

Peoples' Manifesto



Project was funded by
European Union (EU)



PEOPLES' MANIFESTO

**INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY DOES NOT MEAN ONLY TO
ELECT BUT TO MAKE THOSE WHO WERE ELECTED
TO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE'S PLIGHT**

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PREFACE

We would like to inform you on the results of activities fulfilled within ``People's Manifesto`` project implemented by the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) and International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED).

Activities fulfilled within the EU funded project ``Peoples' Manifesto – a Real Democracy Means not Only a Right to Choose but also Forcing the Chosen One to Care for People's Interests``, aimed at increasing skills of local community organizations, strengthening transparency and responsibility of local self-governing organs and facilitating increase of responsibilities for politic parties/subjects in the problem-solving process, by implementing monitoring and control of local self-governing institutions.

Trainings for active citizens and representatives of local self-governing institutions were one of the project's components. In 62 Municipalities of Georgia trainings were conducted for 904 active citizens and representatives of civic society organizations (CSOs) on active citizenship and monitoring of local self-governing institutions. Trainings in 63 Municipalities of Georgia were organized for 1022 representatives of local self-governing institutions on topics – engagement of citizens in Local-Self government implementation, functions of local self-governing institutions and budgetary processes.

83 focus group meetings were organized in 62 Municipalities of Georgia aiming at identifying problems of local population and informing electoral subjects on problems identified during pre-election processes. During which, 960 respondents were interviewed. In the pre-elections process, problems identified by the focus groups in form of reports were submitted to the political parties/electoral subjects and representatives of other sectors during the round table meetings.

Particular activities were implemented by the organizations aiming at increasing citizens' awareness. 15 study tours were organized aiming at informing on the activities of non-governmental organizations and sharing experience with the active citizens, in which 251 active citizens and 36 local non-governmental organizations were involved. Organizations announced an essay competition. Citizens prepared 48 essays on topics-``I and my self-government``, ``Self-government in service of people?!``, ``If I were member of Sakrebulo¹...``. Authors of best 7 essays were identified. A photo exhibition was organized in self-governing city Batumi at the initiative of citizens involved in the project. The exhibition aimed at acknowledging the local self-governing institutions and society in form of a photo-monitoring. Later on, photo-monitoring was implemented in other regions as well. Organizations implemented 50 press-conferences on the activities implemented and results achieved, aiming at informing society about current activities of the project and results of monitoring local self-governing institutions. It consisted of information on 10 regions of Georgia and 3 short documentary films were presented.

Citizens implemented monitoring of activities of local self-governing institutions, aiming at increase in the transparency and facilitating accountability of local self-governing institutions, suing three main mechanisms. In particular, by monitoring publicity of information, attending Sakrebulo sessions and monitoring budget processes. Project was interesting, for the monitoring of problems identified by focus groups and fulfillment of promises made by the local authorities during the 2009 Village support program.

We consider that the project was a success, as far as 43 problematic issues have been taken into consider-

¹ City Council.

ation and solved and 65 promises on future regulation were received during the implemented campaign.

However, the most important part was the fact that activities implemented during the project fulfilled its aim and particular part of the population now has skills for independently solving their problems, representatives of local self-governing institutions were propelled to envisage interests of the population, which is step forward to realizing a real self-government.

In the presented publication, you will find information on advocacy meetings organized in each Municipality, and results reached.

Best regards,



Tamar Chugoshvili
Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)



Ekaterine Siradze-Delone
International Society for Fair Elections and
Democracy (ISFED)

INTRODUCTION

The Project, "People's Manifesto" introduced an innovative approach towards supporting engagement of civil society in the decision-making process. Taking today's reality into consideration, engagement of civil society in the decision-making process is quite low, especially on the regional level. This, on its part causes partial and often ungrounded decisions by the local authorities, which in most of the cases does not at all reflect problems and interests of local population. On the one hand, civil society organizations and ordinary citizens lack the skills necessary for planning, deciding and implementing processes, directly affecting their every-day life. On the other hand, Election subjects remember problems of ordinary citizens only in the pre-election period, they promise to regulate issues, however, after elections, and they tend to forget their promises or solve them improperly.

One of the main elements of democracy and the rule of law is the right of individuals and society generally to participate in decision-making process, not simply participating in elections and voting for a particular candidate, but by means of permanent monitoring and control of those for whom they voted. Taking the all above said into consideration and aiming at increasing engagement of the population and accountability for the local self-governing institutions, the project has introduced mechanisms for public monitoring, which are request of public information, attending Sakrebulo sessions, submitting recommendation letters, participating in the budget processes, advocating for solving specific problems etc. This gave opportunity to citizens to conclude, whether decisions made by local authorities correspond population's priorities.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Whole range of changes to organic law of Georgia on local self-governing institutions, since results of elections for local self-governing representative organs had been officially declared in 2010. With these changes, another important stage of local self-government has started. Law has envisaged additional guarantees in terms of engagement of population in the decision making process. It has regulated powers of local self-governing units in a new way and has introduced innovations to competencies of officials in the local self-governing institutions. It is important that obligations of self-governing organs and their officials are determined, according to which local authorities were requested to engage the society by providing adequate organizational and material-technical environment for receiving citizens, engaging society in the Sakrebulo sessions, controlling transparency of decision-making.² Citizens were given opportunity to become more actively engaged in the local decision-making process.

Changes concerned powers of local self-governing units. Instead of the exclusive, voluntary and delegated powers, only two – direct and delegated powers were left. Role of the Sakrebulo, as of a local representative organ has been changed and the Administration has become an implementer of Sakrebulo decisions, in parallel.

Project implementation was closely linked to the local election of self-governing representative organs held on May 30, 2010. Elections resulted in banking local self-governing organ from those elected. On of the main problems for these parsons, according to the changes, was to realize local self-government by orienting on populations interests. Close cooperation with the population stipulates legitimacy of decisions made by local self-governing organs and increase in the level of trust towards those who were voted for. Thematic for training were identified by taking the above said into consideration, and trainings were organized for both, the population and representatives of local self-government.

GYLA and the International Society for ISFED and Democracy under the project People's manifesto carried out the campaign of awareness raising and skill improvement of active citizens and civil society organizations campaign at 63 Municipalities and self-governing cities. The objective of the above-mentioned activity was the improvement of citizens and local community-based organizations skills through the monitoring of local self-governing bodies, empowering local population through the involvement in the resolution of own problems, increasing the transparency of local self-government bodies and accountability, increasing the role of political parties/subjects in the process of elimination of local problems.

² Organic Law of Georgia on Local Self-governing Organs, Article 58.1, December 16, 2005.

TRAININGS OF CITIZENS



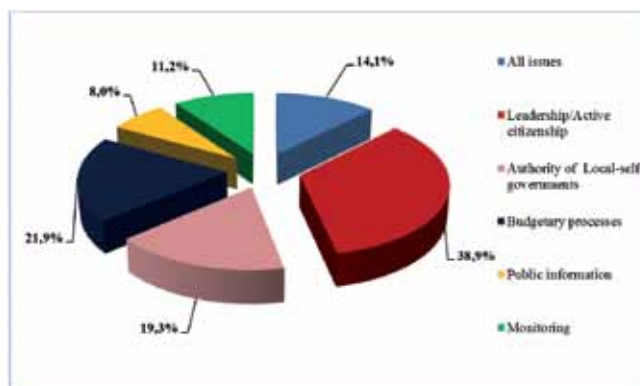
part in the trainings³.

According to the comments of citizens it is necessary to hold similar trainings more frequently and further, it is necessary to involve more citizens as well.

The citizens selected from the population in each Municipality were provided trainings in active citizenship and monitoring of activities of local self-government bodies. **904** citizens residing in 62 Municipalities took



The most interesting issues for the participants⁴



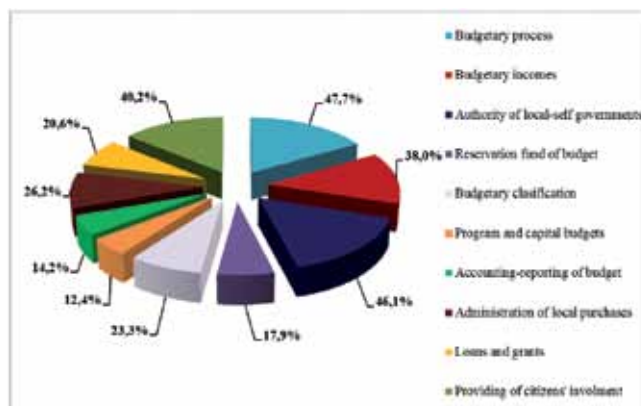
³ 294 female and 610 males.

⁴ Information has been processed on the basis of the 827 evaluation questionnaires. Participants had a choice to circle alternative answers

TRAININGS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES' REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives of local self-government bodies were provided trainings at 63 Municipalities of Georgia on topics: involvement of citizens in the local self-governmental implementation, functions of local self-government bodies and budgetary processes. Overall, **1022**⁵ local self-government representatives took part in the trainings.

*The most interesting issues for the participants*⁶



The representatives of local self-government bodies gave sufficiently positive evaluation to the trainings. As they mentioned, such trainings would promote not only raising the skills of newly selected members, but relationship between citizens and local self-governments as well.

