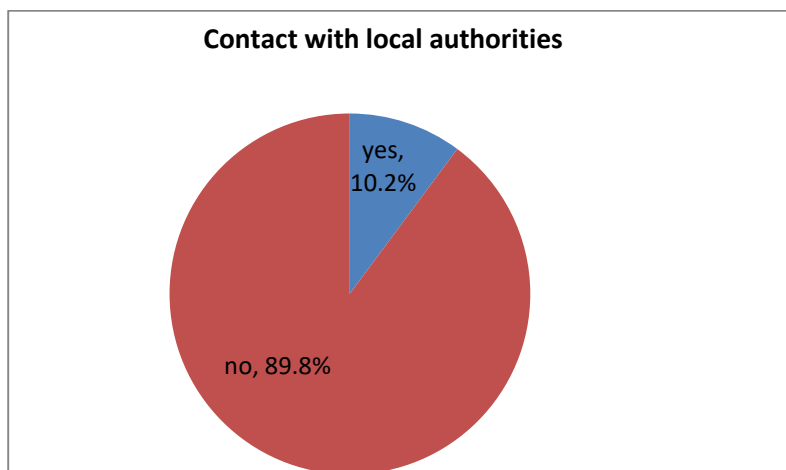
Table 5.6

How often you or someone else in your household has done any of these things during the past 12 months . . .

	Never	Once	A Few Times	Several Times
Attended a public meeting with a local government official (excluding election campaigns/ activities/ events)	53,7%	18,0%	20,9%	7,3%
Attended a public meeting of village members	50,1%	11,9%	15,2%	22,8%
Got together with others to raise an issue or address a problem	62,9%	6,5%	10,2%	20,4%
Performed volunteer work	89,7%	3,4%	4,5%	2,4%
Attended a demonstration or protest	99,5%	,5%	0%	0%
Contacted the media to raise awareness about a problem (call newspaper, a radio show, TV show, etc.)	99,6%	,4%	0%	0%
Wrote a letter to a local government official	98,9%	1,0%	,1%	0%

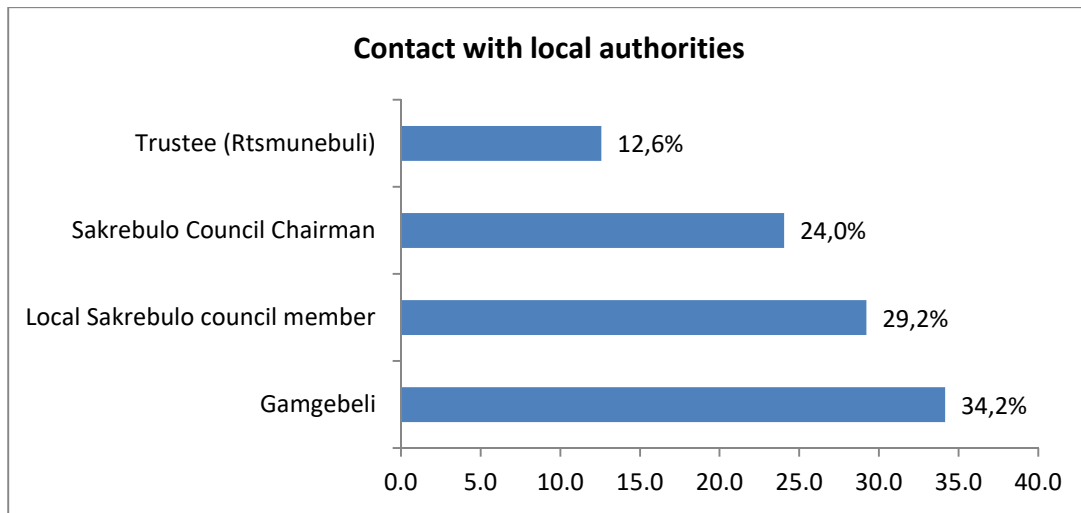
In general, 10.2% (N=445) of respondents (or other members of HH) have applied to local authorities for different reasons.

Chart 5.7



Most frequently respondents contacted the head of municipality (Gamagebeli) (34.2%).

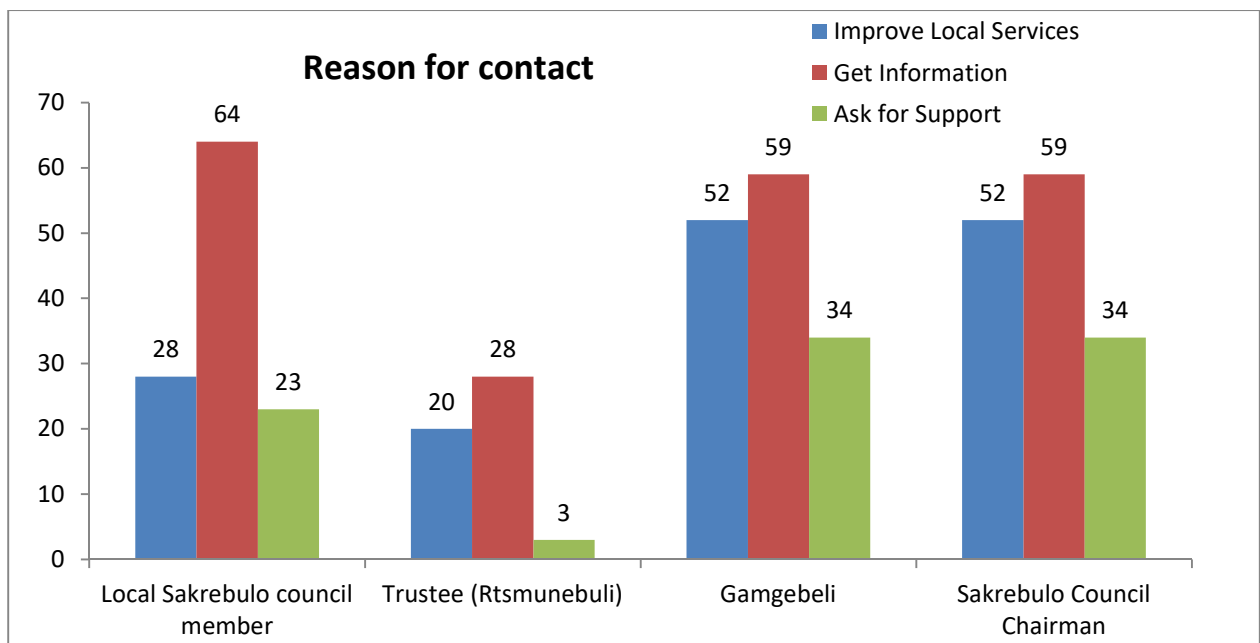
Chart 5.8



The reason for contacting various representatives/offices of local authorities, in most cases, is obtaining information;

For improving local services, people most frequently contact the head of municipality (Gamagebeli) and the chairman of Sakrebulo.

Chart 5.9



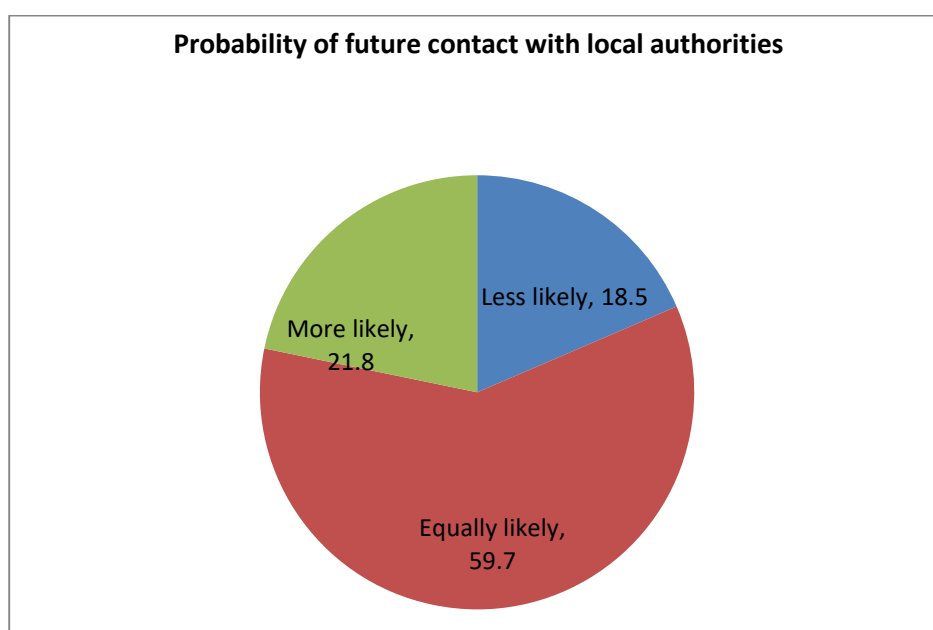
The level of satisfaction with the contact (5 – very satisfied, 1 – very dissatisfied) is above average in every case. Respondents assess their contacts with local authorities somewhat satisfying. In case of Trustee (Rtsmunebuli) this number is the highest.

Table 5.10

What is your level of satisfaction with the contacts . . .	Mean
Trustee (Rtsmunebuli)	3,98
Sakrebulo Council Chairman	3,28
Gamgebeli	3,26
Local Sakrebulo council member	3,21

Based on their experience, 59.7% of respondents noted that it is equally likely to have contact or not with the representatives of local authorities.

Chart 5.11



6. Perception of the local government

When talking about a perception of local government we mean public attitudes towards city council member, city council chairman, village trustee and the governor of municipality/city mayor. We asked the sampled population who was responsible for several issues, among them potable water supplies; solid waste treatment; repair of local roads (e. g. roads to farm plots); rehabilitation/construction of kindergartens; creation and maintenance of green areas (parks, playgrounds, public areas); illumination of streets/ roads; organizing cultural events; maintaining cemeteries, promoting economic growth (farming, business opportunities, jobs, etc.) We offered them estimated list of those responsible: village residents, local council member, council chairman, trustee, city governor, central government, donor organizations (NGOs) and utility companies.

As the received data indicates, respondents impose responsibilities mostly on city governor and city council members.

