



Evaluation of Local Gender Groups' needs of Ozurgeti Municipality

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*Presented report is prepared by the Fund “Sukhumi”.
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Municipality
The content of the research is the sole responsibility of author.*

Introduction

It is well-known that there are gender and women's problems, solution of which require elaboration of concrete strategies and implementation of special measures.

If we want to speak about strengthening of gender equality institutional mechanisms, rising above mentioned issues in political agenda and their solution, maximal mobilization of local NGOs - working on gender problems, international institutions, local and central government, society efforts, should be carried out.

By generally accepted opinion, the main direction of state gender policy should be establishment of gender parameters in the process of socio-economic development, which means promotion of gender equality on labor market, development of small business and encouragement of women enterprisers, elaboration of state employment policy envisaging gender parameters, implementation of gender sensitive social protection and demographical policy.

An urgent task also is creation of domestic violence protection system and enactment of relevant legal mechanisms.

One of the most important directions in gender policy implementation is promotion of **gender budget** principle establishment, while formation of state as well as local budget. Notion of gender budget is comparatively new and foresees gender analysis of the budget, which shows different influence of budget costs on men and women and promotes planning of a budget in a way which makes budget resources equally acceptable for both genders.

As gender specialists explain, gender budget envisages demands and needs of different social groups' representatives. “Gender sensitive budget does not mean separate budget for men and women. On the contrary, it provides establishment of gender awareness in separate polices and in the budgets of

different instances”. “Gender budget does not mean that its 50 % belongs to women and 50% – to men. There is no concrete receipt in the process of its elaboration. Each country finds its own way to this goal”. (Charita Jashi, “Materials of gender seminar”).

State programs, directed to solution of women’s and gender issues, may be diverse and various, but gender specialists generalize its components, for example:

- Producing of comprehensive gender statistics
- A comprehensive scientific study of the problems;
- Wide distribution of statistical data and research results, arrangement of informational campaigns, raising of public awareness in women's and gender issues;
- Elaboration of national strategy on gender and women's issues solution, based on the statistical data and research;
- Elaboration of legislative initiatives for further refinement of the legislation;
- Creation and development of institutional base of the State programs’ activities (social services, crisis centers, monitoring services).
- Creation of the State structure working on Equality issues
- Creation of Women databases, aiming at creation of qualified women’s database, which will help state agencies, parties, private companies to find relevant qualified women.

As a rule, state programs aimed at improvement of women’s condition, definitely include following issues:

- **Motherhood and family assistance** (what kind of programs are they, what kind of financing do they have)
- **Assistance of single and large families**
- **Domestic violence and violence against women** (what kind of legislation it is, are there any assistant services, what kind of assistance do they suggest, what is the law enforcement response to domestic violence cases and quality of court cases implementation, are any preventive measures carried out)
- **Providing of women’s participation In decision-making process**
- **Trafficking;**
- **Prostitution;**
- **Health programs;** - Pregnant women, infant and maternal, child health, reproductive health, Contraception, including the issues of abortion, feminine organ diseases.

Studying of gender needs on local level and their envisaging in local policy and programs, introduction of gender directed local budget practice, is important basis of state gender policy.

Presented research is aimed at Ozurgeti gender groups (women, IDPs socially unprotected families, youth national minorities and etc.) needs research and presenting suggestions and recommendations to local government.

Research goals and objectives, methodology, target groups and respondents were defined by women’s NGO – Cultural-Humanitarian Fund “Sukhumi”. Fieldwork of the research was conducted by Ozurgeti Gender Advisory Council.

Dates of conducted research - results of quantitative and qualitative analysis are presented below.

Quantitative Research

Research Methodology

The research was conducted by the method of quantitative research, through inquiry techniques.

Totally 100 respondents were interviewed

Timetable#1

Research method	Quantitative research
Research technique	Face-to face interview (inquiry)
Target segment	IDP women, socially unprotected people, youth, ethnical minorities, members of Ozurgeti Women Voters' Club
Research area	Ozurgeti
Size of selection	100 persons
Method of selection	Preliminary/targeted/selection
Selection fault	1,5 - 2 %
Average duration of the interview	15-20 minutes
The date of the research	April 2014

Inquiry was aimed at: target groups’ (so called gender groups residing in Ozurgeti – women, youth, IDPs, Socially unprotected, ethnic minorities) interviews for revealing their gender needs.

The inquiry was conducted by 4 member group of Ozurgeti GAC.

The inquiry was carried out in April 2014, totally 100 persons were interviewed. Selection was carried out in pre-defined groups. The gender (mostly women) and age (16-above 50) were pre-defined.

The questionnaire consisted of 13 questions and so called demographic part, which was aimed at gaining information about respondents. (Age, type of accommodation, marital status, education, type of activity, number of family members (children among them), monthly income of the family.

Inquiry results

Demographic block

Age of the respondents was from 18 to 70, which finally was disseminated in 3 age groups.

age	number	%
16-30 years	30	30
30-50 years	37	37
above 50	33	33
totally	100	100

Schedule N1

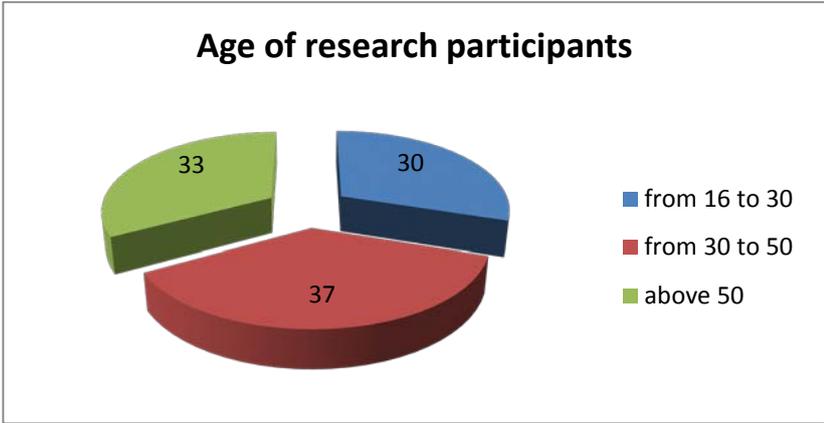


Diagram N 1

The research defined accommodation type of the target groups. According the research, 8 of 20 IDPs have own accommodation. 3 of them live by rent, 6 – with relatives. 2 representatives of ethnic minorities and 4 young people of 20 respondents live by rent.

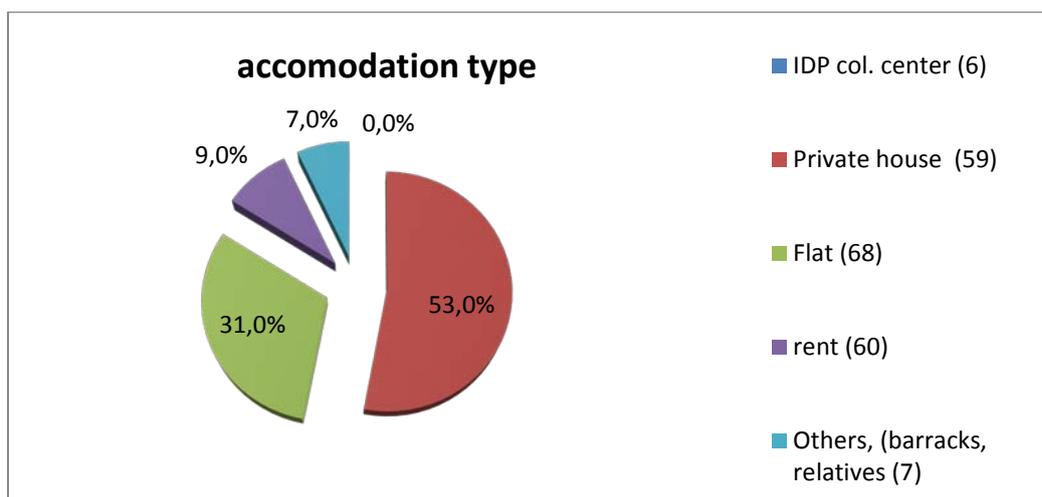


Diagram N2

Marital Status

Demographical block defined marital status of the interviewers. 9 of the interviewers are widows, 8 – divorced.