STUDY TOURS

To learn about the activities of local NGO's and share experience to active citizens ISFED and GYLA organized **15** training tours. During the study tour region's active citizens traveled to various regions where they learned about the activities of local NGO's. Local organizations were selected for the tours according to their sphere of work. Specifically, during the trainings active citizens identified topics that were of interest thereof, respectively the emphasis was placed on the organizations working on the same topics. A total of **251** active citizens and **36** local NGO's took part in the study tours.

In the course of study tours the conversation was about such topical issues as: elections and election processes, forms of cooperation with local self-government, community initiatives, authorities and the involvement of citizens, requesting public information, and experience of NGO's about the relations with local self-governments and the involvement of civil society, gender issues, and legislative issues.



⁵ 622 males and 400 females

⁶ Information has been processed on the basis of the 627 evaluation questionnaires. Participants had a choice to circle alternative answers

Study tours were conducted in the following civil society organizations:

#	NGO	Venue of study tour
	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy	All regions
	GYLEA	All regions
	Civil Society Institute	Adjara
	Association Of Scientists Intellect	Adjara
	Democratic Institute	Adjara
	Association Of Young Teachers	Guria
	Georgia Democratic Development association	Guria
	Young Scientists' Club	Guria
	Youth Resource Center	Guria
	Civil Development Agency	Kvemo Kartli
	Youth association for Regions Education and development	Kvemo Kartli
	Association of Young Economists of Georgia	Imereti
	LDA Georgia	Imereti
	Cultural -Humanitarian foundation Sokhumi	Imereti
	Atinati	Samegrelo
	Samegrelos Medea	Samegrelo
	IDP Women's association Imedi	Samegrelo
	Civil Development Association	Kakheti
	Radio Hereti	Kakheti
	Intelligent Women	Kakheti
	Association Leli 1	Kakheti
	Media Center Kakheti	Kakheti
	Kakheti Information Center	Kakheti
	Strategic Research and Development Telavi Bureau	Kakheti
	Organization Biliki	Gori
	Human Rights Center	Gori
	The Club for the disabled	Gori
	Union of Democrat Meskhetians	Akhltsikhe
	Youth Education Center	Akhltsikhe

PRESS CONFERENCES

At various stages of the project the GYLEA and ISFED were holding press conferences on a regular basis. The press conferences were used to inform the public and mass media about ongoing activities and results of the project. **50** press-conferences were held in the course of project implementation: 11- in Batumi, 5- in Ozurgeti, 7- in Kutaisi, 5- in Zugdidi, 6- in Gori, 5 - in Akhaltsikhe, 1- in Akhalkalaki, 5 - in Rustavi, 5 - in Gurjaani.

Press-conferences held by the organizations were covered by various mass media **192** times.

PHOTO EXHIBITION

On December 1, 2010 at the initiative of active citizens involved in the project in Batumi ISFED and GYLEA organized the photo exhibition which was aimed at the demonstration of environment and sanitary cleaning problems and respectively resolving thereof.

The works of four photo reporters were presented at the photo exhibition. The photos pictured the problems related to cleaning on the areas of Batumi and Kobuleti. Local self-government and NGO sector active in the region and mass media representatives and members of the public were invited to the exhibition.

Anzhela Basiladze, photo reporter of the project People's Manifesto: it was my and my friend's idea to create photo materials for the purposes of the above-mentioned project and I think it was effective. While the idea per se existed much earlier - my friend and I were planning to take photos of Batumi and Kobuleti dump-



sites. Therefore I was interested to work in an organized way, under the project. Our objective was to gather material and present to the society through a photo exhibition. Of course, landfills were not the only topics to be addressed and it was not limited to Adjara only. We had sessions in various regions and as a result we gathered documentary photo material on which the reality of our cities is pictured

-- problems, as well as achievements. I think that the presenting information to the society through photo exhibition is very effective for this is simple to understand, simple to perceive and visually interesting.

And finally, I would like to say that I am happy with the outcome for I think that the photos taken by us will be one of the bricks on the path to the improvement of our life for the better.



CONTEST OF ESSAYS

Under the project People's Manifesto the contest of essays was conducted; the objective of the above-mentioned contest was to demonstrate local self-governments and their activities as seen by active citizens involved in the project. Three topics were selected for the articles:

- Self-government in the service of people?!
- I and my self-government
- If I were a member of Sakrebulo...

For motivation and interest of authors financial award was envisaged for the first three winning places, as well as the printing of best articles at local media and the magazine "Liberali".

Overall, active citizens involved in the project, from 63 Municipalities involved in the project submitted 48 articles. A total of 7 best articles were selected from which three winning places were distributed and the authors were provided monetary prize:

1. Nino Chakhvadze
2. Zviad Biashvili
3. Nana Tsilosani

Further, the remaining four articles that also appeared to be among the best, were published in local press.



Nino Chakhvadze,
Lanchkhuti city,
lawyer,
Newspaper "Lanchkhutis Moambe",
Technical editor

Excerpt from the Article "Self-government in the service of People?!"

... It should be the people, electors, not any party, be it a ruling or oppositional one, that should bring forward their candidate. A public candidate will have a mandate of the people and having such persons in self-government will without doubt create popular, democratic and free self-government.



Zviad Biashvili
 Gurjaani city
 International Relations Specialist
 TV “Gurjaani”
 Project Manager

“Excerpt from the Article If I were a member of Sakrebulo...”

I would definitely talk to the population and learn about their problems and most importantly, these would be regular visits. I would try to involve as much as possible all parts of the population in the work of the Sakrebulo.



Nana Tsilosani
 Lanchkhuti city
 Correspondent
 Newspaper Lanchkhutis Moambe,
 Technical editor

“Excerpt from the Article If I were a member of Sakrebulo...”

When a question is posed: If I were a member of the Sakrebulo... -- first I would realize my capabilities, how can I serve my own Municipality? What would I do to increase its welfare? A member of the Sakrebulo should be well aware of all problems in the Municipality, including social issues that are still most important, and the failure to resolve these issues has led us into a deadlock many times. What are people interested to know?...

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

To identify the local problems of citizens, 83 focus groups meetings were organized at 62 Municipalities of Georgia. Overall **960** respondents participated in focus group meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to inform the political parties/electoral subjects about the needs of the local population. Presentations of focus groups' results were held in the roundtable format, at which the representatives of **16** political parties were presented. At the round table meetings the citizens were able jointly with the representatives of political parties to discuss the ways of resolving their problems.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH OF CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN GEORGIA

INTEGRATED REPORT

This social research is part of the EU-funded project *People's Manifesto*. It aims at identification of problems on the territory of Georgia that currently constitute pressing issues in the country and affect various fields and social aspects of public life. The analysis was produced on the basis of qualitative research results held in late February in 2010. It is grounded in the understanding of focus-group members and information provided by them.

The qualitative research, implemented by means of focus-group method, covered 10 regions of Georgia (Adjara, Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Samegrelo, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli). The research of thoughts and perspectives of the population in these ten parts of Georgia entails identification of key challenges, their causes and future prospects.

The report consists of 11 parts, including ten reports that deal with individual regions and one unified report.

The analysis enables us to empirically define factors that promote/hinder existence/identification of problems both according to individual regions and throughout the country, and ultimately leads us to their solution.

Discussion plan for target-group meetings was developed beforehand. It focused on matters related to the research topic, promoting independence of research participants and identification of their perspectives, as well as

their full and active involvement in discussions. Such approach in its turn allows obtaining diverse and credible information.

There were 83 focus-group meetings held throughout Georgia, including in the following regions:

Adjara – 9 focus-groups, 102 respondents interviewed

Guria – 4 focus-groups, 48 respondents interviewed

Imereti – 14 focus-groups, 162 respondents interviewed

Kakheti – 10 focus-groups, 120 respondents interviewed

Mtskheta-Mtianeti – 4 focus-groups, 48 respondents interviewed

Samegrelo – 11 focus-groups, 126 respondents interviewed

Samtskhe-Javakheti - 10 focus-groups, 114 respondents interviewed

Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti - 4 focus-groups, 48 respondents interviewed

Shida Kartli – 6 focus-groups, 66 respondents interviewed

Kvemo Kartli – 11 focus-groups, 126 respondents interviewed

Total number of focus-group respondents was 960.

Main points of the discussion plan:

1. Water supply; drainage/sewer systems;
2. Healthcare (healthcare facilities – hospitals and ambulatories);
3. Education (kindergartens and schools, libraries);
4. Social issues (irrigation system, gasification, electricity, barriers to contain the flow of water, local roads, street lights, unemployment, etc.);
5. Environment protection;
6. Entertainment facilities (areas for recreation and cultural meetings, parks, playgrounds, sports complexes, etc);
7. Miscellaneous.

I. Water Supply

Materials obtained by means of focus-group meetings throughout Georgia reflect current situation in the regions in terms of water supply: current situation in cities, towns/regional centers and villages; whether duration, regularity, quality and pressure of water differs according to the status of settlement areas, aspects that are evaluated positively/negatively. It was also interesting to determine what are perceived as positive or negative developments by the population and what trends prevail in evaluations of respondents.

As the research is qualitative, the data derives from the respondents' subjective assessments and it does not provide exact account of the water supply situation. Therefore, the research results should not be generalized.