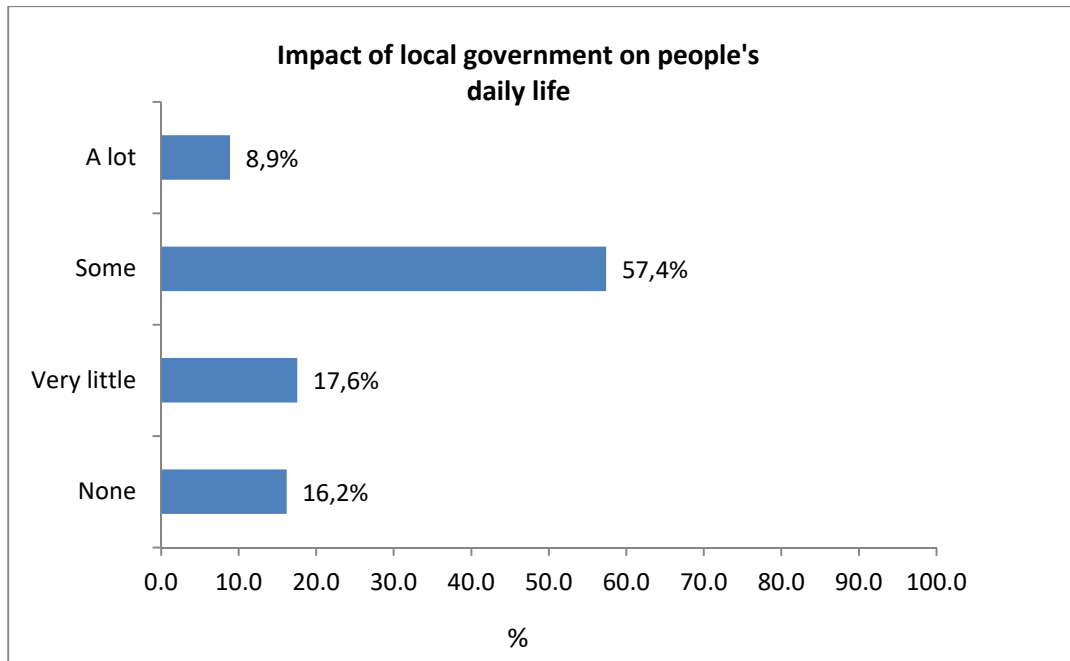
A table below indicates the percentage distribution of respondent answers:

Table 6.1

Issues \ Responsibilities	Residents	City Council member	City council Chairman	Trustee	City Governor	Regional governor	Central government	Donor organizations	Utility companies
Providing residents with an access to clean (drinking) water	4,9	32,3	26,4	3,5	24,1	0,2	8,0	0,2	0,6
Collecting and disposition of solid waste	3,0	32,0	26,0	3,9	23,0	0,2	10,4	0,3	1,4
Repairing local roads	0,3	19,0	22,6	4,4	29,0		21,4	3,2	0,1
Rehabilitation/construction of kindergartens	0,6	16,4	14,4	1,9	26,7	0,1	36,1	3,8	0,1
Creation and maintenance of green areas	1,0	18,4	19,3	5,5	30,7	0,6	15,3	9,0	0,1
Illumination of streets/roads	0,5	19,3	18,4	1,4	28,0		18,8	9,3	4,4
Organizing cultural events	2,3	22,8	21,1	6,1	31,8	0,4	14,0	1,5	0,1
Maintaining cemeteries	48,9	23,5	7,4	1,7	11,1		7,3		
Promoting economic growth	0,7	8,9	9,6	0,9	17,0	0,1	62,5	0,3	

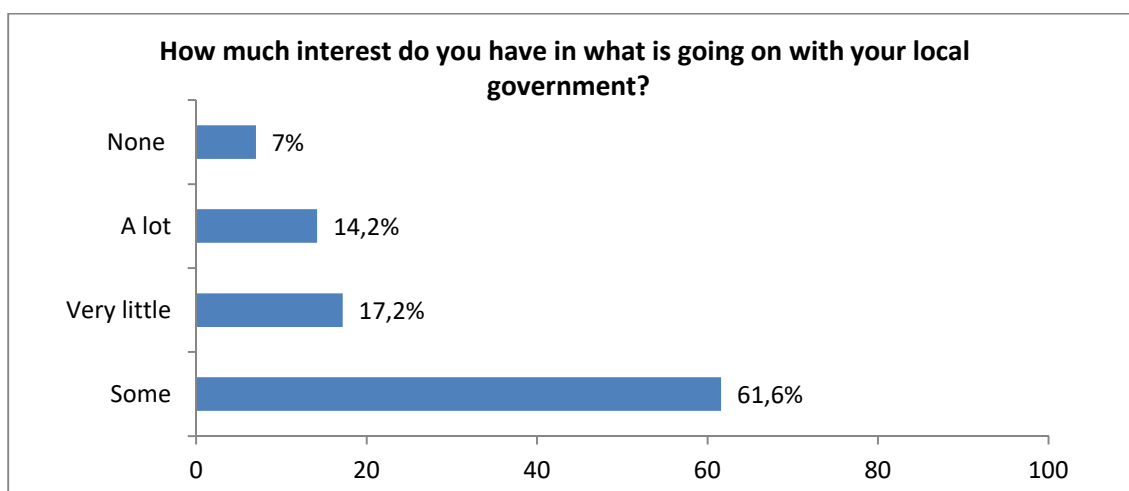
On the question concerning the impact that the local government has on people's daily life, about 57.4% of respondents answered that it has some impact on residents. The remaining percentage is distributed as follows:

Chart 6.2



The respondents were also asked if they were interested in what happens in the local government. About 61.6 % of sampled population said that they are more or less interested in this issue.

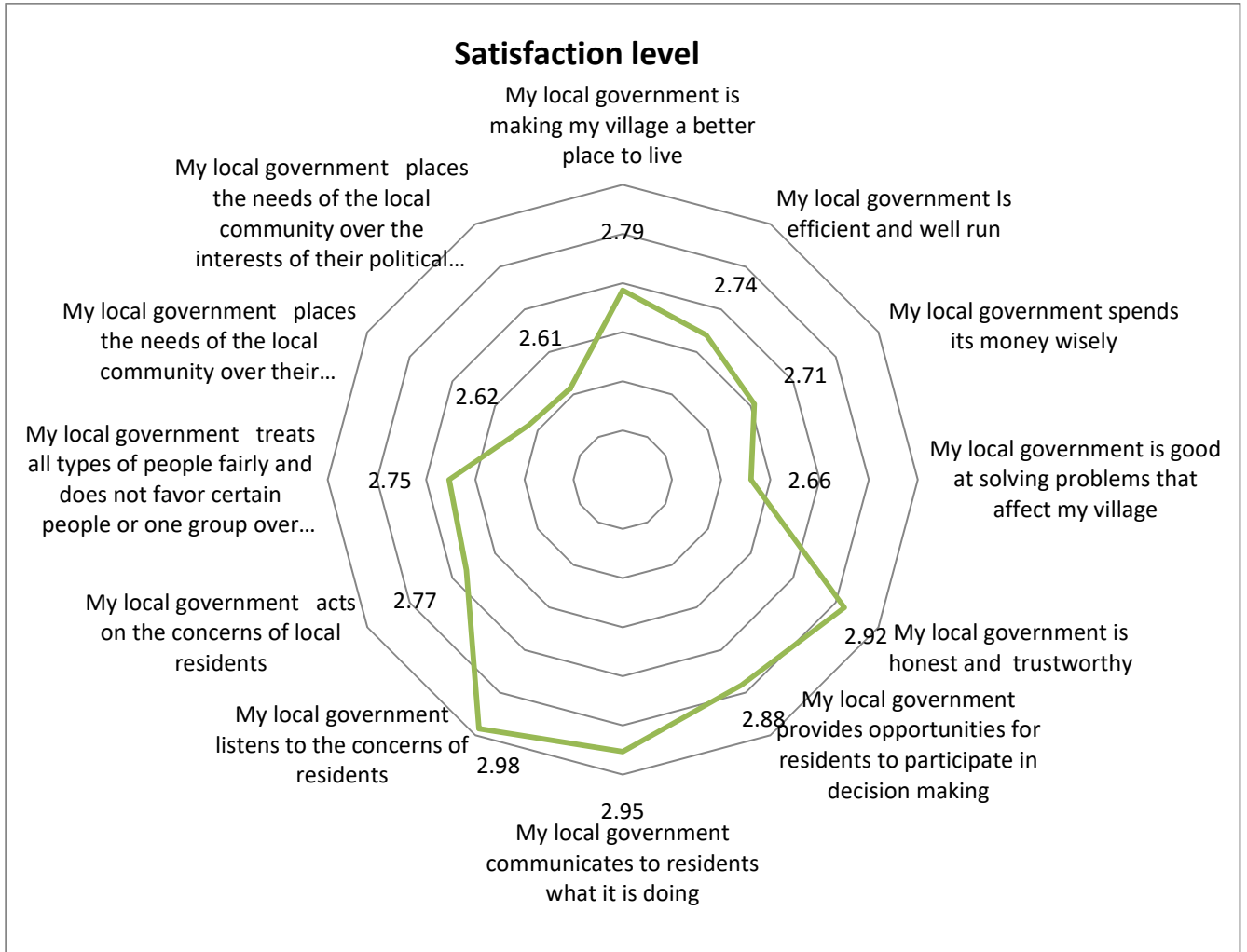
Chart 6.3



Respondents were offered phrases starting with "my local government..." and they had to indicate to what extent they agreed or disagreed. They were given 5 options: strongly agree,

agree, neither agree nor disagree, do not agree, strongly disagree (number 5 meant “strongly agree” and number 1 “strongly disagree”). A chart below shows the average score of each phrase.

Chart 6.4



The respondents also had to evaluate the services they were provided with. They were offered 5 point scale starting with “very satisfied” and ending with “very dissatisfied”.

In total, satisfaction level is below average except two areas – illumination of streets/roads and providing preschool institutions. The lowest satisfaction level has been revealed in the issue on offering cultural activities by local government.