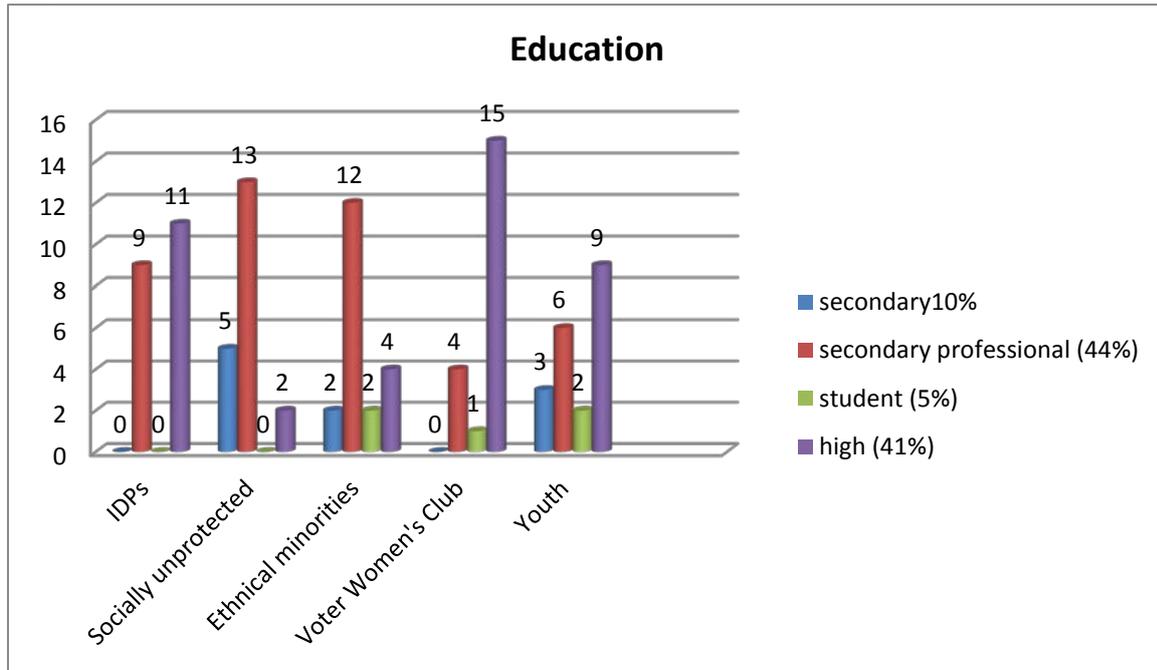
Schedule N2

	A	B	C	D
IDP	13	0	3	4
Socially unprotected	16	1	0	1
Ethnical minorities	7	8	3	2
Voter Women's Club	14	4	2	0
Youth	11	9	0	0
General amount	61	22	8	9
Totally	100			

6. Education

Statistics of interviewers' educational level shows that, most part of target groups have definite level of education. 44 of 100 respondents have Secondary Professional Education, 41 have high education. 10 % of the respondents mention that they have unfinished secondary education, most of them are socially unprotected, least of respondents with high education are also in the group of socially unprotected ones.

Diagram N 5

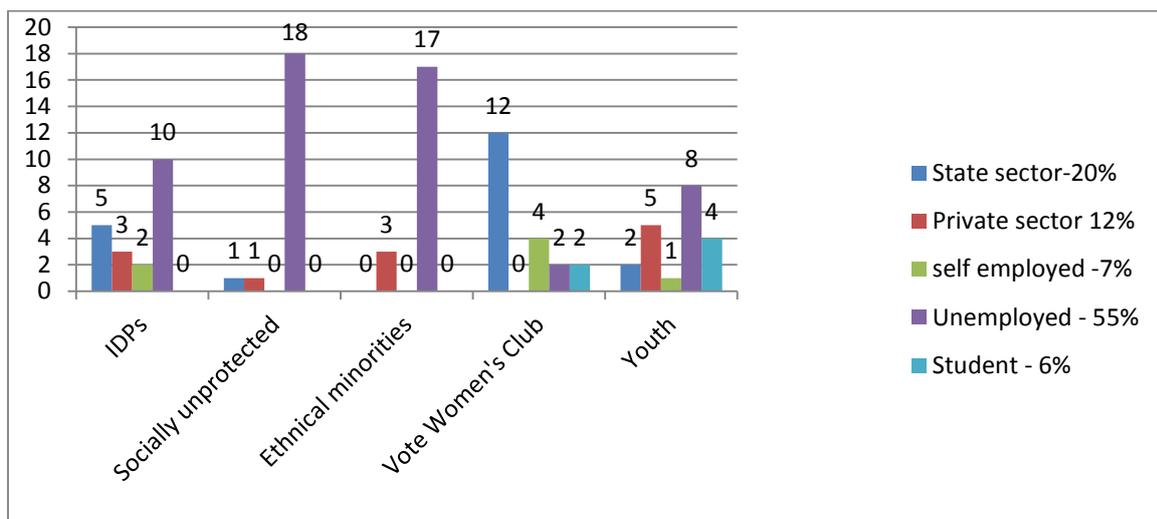


7. Type of activity

Inquiry showed that the problem of unemployment is quite high in target groups: more than half (55%) of 100 inquired are unemployed, most obvious among them are socially unprotected and ethnical minorities. Number of self-employed respondents is too low (7%).

12 members of Voter Women' Club is employed in state sector, but there are no representatives of ethnical minorities.

According the inquiry, the highest level of unemployment was fixed among IDP women (54%). None of them is employed in the state sector.



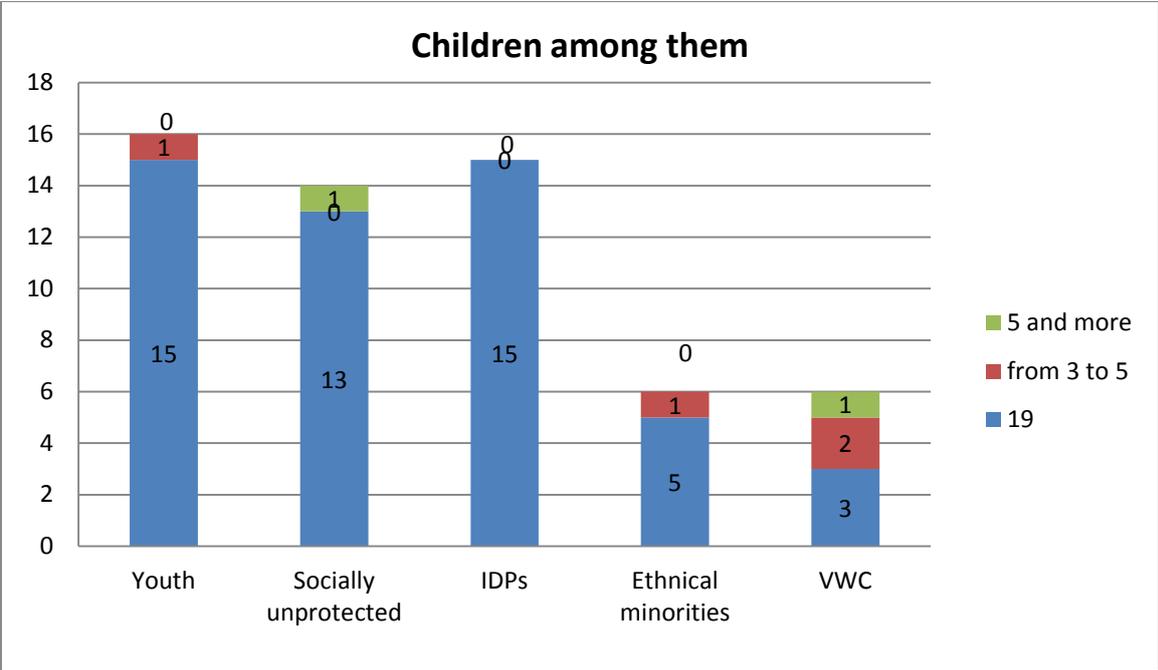
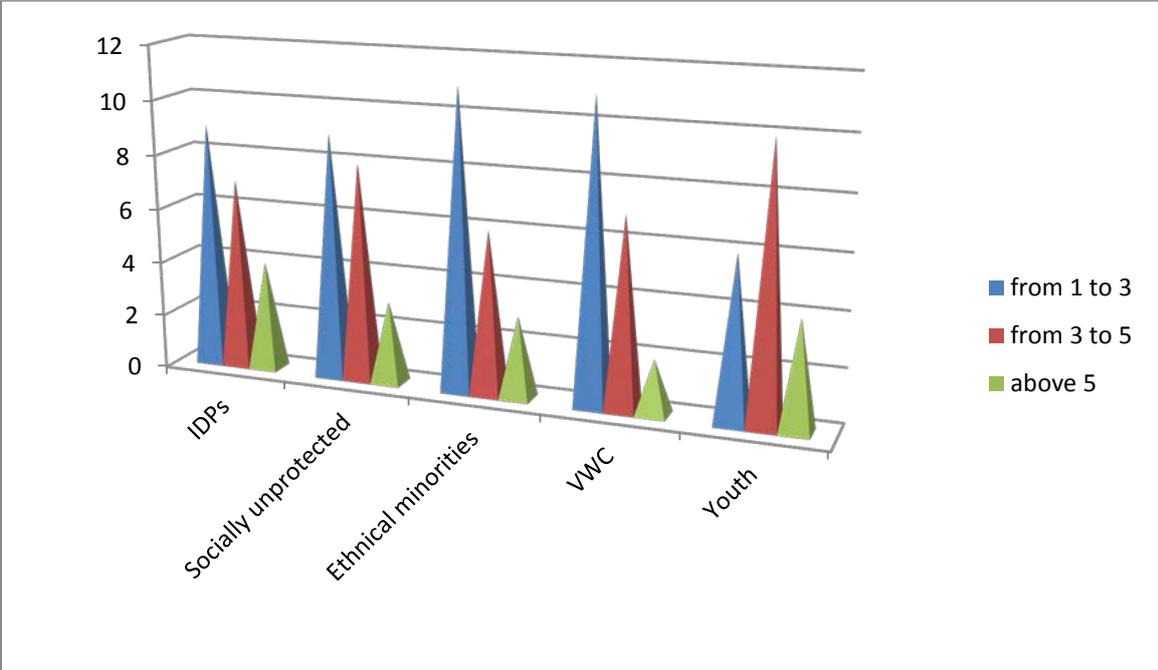
Diagram

N6

8. Number of family member

Statistics of family members' number showed that nearly half of the respondents are from the families with 3-5 members. 29 (14.5%) interviewers are from large families.