In terms of water supply, the research results are far from optimistic. Current water supply situation in Georgia poses one of the key challenges to the Georgian population. The research has not identified a single region, district or even a city, where there is a well-functioning water supply system. For instance, in relatively large cities such as Kutaisi, Batumi, Rustavi, Gori, Zugdidi, Ozurgeti, etc. water is supplied irregularly and frequently, water supply schedules are not enforced. Furthermore, water supply patterns vary according to different districts of a city (generally, central districts of a city are better supplied). Hence, poorly functioning water supply systems is an issue in large cities as well.

Based on the discussions with focus-group meetings throughout Georgia, water supply is a particularly pressing issue in villages of Georgia. In vast majority of the villages due to absence of water supply networks, the population has to turn to alternative means to obtain supply of drinking water – wells, boreholes, spring waters, which takes additional toll on the population: water pump expenses, increased electricity bills. Eventually, the population has to pay higher than the fixed price for water.

Based on the respondents' discussions, there used to be water supply systems in a number of villages before but currently they are amortized and in need of extensive reconstruction, which requires substantial financial resources. Municipality funds are insufficient to cover reconstruction expanses (e.g. in Imereti, Terjola); support of a

donor organization or a private person is needed. Participants of all focus-groups interviewed highlight the necessity of rehabilitation works. At the same time, they point out that the work undertaken by local self-governance agencies to tackle the situation was limited to repairing damaged segments only and was fragmented rather than systematic, which was never productive.

Participants of focus-groups in the regions of Georgia confirm that there were noticeable amount of financial resources allocated for addressing the water supply challenges but the respondents have not seen any improvements.

In settlement areas (both in cities and villages) where people depend on tap water and supply of water is irregular and limited, the population is forced to take care of water supply on their own by fetching it from other venues, which requires both human and financial resources (e.g. villages in Dedoplistskaro district, Kakheti where the population has to buy water – 1 ton for 2 GEL, etc.). Water is transported by various means – cars, carts, by hand. All family members are engaged in the activity – all generations, including children, jeopardizing their health.

On the other hand, the research demonstrates that due to irregular and unsystematic water supply throughout the country, the population is furnished and equipped with various sizes of water reservoirs, tanks (containers).

The research did not aim to determine what is the amount of water consumed by individual families that owned such reservoirs, what is the volume of reservoirs, how frequently the reservoirs need to be filled, etc., as such data can be obtained by means of a quantitative research. Statistical analysis of the data would have enabled us to determine water consumption rate and calculate demand indexes when water is provided uninterruptedly, which is certainly interesting but did not fall within our objectives.

Naturally, irregular and inadequate provision of water is viewed negatively by the focus-group participants.

Although water is supplied according to a fixed schedule, current situation is viewed as satisfactory by certain respondents in various regions, as they consider that the situation has been improved in comparison with the past years. The respondents consider that “everything is relative. Considering that we did not have water at all, current situation is better;” although, in the light of the general picture, such category of respondents is a minority.

Evaluations about current water supply schedule in cities, regional centers/towns and villages in the regions of Georgia are equally negative among all focus-groups.

As for the respondents’ opinion concerning the water supply schedule, it is equally negative in all cities, district centers/towns and villages in Georgian regions.

Evaluation of Water Quality

The research results revealed that tap water is rather unhealthy.

Vast majority of focus-group participants evaluate water quality negatively (throughout the country). Far less share (in comparison with respondents whose perspective about water quality is neutral or negative) of respondents evaluate water quality positively. Minority of respondents consider that recently water quality has been improving. If we compare them to the number of respondents that point out negative trends in water quality, clearly the evaluations are mostly negative.

As it has been noted above, based on the discussion analysis, irregular supply of water and frequent termination of water flow is one of the issues of concern for respondents. At the same time, respondents’ perspectives about transparency, color and sometimes taste of water, as well as sediment and worms/leeches in tap water is similarly negative. Consequently, the respondents view quality of drinking water as unsafe for health. They themselves have witnessed cases of diseases caused by contaminated water (family members, relatives, fellow villagers). As an example, they also cite similar cases that have been reported by television and press (e.g. Imereti - epidemic outbreak in Tskaltubo, several years ago; Kartli - cases of mass water poisoning in village Dirbi, spread of hepatitis in Akhmeta; Samegrelo – example of Martvili and a number of other similar cases).

Based on the discussion of focus-group participants, it is safe to conclude that population’s critical attitude toward quality of water stems from the several factors, including:

- Ineffective work of sanitary services (sanitary- epidemiological stations, labs that control quality of water, etc.) in settlement areas where there are such facilities, or complete lack of quality control due their absence;

- Amortized water systems, pipes and water supply network in general. As the networks have long been outdated, external substances (soil, humus) and mold (when it rains) easily make their way into the system;
- Poor quality of water filters or their absence in frequent cases, which is confirmed by participants of regional focus-groups;
- Poor condition of head-works and drainage constructions that need to be cleaned and recovered. More importantly, such constructions should be securely protected, as there have been cases when domestic animals have fallen into them (the problem was raised in a number of regions), increasing threats of infectious diseases and intoxication;
- Positioning of water and sewer pipes makes it difficult to tell them apart. Therefore, frequently waters flowing in each of these pipes frequently get mixed (which is confirmed by facts and potential threats exist), jeopardizing population's health.

Based on the aforementioned, it is safe to conclude that current quality of water fails to comply with normative requirements and standards. Focus-group participants frequently expressed their concerns about water quality; although, in some cases it was noted that rehabilitating works have improved the condition to some extent.

When evaluating main indicators of water quality – color, taste, transparency and smell - negative trends prevail in the regions.

Water Pressure

Another aspect of water supply – water pressure is also viewed as problematic. The discussions have demonstrated that pipes are unable to resist high pressure and often break. Therefore, pressure of water supplied to the population is low. It is particularly problematic for residents of block-of-flats. The issue applies not only to old pipes but to newly replaced pipes as well; therefore, the population considers that the rehabilitation works were poorly performed.

Due to low pressure of running water, the population is unable to obtain sufficient amount of water during the period fixed by the schedule. The issue is particularly pressing for the employed, as the water-running hours coincide with their work hours. The population is trying to tackle the issue by using water pumps (throughout Georgia). The ways respondents view the problem differ, as not all of the regions (villages) complain about the lack of water pressure; it is not unusual, as wells, boreholes and springs are the main source of water supply in villages.

Quality of Works Performed

Quality of works performed in the field of water supply is viewed negatively, as in certain settlement areas newly installed systems failed to deliver desired results.

Focus-group representatives are dissatisfied with works performed in the field of water supply. Based on the discussions, the water supply networks are in need of a more substantial and quality renovation. Frequently, newly installed pipes get damaged in a short period of time.

Localized repair of amortized system is temporary. Apparently, old pipes frequently break and flood streets and damage roads; on the other hand, newly installed pipes easily get out of order. Hence, the population has a genuine reason to be concerned with works that have been performed.

Despite the repair works that have been performed throughout the country, the situation has not been improved, which is an issue of concern for the focus-group participants.

In respondents' opinion, poor quality of works performed was caused by low-grade material (pipes) and unqualified specialists. For instance, water supply works were performed in Imereti by the local population itself who lacked corresponding knowledge or qualification. Therefore, quality of the works was unsatisfactory. Another example is the works performed by Georgian and German companies in Adjara, where the difference in quality was evident - works performed by the German company is viewed as superior in terms of its quality and cooperativeness.

Although the focus-group participants view rehabilitation of water supply networks and certain activities of the government as positive, at the same time they consider that the quality of works performed is poor.

Positive Trends

The research revealed certain positive trends in the field of water supply in the regions (e.g. at the meetings with focus-groups in Kvemo Kartli, Imereti and some other regions), which can be attributed to steps undertaken by state agencies to tackle the problem. Among the positive trends, the respondents name unrestricted provision of water (respondents that live in districts with 24-hour water supply availability), cleaning works performed for drainage constructions that resulted in improved quality of water, and installment of pipes in areas that did not have water supply systems at all.

Hereby, it shall be noted that in light of general evaluations, positive trends constitute smaller segment that are far exceeded by indicators of negative assessment.

II. Sewer and Drainage Systems

Based on the focus-group discussion materials, sewer and drainage systems in regions of Georgia are operating poorly.

The discussion materials demonstrate that the regions are facing serious problems in this regard – amortized sewer systems are in need of capital repairs. The systems are somewhat fine in central districts in cities/towns and their adjacent territories. Some districts in cities do not have sewer system at all; or even if there is one, it frequently gets damaged and clogged, polluting streets and spreading anti-sanitary conditions.

The research demonstrated that respondents are more concerned with standards of sewage treatment than with issues related to water supply, quality and supply services.

The focus group meetings revealed that most of households in the regions are not connected with municipal sewer system, whereas basically there are no such systems in villages. As for the cities (except for large cities), only some of them are linked with the system, whereas the rest of the cities are trying to tackle the issue on their own (e.g. letting the wastewater run into rivers). Sewer pipes frequently join rivers and thus contribute to the environment pollution.

There were a number of cases/facts cited during the discussions, when schools and kindergartens lack sanitary units that are rather important for such institutions.

In villages throughout the country, a hole dug in the surface of the ground intended for wastewater is traditionally serving the role of a sewer system. The hole is periodically having cleaned by means of sanitary trucks. The service costs approximately 100-150 GEL depending on the region. In other cases, the hole is relocated/transferred to another place.

Most of the focus-group participants throughout the country are particularly concerned with the issue and express their negative assessment.