Table 6.5

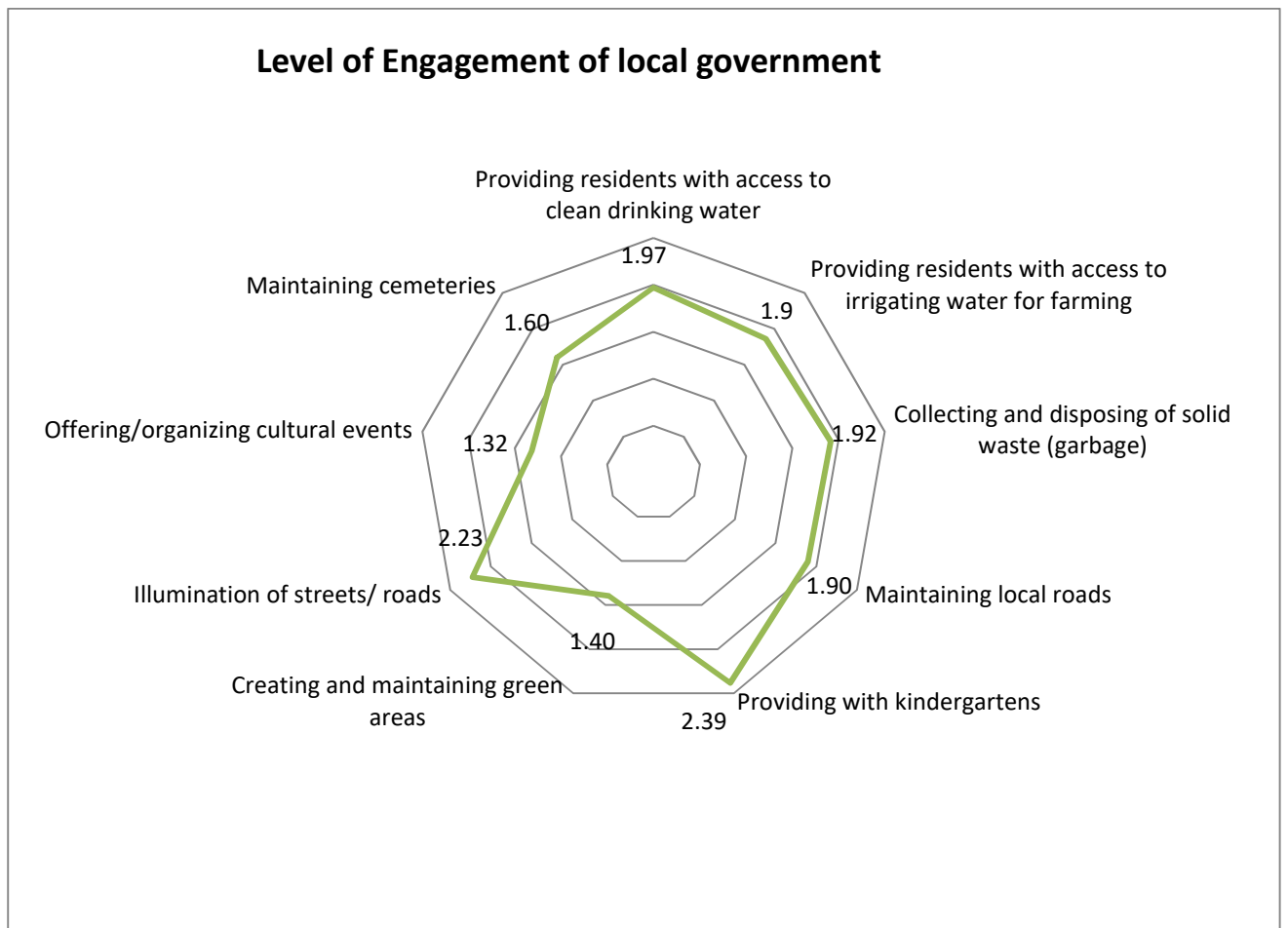


The respondents were also asked about the level of engagement of the local government in the issues like providing residents with the access to irrigation water for farming, etc.

All data is below average; respondents asses the level of local government's engagement in different activities as low (especially offering/organizing cultural events and creating and maintaining green areas);

The highest level of engagement is observed in providing the community with kindergartens and illumination of streets and roads. It indicates that low satisfaction level with the services in the village (shown above) may be caused by low level of local government's engagement.

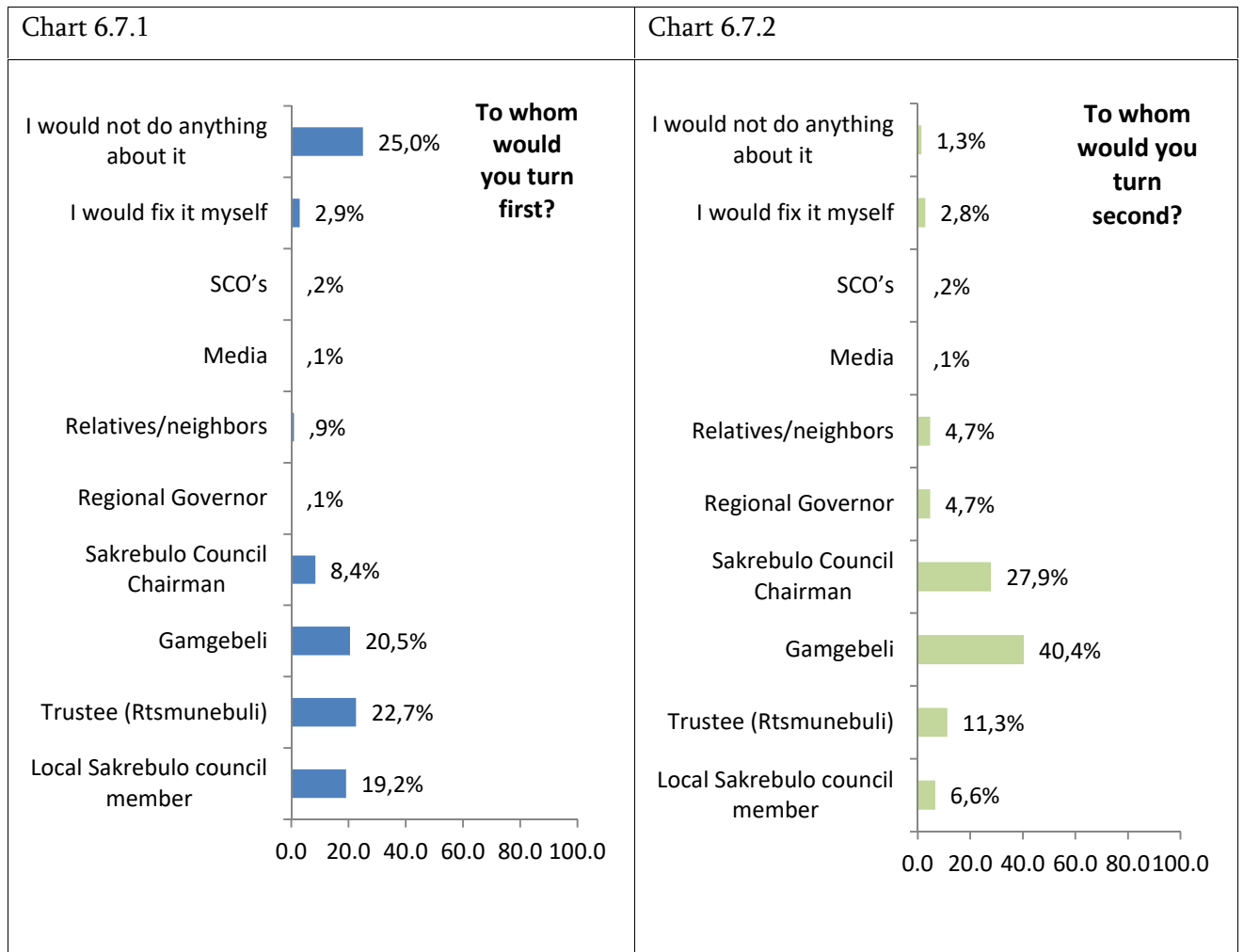
Chart 6.6



Since the local government is frequently named as responsible for settlement of local problems, it is interesting whom locals apply to in case of necessity for the first time and the second time. It helped us to identify whom they trust more.

Research revealed that 25% of respondents would not do anything to solve problems. 22.7% would turn to trustee, 19% – to local council member;

Most frequently the second choice is Governor of the municipality (40.4%) and council chairman (27.9%).



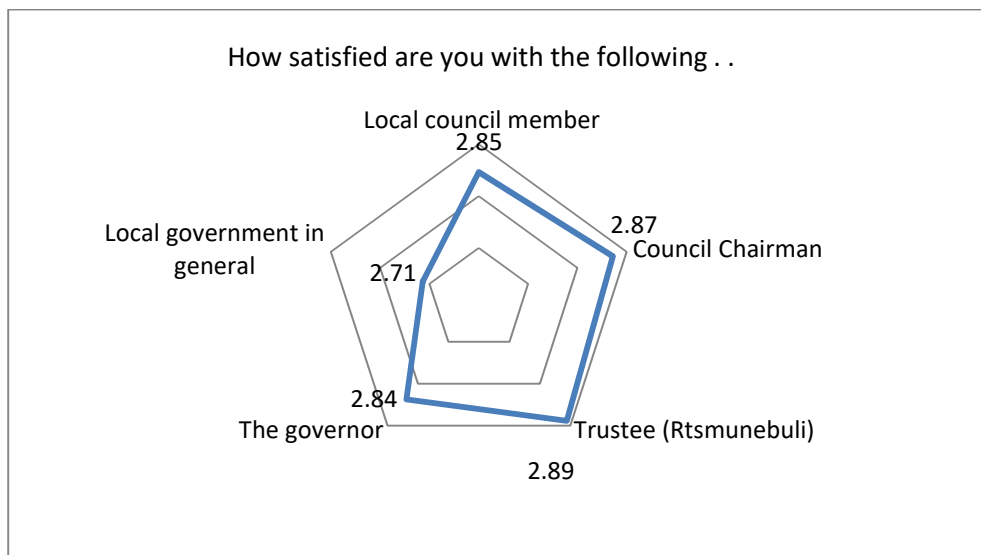
The respondents were given 5 statements about the local government and they should have identified which of them they agreed with most. About 48.7 % of respondents agree that the local government works ineffectively and 29.3% of them think that local government works somewhat effectively. The remaining percentage distribution is as follows:

Table 6.8

statement	%
Local government does not work at all	9.1%
Local government works very ineffectively	10.5%
Local government works ineffectively	48.7%
Local government works somewhat effectively	29.3%
Local government works very effectively	2.4%

Overall, we identified the level of satisfaction with the local government’s activities in the sampled population. The interviewed residents should have evaluated it according to five points scale, where 5 meant “very satisfied” and 1 meant “very dissatisfied”. The rate of each sentence is close to point 3. This indicates that the satisfaction level is below the average. As the chart shows, trustee is someone whose rating point is higher compared to others’.