Diagram N 7



Diagram

N 8

9. Middle monthly income of families

Monthly income of majority of inquired respondents' families is above 300 GEL. 17 respondents (20%) indicate that their monthly income do not exceed 150 GEL. 36 respondents say that their average monthly income is up to three hundred GEL. Segregation of dates according the groups is following:

Schedule N3

	A	B	C
IDP	4	11	5
Socially unprotected	9	9	2
Ethnical minorities	2	10	8
Voter Women's Club	1	9	10
Youth	1	8	11
General amount	17	47	36
Totally 100			

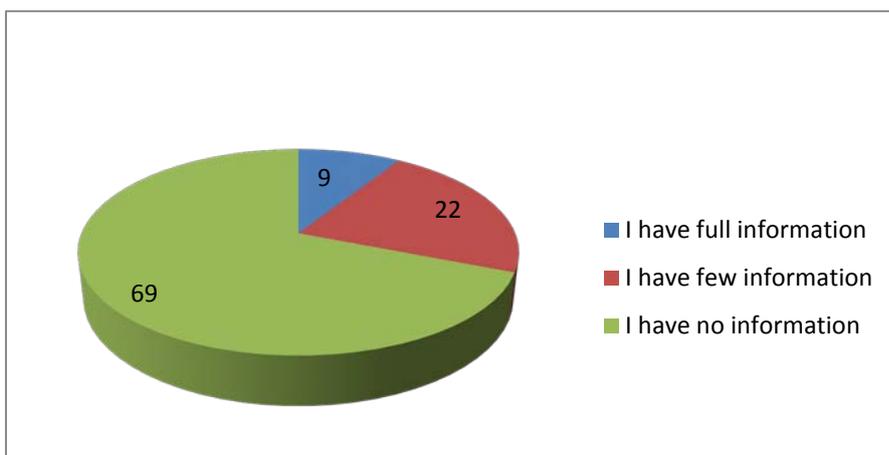
Main Block

The main block comprised 13 questions. Here are target groups' answers to the questions addressing them.

Question: Do you have information regarding assistance program of mothers and children from the budget?

First question of the inquiry was aimed at research of target groups' informing issue regarding mothers' and women's assistance program.

General dates are reflected in Diagram N9



Schedule N3

	A	B	C
IDP	5	0	15
Socially	0	0	20

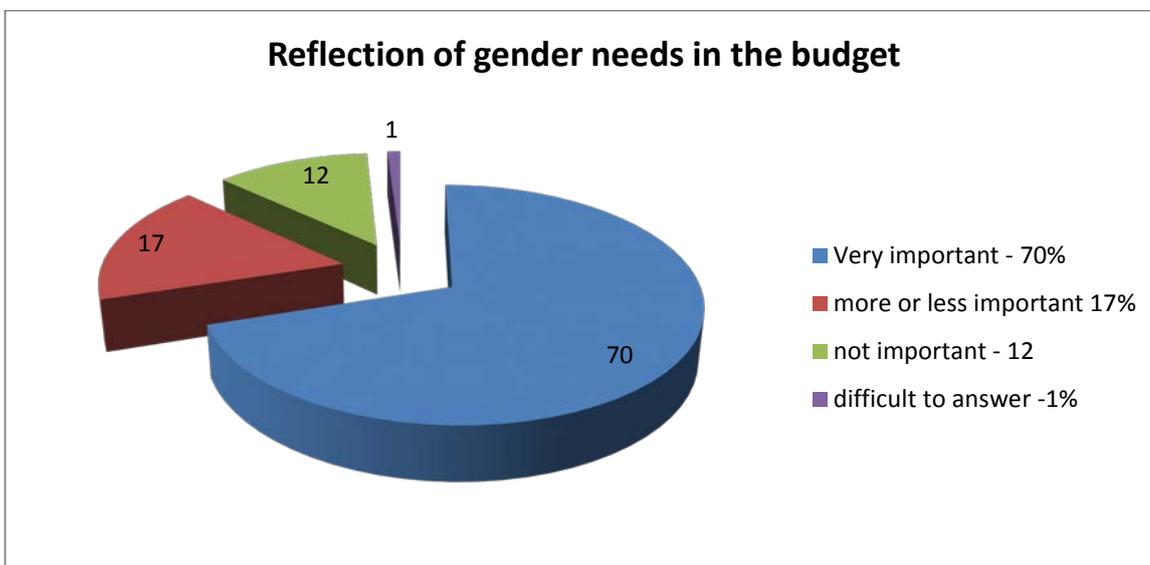
unprotected

Ethnical minorities	4	9	7
Voter Women's Club	0	10	10
Youth	0	3	17
General Amount	9	22	69
Totally - 100			

Informing of target groups: as it is seen from the diagram, research beneficiaries residing in Ozurgeti municipality - youth, socially unprotected, IDPs ethnical minorities, representatives of Voter Women's Club, are badly informed about local budget programs. Mostly uninformed are socially unprotected people 20 of them say that they are absolutely uninformed, 68% of the youth have lack of information regarding similar programs. Mostly informed are the IDP group and ethnical minorities.

2. Question: to your opinion, how important is to equally envisage the problems of women and men (different groups of society) while elaborating local budget?

The question aimed at revealing respondents attitude regarding gender allocation of budget, which first of all means social justice. There was revealed what importance the interviewers give to equal solution of the problems of women and men and different gender groups of society, while composing local budget. 12% of them consider that this case is not essential. **Answers are shown in the diagram (12)**



3. Question: to your opinion which sphere must be prior through financing out of the following ones on local level? (choose three most important ones).

The third question of the inquiry shows respondents' opinion regarding priority spheres of financing on local level. There were 3 prior directions to be chosen. Respondents prefer programs of health (183 answers) and social protection (150) local programs, education (143), 552 answers on a whole. (Number of answers exceeds 200 (on the expense of three answers for selection))

Answers are given in Schedule N4

	A	B	C	D	E
IPD		16	18	6	0
	20				
Socially unprotected	15	7	5	0	0
Ethnical minorities	20	18	11	5	0
Voter Women's Club	19	17	15	7	0
Youth	17	15	11	13	0
General amount	91	73	60	31	0
Totally	255 (three probable answers)				

4. Question: Envisaging of whose needs are more important in local budget? (Choose three more important ones)

Answers to this question show, which gender group needs more support with local resources. The answer "others" were not shown. By the opinion of respondents, more support should be expressed towards careless children, socially unprotected, young families. Answers are given in the Schedule (N5).

Groups, whose needs are considered as most important	Number of answers	%
Young families	88	44
IDPs	57	25

Pregnant women	82	27
Careless children	92	64
Socially unprotected families	123	51
Ethnical minorities	16	17
Elderly	95	26
Others	0	0%
Totally	553	254 (3 possible answers)

There was noticed very attentive moment: IDP groups do not underline necessity of ethnical minority protection and also vice versa: none of inquired representatives of ethnical minority consider necessary to support IDP groups in the local budget, as for the youth group, they also did not see necessity of IDP and ethnical minority protection. It shows necessity of integration of these different groups.

