



**Research of gender needs of civil groups
in Senaki Municipality
for integration in the local budget**

2016

1. Summary

The research held in Senaki had an aim to reveal needs of local social groups, for their integration in the local budget in future. The target of the research was youth, women, socially unprotected, women in small business, IDPs, persons with disabilities. As a result of receiving qualitative and quantitative information, it revealed that in Senaki for satisfying the interests of different gender groups of population and establishing new budget programs achievement is seen.

Despite the fact that information about budget is public, quality of communication with society needs improvement, because practice of participation of different, mainly most vulnerable groups in the processes of planning budget, implementation and reporting is not still established, though meetings in the villages give such possibility.

Respondents consider that programs which are planned in according to tenders of infrastructure, economical, educational social protection, healthcare development and are envisaged by the different municipalities optimally in relevance with the priorities. By their opinion planned programs in the sphere of infrastructure protection, social and health care, improve general economical and social situation of population and concrete social groups.

There were named local programs, which have obvious effect: for example in the infrastructural projects – programs of rehabilitation of houses for socially unprotected, in the programs of health care, high evaluation was given to examination of pre-school children on helminths. Funding high-tech research for citizens with impaired health; the program of co-financing for patients with C-hepatitis, etc.

Research showed, that needs of all vulnerable groups in the municipality of Senaki are not fully satisfied, as policy of their social condition and assistance is a part of broad network of activities and it always means accessibility to the sustainable employment, accommodation, healthcare and education, the aim of which is decreasing poverty and risks of vulnerability. Mainly strict are the problem of disabled people from the point of view of their social care, creation of labor conditions as well as creation of relevant infrastructure for them.

In order to stop the process of leakage, it is need for programs to promote the youth, to encourage young people, internships, even by improvement of the general economic background, by attracting investment, creating jobs.

Research has demonstrated the need for a women's farming, small businesses, which are associated with the ordering of social infrastructure, with the creation of local programs. Highlighting the need to increase salaries for technical staff and teachers of preschool system and improvement of their social protection. There is an acute issue of socio-economic integration of refugee women.

The research showed that in the municipality of Senaki it is gradually established need of gender approaches and necessity of envisaging gender vision in the budget, gender education, as it is understood by the society as well as representatives of self-government. It is proved by the issues, which were envisaged in the budget on the initiative of gender council of Senaki, for example – assistance for the victims of domestic violence, educational work in the villages.

On the basis of gained information there was identified need of social programs in the future, which envisage creation of day centers, delivery of psychological consultations for the elderly, single mothers and children, rehabilitation and assistive equipment for disabled and reduction of poverty in general, vulnerable risks, to meeting the needs of gender groups with complex activities to improve condition in municipality.

2. Mainpart

Research conducted in Senaki municipality: "Research of needs of local social groups" was carried out by order of Fund "Sukhumi" and the members of Senaki GAC were included in it.

The study was realized by obtaining quantitative and qualitative information. By the method of the survey, focus groups and in-depth interviews.

A total number of respondents was 236 (interview - 200 respondents, focus group - 34 respondents, in-depth interviews - 4 respondents).

2.1. Quantitative research

200 respondents participated in the quantitative study conducted in Senaki municipality. Among them, 88% of women and 12% men. By the method of individual interview were asked the following social groups: youth, socially unprotected, women with small businesses, refugees. The survey was conducted in Senaki, and with population of villages: Teklati, Bataraiia, Mendzhi.

Age of the participants was from 16 to 30 - 32%, 30 to 50, 43%, 26% above 50. 68% of them live in the city, 32% in villages. 100% of city residents were young. (64% of young people, research participants). 17% of respondents have incomplete education, 32% - secondary vocational, 13% - incomplete higher education, 40% - with higher education. With higher education mostly were interviewed in a group of small businesses (32%).

On the question have you a stable income or not - a positive answer was fixed by 44% of respondents. Negative - 56%. The average monthly income of family up to 200 GEL had 40% of respondents, up to 600 GEL - 42%, above 600 GEL - 19%. Among them, the income to 200 GEL noted 62% of socially disadvantaged. 84% of the group of small business had income up to 600 GEL. Above 600 GEL was indicated by 52% of young people, 16% - small business, 6% - the refugees, 0% disadvantaged.