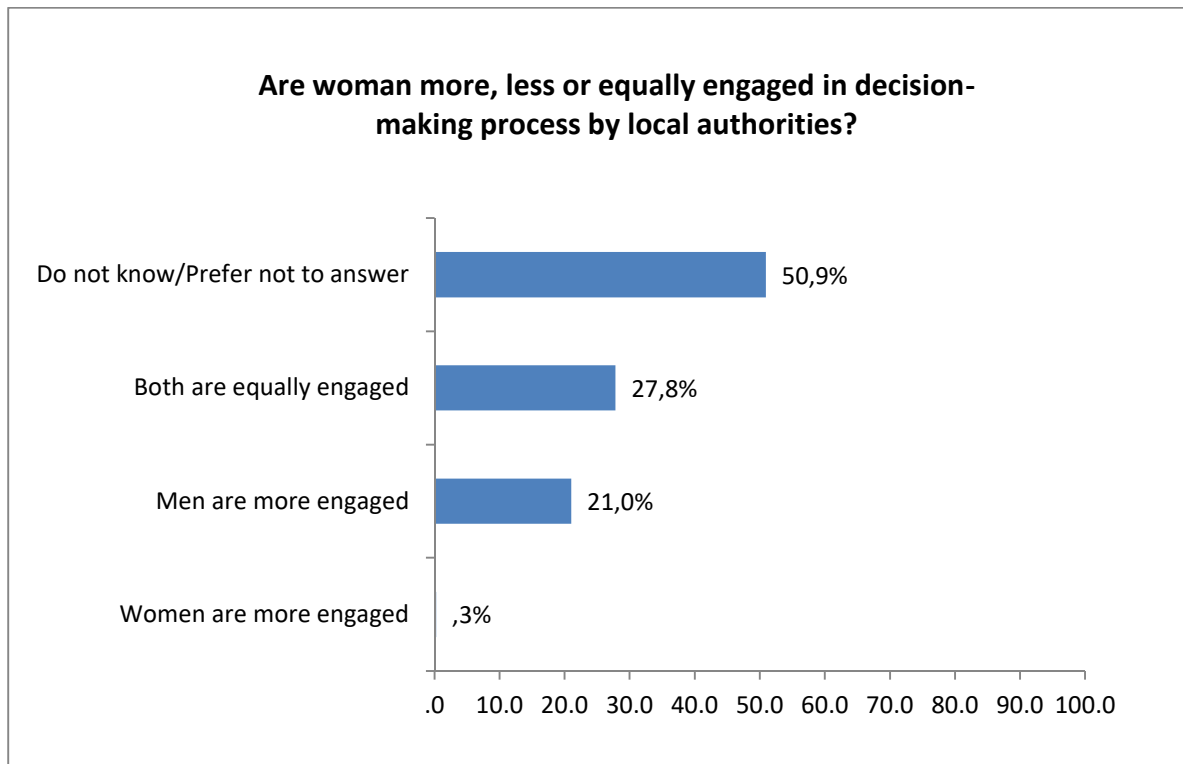
Chart 6.9



It is crucial to identify to what extent men and women are represented in the decision making process. As the results showed, about half (50.6%) of the respondents selected the option of “do not know/prefer not to answer”. 27.8% of them suppose that women and men are both equally

involved in decision making. It is interesting that about 21% of interviewed population think that men are more engaged while only 0.3% reckons the same for women.

Chart 6.10



7. Gender analysis

Analysis of research results in the context of gender is important as issues, like perception of local problems, perception of local government and participation in decision making may be gender-specific. Equal opportunities for engagement in civic life have a crucial importance for the civil society development.

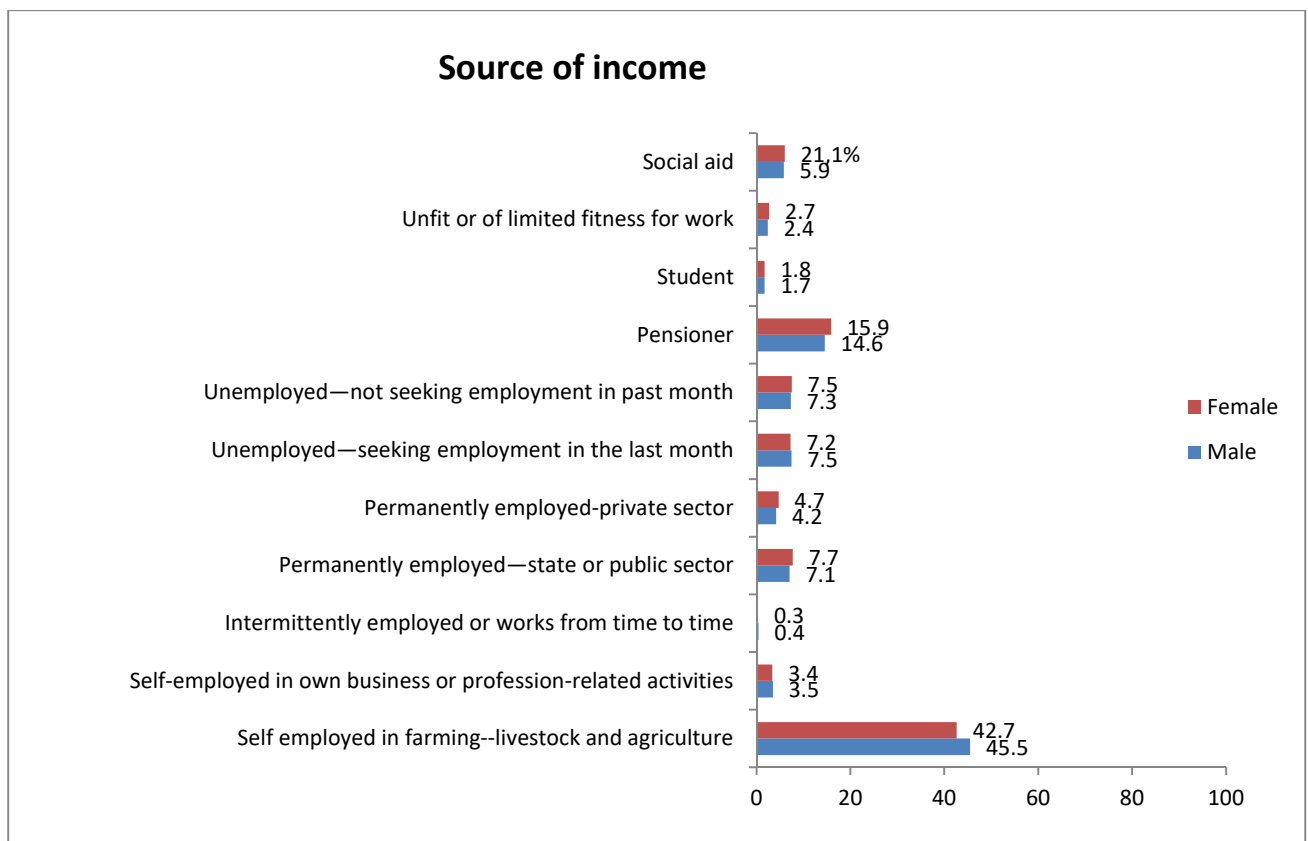
Profile of respondents/Gender analysis

Employment

Gender analysis of issues connected to employment revealed that female and male family members bring income almost equally. The number of male family members of the respondent having income is insignificantly higher.

According to employment status, research shows that more men are self-employed in farming – livestock and agriculture, than women. There is no more significant difference between gender groups in terms of source of income.

Chart 7.1

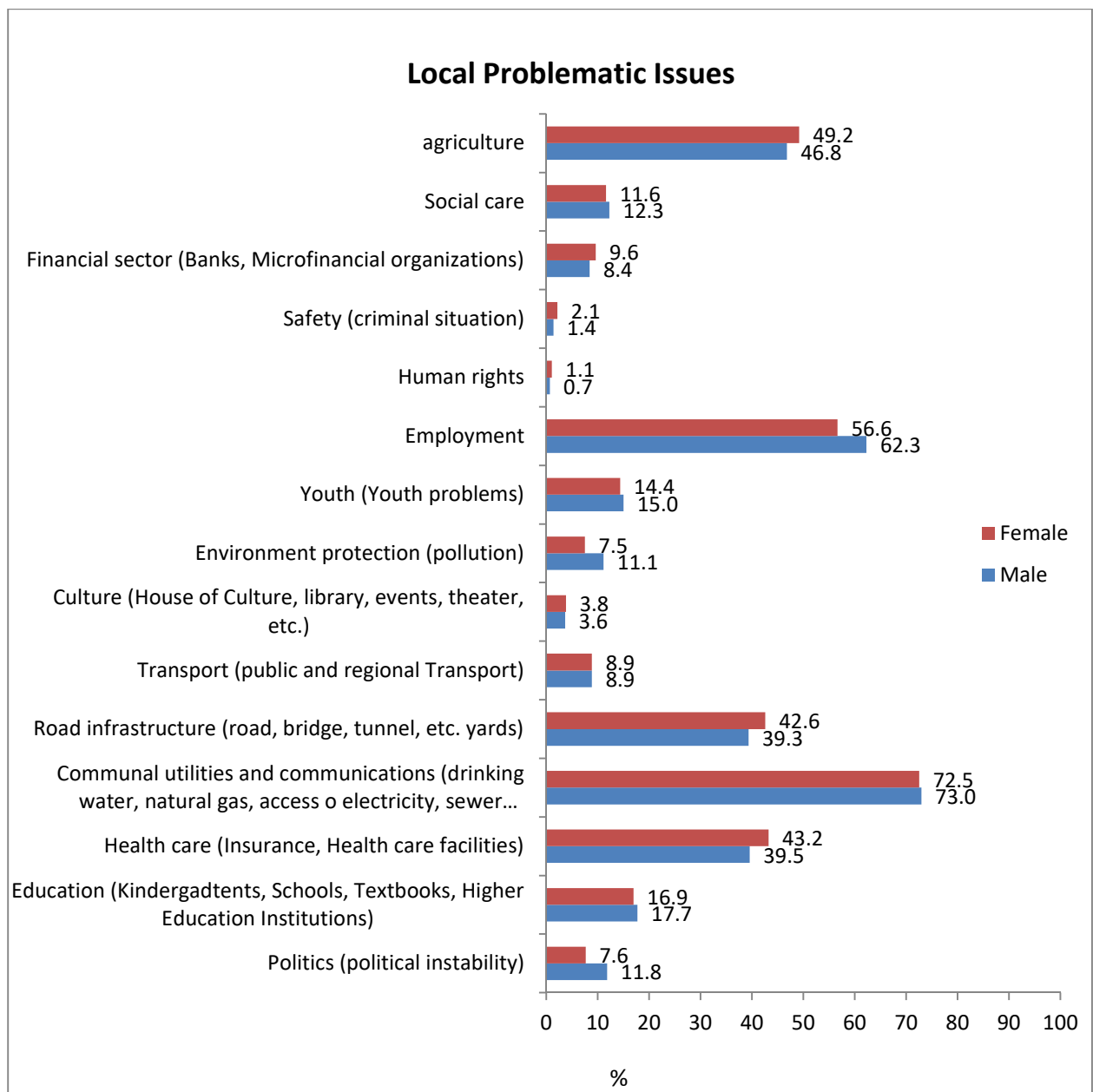


When assessing the importance of source of income, slightly more responses indicate income of men as “the most important” (5% difference).