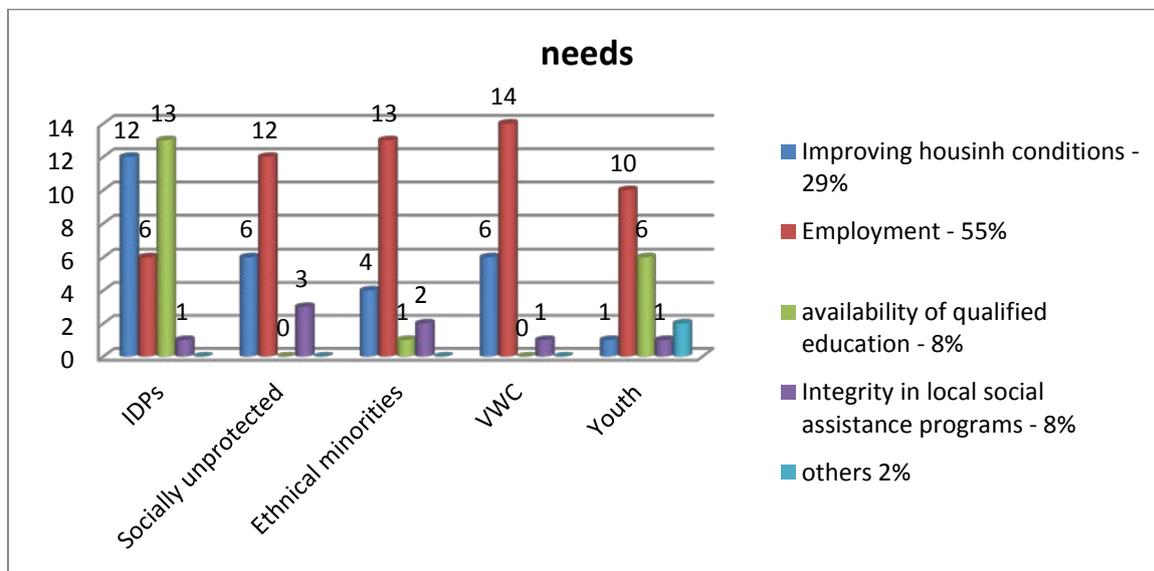
Below you can see segregated schedule: (6)

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
IDP	8	18	2	15	14	0	3	0
Socially unprotected	5	0	4	10	14	0	7	0
Ethnical minorities	4	1	10	9	12	17	4	0
Voter Women's Club	11	6	8	13	9	0	6	0
Youth	16	0	3	17	2	0	6	0

Question 5: Name your most important need, which is necessary for improvement of socio-economic development

55 % of respondents name unemployment as the most necessary for life. 29% - improvement of accommodation conditions, the respondents see less important receiving education (8%). Given answers were not fixed by the side of any socially unprotected. There is obvious difference in the answers of IDPs: 13 out of 20 inquired recognize importance of qualified education. In spite of hard social condition, only 8% of inquires consider importance of integrity in social programs as the main thing. The answers were allocated in a following way:

Diagram N 11



6. Question: which of these is the main obstacle of economical development?

66 % of interviewers name absence of start capital, the answer “I have no profession” was mostly fixed in the group of socially unprotected persons (7 out of 20 inquired). Barrier from the side of family was fixed only in 3 cases.

The answers are given in the **Diagram (7)**.

	A	B	C	D	E
	I have no start capital -	I have no knowledge in legal and tax issues-	I have no enough knowledge of business management	I have barrier from the side of family members	I have no profession
IPD	18	2	0	0	0
Socially unprotected	13	0	0	0	7
Ethnical minorities	12	4	0	0	4
Voter Women’s Club	18	0	1	1	0

Youth	5	1	6	2	6
General amount	66	7	7	3	17
Totally	100				

7 Question: what kind of work is an income of your family?

Received answers show quite high level of reproductive work. Characteristic of mixed labor is also higher. The answers are shown in diagram (N12)

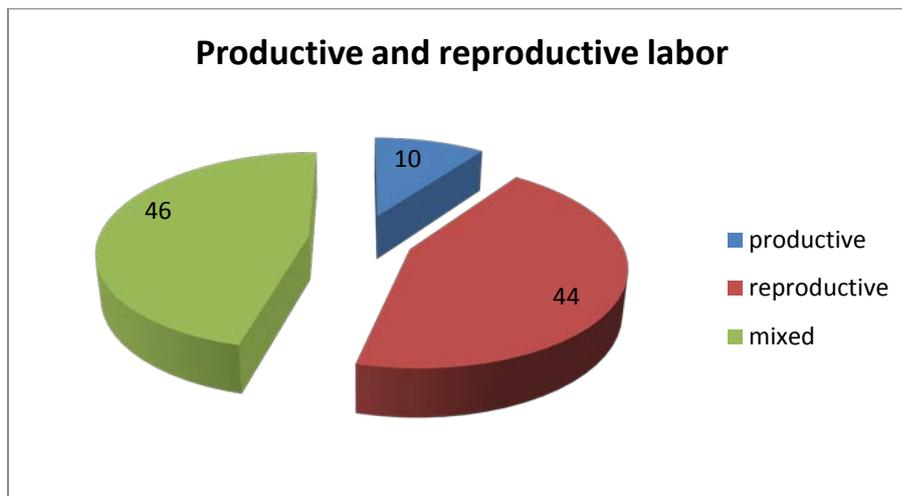
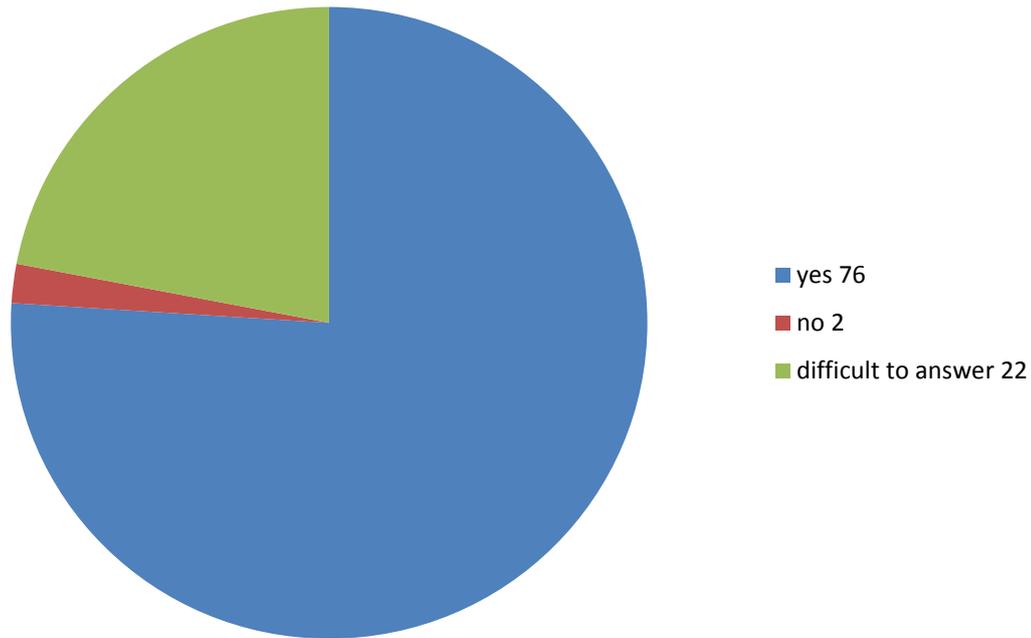


Diagram N 12

8. Question: Do you think unpaid labor (reproductive labor - care of children, the elderly, the sick, household activities) should be encouraged

Encouragement of reproductive labor activities is essential by the opinion of 76 % of respondents; only 2 of them think that it is not necessary. 22persons are difficult to answer. Received answers show that majority of inquired women do not consider that approach to their contribution in family is not fair. (Answers are given in Diagram (N13)).

Approach to reproductive labor



9. Question: In your opinion, what will contribute to the reduction of unemployment among women?

Inquiry answers make obvious attitude of those respondents, who think that reduction of unemployment among women is possible through creation of working places. Most of the answers were fixed in this direction (70). Comparatively concrete – importance of municipal programs of small business development was fixed by 16 %. The interviewees, the majority of which are the women, could not see necessity of improved social infrastructure.

Answers are given in the time-table (N8)

	A) Informational centers of employment and unemployment;	B) Creation of more improved social infrastructure (for example: kindergartens);	C) Development of tourism;	D) Creation of concrete municipal programs of small business development	E) Creation of jobs
IDP	1	1	0	5	13
Soc. Unprotected	0	1	0	1	18
Ethnical min.	4	2	0	1	13
VWC	0	0	0	2	18
Youth	4	0	1	7	8
General amount	9	4	1	16	70
Totally	100				

10. Question: Do you have a need to enhance education, what are the programs you need out of following ones:

Among the interviewers there was revealed necessity of re-training courses 35 %. (Mostly IDPgroup). Long-term professional courses – 31% (Mostly national minorities). Necessity of special trainings was named by 11 %. (Mostly among VWC). The answers in the diagram (14)