On the question have you relevant information about local budget programs or not, the answer - "have full information" was fixed by 13 % of respondents. Less informed were socially unprotected - 0%, more or less informed - youth 22%.

Answer "have poor information" was chosen by 48% (youth 52%, small business also 52%, socially unprotected - 44%).

Answer “have no information” was fixed by 39% of respondents. Among them dominated socially unprotected – 56% and refugees 44%.

Respondents evaluated quality of communication of local self-government with society.

44% of respondents consider it satisfactory. Mostly in small business (74%), youth (54%). Only 10% out of socially unprotected consider the issue satisfactory.

27% of respondents chose the answer “unsatisfactory”, mostly socially unprotected (43%). 30 % of refugees unsatisfactorily evaluate the issue. The answer “I am difficult to answer” was chosen by 30 5 of respondents. (54% socially unprotected. 34% of youth, 10% of small business, 28% refugees).

Respondents of individual inquiry had possibility to evaluate the programs of local social protection and health care. These programs appeared to be satisfactory for 51%, mostly for the women in small business (72%) and for the refugees (68%). 22% of respondents consider unsatisfactory. Mostly socially unprotected think so (36%). 28% of respondents are difficult to answer (socially unprotected – 54%, youth 32%, refugees 16%, small business 85%).

Respondents answered the question: while composing local budget, how important is to envisage problems of men and women equally (also of other specific groups of society).

43% of respondents consider the issue very important (74% of youth group, 56% of refugees, 24% of women in small business, 22% of socially unprotected). 25% of respondents consider more or less important, 16% consider the issue important, 1% of them are hard to answer.

Respondents were asked to name the priorities out of listed, in terms of funding at the local level. They were able to select 3 important questions out of them.

24% of respondents chose "health." 18% - social protection; 19% - education; 19% economic development; 7% - public order and safety; 13% - infrastructure. Education often was called in the refugee group. An important issue for refugee groups was health. Women representatives of small business gave priority to the program of economic development, but it is typical that necessity of program of education see less of all. The need for infrastructure programs was named mostly by representatives of the youth group. Least of all this issue was touched by socially unprotected group.

The respondents were asked to choose whose needs do they consider important to envisage in the local budget. They could choose 3 most important categories for them.

“Youth families” was chosen by 8% of respondents, refugees – 11%, pregnant women – 6%, carelessness children – 10%, socially unprotected families – 16%, ethnic minorities – 1%, elderly – 8%. Disabled – 12%, single parents – 8%, small business – 5%, students – 5%, victims of domestic violence – 3%, mothers of many children – 6%. Youth group name most important the families of socially unprotected people (22%), disabled (17%), least of all single parents (2%).

Socially unprotected think that youth families should be the subjects of special care (19%), IDPs (17%) and socially unprotected families (17%) they do not see needs of

ethnic minorities (0%) less needs of single parents (2%), small business (3%), students (3%).

According to women, involved in small business, socially unprotected families need most attention (18%), single parents (14%), elderly (11%).

Most important for the IDPs is caring about disabled (26%), according to them the elderly also need attention (14%). Importance of envisaging needs of IDPs at local level was chosen by 5% of them.

Respondents could not see importance to envisage needs of violence victim (about 3%).

Respondents named 3 most important and vivid needs, which are necessary for socio - economical development.

a) improvement of living conditions - 12%; Employment - 27%; availability of qualified education - 18%; integration of social assistance programs - 9%; protection of working conditions - 14%; support of family members - 9%; affordable loans - 12%.

Improvement of living conditions often was called by a group of socially disadvantaged (23%), refugees (13%).

Employment was equally important for respondents from the 25% to 31%. The need for qualified education least feel disadvantaged (9%). Most of the refugees (25% of responses).

The integration in local social programs is most important for 10% of the socially disadvantaged, and 16% of refugees.

The protection of working conditions as a vivid necessity is mostly called by the women included in small businesses (17%).

Family support is needed for the youth group (18%). Least of all - refugees (2%).

Need of affordable credit most have small businesses - 24%. 10% of young people consider the issue urgent. With regard to the refugee group (3%) and vulnerable (9%) are relatively indifferent to this question.

According to the answers of respondents it was found out that their contribution to the family is the most productive work (45%), reproductive work is a contribution to 28%, and mixed - for 27%. Part of the most productive work is in the group of small businesses - 94%.