Local Problematic Issues

Gender analysis of local problematic issues revealed that there is a small difference between considerations of men and women. Slightly more man named employment and environmental protection as problematic, than women. Results indicate that perception of local problematic issues is not gender-specific.

Chart 7.2



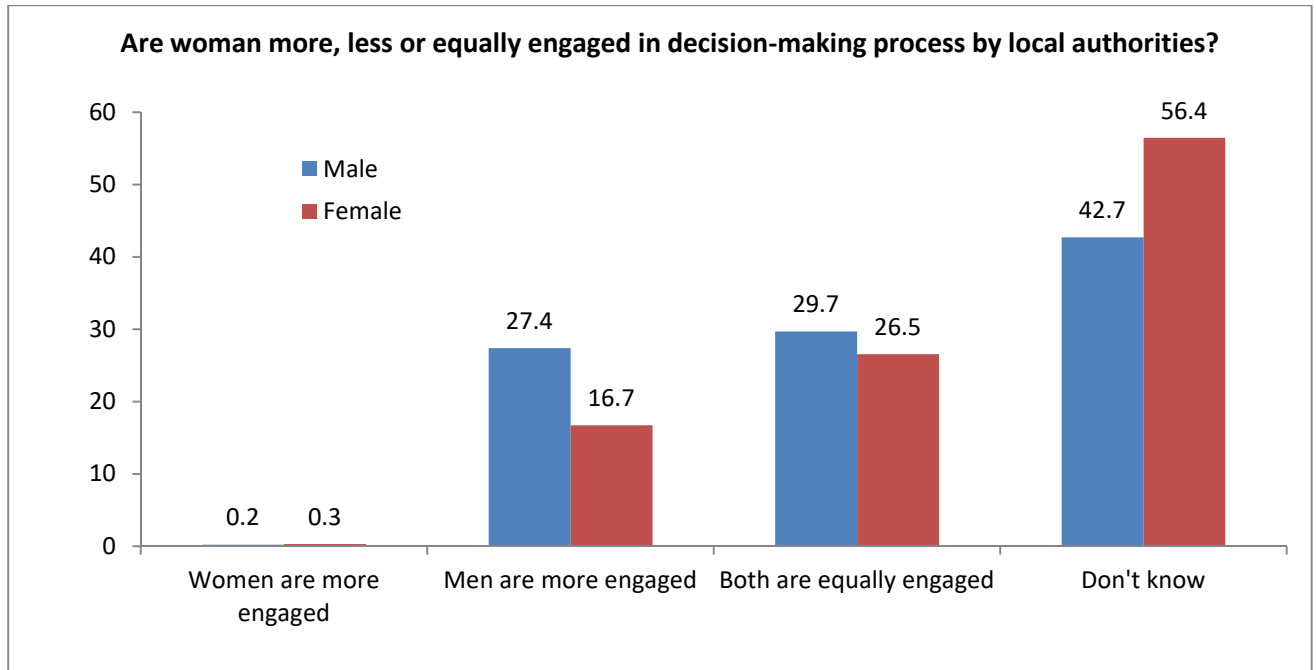
Civic engagement

When assessing to **what extent community members were interested in what happens in the local government**, it was revealed that difference in the results according to gender of respondents is not

significant¹¹. The same is for **assessment of impact of local government on daily life of community members**.

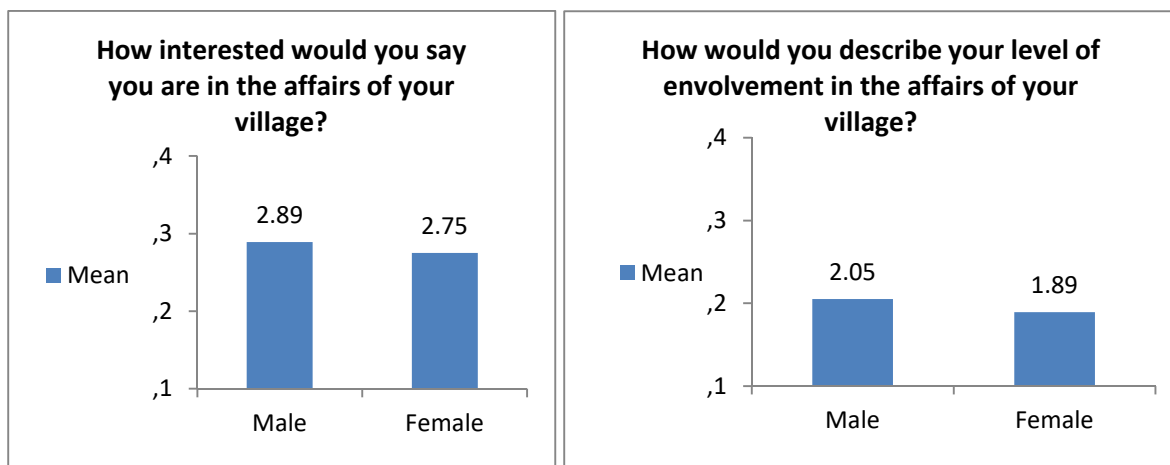
Engagement level in decisionmaking shown on diagram below indicates that men and women assess it in a different way – in general, men think that women are less engaged.

Chart 7.3



In general, gender difference in civic engagement is crucial. When respondents were assessing their level of interest and involvement in the affairs of the village, statistically significant¹² difference between men and woman was revealed. Research indicates that women are less interested and involved in the affairs of their village than man.

Chart 7.4



¹¹ P value>0.05

¹² P value<0.05

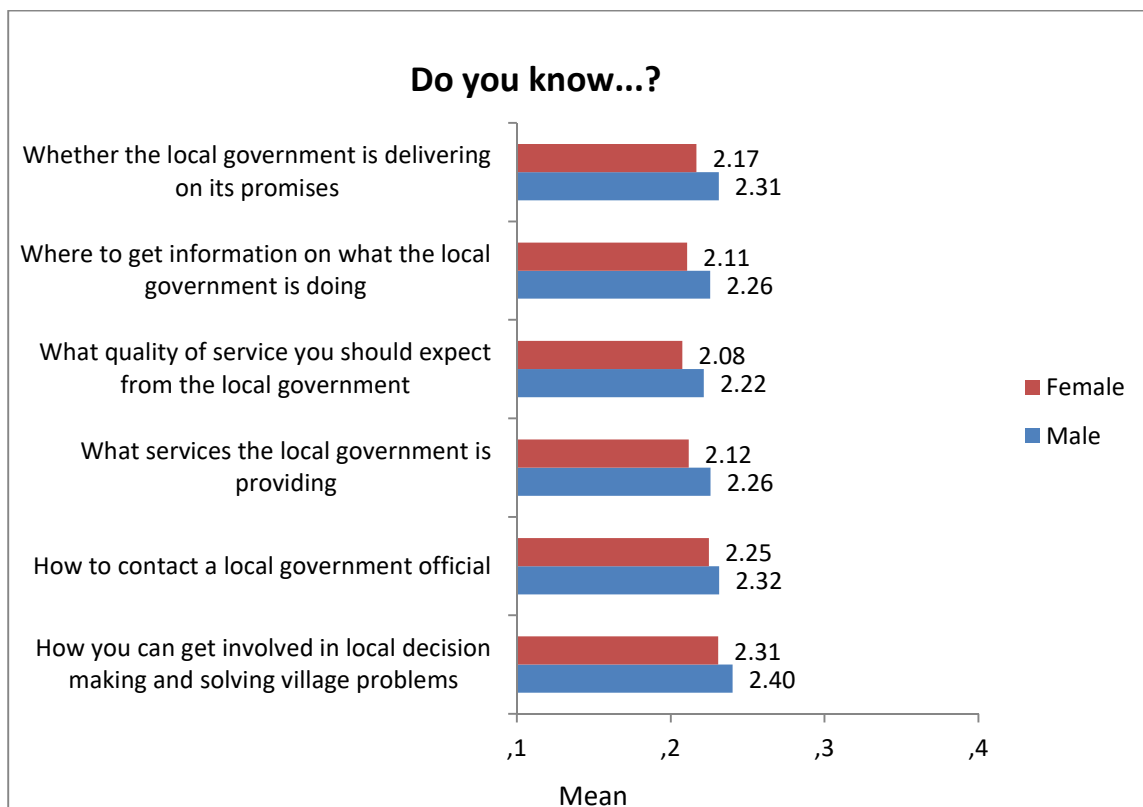
An important part of civic engagement is whether the community members know how to get involved in problem resolution and decision making. When respondents were assessing various preconditions of civic engagement, these assessments were under average. Statistically important¹³ differences between genders were revealed in the following issues:

Do you know...?

-) What services the local government is providing;
-) What quality of service you should expect from the local government;
-) Where to get information on what the local government is doing;
-) Whether the local government is delivering on its promises;

So, the results indicate, that men and women are informed equally about the possibilities of involvement in problem resolution and decision making as well as about the ways for contacting local authorities; however, women have less information about the scope of work and possibilities to monitor and evaluate the activities conducted by local authorities.