Population of Kakheti region states that overall trend in the noted field is improving (Sighnaghi is a privileged area, although positive development are evident in other district as well). Respondents of from Dmanisi, Kvemo Kartli and Borjomi, Samtskhe-Javakheti inform that rehabilitation works are planned; as of now, no tangible results have been reached. Rehabilitation works, gradual replacement of water supply and sewer systems are ongoing in Zugdidi that would thoroughly tackle the problem. As for Adjara, the situation is relatively better in Keda, where population's opinion, the system is functioning fine; so is sewer system in Khulo that was set up this year and in Shuakhevi, where the system is gradually installed.

In general, due to the low standards, ecological conditions are considered and evaluated as extremely poor. The respondents named accompanying negative developments and threats to environment, including flooded and polluted streets that hinders movement and damages the roads/road cover so that they are in frequent need of a repair; increased number of harmful insects and actual threats of spread of epidemics. Therefore, the most important reason necessitating system rehabilitation is healthcare and correspondingly, the respondents are stressing public health.

Focus-group interviews demonstrate that there is a significant lack of drainage systems in Guria, although due to the climate conditions in the region – humid air, damp soil the drainage systems are an absolute necessity. Same applies to the lower zone of Samegrelo.

III. Healthcare

Well-being of the population depends on various circumstances and factors, including improvement of the healthcare system as one of the key factors. Corresponding reforms are underway. The research aimed at determining position of the focus-group participants about the medical reform, its results – whether positive or negative, healthcare demands that prevail the most in the region/district, whether the actions of the government are effective and to what extent and in general, what kind of results have been delivered by the healthcare policy.

During the focus-group discussion a number of issues were identified that in respondents' opinion should take priority for the development of the field and be oriented on positive change in order to promote public well-being.

Based on the materials of focus-group meetings, the healthcare field is in need of significant changes.

Evaluation of Current Situation

Condition of medical facilities is mostly an issue of concern throughout the regions. Based on the identified factual information, it is safe to conclude that medical facilities are in need of reconstruction. Conditions in medical clinics fail to fulfill sanitary norms or meet basic requirements for hospitals and clinics. Conditions of medical facilities are analogous in all the regions and similarities between evaluations of different focus-groups are evident. Respondents frequently indicate that they are infested with rodents, flies, harmful insects, cockroaches, dogs and cats in medical facilities. For example, "a rat stole a medicine from me in the hospital" (Shida Kartli); "I was sitting on a chair and guarding my child all night long so that rats would not bite him" (Samegrelo). There is a similar situation throughout the country.

Although of vital importance for medical facilities, electricity and water supply in hospitals is a pressing issue. Patients have to bring their own clean sheets and medication.

As for evaluations of healthcare field, both positive and negative trends are evident. Positive evaluations are given to certain aspects of the healthcare system rather than to the system in general.

Based on the research, frequently certain segments of hospitals are repaired under the initiative of medical personnel, mostly doctors, who are motivated by the enthusiasm to help their patients. Hence, financial aspects of repairs are covered by them.

Contemporary standards are mostly met by privately owned medical clinics – Aversi, Tatishvili Center, Curacio, Guli, etc.

Respondents acknowledge the government's contribution to positive change. The government's activities focus on several different directions – renovation, rehabilitation, capital repairs, improvement of material and technical base, etc. of medical facilities,

Professionalism of medical personnel, village ambulatories, and service of emergency departments are the aspects of the healthcare system that fall under the respondents' positive evaluations. Hereby, it should be emphasized that not all of the noted parameters are evaluated as positive by all of the focus-groups.

Evaluations of medical personnel's qualification is ambivalent throughout the regions.

Ambulatories fall under the positive field of evaluations throughout the regions both in terms of their quantity and quality; at the same time, intensity of positive evaluations differs according to the regions.

Generally, population positively evaluates ambulance service, although evaluations vary according to different regions.

Positive trends prevail in evaluations of material-technical base (not including private clinics that have been renovated and well-equipped), accessibility to medical treatment, price of medicines and medical insurance.

Evaluation of Material and Technical Base

Evaluations of material-technical base by focus-group participants are very specific. Conditions of contemporary equipment and technology fall under the field of negative evaluations. According to the respondents, inaccurate diagnose due to the lack of corresponding medical equipments may result in death of a patient. Basically, innovative and modernized processes are barely encouraged, which in respondents' opinion, is first and foremost a responsibility of the government, as the latter possesses all corresponding leverage.

Private clinics, hospitals and treatment and diagnostic centers are furnished with premium medical equipments.

Accessibility, insurance/insurance policies

Poor access to medical treatment was identified as the most significant issue in the regions. In respondents' opinion, prices are high in medical clinics equipped with contemporary technologies and in the light of current social conditions population mostly cannot afford their service.

Population in the regions is also affected by another pressing issue – access to medicine. According to respondents, absolute majority of the population in villages cannot afford to pay for medication.

During the discussions, health insurance was named as a key issue in the field of healthcare. Respondents believe that health insurance should be equally accessible to everyone. Pensioners should receive health insurance and discounts for medication. Based on their own experience, respondents are skeptical towards cheap insurance, as the latter does not provide any actual benefit. The population is particularly concerned by the fact that insurance companies are willing to insure only the employed, which in their opinion violates rights of pensioners and the unemployed.

It is important to obtain elaborated information on population's requests in the field of healthcare and take them into consideration.

IV. Education

Fundamental precondition for the development of any society is education that constitutes a consistent and a long-term process. Therefore, creating an efficient system of education should be the priority that will guarantee future prospects of each individual (becoming a qualified specialist, mastering professional skills, opportunity to constantly refresh education, acquire new competencies, etc.).

Public reforms also affected the sphere of education; specifically, education was one of the first fields where reforms were launched and affected almost all of its components, including contents of education, forms and methods of teaching, evaluation system, funding and many others.

What are the view of respondents throughout Georgia about education and related issues, how do they evaluate condition, material-technical base, inventory preschool institutions and school, as well as professionalism of teachers or quality of teaching? What are main obstacles or favorable conditions in this regard?

Schools

During the focus-group meetings, current condition of education system was evaluated according to different parameters. The participants highlighted the aforementioned issues.

It should be noted that respondents' assessment of the field of education are far from optimistic. They positively evaluate condition of buildings of educational institutions. Based on the discussion, the population is satisfied with the following conditions: schools were renovated and built, rehabilitated and capially repaired both in cities and villages. Certainly not all of the schools fall under the category of rehabilitated schools, although, based on the respondents' discussions, corresponding future plans and promises have been that all of the schools will be gradually addressed.

The condition of schools in districts/villages is a matter of a particular concern. Nevertheless, example of rehabilitation works carried out for schools in neighboring villages or districts has sparked optimism among the population. At the same time, conditions at educational institutions are also criticizes mostly due to lack of school buildings in villages, material resources, sanitary and heating systems.

Similar trends were revealed in terms of material and technical equipment of schools. Focus-group participants in all regions of Georgia highlighted positive developments in the noted sphere. Computer systems are more frequently installed at schools (certainly, it does not apply to all of the schools equally but corresponding trends are evident). These are the following basic needs in terms of material and technical base revealed during the consultations: students lack an opportunity to use technologies due to the following reasons: 1. school administration/teachers do not allow them to, 2. there is a lack of field specialists at schools that would train students to use technologies, 3. lack of computer technologies at schools. Therefore, schools are in need of assistance in this regard – they are in need of the field specialists/teachers who would teach students how to use computers and develop corresponding skills and habits that are necessary to have in a contemporary society. It would equip youth with

knowledge and skills to prepare them for employment, ensure their professional orientation and promote their socialization and integration in socio-cultural life, which is the objective of schools.

Respondents view transportation of students as an issue of concern. According to our information, at certain areas of settlements some schools were abolished or consolidated and the contingent of schoolchildren was divided between the schools of neighboring villages (it is a pressing issue mostly in villages), which produced the necessity of transportation that basically was not available in most of these areas. School busses were designated to provide transportation to schoolchildren and most of the buses are still operating in districts, although as the respondents note, some of these school busses were soon abolished. Schoolchildren have to walk long distances to school (at around 4-5-6km) which is particularly inconvenient and exhausting for students of elementary school. Respondents stated that on their way to school in winter children often face threats of being attacked by animals. Therefore, parents are demanding school bus lines to be renewed, which, in respondents' opinion, should not be too much of a trouble for the local self-governance.

Currently, common trend is evident in almost all countries of the world – the lower the level of education of a person, the lower his/her qualification, status and income. Increasing the level of education will promote professional growth and success in carrier. Therefore, increasing the level of education is basically a decisive factor in terms of vertical mobility. Schools provide foundation for education and schoolteachers play significant role in the process.

The research results have demonstrated that focus-group participants realize the function and importance of a teacher in the process of receiving knowledge, as well as increasing and improving level of education. Therefore, they are demanding professional and qualified teachers. Respondents' views about teachers vary. Majority of them evaluate level of teachers' qualification as satisfactory and does not express any concerns in this regard, whereas some respondents are not satisfied with qualification. They point out specific reasons for poor qualification teachers', including patronage and granting favors on the basis of relationship ties in the process of selection of school personnel as the key factor in addition to elder teachers that are no longer to perform their function but "are not willing to give up their seats, thus blocking young and qualified professionals."

There is a lack of teachers of Georgian and foreign languages in districts settled with non-Georgian ethnic communities.