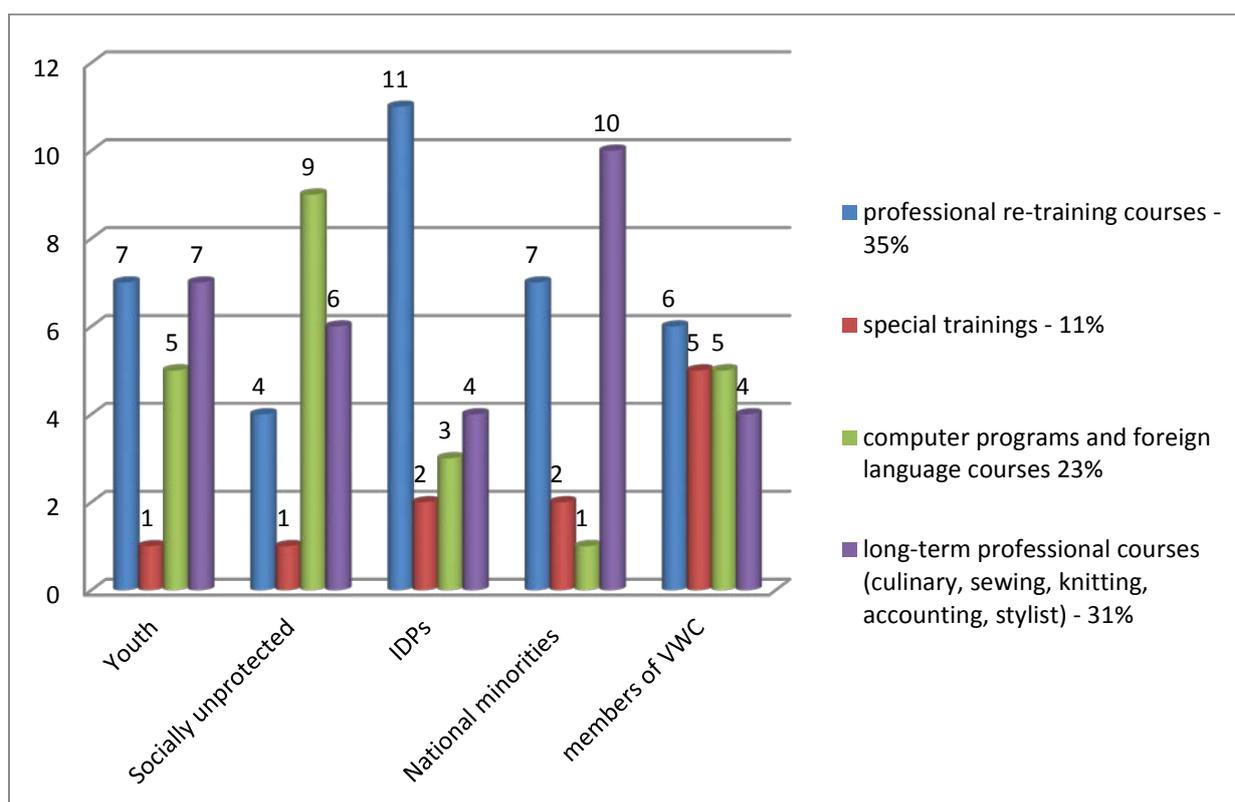


Diagram N14

Diagram N19

11. Question: To your opinion, what must be done on local level for promotion of education and development of the youth?

In the 11-th question of the questionnaire there was especially mentioned possible activities for the support of the youth – as most gender sensitive group's in their education.

In most cases, in target groups there was fixed the answer: financing of students from unprotected families on local level (37 answers). This was most frequent answer among national minorities (14 out of 20 respondents).

Answers on the diagram (20)

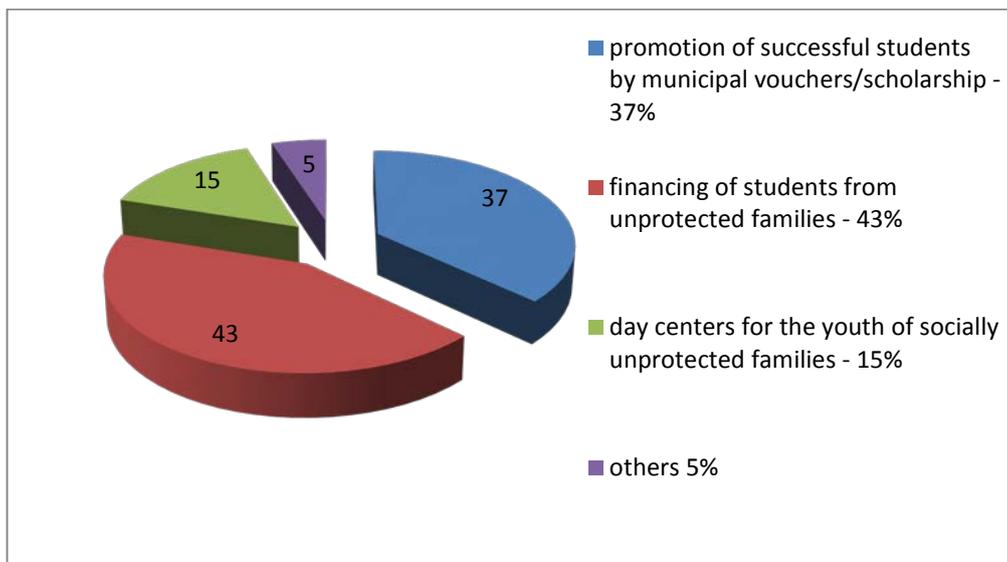


Diagram N15.

Diagram N20.

12. Question: How will you appreciate collaboration between local self-government, society and NGOs in assistance of social groups with exceptional needs?

12-th question of the questioner reflects exceptional social groups' evaluation towards collaboration of state structures, society groups and NGO sector regarding their needs satisfaction. Attitude of inquired target groups regarding the issue show that they mostly negatively appreciate local multidisciplinary work regarding protection of different social groups (45%), 29% considers mentioned cooperation as unsatisfactory. General dates (Diagram 16)

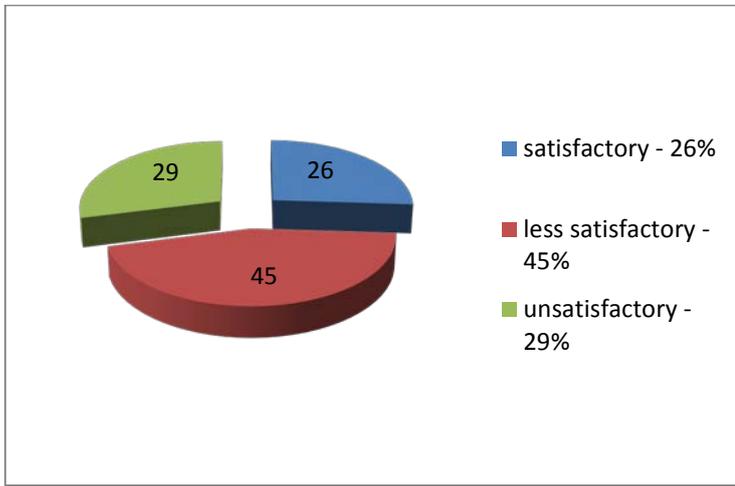


Diagram N16

13. Answer: To your opinion what structures should be involved in prevention and avoiding of domestic violence?

The answers received from target groups are presented in the diagram and reflect their attitude towards this issue.

Schedule N9

	A) Social services	B) Law enforcement structures (police)	C) Educational premises	D) Health protective structures	E) NGOs	F) Local government	G) All above mentioned
IDP	4	9	2	0	2	0	3
Socially unprotected	6	6	1	1	2	0	4
Ethnic minorities	0	0	0	0	1	8	11
VWC	2	1	0	0	1	1	15
Youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
General amount	12	16	3	1	6	9	53
Totally	100						

Received answers showed that socially unprotected respondents and are the most sensitive, consider it as the most important coordinative involvement of all mentioned structures (53 answers). The answer, “law enforcement agencies” were chosen by 16 %. Function of NGOs is considered as important only by 6% of respondents. This answer was not chosen by any of youth groups.

Role of social services in protection from violence is less seen by the youth and socially unprotected people. 18% of socially unprotected women consider more important the institute of social workers and police than the others. Role of local government was obviously seen only by group of ethnical minorities (8 respondents).

Part II

Qualitative research report

In the second part of the research there is an analysis of qualitative research conducted by the order of the fund “Sukhumi”.

Report of the qualitative research

The qualitative research was conducted with the method of focus group and in-depth interview.

Research method	Qualitative research
Research techniques	Focus group, in-depth interview
Target segment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groups, the needs of which are researched 2. Groups, which have information regarding research groups. 3. Experts
Research areal	Ozurgeti
Selection size	34 persons totally (3 in depth interviews, 31 in focus-groups)
Selection method	Previous target selection
Selection fault	1%
Average duration of the interview	Focus-group - 1,5 – 2,5 hours In-depth interview - 1 – 1,5 hours
Dates of conducting fieldwork	April 1-25, 2014

Fund “Sukhumi” conducted qualitative research by the method of focus groups and in-depth interviews.

3 fogus groups and 3 in-depth interviewes were conducted, qualitative research totally embraced 34 respondents.