Chart 7.5

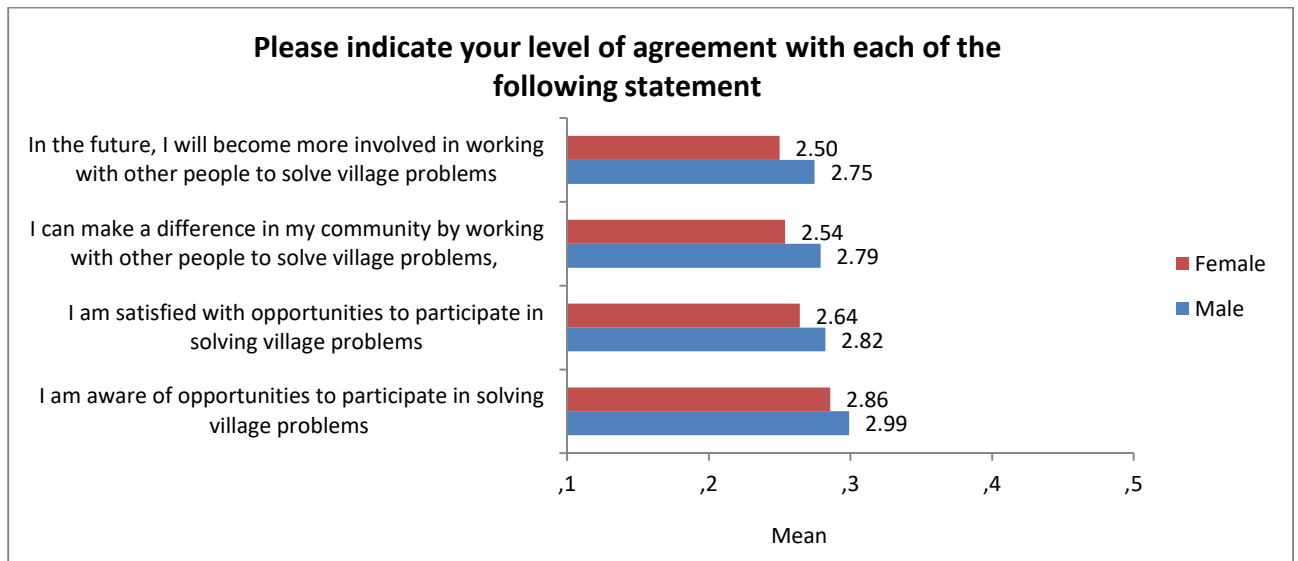


¹³ P value<0.05

The assessment of different aspects of civic engagement has revealed statistically important¹⁴ difference between men and women according to all statements (less level of agreement among women).

These results also indicate that women are less motivated to be involved in the affairs of their community. They perceive their role (ability to make changes /solve problems in the community) as less important than men. Satisfaction level with the opportunities to participate in solving village problems is also lower among women.

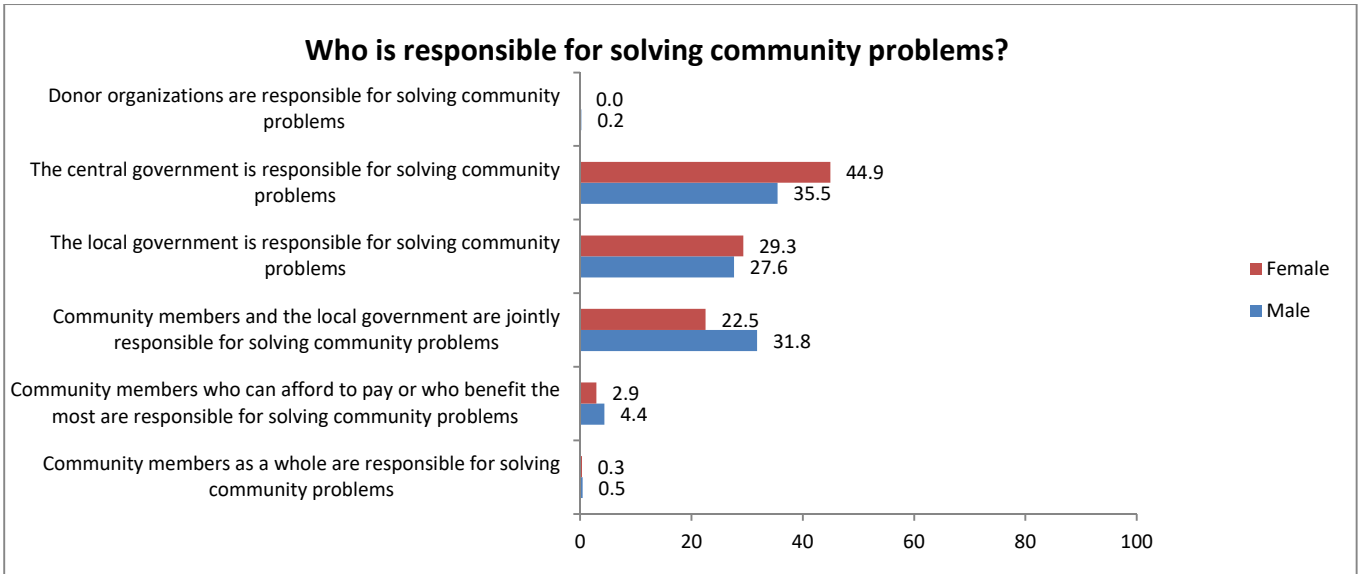
Chart 7.6



Research results have revealed that there is difference between men and women regarding the issue of responsibility for solving community problems. Women rely more on the central and local governments, while think less that community members and the local government are jointly responsible for problem resolution.

Chart 7.7

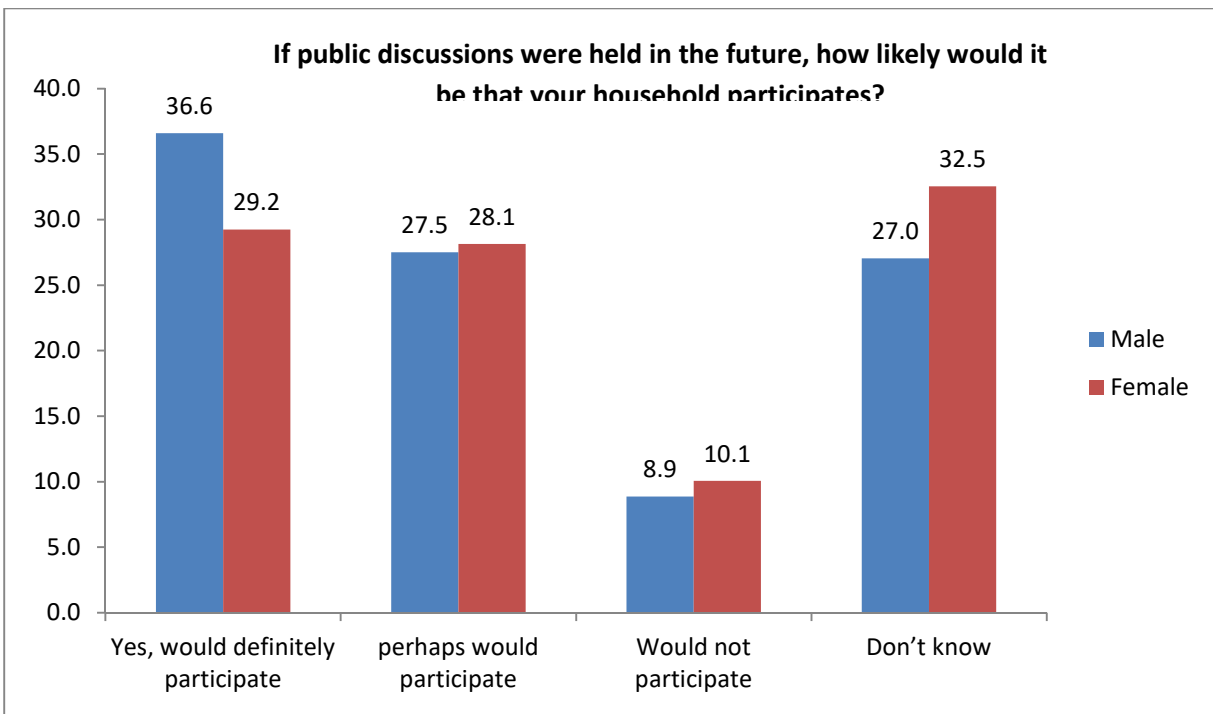
¹⁴ P value<0.05



Necessity of public discussions about the projects that need to be implemented in the community is assessed equally by men and women.

When respondents were estimating probability of participation in public discussions, there were differences by gender. More men said that they would definitely participate in the process.

Chart 7.8



Regarding economic development plan of the community, respondents were asked if they had such plan, whether or not public discussion was held while developing economic development plan and if they had participated in this process. In general, very small part of respondents had information about economic development plan of their community. Analysis of the results did not reveal any

differences between gender groups. This indicates that both, men and women who are active part of the community are equally engaged in local problem resolution and decision making, but in general, as we have already mentioned, this part is very small.

Logical framework for the project/Baseline research results

	Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Sources and means of verification	Baseline research results
Overall objectives	To contribute to poverty reduction and improved employment and living conditions in rural areas of Georgia.	<p><i>OO Indicator 1</i> - Unemployment rate reduced in rural areas of Georgia.</p> <p><i>OO Indicator 2</i> - The rural population have increased household income and improved living conditions.</p>	<p>National Statistics Office reports.</p> <p>Governmental progress reports.</p> <p>Desk researches and reports on rural poverty in Georgia.</p>	<p><i>OO Indicator 1</i> - 18.7% - is employed in private or public sector permanently or temporarily. 51.8% of members of households perceive themselves as self-employed (see a methodology).¹⁵</p> <p>Unemployment rate is 12.4% in Georgia and 5.2% in Kakheti region.¹⁶</p> <p>60% of respondents name employment as problematic issue for</p>

¹⁵http://geostat.ge/cms/site_images/files/georgian/methodology/Labour%20Force%20Statistics.pdf

¹⁶http://geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=145&lang=geo

				<p>their community.</p> <p><i>OO Indicator 2</i> – Per capita¹⁷ of interviewed households is 6.8 GEL. The research has shown that most part (67%) of expenses are related to everyday products and services (See chapter 2; 2.1)</p> <p>According to property status, 54.43% of respondents estimate themselves as middle class, 40.82% - poor and 4.57% - very poor).</p>
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¹⁷ Amount of money spent on one person in a day