Respondents consider that there is a significant gap between the level of education provided by schools and requirements of higher educational institutions, which is particularly pressing today. It has produced the necessity of intermediaries - private tutors, which in respondents' opinion is associated with additional, including financial difficulties.

School literature and textbooks are also considered to be as one of the causes for the low level of education that frequently provide inaccurate information, have poor content and are rather expensive. Furthermore, the fact that textbooks are changed annually makes it impossible to pass them down to the next generations (when there is more than one schoolchild in a family). Weight\heaviness of textbooks is another issue of concern that negatively affects children's health in terms of their physical development.

Focus-group participants are concerned by some of the innovations launched in the field of education, including the fact that university entrants should take 10 exams. The initiative was spontaneously introduced and was unexpected even for teachers. The respondents consider that all novelties should be well-thought out and deliberated.

To this end, the government should elaborate an effective, rational education policy, which would promote every citizen's right to receive desirable, quality education that would benefit him/her personally and the society as a whole.

Kindergartens

Condition of kindergartens varies according to districts, regional centers and villages: the situation is satisfying in cities and towns but problematic in villages.

Assessment of schools in general revealed certain trends: repairs and rehabilitation works performed for pre-school institutions, – furnishing them material-technical equipment, renewing inventories, etc. has sparked optimism among the population; at the same time, assessments reflect fact that such positive developments do not apply to all kindergartens and correspondingly, not all of the assessments are positive. In this regard, current situation in districts requires particular attention throughout all regions of Georgia.

Libraries

The urgency of libraries' issue as well as demand for libraries varies according to different regions, which is at least partially caused by the condition of libraries themselves. Respondents are critical to the issue. Libraries are barely renewed in villages. Renewing of libraries entails provision of new book collections (fiction, scientific, children's books, etc.), newspapers and magazines, computer technologies, which is a necessity in these times.

The research demonstrates that libraries are periodically furnished with modest amount of books, including newspapers. Some of them even have computers but their number is currently insufficient. Buildings are in need of renovations. A fair amount of libraries lack necessary heating systems as well.

In certain districts the situation is particularly troubling, as due to water leaks in libraries book collections are damaged by dampness in central libraries. People do not visit libraries due to the lack of amenities there. Consequently, many of the libraries are in need of comprehensive reconstruction.

Library collections in some villages are constantly renewed but the population is requesting extensive and intensive renewals.

Respondents are concerned with the fact that book collections in many districts are not protected or properly maintained; they also express their dissatisfaction with village libraries and their book collections. Libraries were abolished in some villages and book collections were transferred to schools or in certain cases to Gamgebelis, so books are scattered in several different places and conditions for maintaining them are not observed. Hence, the field of libraries is in need of a positive reform.

Lastly, focus-group discussions concerning assessment of education system demonstrates that promotion of innovative processes (that should be rationally designed) and modernization (both in pre-school institutions as well as schools, libraries) can be deemed as factors that promote improvement of the education system.

V. Social Issues

The research focused on evaluation of pressing social issues that affect regions of Georgia. The social field covers economic infrastructure in addition to other fields (roads, energy, communications, gasification, etc.).

Gasification

The process of gasification is currently underway in a number of regions of Georgia. Based on the discussion materials, respondents in all regions make similar assessments and comments.

The population is primarily concerned with connecting their households to central pipeline at their own expense, as the government pays for installation of central pipelines only and the population has to connect their households to the pipeline on their own. As it appears, costs are rather expansive that hinders gasification of most households. This is equally true for all regions in Georgia.

Most of the villages lack gas supply networks. The process has recently started in certain settlement areas and in respondents' opinion, it will continue in the future as well.

Another pressing issue is amortized systems (where there used to be gas supply systems) and communal counters. It significantly increases supply network losses, which the population has to pay for. It often produces the feeling of protest and injustice among them. If they don't pay, they will be cut off from gas supply. Therefore, in light of the additional sum that the population has to pay to cover network losses, gas bills are two times more than what they should be.

The whole spectrum of the aforementioned issues affects almost all regions of Georgia, the only exception being the areas of settlement where there are no systems of communal counters.

Issues related to electricity

Issues related to the supply of electricity are essentially analogous to those related to gas supply.

We are referring to the system of communal counters throughout the regions, which is rather ineffective. Fre-

quently such problems are caused by inadequate system of billing. The population has to pay bills for much more electricity than what they actually use.

Poor and damaged electric transmission lines and electric posts are cited as the main reason, which also pose threats to life.

The focus-group participants consider that the best way to resolve the issue is to install individual counters.

Some respondents express their concern about fraudulence of local energy companies and their inadequate services and lack of qualification in some cases.

Ultimately, it is safe to conclude that problems stem from the system of communal counters in districts rather than a schedule or supply of electricity. Respondents view individual counters as a solution to the problem.

Outdoor lighting

During the focus-group discussions it turned out that outdoor lightings are limited to central areas of districts. As for peripheral streets, their lighting system is either damaged or there are no lighting systems at all. Central areas of districts and cities mostly are furnished with outdoor lighting.

With some exceptions, most of the villages lack outdoor lighting. Mostly the villages that are located near highways are furnished with outdoor lighting systems. The government itself is making promises to tackle the problem in the future.

Corresponding works are ongoing in Kutaisi, presumably due to strategic importance of the city.

Roads

In terms of roads, both positive and negative trends are evident. Respondents are satisfied with steps that have been made to improve condition of roads. Respondents are concerned with quality of recently paved roads, as they get damaged easily and have to be repaired all over again.

Condition of local roads in cities is also problematic but roads in central parts of cities are in better condition.

Negative trends are evident with regard to roads in villages despite the fact that road rehabilitation works have commenced in a number of villages in frames of the rural development programs. Population is mostly concerned with poor quality of roads and works performed.

Many villages are remote and inaccessible, which also contributes to poor condition of roads there. Although roads in some of the villages have been graveled, local residents are concerned with poor quality of works. Based on the discussions, absence of drainage systems further deteriorates existing condition, as during bad weather roads get flooded, gravel covers get undone and have to be repaired all over again. Respondents consider that during planning of road repair works, drainage systems are not taken into consideration and sidewalks are not built, which accelerates the process of damaging of newly constructed roads.

To sum up, respondents' evaluation of roads in central territories of cities and districts are relatively positive. As for the roads in rest of the territories of these settlement areas, they are in need of comprehensive repairs.

Barriers to contain flow of water

Constructions to contain flow of water are one of the pressing issues in regions. Respondents attach high importance to works for reinforcing barriers, as the number of landslide areas have increased due to massive tree cuts. Destruction of dams would pose threat to local population. When rivers rise and overflow, they damage roads, land plots, etc. The issue is particularly pressing when the snow is melting.

Irrigation systems

Focus-group participants state that due to lack of irrigation water some families are forced to use tap water for irrigation purposes in a number of villages. The need for irrigation water is relatively low in regions of Samegrelo

and Guria due to natural conditions, geographic environment and climate, whereas there is a large demand for irrigation water in Kakheti, Shida Kartli...

Unemployment

Implementation of consistent, complex and systemic economic reforms, optimum alleviation of the tax system (in light of the existing reality) and differentiation of regions according to their specificities, status of territorial area and other characteristics are of vital importance for increasing well-fare of the population in Georgia. In this light, creation of jobs and promotion of employment is rather important and according to respondents, mostly it is a responsibility of the government, as the government can elaborate and create effective mechanisms that would ensure optimization of employment and social stability.

Focus group discussions reveal that employment is one of the pressing issues raised by respondents throughout Georgia in frames of the research.

Respondents in the region discuss unemployment as a fundamental issue, which is equally relevant to all districts. Population is motivated and ready to work but unable to resolve the issue of unemployment. In order to tackle unemployment, population deems it necessary

- for the government to get involved and react to the issue, as the government has full possession of effective leverage to tackle the issue – promoting entrepreneurship (factories, plants, various different small businesses, etc.) and creating and developing an enabling environment for private business;
- to support development of agriculture – by means of agricultural mechanization, as well as provision of soil fertilizers, etc. and most importantly, launching food processing factories that would make maximum use of resource potential in the regions and promote export development.

Respondents underline that unemployment contributes to increased level of migration that negatively affects demographic indexes of the country – birth rate has decreased and death rate has increased.

VI. Environment Protection/Ecology

The issue of communal cleaning in urban areas is tackled better than in rural areas. Among the environmental issues cleaning falls under the field of positive assessments, although serious flaws are evident, including undefined boundaries of dumpster areas, unfenced areas causing household waste to be all over the surrounding areas, polluting the environment; domestic animals have easy access to dumpsters as the territories are unprotected; close proximity to residential areas, etc.

A number of residential areas are in need of more frequent waste disposal that the view as a preventive measures against flies and harmful insects.

According to respondents, positive changes were made in the field of communal cleaning, although certain issues of concern still persist.

Forests and Woods

Focus-group discussions revealed that the population adequately realizes threats of massive tree cutting. Recently, a number of forest covers were illegally cut down.

Georgia is rich in forest resources, as well as unique tree and plant species. Participants of target-groups believe that improvident destruction of forest covers lead to a number of negative results: rare species and trees are destroyed that causes creation of landslide areas and triggered and increased frequency of landslide processes on the territories, which is supported by statistical data as well, windbreaks were destroyed, etc. The aforementioned processes lead to climate and water resource changes.