To the question, do they think it necessary to encourage conducted activity in unpaid sector (reproductive work – caring about children, elderly, sick, accommodation activities) from the side of local government, the respondents answer in such way.

Yes – 59%, no – 23%, difficult to answer – 18%. Necessity of this question was seen by socially unprotected (26%). Most of all the youth and refugees (74%).

Respondents expressed their attitude to the question, what mostly promotes to decreasing unemployment among women.

To their opinion, the most important is creation of working places (62%), then comes municipal programs of small business development – 14%, creation of more equipped social infrastructure – 10%, informational centers of unemployment assistance and employment – 6%.

Creation of working places are mostly prior for the youth (72%).

Refugees (20% more pragmatically look at the issue of improving service of kindergartens, least of all – the youth (2%). Necessity of programs for development of small business mostly see the women entrepreneurs (24%). Necessity of this is seen by the women IDPs least of all (4%).

Respondents name important activities to promote the education and development of young people, which to their opinion, should be done at the local level.

Promotion of successful students by the results of the national examinations - Municipal voucher, scholarship - 19%;

24% of respondents named funding for students from disadvantaged families;

The opening of day centers for young people from disadvantaged families - 10%;

Funding for youth programs 18%; program is mostly necessary for youth group.

Answer - support for young families - 13%;

Providing qualified internship programs is important for 16% of the respondents.

While defining social and other needs of the most vulnerable groups (refugees, disabled, single parents, mothers of many children, young families and etc.) of local population, respondents consider the following issues the most important:

Gameoba / City Hall - 43%, Sakrebulo - 7%; Non-governmental sector - 11%; active group of citizens 27%; Media - 12%.

It should be noted that among the respondents there is the same attitude to the leading role of Gameoba. Especially in the group of small businesses (84%). In the group of socially vulnerable, this ratio is 22% - 16%.

It should be noted that 56% of refugees, 22% of young people recognize the leading role of active citizens groups. 26% of the socially disadvantaged; small businesses representatives see their role the least of all (4%).

24% - a group of socially disadvantaged mostly recognize the role of non-governmental sector. Least of all - group of small businesses - 2%, and refugees (6%).

Respondents of individual interview defined what structures are most actively involved in the activities of prevention of gender and domestic violence. after choosing 3 most important answers, they were allocated in the following way:

- a) Social workers – 17%
- b) Law enforcement structures (police, prosecutor's office) – 18%
- c) Educational premises – 8%
- d) Structures of healthcare – 9%
- e) NGOs – 10%
- f) Local government – 15%
- g) Public defender – 10 %
- h) Media – 13%

Least of all the role of social workers is seen by the group of small business – 4%, most important is considered by socially unprotected – 29%.

Role of law protecting structures is seen by the representatives of small business (27%) and refugees (29%).

Role of educational structures was not mentioned in the group of small business (1%), mostly this structure is named by the youth group (20%).

Role of public defender is named by (5%) of small business, 14% of youth, 14% of socially unprotected, 21% of refugees.

25% of small business, 13% of refugees, 12% of youth and 11% of socially unprotected consider important inclusion of local government.

2.2. Qualitative research

There were conducted 4 focus groups to obtain qualitative information (the total number of respondents 36) and four in-depth interviews with local experts (4 respondents). Totally 40 respondents participated in the qualitative research. 31 women 9 men. Focus groups were held with the disabled persons, women leaders of communities, teachers of pre-school premises, with parents, intelligentsia.

Gained information showed the degree of involvement of different social groups in the municipality, in particular in terms of information exchange, participation in the budget process. There was suggested a vision, that "budget should optimally reflect the interests of all stakeholders - women, disabled, youth, refugees and ethnic minorities. From the very beginning of the development of the budget it is necessary to include all stakeholders. After approval of the budget all stakeholders should be informed about its objectives, priorities and plans", although in practice there was given rather different picture. Despite the fact that the government door seemingly is open to all, according to the disabled, people in their difficult condition are difficult to participate, existing infrastructure does not allow to move freely.

There were also other conclusions: "I think that social groups have no relevant information about their rights and resource, accordingly do not participate in defining budget priorities."