<p>Specific objective</p>	<p>To create an enabling environment for sustainable pro-poor socio-economic development in the district of Lagodekhi. "</p>	<p><i>SO Indicator 1</i> – 40% of Lagodekhi’s population identifies the LAG as an effective mechanism for promoting local development</p> <p><i>SO Indicator 2</i> – At least two competitive advantages for socio-economic development of Lagodekhi prioritized in the local development plan.</p> <p><i>SO Indicator 3</i> – 10% of the Lagodekhi population benefits from and reports about improvements in the local business environment, service provision, infrastructure or natural resource management.</p> <p><i>SO Indicator 4</i> – Strengthened capacities of the Lagodekhi LAG as a result of linkages with European and Georgian LAGs and other stakeholders.</p>	<p><i>SO1</i> Baseline and final evaluation reports. Household surveys. Project annual and progress reports</p> <p><i>SO2</i> Project evaluation and progress reports. Local Development Plan. Stakeholder surveys.</p> <p><i>SO3</i> Project baseline and final evaluation reports. Household surveys, project M&E data and progress reports.</p> <p><i>SO4</i> Project evaluation and progress reports. MoU between LAG’S. M&E data, interviews relevant stakeholders, annual report.</p>	<p><i>SO Indicator 1</i> -</p> <p>The main objective of a LAG is to unite active members of Lagodekhi municipality. CARE was a facilitator between the residents of Lagodekhi and active members of the society, who want to apply their resources for the development of Lagodekhi municipality. (See chapter Qualitative research results – Formation of Local Action Group (LAG) and its structure)</p> <p>Focus group participants highlight the importance of civil sector due to the existing experience. They mention that community is more active and involved in local processes when civil</p>
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				<p>society organizations are operating in their community; also, local media estimates activity of civil sector as “not enough”. (See chapter The function of several sectors (civil society organizations, private sector and local government) for the development of Lagodekhi Municipality.</p> <p>Now in different villages of Lagodekhi various infrastructure, environmental protection, educational, social protection, tourism and agriculture development projects are being implemented by the government or donor organizations. According to the population of</p>
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				<p>Lagodekhi municipality, these projects are useful and necessary. In the process of focus groups, the need for more projects was identified – participants suppose that the projects which are currently being implemented, are not enough. (See Chapter – Implemented projects and civic engagement). This attitude is confirmed by the named problematic issues. (See Chart N3)</p> <p>SO Indicator 4 - We can say that institutional capacity of LAG is at the stage of development. LAG has the potential to become a self-sufficient, developed organization (See chapter - Local</p>
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				<i>Action Groups' vision and purposes for the the municipal development of Lagodekhi)</i>
Expected results	R1 - A replicable system of cooperation among local stakeholders (Local Action Group/LAG) to promote local development is operational and sustainable.	<p>1.1 - The composition of the LAG adequately represents the social and economic context in Lagodekhi with a maximum participation of 50% by the local authorities.</p> <p>1.2 - By the end of project, at least 60 % of Lagodekhi population is aware about LAG and local development priorities.</p> <p>1.3 - At least 30% of the members</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1 - LAG by-law and participants' database, stakeholder meeting records.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2 - Baseline and final evaluation reports, project progress reports, household surveys.</p> <p>Indicator 1.3 - List of the female members of the LAG represented in the GA and the Board.</p> <p>Indicator 1.4 - List of the ethnic</p>	Indicator 1.2 Prior to initiating the project by CARE, existing problematic issues were not researched systematically in the villages of Lagodekhi. The representatives of local government collected information about problems that should be solved and

		<p>in the LAG are women.</p> <p>1.4 - At least 10% of the members of the LAG represent ethnic minorities.</p> <p>1.5 - At least three strategies have been discussed and agreed to sustain the LAG operations after the end of the project.</p>	<p>minority members of the LAG represented in the GA and the Board.</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.5</i> – Project progress reports, LAG records, interviews with members of the General Assembly (GA) and the Board.</p>	<p>reflected them in their daily activities.</p> <p>The opinion of local people was shared spontaneously when the local government decided to implement some projects in villages. There worked “from the top down” approach, instead of “the bottom up” one.</p> <p>There are active people in different villages of Lagodekhi municipality. Their resource was not used effectively for the development of the municipality before the launch of the project. Despite the fact that some active members of communities wanted to share their capabilities with others, they did not know: 1) how to initiate</p>
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				<p>their interests and raise the problems; 2)How to bring problematic issues to relevant structures; 3) How to engage public resources in the process of problem resolution; 4) How to do the prioritization of problematic issues and5) how to integrate active members of the community into the process of ensuring effective activity of Lagodekhi municipality.</p>
	<p>R2 – An environmentally sustainable, gender sensitive local development strategy integrating local players and sectors has been developed by the LAG.</p>	<p>2.1 - The Local Development Plan has been drafted, discussed by all stakeholders of the LAG, and approved by the General Assembly.</p> <p>2.2 - 100% of the strategic priorities and measures identified</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1 – Project progress reports, M&E data, LAG records, Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2 – Project evaluation and progress reports. Local development plan analysis. Interviews with relevant</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1 - The qualitative research identified the need of strategic development plan. Local government is ready to cooperate with LAG in the process of</p>

		<p>in the local development plan (by the LAG) are gender and environmentally sensitive.</p> <p>2.3 - At least 30% of projects supported by LAG include measures for effective use of natural resources and environmental protection.</p> <p>2.4 - At least 60% of representatives of ethnic minorities in the LAG consider that their needs and main recommendations have been included in the development plan.</p>	<p>stakeholders and associates.</p> <p>Indicator 2.3 – Project evaluation and progress reports. Local development plan analysis interviews with relevant stakeholders and associates.</p> <p>Indicator 2.4 – Interviews of the representatives of ethnic minorities in the LAG. Household surveys. Project evaluation and progress reports.</p>	<p>developing the strategic document and action plan of Lagodekhi municipality. (See chapter - Awareness about a priority document of Lagodekhi municipality and visions in terms of development of strategic plan)</p>
	<p>R3 –Local stakeholders are empowered and capable to implement innovative off-farming, farming and non-economic initiatives orientated to the priorities of the local development strategy.</p>	<p>3.1 - 30 promoters have increased knowledge in project planning and management.</p> <p>3.2 –Before the end of the project, at least 16 economic/social/cultural and/or environmental initiatives were identified, planned and implemented by promoters as</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1 – M&E data; survey of promoters, interviews technical team.</p> <p>Indicator 3.2 – Business plans, accounting books and audits of promoters. Project evaluation and progress reports, M&E data. Promoters’ surveys.</p>	

		<p>planned.</p> <p>3.3 - At least 75% of the promoters consider the skills and knowledge they gained through the project “important” for their well being.</p> <p>3.4 At least 5 of the local economic initiatives selected by the LAG, are linked to the competitive advantages set out in the local development plan.</p> <p>3.5 At least 30% of initiatives funded by the project are led by women.</p> <p>3.6 At least 24 new employment opportunities are created as a result of the diversified farming and non-farming economic initiatives, implemented by the promoters.</p>	<p>Indicator 3.3 – Pre- and post training records. Interviews of promoters. Project M&E data.</p> <p>Indicator 3.4 – Project M&E data. LAG records. Analysis of the local development plan and funded initiatives.</p> <p>Indicator 3.5 – Project progress and monitoring reports. Promoters’ membership books.</p> <p>Indicator 3.6 – Project progress and monitoring reports. Interviews with promoters. Records and accounting books of promoters.</p>	
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	<p>R4 –Local development players build links with other LAGs, policy makers and other donor programs to boost local activities and to lobby for the scale-up of bottom-up approaches to rural development.</p>	<p>4.1 - Lessons learned and main findings are documented and disseminated to stakeholders.</p> <p>4.2 - At least one memorandum of cooperation has been signed with a European LAG.</p> <p>4.3 - A consultative and experience sharing platform has been established between National and European LAGs within the ENPARD framework.</p> <p>4.4 - At least 50% of the surveyed donors, national institutions, and other external stakeholders, acknowledges LAG as the key development actor in Lagodekhi.</p> <p>4.5 –The “Friends of Lagodekhi” group is established and functional.</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1 – Progress reports, Annual reports, M&E data, survey stakeholders.</p> <p>Indicator 4.2 – Signed memorandum of cooperation.</p> <p>Indicator 4.3 – M&E data, interviews with LAG members from Lagodekhi and other Georgian and European LAGs and technical team.</p> <p>Indicator 4.4 – Survey of selected donors, regional and national institutions.</p> <p>Indicator 4.5 – Meeting records, project monitoring reports. Survey members of the platform.</p>	
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Final assessment and package of recommendations

Executive summary

Priority directions of Lagodekhi municipality/Main problematic areas

The present report provides the result of baseline survey conducted within the project – Participatory Rural Development in Georgia implemented by CARE. Main activities of the baseline study were conducted in January–March 2016.

The research was focused on revealing problematic issues and priority directions for Lagodekhi municipality. The main findings can assist LAG to plan activities and development strategy of the municipality in a more compliant and effective way.

The research results in Lagodekhi indicated that respondents estimate communal utilities and communications as the most problematic issue for their community. In most cases, the problem is in natural gas availability, gas tariff and access to drinking water. Focus group discussions confirmed the existence of this problem, although this issue was seen as main precondition for the development of local industry. For instance, there is a big potential for building greenhouses, which won't be possible without proper infrastructure.

Problematic issue that was named on the second place is employment, which is caused by lack of local industry (60.8%) and business (36.6%) development. Also, according the results of quantitative research, tourism development, agriculture, manufacturing are the key fields of industry with the potential of creating new employment opportunities.

As it was expected, **agricultural issues** are problematic for a great part of respondents (48.2%). The most actual issue is connected to selling agricultural products. Focus group discussions and interviews also highlighted this problem. Besides marketing outlets, quantitative research revealed the lack of modern technologies and lack of knowledge, as an obstacle for further development of agriculture. Agricultural development is the key factor to enjoy a number of opportunities such as selling agricultural goods on EU market; for this to happen, local products should meet the requirements and standards defined by DCFTA.

Although there is the government-funded healthcare insurance program, respondents perceive existing health fees as problematic (60.9%). That's why healthcare is the fourth among problematic issues in the region. Although local authorities have healthcare issues among the priorities, health fee is the issue addressed to the central government.

The fifth problematic issue is road infrastructure that is mostly related to poor condition of internal roads. This problem seems to be quite common and widely spread as 92.8% of respondents named it as the most problematic issue among other problems of road infrastructure.

The problems that were mentioned by the participants represent the priority directions selected by LAG. It is important that community members perceive problematic priority issues narrowly without strategic vision, while persons associated with LAG see issues mentioned above more broadly. Therefore, one of the important roles of LAG is to ensure wider vision within the community.

Civic Engagement

One of the preconditions of self-government's success is high level of community engagement in the process of solving local problems. We measured the level of public activity and readiness for getting involved in these kinds of activities. The research also aimed at identifying the awareness about the importance of their activities and ways to be more active and involved. Community members mostly assess themselves as not very involved in the affairs of their own village.