During discussion of the aforementioned issues 2 aspects were highlighted – 1) production of firewood and 2) tree cutting for commercial interests, which is mostly illegal and motivated by personal financial interests and the purpose of selling (timber is sold abroad, e.g. in Turkey).

First aspect that entails production of firewood for winter, a special service has been set up that grants legal permissions for cutting of certain selected trees.

Respondents consider that intensification of reforestation is of significant importance in all regions. They express their readiness to actively participate in the process.

Focus-group participants positively evaluate service of rangers that significantly contributes to illegal tree cutting, protection of local flora (and certainly, fauna) and preservation of rare species.

Clean Air

Other types of ecological problems were revealed during focus-group meetings, including air pollution and emissions. The issue is particularly pressing in ore mining and industrial settlement areas, such as Coal and manganese mining areas - Tkibuli and Chiatura in Imereti region, ferroalloy plant in Zestaponi, where air saturated with emissions and dust contains real threats to health and increases ecological risks in terms of environment pollution (pollution of rivers); Kaspi cement factories that also emits harmful substances and spread industrial dust at fairly large areas. Same applies to Rustavi. Respondents consider that it is mostly caused by lack and poor quality of filters. Oil and gas deposits are posing ecological threats are located close to Sagarejo, where local residents suffer from various types of diseases. Population is demanding compensation and free medical consultation from the government.

In conclusion, it is safe to say that humans are the decisive factor in establishing rational relations with nature. Therefore, along with economic, technologic and organizational issues, ecological awareness and human behavior play the key role. Low level of ecological culture and awareness reveals itself in all aspects – ecological education, environmental upbringing, ecological behavior. These aspects should be treated with attention in order to promote diminishing environmental threats and minimizing ecological catastrophes.

VII. Entertainment facilities (areas for recreation and cultural meetings, parks, playgrounds, sports complexes, etc)

According to the focus-group respondents, absence of entertainment and recreational (cultural and active recreation) facilities similarly affects all districts. When speaking about such facilities respondents are referring to youth clubs, movies and theatres, culture centers, sports complexes, squares and parks, public areas, etc.

As respondents inform us, the situation in districts in this regard is rather poor – old infrastructure has basically been destroyed and is unfit for use, whereas the process of building new facilities is far from being intensive. Due to their sports traditions, certain districts are in need of gyms and sports complexes for promotion of development of different kinds of sports. Current efforts in the regions in this regard are insufficient to play a particular role if physical and mental development of youth.

VIII. Miscellaneous

Migration

Target-group participants highlight the issue of migration, which in their opinion is mostly caused by unemployment. They refer to migrations both within and outside the country. All societies in all times are characterized with migration but currently the trend of migration in Georgia is increasing. Respondents consider that migration is encouraged by harsh social conditions in the country. Tackling the issue of employment would decrease migrations. In this context, respondents are also referring to the problem of trafficking, as Georgian citizens are vulnerable to trafficking and a lot of such incidents have occurred.

Issues related to Tourism

Focus-group participants raised the importance of tourism development for Georgia. There are a number of places in the country characterized with unique thermal, mineral and healing waters and mud, etc. that were fully exploited during the soviet period and hosted many tourists.

Currently, their infrastructure is destroyed, although respondents think it is possible to rehabilitate them. To this end, they consider that an attractive environment should be created; tourist infrastructure should be renewed, which would also tackle unemployment to some extent.

Pension Age

Focus-group participants deem it important to define an optimal pension age. They consider that current age is irrational and it should be decreased with five years. Furthermore, pensioners should have a right and an opportunity to work.

Agriculture

Currently, agricultural production and processing is an important direction of resource potential of regions in Georgia. Agricultural employment (self-employment) share is significant.

Respondents note that currently the field of agriculture is not treated with proper attention. In this regard, they also highlight the following problems:

- lack of machinery and expensive fuel; farmers basically can't afford to use the machinery delivered to the rural areas;
- farmers are in need of a new, contemporary information that would promote sale of agricultural products as marketable goods;
- Inviting field specialists to rural areas to hold trainings and meetings with farmers was named as one of the ways to tackle the issue.

Single-Party Rule

Respondents also discussed the problem of self-governance. They consider that local self-governance should be elected in a direct way, village Gamgebelis should be elected and not appointed, as well as city Mayors.

Gambling

The issue is pressing mostly in the cities. The research reveals that gambling takes a particular toll on population of Batumi so that it has even overshadowed the issue of drug-use, as the respondents have stated. Increased number of casinos, totalizators has been coupled with increased crime rate related to money lost in gambling. Population is concerned with this issue and deems it expedient to close down the gambling facilities.

Drug-Use

Drug-use is viewed as one of the most pressing issues throughout the country, caused by unemployment. Respondents consider that the government should pursue an efficient policy of employment and counter-narcotics polity to tackle the issue.

Ascertaining the rightful ownership of land plots

The issue was raised by focus-groups in Adjara. Ascertaining the rightful ownership of land plots is hindered by a legislative flaw. Respondents consider that the law, whose passage was forced and accelerated, is flawed and fails to protect civil interests. Furthermore, court is often biased and remnants of clan system persist.

Flaws during the Election Period

The population disapproves the facts of exerting influence on population, specifically on those employed in public sector, who are forced to support members of the National Movement party.

Bank Loans

Focus-group participants deem it expedient to provide low interest-rates loans to population of resort areas to enable them facilitate tourism infrastructure. It would promote development of tourism in Georgia.

Main Findings and Conclusions

Although negative evaluations prevail in respondents' positions and views, it should be noted that current situation in cities is evaluated more positively than conditions in rural areas.

Due to existing conditions (limited water supply, water supply schedules, frequent cut offs – sometimes unexpected and not foreseen in schedules), families have to be thrifty when using water supply.

The research revealed that only minority of the population can afford to improve condition related to inadequate water supply and quality at their expenses.

Focus-group participants reveal that minority of the population consumes bottled water. As it requires additional financial resources, not all the families can afford it (particularly large families).

Representatives of target groups consider that majority of population (mostly in rural areas) have to turn to wells and springs for their supply of water; some of these families have wells in their backyards, while others have to fetch water from remote areas, which means that they also have to cover transportation expenses. As the research performed by us was qualitative, we were unable to calculate the aforementioned expenses, which certainly differ according to various regions of Georgia.

These circumstances indicate that due to inadequate water supply, families have to pay the cost of additional financial and human resources.

Families with low-income can't afford to tackle water supply issues (buy bottled water, water pumps, fix pipes at their own expense). Based on the respondents' comments, such families constitute a vast majority in the population in regions.

Respondents are also concerned with quality characteristics of water – transparency, color and sometimes taste of water, as well as sediment and worms/leeches in tap water. Consequently, the respondents view quality of drinking water as unsafe for health.

Based on the fact that one of Georgia's priorities is development of tourism, improvement and revitalization of infrastructure related to water supply and sewer services (including rehabilitation of drinking water supply system, which is directly linked to water quality, complying with standards for processing sewage waste) should be viewed as one of the top strategic purposes in Georgia.

The research revealed rather pessimistic picture in terms of economic condition in the regions of Georgia. It is exposed by respondents' comments and discussions about the issue of unemployment, bills, their lack of affordability to link their households to central gas pipes, water pumps, medical treatment, lack of opportunities for education, etc.

Negative evaluations prevail in positions and thoughts of the population concerning medical service, which demonstrates necessity of change in the field, including improvement of material and technical base, furnishing medical facilities with contemporary machinery, as well as acceleration of reconstruction and rehabilitation of medical facilities throughout the country. Although respondents point out positive trends in terms of rehabilitation of medical facilities as well as furnishing them with contemporary technologies, it is still inefficient.

It is important to address accessibility to medical treatment, adaptation of medication and treatment costs with financial capabilities of the population and introducing optimal costs.

Negative trends are also revealed in evaluations of certain parameters of education system, which mostly stems from lack of computer technologies at schools, lack of access to Internet. Population throughout the country realizes importance of being computer-savvy.

Focus-group participants express the need to address transportation of schoolchildren (particularly in remote villages, where children have to walk long distances to schools).

Following pressing problems were identified throughout the country:

- Gasification issue, need to accelerate works at certain settlement areas; respondents are also concerned with communal counters and express the need to substitute them with individual ones; fixing adequate tariffs;
- Certain positive trends were revealed in terms of electricity supply; as for the negative trends, they are mostly connected with communal counters and billing issues caused by communal counters. Respondents

- propose installation of individual counters to address the issue;
- Focus-groups demonstrate both positive and negative evaluations in terms of condition of roads. Initiatives about construction, pavement and repairmen of roads are positively evaluated. Evaluations are negative about quality (as roads get damaged easily) and scope (as the works are limited to central districts in cities) of completed works. The works performed in villages are rather slow/sluggish.
- As for communal cleaning and installation of dumpsters, respondents' assessments are positive, although their number is insufficient for some settlement areas;
- Respondents positively evaluate the fact that intensity of tree cutting has been reduced in comparison with previous years, as they are strictly controlled. Respondents believe that it will promote forest preservation. At the same time, significant part of forests has already been destroyed, which necessitates reforestation.
- There is a need of creating entertainment and recreational facilities in all regions. There are certain elements of such facilities in various regions but their scales and range should be expanded.