Experts involved in the research, while speaking about existing practice of defining budget priorities, mentioned that "central government and particularly the Ministry of Finances should find financial resources in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development for funding the project, elaboration of general plan for development of municipalities, which will give possibility to define programs and implement projects precisely, purposefully and efficiently".

According to respondents all current programs in municipalities are considered enough important, as for development of the city it is necessary equal duration of infrastructural as well as socio-economical, cultural and sport programs. They underline social programs funding of high-tech researches particularly for citizens with the poor health of the citizens, which is expensive and in most cases are not funded by the state program of universal insurance. And under this program it became available for the citizens.

Important novelty is a program for assistance of violence victims, which promotes to their social adaptation.

According to respondents, with the help of social programs aimed at the prevention of problems of the most vulnerable groups of local population and IDP community, for planned social programs for these groups, it was increased accessibility to medicines and

to different health services. They consider that in the future social programs should include establishment of day-care centers, providing psychological counseling for the elderly, single mothers and children, rehabilitation and assistance programs for the disabled and other programs. To their opinion poverty reduction and vulnerable risks, needs of groups, will be satisfied with such complex activities as: availability of sustainable employment, housing, health and education, only such activities can neutralize the real condition of the state.

According information gained as a result of research, it was shown that the experts consider local activities for health protection and prevention of diseases effective and the indicator of this are number of statements for employment and satisfied citizens. They think that it is necessary to co-finance the medicine for the people with heart diseases despite their social status.

According to experts, the needs of all vulnerable groups are not fully satisfied as their social status and assistance policy is always part of a larger spectrum that includes access to sustainable employment, housing, health and education, they aim to reduce the increase of poverty and vulnerability risks. Only such complex activity may neutralize the real condition of the state.

There were arguments that professional economists and lawyers, in parallel with civil inclusion should define budget priorities. *"While planning the budget professionals together with representatives of different groups should take part in it. I think that the population should be inquired". "To my opinion inclusion of the youth and disabled is necessary, for envisaging their needs".*

There were shown positions that in the process of budget planning there should be kept records of effects of existing programs. *"The costs are effective when it will be followed by the result and it will not be a one-term. For example I can sharpen the focus on infrastructure work, which is important for the welfare of the population." "In reality, analysis of applications from citizens in self-government, will give possibility to take into account the interests of the most vulnerable groups while planning priorities and social programs for the next year."*

Effective enough was the program for ensuring socially unprotected people with building materials which gives possibility to rehabilitate dilapidated houses and accommodation conditions of the citizens improves.

Citizens claim that for them also important is health programs. "Financing of health programs are more selected. Parasitological research of the area, included in the health program is also acceptable. "Also there was mentioned a program of co-financing the necessary studies for inclusion patients with C-hepatitis in the program of health care.

"I like the program of development of villages. The village is strong when there is a gas, water, and others. In the villages is good program of vouchers. When people in the village will have such assistance, the "Runaway" people in the city, will go back to the village. "

Citizens like the attention of the local government towards kindergartens, particularly in relation to nutrition of the children.

Women and other gender groups included in the research, in parallel to those programs that they consider suitable for them, speak about specific needs. Specially underlined were the problems of disabled. The issue was touched by both beneficiaries themselves and other community groups and experts. "Regarding the problem of disabled people, it would be better if the services existing in the municipality and the building will be adapted and infrastructure of the city will be arranged accordingly to needs of such people, so that they have opportunities of free movement without hindrance. Different building in Senaki have ramps, although there are lot of places, where entering of such is impossible."

The disabled themselves speak about integrity of their community in the society. "we permanently need help and not only economical. It will be good to activate the program of caring at home, as physical and psychological assistance would ease our condition".

It was mentioned that there should exist a program for employment of disabled persons. Also support such programs, which would help them to be integrated in the society. "Now I work with 18 disabled pupils and also with volunteers and make handicrafts, but I am worried with the lack of finances. No program was financed in the region, finances were not found for that".

It will be desirable to have legislative basis, where employment of disabled will be essential. According to them: "we want to earn money with our work. It will be acceptable if the state finds sources and will pay more attention on stable assistance of disabled."

Teachers of preschool premises consider that in the local budget there should be envisaged programs for professional training of teachers, as teaching programs and demands are sophisticated and also the need to promote gender education. Although the most painful question is low payment. "It is felt a progress in pre-school institutions, it will be good to take into account the growth of salary of employees for next year."