Qualitative research results show that respondents, more or less, know the ways how to get involved in important issues of their community.

For instance, 23% of respondents know how to get involved in solving local issues. About quarter of them are satisfied with the existing opportunities to take part in solving local issues. 20% thinks that they may be important actors in the process of problem resolution.

One of the indicators of civic engagement may be their attendance at the discussions dedicated to local problematic issues. Involvement is mostly expressed by the attendance at a public meeting with a local government official (excluding election campaigns/ activities/ events), attendance at public meetings of village members, getting together with others to raise an issue or addressing a problem. According to the received data, about half of respondents have been involved in similar activities.

Despite the existing level of civic engagement, community members do not have information about who is actually responsible for solving local issues. Most respondents (41%) think that the central government is responsible for solving local problems. 26.2% of respondents think that local government jointly with the community members is responsible for solving problems.

Focus group discussions have revealed the same tendency. The community became more active recently, but this activity is expressed by raising problematic issues rather than by involvement in the process of problem resolution. This may indicate at the fact that the community knows how to raise an issue, but has no information about the possibilities of advocacy.

The research has revealed that civic engagement is gender specific in Lagodekhi municipality. Mostly, women are less engaged in problem resolution and decision making.

Role of local actors in development of Lagodekhi municipality

The population of Lagodekhi municipality sees the local government as the most important actor for solving local issues. Community members address problematic issues to local authorities and not to local CSOs and business organizations. The focus group discussions revealed that it is caused by lack of CSOs and low level of involvement of business organizations in problem resolution and/or development process of Lagodekhi municipality. The above mentioned issue may be solved through creating a strong organization which will link different sectors like CSOs, business and local government. Organization/initiative group consisting of main local actors can play an important role in creating common and shared vision about strategically significant issues for the municipality. Such relations and collaboration between different main actors, who will separately work efficiently, can ensure a holistic approach towards different priorities and exchange of experience, knowledge and skills. At the same time, we should take into consideration that informing and advocacy should become one of the main functions of such organization that will ensure “the bottom up” approach.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the baseline research, ARC considers expedient to carry out the following activities:

1. To carry out activities that will promote raising awareness level of the community on existing resources and directions of strategic development in the municipality.
2. To carry out activities for developing strategic development plan of Lagodekhi municipality reflecting local problematic issues in line with the strategic directions of the country. It is desirable to support local initiatives in this process and to engage local community groups in the process of developing a strategic plan.
3. It is recommended to consider problematic issues and needs revealed by the baseline research in the strategic development plan of the municipality.
4. It is recommended to promote and encourage local initiative groups, to hold discussions on various problematic issues in the communities and villages. This will foster public engagement in local problem resolution process and increase the effectiveness of implemented projects, because the projects that are discussed with public involvement are more effective than those initiated without participation of beneficiaries.
5. Since women are less engaged in the processes and perceive themselves as less responsible for solving local problematic issues, it is essential to encourage and empower them. It is important to support initiatives from women and encourage them to be more involved.

Creating successful cases will insure that women will perceive themselves as an essential part of the processes in their communities.

6. It is important to create an effective format of collaboration between local authorities and local action groups.
7. It is recommended to fund the projects according to the issues given below:
 - a. Promoting advocacy programs aiming at initiation and implementation of infrastructure projects.
 - b. Increasing the effectiveness of producing agricultural goods; promoting innovative projects in agriculture.
 - c. Promoting local business, which implies employment of local inhabitants.
 - d. Promotion and development of tourism, creation and development of tourism infrastructure, promotion of guest house business; promotion of businesses supporting guest house business, etc.
 - e. Environmental protection and waste management.
 - f. Promoting social enterprises.
8. It is recommended to conduct trainings within the framework of the funded projects on the following issues:
 - a. Principles of cost effectiveness of infrastructure projects
 - b. General management
 - c. Marketing and sales management
 - d. DCFTA and local production
 - e. Resource management
9. Since there are no organizations in Lagodekhi working on local problems, it is recommended that LAG becomes independent and autonomous.
10. It is also recommended to conduct trainings for LAG management and members for capacity building of the organization:
 - a. Strategic planning
 - b. Financial management
 - c. Project management
 - d. Project monitoring and assessment
 - e. Research based advocacy, research methods and principles of statistical analysis
 - f. Advocacy campaign
 - g. Human resource management
 - h. Communication channels and strategies
 - i. Resource mapping and analyses
11. Expectation about LAG is that this organization will have a positive impact on the development of the municipality. Therefore, it is important to maintain a positive perception about the organization and strengthen expertise of LAG members. The communication strategy should be directed to creating positive links among LAG members.

Documents used during the research

1. Development strategy of Kakheti Region -

<http://www.mrdi.gov.ge/ge/news/rdevelopment/52b1ba870cf27286d7af38dd>

Regional development program of Georgia (2015-

2017):<http://static.mrdi.gov.ge/53d106840cf23064fe48caad.pdf>

2. About approval of socio-economic development of Georgia “Georgia 2020” and some related events

http://www.economy.ge/uploads/kanonmdebloba/strategia_2020/saqartvelo_2020.pdf

3. The national security concept of Georgia

http://romania.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=geo&sec_id=15

4. Reports of National Statistics Office of Georgia

http://geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=178&lang=geo

http://geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=184&lang=geo

http://geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=187&lang=geo

http://geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=181&lang=geo

http://geostat.ge/?action=page&p_id=1180&lang=geo

5. Budget of Lagodekhi municipality

<http://www.lagodekhi.org.ge/ge/bcuwqsyvbbaqicl-o>

6. Priority document of Lagodekhi municipality

<http://www.lagodekhi.org.ge/ge/bcuwqsyvbbaqicl-o>

Main stakeholders of the project

Government sector:

1. The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
2. Georgian National Tourism Administration
3. The Ministry of Agriculture
4. Governance of Lagodekhi municipality
5. City Council (Sakrebulo) of Lagodekhi municipality
6. Youth and Sports Development Center of Lagodekhi municipality
7. Health care service of Lagodekhi municipality
8. Center for the Promotion and Development of Tourism and International Relations of Lagodekhi Municipality
9. Representatives of the governor in each administrative unit (15 communities) of Lagodekhi municipality
 1. Lagodekhi
 2. Matsimi
 3. Shroma
 4. Ninigori
 5. Tsodniskari
 6. Vardisubani
 7. Tchiauri
 8. Kartubani
 9. Baisubani
 10. Kabali
 11. Giorgeti
 12. Apheni
 13. Pona
 14. Areshpherani
 15. Leliani

Private sector:

	Name	Area of activity	Address
Business organizations			
1.	Van Doorn & Edward	Agriculture	Lagodekhi municipality, Kartubani
2.	Gidi	Building production, construction and estate property	Lagodekhi municipality, Baisubani
3.	Dachi-2010	Office and Home goods	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
4.	Eltun	Building production, construction and estate property	Lagodekhi municipality, Kabali
5.	Va. & Gu.	Construction companies; Repair work; Greenery; public services and amenities.	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
6.	Tela	Distribution, Food products	Lagodekhi municipality, Dona
7.	Kavex	Transport and transportation	Lagodekhi municipality, Gurgeniani
8.	Lagodekhavtogza	Road construction, Rehabilitation	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
9.	Karamani	Food products; medicine, beauty and sports	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
10.	AMD Agro	Agriculture	Lagodekhi municipality, Tamariani
11.	Kelaptari	Laboratories; Multi-specialty hospitals and Polyclinics; Outpatient care services; Hospital service	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
12.	Lela Lomsadze	Clothing and Accessories	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
13.	Universali	Food products; Agriculture; Tourism; Finance	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
14.	Kvibi	Building production, construction and estate property	Lagodekhi municipality, Heretiskari
15.	Angino	Transport and transportation	Lagodekhi municipality, Chaduniani
16.	Aleksandre Datuashvili		Lagodekhi municipality, Chaduniani
17.	Elene Kekenadze	Organizing events	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
18.	Toma	Building production, construction and real estate	Lagodekhi municipality, Kabali

19.	Kristali	Food products, Restaurants, bars;	Lagodekhi municipality,Apheni
20.	Nianshagi	Auto Business	Lagodekhi municipality,Kabali
21.	Papunha Lobzhanidze	Farming (beekeeping, corn production)	Lagodekhi municipality,Ratchisubani
22.	Lia Natsarashvili	Guest house	Lagodekhi municipality
23.	Mebotsvreoba	Cooperative	Lagodekhi municipality,Leliani
24.	Tchiora	Food product	Lagodekhi municipality, Apheni
25.	Hipokrate	Beauty, Medicine and Sport	Lagodekhi municipality,Lagodekhi
26.	Gantiadi	Auto business; Distribution; Food product; Beauty, Medicine and Sport; Restaurants, bars; Construction and Real Estate; Agriculture; Tourism	Lagodekhi municipality,Apheni
27.	Nata	Building companies	Lagodekhi municipality,Lagodekhi
28.	Piramida	Building production, construction and estate property	Lagodekhi municipality,Zemo Nashovari
29.	Bio Yard	Agriculture; Tourism	Lagodekhi municipality,Lagodekhi
30.	Lagtambako–2015	Tobacco production	Lagodekhi municipality,Lagodekhi
31.	Mtsvane Udabno	Greenery; Nursery production; Nursery trade	Lagodekhi municipality,Heretiskari
32.	Griphoni	Ferrous metal trade	Lagodekhi municipality,Apheni
33.	Tamariani	Agriculture	Lagodekhi municipality,Tamariani
34.	MargiL	Wine production; Honey trade; Fruits and vegetables; Walnut and hazelnut; Wine trade; Fruits and vegetables trade (wholesale); Walnut Kaklita trade and nuts; Honey production; Viticulture	Lagodekhi municipality,Shroma
35.	Momavlis sopheli	cattle-breeding	Lagodekhi municipality,Leliani
Non-Governmental Sector			
1.	Leli	Non-entrepreneurial activities	Lagodekhi municipality,Leliani

2.	Community Union Hereti	Non-entrepreneurial activities	Lagodekhi municipality, Heretiskari
3.	Community centre Ertoba	Non-entrepreneurial activities	Lagodekhi municipality, Kartubani
4.	Civic Development Association of Georgia	Non-entrepreneurial activities	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
5.	Youth Centre of Lagodekhi municipality	Non-entrepreneurial activities	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi
Media			
1.	Broadcasting Company Hereti	Media, Advertising and Polygraphy	Lagodekhi municipality, Lagodekhi