As a result of qualitative research there were revealed opinions of experts, gender groups, active society and professional group representatives regarding local gender needs and self-government gender policy through this direction. In this part of research gender need of beneficiaries were revealed and directions, which serve as local policy of their solution and strategy creation, were defined.

Local experts answered the question: what gender needs do different groups (women, elderly, children, youth and etc.) have in Ozurgeti and how they are satisfied?

As the respondents think different gender groups' needs in Ozurgeti are not fully satisfied. *"The main need is social insurance, by which only the part of society is provided"* (A.M)

They know that there are programs envisaged by the budget regarding these groups, but these programs are closed and these people do not know what it is used for. They think that the youth is in very hard condition and consider that they have no relevant condition for study, employment, amusement and rest. *"I think that the youth must be more involved in state building process, youth programs, management also must be in their hands. Nobody studied the issue of what do the youth want, relevantly the municipality does not know what is more prior for them."* Existing programs, as the experts consider, are common and are not created together with the vulnerable groups. *"The programs are separate and unclear, the municipality is not fully aware of what is the aim of these programs and what will be the final result"*. (L.Ch)

Respondents consider that youth is not organized; the problem is to fill the vacated time, there is no amusement center, educational or cognitive projects, where they will be involved, for example – in amenities of the city and region, in cleaning the city.

There was divided the issue of elderly people. It is a pity that they have no allowances while using municipal transport. *"The local government real has resources and lever for this"*. The main need have the group of women who are discriminated from the gender side – for example: violence victim women, who need first of all to raise awareness, to learn their rights, and the second – their safety is not ensured from the side of stet – for example asylums, where they will be isolated from the rapist.

The respondents answered a question: "Do you know what social costs are envisaged by Ozurgeti local budget and how effective it is for satisfying local needs?"

They showed quite high informing level regarding local budget costs, as for the evaluation, it was said that there are important social packages in the budget, but their ruling must be conducted in a different way. Eg. Some people have so called "profession" to go to the local self-government, make statement and receive 100 or 150 Gel. There was named an alternative – namely giving management of social assistance to insurance companies. The explanation was following, that social assistance is envisaged for people, who have less than 57 000 scores, the policy is envisaged up to 70 000 scores, but there are people, who do not receive this assistance, but they are remain to be poor and mainly these people are active, but they do not represent middle class. This exact category is addressing local self-government with a demand of social assistance. *"Local self-government has allocated 300 000 GEL for this, it finances large families, who have about 150 000 scores. To my opinion large families must be cheered and they must not be depended on scores. Accordingly this program must be refined, or – this should not be social assistance, but stimulation for all large families."* (L.Ch)

We heard mainly the same evaluation of effectiveness of these programs from the respondents *“If we look through above mentioned social programs, we will see that most items are one-term, which excludes solution of the problem and making long-term effect. It proves a fact that Social programs under local budget are less effective”*. (A. Sh.)

There was also said that social changes were put in the local budget, but still they are hopeless. Delivery of services is more effective, that making one-term assistance, it is more expensive for the country. More stresses should be put on state policy through direction of delivery services the groups of concrete needs. It will be more long-term.

There was a question regarding how important is to envisage men’s and women’s (other society groups’) problems on equal level while composing local budget?

Raising the question in this way is acceptable for the respondents, moreover they think that envisaging different groups needs while composing local budget is important, but they see some difficulties regarding – how must be calculated what program makes influence on different social groups men or women. *“While composing programs no one can distinguish whether it will have more positive for men or women, eg. If you make asphalt, you do not know whether it is useful for men, or women, but there are several issues, where we must envisage interests of women, such as financing of asylum for the victim women. It is essential to elaborate programs, which will improve women’s condition and cheer them”*. (L.Ch)

Respondents consider that if we generally acknowledge gender balance as main value of democracy, it must be spread on everything and especially on budget, on employment of women, allocation of functions in family and so on. *“The citizens have no information about gender budget and also the information is unclear for the makers of the budget, we face the lack of gender education and competences.”*

All respondents claimed that gender budget is essential, but this needs gender balanced Sakrebulo and decision making persons, otherwise nothing will change. As the respondents say, gender budget is the same as fair budget, in case of it’s accepting all problems will be somehow decided, the main is to envisage needs of all society levels, ages, gender. This is democracy.

By the opinion of other expert, it is obvious that while elaborating local budget, problems of all levels and circles will not be equally envisaged, with the reason that planning of local budget is carried out Spontaneously *“needs of men and women are less envisaged, generally process of composing a budget should be longer that it is now.”* Considering of the medium and longer term planning is out of the question. The main thing is that local budget is not independent, local revenue on the budget is 10-15%. It is important what amount of transfer will be allocated from the central budget, without which almost none of the local program will be financed. *“Most part of our local budget is used not for cultural, sport, educational, social, health, infrastructural projects’ implementation and elimination of different problems, but mainly to the salaries.”*

Logical answer of the following question: **“To your opinion, how do the costs in your local budget promote improvement of citizens’ social condition in long-term perspective”** was that local budget is mainly foreseen on elimination of short-term problems (social problems among them) and unfortunately does not envisage long-term perspective.

The experts had view regarding the way out: *“Improving of social condition in long-term perspective is possible by two ways: 1. Giving chance of employment to the citizens and 2. Social insurance – the budget of Ozurgeti is one year project and has no long-term vision. Lot of money is spent in one-year projects – more than 3 million, but social condition has not improved. These projects die upon completion of the*

budget project. This is not a problem of only Ozurgeti, generally in all municipalities, planning of social projects is not carried out. Municipality solves tight local problems for local groups.”

There was announced a suggestion: *“Municipalities must elaborate vision of what it should achieve with involvement of NGOs, society groups and urgent problems must be identified. All problem of local government cannot be solved with limited resources, but in concrete segment among these vulnerable ones there may be chosen group of people, who will work on these problems and and will manage to improve people’s social condition with three-year, five-year programs. Local self-government must cheer creation of local enterprises and make tax benefits, eg. property tax. Employment must become number one task.”*

In answer to the following question – **To your opinion, how and by whom must be cheered reproductive work in family (caring on children, elderly, sick people, family activities)**, opinions of the experts regarding this issue was divided. In spite of the fact that all of them consider reproductive work in family as honorable and recognizes necessity of its cheering, some of them consider that it not a function of local self-government, but central bodies and is for certain benefits for such persons.

By the opinion of second part, cheering of activities in nonpayment sector must be carried out by local self-government together with the state, the society must be promoted by the businessmen and their charity, involvement of NGO sector will also have positive effect. “If we will try to enlarge the topic, we will obviously see necessity of involvement of these institutions. The state is obliged to care about its citizens regardless of gender, religion, age, nationality; this right is assigned by the legislation. Accordingly the state structure must do everything in geographical area, to somehow cheer reproductive work (caring of children, elderly and sick persons, and domestic activities)”. (A.M) they consider it necessary to create an asylum for elderly and disabled persons. *“Such asylums exist in our region, they are partly financed by local budget, but they mostly rely on funding from donor organizations.”* All of them divided the role of business sector – *“Charity, an action that gives joy and happiness to both you and others.”* They regretted that there is lack of this spirit in Georgia.

In your opinion, what will contribute to the reduction of unemployment among women and how?

It is essential for the state to be more interested in problems of women and more assist them to make their life easy. They considered it necessary that the women must be more active in the society and not be “closed”. *“state must develop those spheres (kindergartens, services, social protection mechanisms), which will promote woman’s maximal release from domestic work”*.

There was announced an opinion to support sector, where mainly the women are engaged. For example - light textile industry. There was such factory in Ozurgeti, which does not exist now. Such sectors must be raised and employ many women, such jobs must be created by cheering business. The state must create policy, power of self-government is weak and state must cheer business, private sector must create jobs, and the state cheer them, create relevant climate, conduct re-financing, investing, re-investing. The first task is creation of jobs. By their information in agriculture of Ozurgeti more than 60% are employed. Experts think that these are alarming figures. “Not more than 10% must be employed in agriculture, this will lead the country to success. This does not apply only to Ozurgeti, but throughout the country. The rest should be in manufacturing, factories, etc.”(L Ch).

To your opinion, what must be done by local resources for promotion of other gender groups – eg. education and development of the youth?

By the opinion of interviewers all local resources should be mobilized through this direction. First of all there must be identified the sphere of interest of the youth, divide the priorities “we must learn what the youth wants and accordingly elaborate programs (it may be youth clubs, stimulation for creating NGOs,

cheering of nonpayment jobs from the side of municipality) our resources must be directed in accordance of existing priorities (problems).”

How will you appreciate collaboration between local self-government, society and NGOs form improvement of local needs satisfaction (especially from the gender side), what should be done?

We may say that only a few years after the local government, community and non-governmental organizations have begun to coordinate their activities in terms of gender. Joint projects have emerged, which I think is totally insufficient. There should be more activities and connections. Nowadays, level of community involvement is not high.