The information is founded in the respondents' subjective assessments and it may provide exact account of current situation but even when minimizing the subjective factor, current situation is far from optimistic. Effective impacts of implementation of the project are evident:

1. Improvement of water supply, sewer, electricity and gasification service systems, as well as other social issues and condition of roads, rehabilitation of irrigation and outdoor lighting will significantly contribute to revitalization of Georgia's tourism potential, which in its turn will have a positive impact on economic condition of the population, significantly decrease unemployment and growing rate of migration;
2. Inadequate sewer service is cited as the main cause for pollution of streets, rivers and environment in general. Ecologically clean environment will promote tourism development, improve public health. According to the research results, risks of spread of infections disease and water intoxication are high due to poor quality of sewer pipes that causes water pollution;
3. The analysis carried out in regions of Georgia demonstrated that pressing problems are similar everywhere, issues of concern are uniform. There are no radical differences between evaluations of focus-group participants. General trends are evident everywhere and their intensity may vary according to different regions of Georgia.
4. Respondents are hopeful that their conditions attach their hopes for improving current conditions to structures that are required to ensure public welfare (local and central authorities), although respondents' evaluation of works performed by the authorities are negative rather than positive.
5. Problems discussed fall under a different social fields (social policy, education, healthcare, ecology, etc.). Resolving issues will reflect on existing situation in corresponding fields. The policy declared by the government of Georgia aims at implementing comprehensive reforms in each area of social life. Hence, current situation in each of the fields is viewed as an indicator of success/lack of success of implemented reforms. According to the respondents (based on the discussion materials):
 - Implementation of reforms of social and economic nature is not so successful;
 - Respondents' evaluations about reforms implemented in the fields of education and healthcare are negative, although focus-group participants are grateful for positive developments in these fields (rehabilitation of building, furnishing with material and technical base, etc.);
 - Attitude of respondents' toward ecological issues is less rigid (in terms of forest preservation), as positive trends are evident (service of rangers); at the same tie, they consider that a lot of work remains to be done – first and foremost, in terms of reforestation.
 - Sentiments about the new system and services of communal cleaning are completely positive (except for the fact that certain slight improvements are needed);
6. Focus-group participants believe that most of the problems discussed are currently unresolved. Certain positive change is evident but it is insufficient for resolving the issue. It is particularly true for objectives of social nature, such as unemployment, increase of salaries/pensions. The population is not satisfied with changes made by the government over the recent years;
7. Focus-group evaluations in different regions are highly similar.

The focus-group research held throughout Georgia has identified key pressing problems in various regions of the country. The research analyzed and identified spectrum, intensity and scope of these problems, which in its turn

will facilitate the process of seeking optimal resolutions to these problems and identifying factors for creation of enabling environment for fostering improvement of the existing situation.

``COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION``- PROMISES OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS

The special attention was paid to the problems identified by citizens, on which they received the promises from the local-self governing institutions during the advocacy campaign within the phase of ``Community mobilization`` under the project ``“Developing Capacities of Democratic Institutions for Fair Electoral Processes and Active Civil Participation” funded by European Union and United Nation Development Programme jointly implemented by “IS-FED” and “Georgian young lawyers’ association” in 2008-2009. Citizens involved in the project, monitored to what extent the promises given to the citizens by local self-governments have been carried out. Monitoring showed that out of 38 promises, 22 have been taken carried out, 5 – partially carried out and 11- not carried out.

Promises of local self-governing institutions:

#	Region	Municipality	Promise	Result
1	Adjara	Keda	The project of rehabilitation of the kindergarten in Pirvelmaisi’s community is funded by the next year’s budget.	Carried out
2	Adjara	Khulo	Rehabilitation of the kindergarten in Vashlovani’s community will be implemented through the funding in the next year’ budget	Not carried out
3	Adjara	Shuakhevi	The local government promised to allocate funding for changing the damage water pipe in village Gogadzeebi the next year’s budget	Carried out
4	Imereti	Vani	In August and September the river-bed will be washed up. The administration of “Sulorkhes” promised to compensate the citizens’ losses or assist in moving the mills to the other locations.	Carried out
5	Imereti	Khoni	The local government plans to address this problem of cleaning the cemetery next year	Partially carried out. Cemetery was fenced, but the garbage haven’t been taken out
6	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Abasha	The promise was made that in the next year’s budget the necessary funding for the rehabilitation of the kindergarten in village Tkviri will be allocated.	Partially carried out. Electricity problem has been installed, but the building still needs rehabilitation
7	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Zugdidi	Necessary funding for the rehabilitation of the Akhalsofeli-Kolkhida road will be allocated in the next year’s budget	Not carried out
8	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Chkhorotsku	The promise was made that the necessary funding for the rehabilitation of the water system will be allocated in the next year’s budget	Not carried out
9	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Kazbegi	Individual electricity meters will be installed in the nearest future	Carried out
10	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Mtskheta	The negotiations with regard to the change of the location of last stop are underway	Not carried out
11	Racha-Leckhumi and Kvemo Svaneti	Ambrolauri	The representatives of the local self-government made the promise for solving canalization and water supply systems	Carried out
12	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Aspindza	According to the representatives of local self-government the funding for rehabilitating the Idumala-Oshori road will be allocated in 2010 budget	Carried out

13	Imereti	Kutaisi	The representative of the Bureau of Majoritarian Member of the Parliament of Georgia and the representatives of local government promised that they will become actively engaged in the process of solving the problem and assist the population of Gumati Community to receive information from "Energo Pro-Georgia" on the time-table for installing the individual electricity meters.	Carried out
14	Imereti	Tskaltubo	1)The local government is ready to co-finance project for the rehabilitation of the water pipeline in partnership with the Ministry of Refuges and Settlement	Partially carried out. The water tank was purchased and installed.
			2) Solving of cleaning problem	Carried out
15	Imereti	Zestafoni	1)The process of installing electricity meters will start from March 2010	Carried out
			2)The road will be laid with asphalt	Carried out
16	Imereti	Baghdati	The transportation fees to the direction of Kutaisi- Bagdati will be reduced.	Not carried out, due to the increasing of price on patrol
17	Shida Kartli	Kareli	By the end of 2010 the process of rehabilitation of Kareli's Municipality's roads will be completed	Carried out
18	Shida Kartli	Kaspi	The authorities promised that the necessary funding for roads rehabilitation will be allocated in the budget for 2010	Carried out
19	Shida Kartli	Khashuri	The authorities promised that the necessary funding for roads rehabilitation will be allocated in the budget for 2010	Carried out
20	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Ninotsminda	The Ministry of Education and Science will be informed about the existing situation so that the effective state program for teaching Georgian culture and language is introduced	Carried out
21	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Borjomi	Regarding the rehabilitation of public school in village Kvibisi, the funding from the Ministry of Education and Science is pending	Not carried out
22	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhaltzikhe	Water quality will be tested	Carried out
23	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhalkalaki	1)If the educational establishment allocates funding for purchasing the patrol, the municipality during the educational year will serve the students with the municipality owned bus.	Carried out
24	Kakheti	Gurjaani	1)Funding for rehabilitation of the road in village Kvitaani will be included in 2010 budget	Not carried out
			2)Gamgeoba will request the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia to consider re-opening Kitaani public school	Not carried out
25	Kakheti	Kvareli	By the end of year installment of covered trash bins and purchase of 1 special truck is planned.	Carried out
26	Guria	Lanchkhuti	Funding for rehabilitation of the House of Culture will be allocated in the budget 2010	Partially carried out. Sums have been allocated, rehabilitation works implemented, but not comprehensively

27	Guria	Chokhatauri	1)With regard to rehabilitation of water system the calculation of necessary expanses will be developed and after that the plan of activities will be developed	Partially carried out. Some precincts still aren't delivered with water.
			2)The activities for beatification of the center of the village will be conducted soon.	Carried out
28	Adjara	Batumi	1)The local government and the citizens will develop the route on which the municipal transportation will be appointed	Not carried out
			2)The respective organizations will address the problem with stray dogs	Carried out
29	Adjara	Khelvachauri	The roads Department will rehabilitate the road	Carried out
30	Adjara	Kobuleti	The passengers' transportation will be restored	Carried out, but because citizens couldn't afford to make payments, was still stopped
31	Kvemo Kartli	Gardabani	The kindergarten #6 will be rehabilitated	Carried out
32	Kvemo Kartli	Marneuli	Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba will check the sanitary situation at the market	Carried out
33	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Dusheti	Gamgebeli promised the citizens that works for rehabilitation of bridges and strengthening the embankment would start till September 2009	Not Carried out

MONITORING ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS

Initiative groups

With the purpose of monitoring activities of local self-governing institutions, 'Initiative Groups' have been created out of those who have participated in the trainings. Monthly coordination meetings were held in the Municipalities and Self-governing cities, where 'ISFED' and 'GYLA' together with the civilians, so-called 'monitors', discussed developments of the monitoring, revealed facts and tendencies. During the meetings civilians expressed their views and if needed received consultations from representatives of the organization. On the basis of received information and monitoring forms, information was processed and civil society was informed about monitoring results by means of press-conferences on a monthly basis.