There was mentioned a problem of 6 year-old children, who were not admitted to schools and the kindergartens do not receive them back. "It will be good to open a group for children above 6, as often because of 1 month the child can not go to school and we can not return them back".

Teachers and parents agree that most part of assistance from the government should be used for pre-school premises. This is assistance for women.

It was said that the clearest need is in employment, followed by the question of migration, especially for women. "It is important to overcome the unemployment, creation of jobs. In the long term, in every village should be created enterprises for stopping population drain".

It was said that barrier to socio-economical development of population is small finances and credits, which touches 80% of population. It is important to give long-term low-percent loans, and local self-government should ensure consultative centers for interested persons and provide assistance for the specialists in technological maintenance.

“For me, as for many others financial assistance is essential for implementation of small business plan. Of course self-government will not give such amount, but a hope they will support.”

“I need funds for my project, which is envisaged for 25 students and we make nice handmade. Among these pupils 18 are disabled.”

Research participants consider that for strengthening the village it is necessary to have relevant infrastructure. Population should feel care from the side of government. “It is necessary to give gas to the population, it will be grate to gasificate old region of Senaki”.

While speaking about long-term prospects of improving socio-economical situation, it was noted that in the municipality of Senaki there is conducted construction of cement factory of modern standards, which will employ thousands of local citizens, it is also planned rehabilitation of the monument of cultural succession Nokalakevi, which will support the growth of local revenue and transformation of Senaki, as a city with great tourist potential.

Investment should be gained for creation of jobs and in this direction in Senaki, little steps were made. Small factories of laurel and peanut are working, where most of employers are women. Citizens wish to increase government efforts in this direction.

For the participants of the research it is very important to carry out activities for the support of young people. There is a need of internship programs for young people to attract new staff. "It will be very good if the local budget will take into account the amount for students with higher academic progress with the aim of financial assistance, to facilitate their learning in high schools."

By the opinion of participants of the research, long – term prospect is an elusive by local budget. The envisaged events will not improve the socio-economic condition of the people, it is considered a short-term perspective, since the assistance, they receive is based on needs and for suspension of problems in a certain time interval. While the country will have socially vulnerable layer of society and the economic condition will not be improved, according to the local budget and certain parts of the country's budget in general, we can speak only about the short term prospects.

By the opinion of participants, in terms of women employment, the main thing is to conduct trainings and employ the women. Here should be envisaged private sector, it is mostly possible in the sphere of agriculture.

The experts think that establishment of enterprises of local importance, the development of agricultural programs and the attraction of investment determine creation of jobs and improve the social status of the population. The geographical location of Senaki municipality and natural resources make it possible to transform Senaki into tourist center. Also it may be reconstructed as spa resort. There is an interest of investors in this area, and by the active involvement of government it will be possible to create interesting conditions for investors.

There were expressed interesting vision towards promoting gender policies at a place. Research participants believe it is a merit of Senaki GAC. Experts believe that the work

in terms of gender budgeting, gender education in general must be continued for inclusion of all vulnerable groups and creation of favorable environment for them. "Gender budgeting can be named as one of the components of gender-sensitive policies at a place, in the budget of this year it is envisaged financial assistance for victims of domestic violence."

Prevention of domestic violence is deemed a very important question – mainly here are named the projects implemented jointly with the Fund "Sukhumi". "It should be noted that in communities there is a lack of information in this area. It will be good if the activity in this direction will be more, more cooperation between the government, society and NGOs, a greater awareness for the effective implementation of prevention of domestic violence.

Recommendations

- Elaboration of general plan of Municipality development
- Co-financing of medicines to patients with coronary artery disease despite social status.
- Activation of the program of home care for the disabled, for their physical and psychological support. Support of programs for disabled on employment and integration into society.
- There is a need of envisaging internship programs for the youth, in the budget.
- Senaki should become tourist destination. Also spa resort should be restored. There is an interest of investors in this area.
- Discussing the issue of increasing salaries for the teachers and technical staff of kindergartens.
- Maximal inclusion of civil groups, specialists of the fields while preparing budget programs.
- Encouraging young people with high academic achievements by local Programs. Activation of youth internship programs.
- Улучшение практики сельских собрании и активное включение в его работе женских групп.
- Improving the practice of rural meetings and active involvement of women's groups in the work.