According to the opinion of others, if we face reality, NGO sector must take a mediator function and help the society to become active, teach them to be more active for the resolution of their needs, do not expect what others will do. These two sides together, will include local government in these processes.

Interview participants consider that, as a rule, the government does not actively involve the society in the specific activity. In their opinion, the idea of a public hall did not justify. NGOs are not involved in the design and development of a specific project. *"When the project is designed, after that they call NGOs to discuss. So, the NGOs have an impact but not enough to write detailed project with specific directions. The state must give an order to the NGOs to develop the project and conduct serious discussion about it"*.

Other experts think the same way, that self-government must finance NGOs.

"The municipalities should implement social or service purchase, Lots of NGOs work on the issue of social assistance. For example - the government must declare a program of social redemption. It should hand the NGOs right to write program and implement it to. This process has several effects, experts commented: "we will reduce corruption, the municipal costs will be decreased, many employees serve this area. The municipality will be powerful and will have a right to examine and will have an opportunity to make influence." (L.Ch). The NGOs will be motivated to be more effective and qualified in this activity. "All spheres: healthcare, education and so on, which are in the budget of municipality, must be taken out and purchased. It will be ideal for the municipality. 1. We will have decreased costs, 2. Corruption will be decreased, 3. Influence of the projects on the society will be more effective, especially by the gender side".

Respondents frequently noted that the society should demand from the government to be involved in management and participate in it. The government generally considers that the society must be as close as possible and integrated into this process. This is the essence of self-government, and it should be used. "It is good for the Authority when the society is involved in it. Specific projects aims and problems will be more understood; therefore it will be followed by fewer critics."

How important is and in what way must be built collaboration between the sectors for prevention of domestic violence and assistance of violence victims? The answers underlined difficulty of the issue; accordingly, the respondents emphasized importance of complex multidisciplinary collaboration for solution of the problem.

"First of all it should be exactly defined the risk families of this direction (it is not difficult, as the society, neighbors, settlement, village is well informed about each family), relevant, explanatory work should be conducted with them and relevant assistance should be made. It is important for the state to have a circle, which will carry out prevention of domestic violence and assistance of the violence victim (this case is quite delicate and law enforcement structures must be involved only in extreme case)."

Respondents think that domestic violence is an issue, which cannot be fully solved by the municipality, but it can have close relation with the victim, provide her with asylum, work with the rapist, it is possible to create social, psychological centers, which will force the rapist to stop violence. There are number of violation facts regarded children and women in Ozurgeti, that's why it needs intervention from the side of local and central authority, it was considered as the most important to establish statistic system, support of social worker institute.

Finally all of them mentioned that it is essential to fulfill legal base through this direction.

How important are the local activities for protecting from socially dangerous diseases (Tuberculosis, hepatitis, HIV / AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.) what other activities should be carried out except of existed ones.

Some think that similar projects are not in the competence of local self-government. Health, sport activities and similar issues these are prerogatives of state and The Ministry of Health, in spite of the fact they recognize importance of prevention activities, agitation-propaganda in schools. For them is essential to raise informing level in youth regarding what is it, where it comes from, what are the ways of transmission, how to protect, teaching of this is exactly under the competence of the state. *"Ozurgeti self-government's work through this direction is weak and it will be necessary to have similar projects."*

Respondents believe that obtaining a license for dental offices, salons must be tightened because this area is out of control, and contain highest risk of the disease spreading.

Other experts consider local activities for the prevention of these diseases not enough. "I am sure that examining of citizens will give dangerous picture (as part of patients hide their disease for different opinions and reasons), that's why first of all we must study the population, identify patients, only after this it will be possible to conduct full prevention activities."

What preconditions should be created for the women (and other social groups) for equal participation in the local self-government?

Opinions of experts do not coincide in this issue too: One of them said, "In my opinion, there is no ready-made recipe for this. If ladies are having will, and will try, they will achieve everything, overcome all obstacles."

Respondents refer to the quota issue, but there is no homogeneous approach to this issue. *"Eg. If government will make a decision, to employ at least 30% of women in the municipality, men's rights in executive circle will be abrogated. In this case, what is man's fault? this position may be taken by good man. In addition, the competition should be held without all reasons and the most important: there must be a good specialist, who will be identified by the competition."*

Part of the respondents consider that important changes in the election law (in case of composing party list by 30% of women, party's funding will be increased) is good, it will cheer parties to include the women in its activities. The respondent thinks that it will work well and the parties will more involve women in problem solution, accordingly the women will be included in decision-making process.

According the questions of focus group participants there was revealed how they are informed about local budget programs and how do they receive this information.

Most part of the respondents are nor informed about local self-government budget programs, moreover mostly they receive information afetr publishing them in mass media. Especially low informing level is met in socially unprotected women. "I rarely see already proved budget in newspapers". The participants explained their inertivity by having no lever of involvement and having influence on decissions, because of this they are less interested while programming the budget and look for the information in case of necessity.

By the opinion of all respondents, it is essential to carry out public discussion of the budget before a large audience, where the professionals and civil society will be invited. Priorities must be named and discussed by items and these remarks and recommendations must be envisaged, that is prior for local groups.

What civil groups' needs should be foreseen more in the local budget and how?

In the group of socially unprotected there was nominated financing of social projects as prior issue "Program of socially unprotected people must be improved." Some of them considered recessive to look through law of social assistance. "In spite of the fact that we are in need, we have only health policy" they wished to raise competence of self-government to this direction.

One part of inquires mention that health and social spheres must be prior, that is more or less reflected in the local budget, but social indicator is so low that mentioned programs are not enough.

There was an opinion that more attention should be paid to the youth. *"they graduate institute and go back, for those who live here it is absolutely un interesting to stay in this area, nothing happens in the villages, the youth has no place to gather, they have no conditions for development and employment"*. Some of the respondents underlined the issue of childcare and mentioned importance of self-government programs to this direction. It must serve to protection of physical, psychical and health of the kindergarten contingent.

Financing of what sphere would be more suitable for your needs? How? What kind of programs would assist you in development?

In the discussion round the issue part of the respondents considered desirable loan percentage loans, which will give them chance to start a business. "I asked whether there were allocated such loans in our municipality and I learned that there were very few". Some respondents saw necessity of health care programs.

Majority of respondents underlined support of agricultural programs, they mentioned that it is even awkward to talk about development and prospect when "you are excluded from state assistance program in case of having one hen extra". "It is essential to change assistance regulations, though I prefer to have a job with fewer salaries than amount of assistance, because it will be more stimulation for me."

By the respondents' opinion it is important to solve the problem of selling agricultural products; they express pain for indifferent attitude toward these issues.

There was an opinion that local municipalities must provide free programs of professional re-trainings with real perspective of employment, for this they must have close communication with local business, needs must be evaluated and the stuff must be prepared.

Majority of inquired consider that women and adults need education, raise of knowledge and frequent contact with employer for their stable development and the IDP groups must be supported in implementation of presented projects by the side of the state and donor organizations.

To your opinion what activities should be carried out in local politics for improvement of social condition (eg. decreasing unemployment) in long-term perspective, how will it promote to women's (and other social groups) full participation in decision – making

In answer to this, focus group participants named development of small business and women's involvement. They think that stream of migration especially in women will be decreased in case of seeing long-term

perspective. For example – employment of those, who can knit, sew and etc, delivery of microcredit for them.

The issue of women political participation was continued in other groups too. “It is desirable to involve women in politics, which will improve condition, as they are more considerate”. *“First of all local human resources should be evaluated and analyzed what needs exist in local geographical area in state of private sector, there must be conducted seminars and trainings for political parties, delivery of information to them on why it is important to have gender balanced Sakrebulo, accordingly the decisions, which must change social condition will be fair”.*

There was raised a question – which need is more essential for you, solving of which one is necessary for your stable development? What concrete activities will help you in their solution?

“The reform of education must be relevant to our families and everyone must have equal opportunity to receive high education, re-training courses must work effectively.” Participants named employment programs.

“the most essential problem is creation of active civil society, achieving of which is impossible in our social area, the main is stable financial condition of the family, only successful and developed group of people can think about changes, I think the women are more determined to this direction”.

Part of participants consider that state must promote the women, to increase maternity leave. The woman, who has children must have benefits regarding working day. Allocation of unpaid work must be equal in family. *“If a woman works and has children in kindergarten, she must not pay fee there, if she does not work, the state must give her choice: either give her compensation for childcare, or pay tax in the kindergarten, in order to give her opportunity to care about her development, take part in re-training programs.”*

Which is the main obstacle for your economical development and what concrete assistance do you need?

While talking about this issue, the women mentioned the problem of low salaries. Other group mentioned that the women have no possession, she has to take permission from husband to start a business and provide housing loans, the work in family is not equally disseminated and a woman has no time to be engaged by interesting and necessary for her activities. There were named other gender problems too: in most cases early marriage obstructs the girls to receive education, they are fully involved in domestic work and become depended on husbands.

Solution: gender education from an early age, specialization and real employment prospects, creation of gender-sensitive budget that will take care about women's problems.

In your opinion, how and by whom should be encouraged the work at the local level in unpaid sector?

While it is too early to consider this question, respondents were active to express their views:

“I think that speaking about it is too early, because even in unpaid sector, providing of normal salaries is not possible. Stimulation may be conducted not only by salaries, but with giving people status of labor experienced, such practice exist in the countries abroad. Monetary payment may be provided by considering social status.”

“The state must allocate finances for the service of domestic care. It must allocate compensation or salaries and central authority must work on it. Municipalities may create commission, which will evaluate check and make recommendations for the beneficiaries. Eg. if mothers cares about disabled child, the state must help her.” “They say: disabled child has a pension, we know the amount of this pension, and it is not enough even

for the medicines for them. Mother cannot leave a child, the state suggests them only one thing: to leave baby and refuse to care about him. What happens then – is a question of additional discussion.”

Some respondents said that the work in unpaid sector is financially big and the local budget can not cover it, so it would be better if the state intervenes in the case and allocate subsidy in the form of co-financing.

"First of all, this work should be encouraged by family members, the second - the state should balance their work with the work of state officer and give the women status of labor experienced, the work for vulnerable groups must be paid (a program of domestic care must be worked out and preference should be given to able-bodied family member)"

How is the woman protected from the gender side of domestic violence and must be understood collaboration between sectors, for prevention of violence and avoid its results?

By the opinion of participants, the woman is not protected from violence and we have examples with pitiful results. There is not enough collaboration between the sectors. *“Accordingly, it is impossible to lead determined and reasonable way to the common goal. First of all it is important to have coordination and communication. The sense of competition must be stopped among the NGOs”.*

The conversation touched the GAC, “this body can conduct promotional activities for our town, lobby the projects, promoting creation of gender equality.”

Participants consider that the state, NGO sector and society are huge power, it is only necessary to conduct inter-control. Decentralization solves many problems, it is easy to conduct control of self-government from the side of citizens, that’s why exactly decentralization is the way to solve many problems, increasing of people’s participation in fair allocation of budget will improve life level of population.

Other groups also negatively evaluated inter-sector collaboration for prevention of violence and avoiding its results. “There is no coordinated and agreed work, local self-government is rarely interested by the work of public organizations working in the town, and accordingly it does not see challenges of different groups.”

Participants consider that the victims of domestic violence are mainly the women “Basically the contacts, relative relations, friends work in Georgia, so it will be acceptable to prevent domestic violence. We have a law, which is not effective as representatives of the police are mainly men, who express solidarity to the rapist, there are also facts of having rapist policemen, in this case protection of the victim is too difficult.”

There were named reasons of domestic violence: lack of informing, traditions and mentality, unpopularity of wedding contract, low level of women education, financial problems.

Solution: Frequent conversations with women. "Male Talks" – with young boys, coordination among the agencies working in this field and non-governmental organizations, simplification of procedures to obtain statistical information for civil society organizations, from law enforcement agencies. Coordination between organizations in preparation of legislative changes.

It was said that victim’s protection and rehabilitation is the most difficult process and needs prevention ways. “Local municipalities must promote campaign against violence, it is possible to plan different sport activities, which will be directed to avoidance of violence”.

“The issue of domestic violence is still under taboo in the regions and too complicated. The law also is not sophisticated, it does not promote victim’s protection, stereotypes in the society also disturb to solve this problem, and one of the main obstacles is non coordinative work of the organizations working in this field and governmental structures.”

There was made a conclusion that all organizations must work on raising awareness of the society, it is not a business of only one organization or state structure, there must be coordination and purchasing of services of the NGO sector for the side of the state.

They claimed that the statistics regarding this are unfavorable; assistance of the victim is connected with difficulties, though prevention is the best way out. Parts of the youth sometimes also see a thing behind a woman. The problem is also early marriage, as a result of which there are frequent cases of violence. “Low social background, education in the family, I think that these are the issues everyone must think about, the society must agree that violence is unacceptable in families as well as everywhere, one man’s power often defeats one man’s wisdom, but clever society can defeat violence and rapists.”

Lobbying of legislative changes for avoiding this problem must be carried out, local organizations must collaborate in these activities and they must not see each other as the competitors.

It was said that unfortunately the women and girls are not aware of their rights and obligations and do not see them from the gender side. Activities to this direction must be carried out in schools. Kindergartens must re-train teachers, as we think that creation of stereotypes begins from the early age and the main promoters of it are the teachers.

Conclusion : results of quantitative research, “Evaluation of Local Gender Groups’ needs of Ozurgeti Municipality”, conducted by the order of the fund “Sukhumi” in Ozurgeti, proved the first theory: In the context of local development there are social, different gender groups, who have exceptional needs and envisaging of them in local policy and programs will promote social, economical, cultural development of these groups. The research divided issues, envisaging of which is the most important by the opinion of the respondents for promotion of their development.

As a result of research analysis it became possible to elaborate recommendation suggestions for the local self-government. See below:

Equal participation in local self-government

➤ While composing the budget and defining budget priorities, from its very early stage, providing of different social groups; equal participation, for maximal envisaging the needs of these groups

➤ Conducting or relevant researches or envisaging already existing information through direction of citizens’ social protection

Protection of mothers and babies

➤ Local activities for support of pregnant women, infants, maternal and child care.

➤ reproductive health care, support of preventive measures of feminine organ diseases (including cancer)

Local gender groups’ vital needs satisfaction

➤ Full informing of local gender groups regarding local budget programs

➤ Involvement of NGOs, public groups in identifying the problems to elaborate long-term programs with local resources for economical strengthening of vulnerable groups

➤ Responsibility in IDP social-economical integration issues and close collaboration with relevant structures (The Ministry of Internal Displacement, Abkhazian Governmental Structures).

➤ Support of special programs for social protection of the elderly people, benefits on local transport.

Local multidisciplinary collaboration

➤ Settling of local gender statistic system together with the interested groups

- Settling of gender practice, ensuring of local budget transparency and accountability, conducting budget gender monitoring for analysis of its influence on men, women and different groups of society.
- Strengthening of local inter-sector collaboration according rights and obligations of law: “Gender equality law”, “law on domestic violence prevention, victim protection and assistance”, local obligations of the law action plan.
- promotion of raising awareness in gender economical policy, planning and budget processes of self-government representatives and other local institutions.
- Periodical analysis of local budget social costs’ effectiveness

Decrease of unemployment and promotion of socio-economical development

- Promotion of textile industry tradition, creation of relevant area for women’s small business
- Stimulation of local business for creating jobs
- Through cooperation with local NGOs and other interested sides, support of long-term social programs, which will substitute assistance programs for concrete groups by economical development promotion programs.

Support of reproductive labor

- Creation of such employment programs, which will give the housewives chance to be involved in enterprise business without leaving homes (traditional handicraft)
- Benefits on local taxes for those representatives of private sector, who will cheer reproductive work
- Cheering and support of reproductive work (sick, disabled children care)

Promotion of social infrastructure development

- Enlarging of preschool premises according needs of population
- Support of qualification raising programs in preschool premises
- Promotion of Physical and psychological health of the preschool contingent

Enlarging of local competence issues

- Stimulation of women (teachers, staff or art sphere, enterprisers and etc) by allocating them small targeted grants (exhibitions, publication of works and so on).
- Fulfilling of social protection as one on the main functions of local budget, preparation of local suggestions for improvement of social justice level of state programs’ regulations
- Implementation of according policy for disabled groups for creation of relevant infrastructure for them
- Creation of professional activity centers according the research of market demands, training of women and other gender groups for their professional growth.

Prevention of socially dangerous diseases on local level

- Creation of statistics system of social diseases, studying of scale of socially dangerous diseases
- Creation of maximally comfortable sanitarian service on local level
- Support of educational programs and projects in schools and kindergartens (informing, prevention direction)
- Monitoring of the local service objects (salons, dentists’ cabinet)

- Involvement of qualified specialists in prevention of socially dangerous diseases on local level (TB, hepatitis "c", HIV - AIDS, etc.)

Youth educational and development programs

- Creation of self-government youth policy strategy, promotion of healthy life-style, support of their education and development, cultural and sport activities
- Promotion of education for the students from socially unprotected families, cheering of successful students.
- Support of the sanitarian culture and sexual education programs in schools
- Making basis for youth training system in local authority, stimulation of private enterprises through this direction
- Cheering of successful students (integrity in educational programs abroad, publishing of the works)

Prevention of gender side domestic violence and collaboration in protection of the victims

- Creation of violation statistics in family, revealing of risk families and work with them to the direction of violence prevention and assistance of the victims.
- Training of local self-government stuff, law protecting organs social workers and journalists regarding violation protection mechanisms of domestic violence issues by close cooperation with NGO sector.
- Providing of victim assistance in frames of local government competence together with the other subjects of violence prevention referral mechanisms