Main directions of the monitoring⁷

Monitoring of the activities of local self-government Institutions was implemented in three main directions:

- ✓ Freedom of Information
- ✓ Sakrebulo sessions
- ✓ Budget Processes

For its turn, all three directions consisted of several specific aspects, in particular, to what extent:

- is the public information given out timely and in accordance with the legislation;
- do the local self-governing institutions react and consider problems presented by citizens;
- is the population informed about planned meetings publicly and within time-frames set by the legislation
- are Sakrebulo meetings free and transparent and how much do ordinary citizens attend them;
- is the local budget formation and modifications public and consistent with the time-frames set by the legislation;
- are priorities of citizens envisaged by local budget;
- were events envisaged by the programme 'supporting the village' implemented;

⁷ Pilot phase of monitoring included period of March-September, 2010, the active phase of monitoring started in September, 2010 and ended in March, 2011

- were problems identified by focus groups solved;
- were promises given by local self-governing institutions during advocacy campaign within the framework of “Community Mobilization” project fulfilled.

With the course of the monitoring, all the above listed components were densely and significantly interrelated. Citizens were able to observe processes at the municipality themselves, by means of presenting applications, attending the meetings and participating in the budget processes.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Under the Constitution of Georgia and Common Administrative Code, everyone has the right to receive information kept at the public institutions. By using this information, citizens are able to find out:

- ✓ *How well do State Organs perform*
- ✓ *How and why do they make decisions*
- ✓ *How do they use budget funds*

Issuing public information by local self-governing institutions is of utmost importance for implementing citizens' right to participate in the process of solving issues of local importance. Taking into considerations today's reality in Georgia, requesting public information is usually performed by particular organizations. Particular individuals, citizens are less informed about their rights on receiving public information, accordingly, level of their activity and their inclusion is quite low in this sense. Taking the above said into consideration, aiming at increasing citizens' inclusion, requesting public information was selected as one of the components of monitoring. Citizens at the training were informed not only about their rights to request public information, but also about possibility of solving issues of high priority for the population by means of being active and presenting applications to the self-governing Institutions.

Thematics

Monitoring activities of local self-governing institutions in the sense of public information request, was implemented in two directions:

- How much was the information on applications presented by citizens given within the time-frames set by the legislation and how public it was:
- How did the local self-governing Institutions react on the citizens' demands to solve specific problems

Consequently, information that citizens requested from Sakrebulo, Gamgeoba and City hall were not focusing only on one issue. Requesting different types of information,

made it possible, on the one hand, to check how much public was the issuance of information and how much did it fit the time-frames set by the legislation, and on the other hand, what kind of means did the authorities invoke to solve problems presented to them. Citizens were basically requesting information on value of funds expensed, changes and modifications to the local budget, priority documents, contact information of Sakrebulo members, Regulations of Sakrebulo and municipalities, programs envisaged by Supporting the Village, quantity of applications requesting information, protocols of the Sakrebulo sessions, schedules and decisions, different types of orders and normative acts, information on current, finished or planned rehabilitation works, in particular, if the local budget envisage solving certain problems. and they were addressing particular local authorities with the request to solve specific problems.

Thematic of requested information⁸:

Name	Quantity
Funds discharged and expensed for different purposes	101
Staff list of the Sakrebulo and its official regulations	88

⁸ Information is processed on the basis of 688 monitoring forms

Request for solving specific problems	78
2010-2011 local budgets with relevant changes and amendments	69
Protocols of the Sakrebulo sessions, schedules and decisions	63
Information on different types of planned activities	51
Information on the state and developments of different rehabilitation works	35
Activities implemented within the framework of 'Supporting Village' program	34
Normative acts, orders, instructions	38
Performance report for 2010 budget	24
2010-2011 local budget priority documents	16
Draft 2011 local budget	23
Number of applications requesting information presented to the Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba ⁹	24
Social support programs	13
Information on finished activities	12
Number of different types buildings on the territory of the Gamgeoba	10
Other	9

Applications submitted to the local self-governing institutions

During the monitoring process, with the purpose of examining publicity of information, citizens were submitting applications with different content to the Local Self-governing institutions, in particular to the Sakrebulo, Gamgeoba and City Hall. Citizens have submitted to the Local Self-governing Institutions 688 applications in total, out of those 236 applications were submitted to the Gamgeoba, 441 applications were submitted to the Sakrebulo and 11 applications were submitted to the City hall.

Applications submitted to the Local Self-governing Institutions according to Regions:

#	Region	Gamgeoba	Sakrebulo	City hall	Total
1	Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	45	53	6	104
2	Imereti	30	66	0	96
3	Kakheti	24	69	0	93
4	Kvemo Kartli	30	49	3	82
5	Samtskhe Javakheti	33	38	0	69
6	Shida Kartli	28	31	0	59
7	Adjara	9	42	2	53
8	Mtkheta Mtianeti	20	32	0	52
9	Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti	5	44	0	50
10	Guria	12	18	0	30

Out of 688 applications submitted to the local self-governing institutions, 610 applications were submitted by citizens requesting public information, which did not envisage any considerations or decisions, 78 applications were submitted requesting resolving specific problems.

⁹ Municipality Administration

Issuing terms of public information

Request of public information should be done by means for a written applications¹⁰, properties of which is laid down by law¹¹. Applicant is not obliged to indicate purpose and grounds for the information¹². Administrative organ should accept and register the applications on the very day of receiving it, even if it does not include all the properties, it should affix a registration number and date to it.¹³ If requested by the applicant, Local Self-governing Institution has to transfer or issue confirmation of the registration to the applicant. Terms for issuance of public information, determined by law, are calculated from the moment its registration.

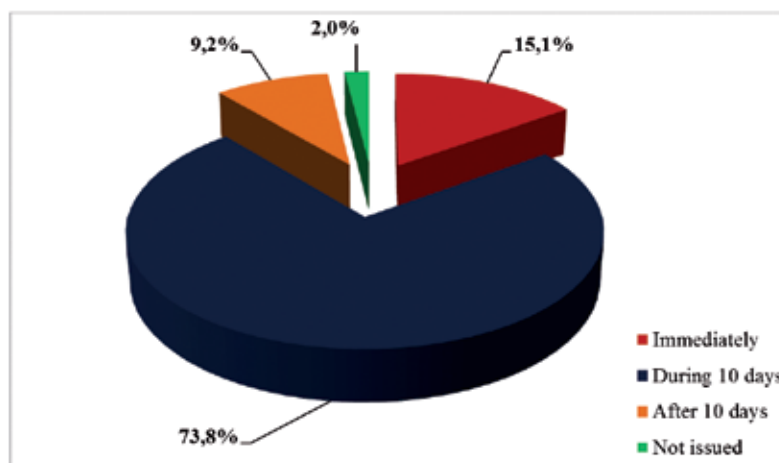
Georgian legislation sets an obligation for Administrative organs to issue requested information without delay. A 10 day term is also admitted by law, in case if the official responsible for issuance of information:

- ✓ *needs to obtain this information from its structural subunit of another settlement or another public institution*
- ✓ *needs to obtain and process information of a considerable volume and different interrelated documents*
- ✓ *needs to consult a structural subunit in another settlement r another public institution¹⁴*

In case any of the above listed three cases, official of the public institution has to immediately inform the applicant on using the 10-day term.¹⁵

On the basis of monitoring forms and information received from the citizens we have determined that out of 610 applications submitted to the local self-governing institutions, only 92 received an immediate response, 450 applications received a response in 10 days, 56 applications received a response in more than 10 days, 12 applications received no response at all.

Issuing terms of public information¹⁶



As determined by the monitoring, local self-governing institutions use 10-days term in most of the cases. Information issued immediately is usually the following: local budget, minutes of the meetings, schedules, staff list of the Sakrebulo and official regulations, which is the information with no necessity of processing, addressing another structural unit or readdressing.

¹⁰ Common Administrative Code of Georgia (hereinafter CACG) Article 37, part 2.

¹¹ CACG Article 78

¹² CACG Article 37, part 2.

¹³ CACG Article 79, part I

¹⁴ CACG Article 40, part I

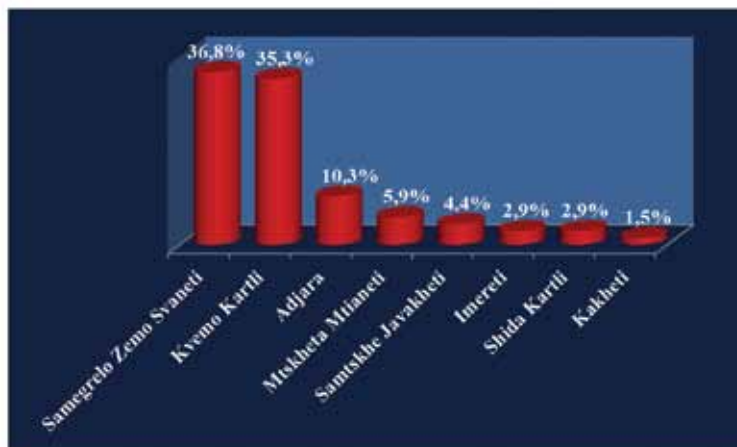
¹⁵ CACG Article 40, part II

¹⁶ Information has been processed on the basis of the 610 monitoring forms

Breaches determined

Out of 610 applications submitted to the local self-governing institutions requesting public information, in 68 cases (11.1%) information was issued with delay or not issued at all. In 56 cases (9.1%) information was issued with the breach of terms set by law, and in 12 cases (2.0%) no information was issued

Breaches determined according to the regions



Samegrelo - Zemo Svaneti Region

At the time of issuing information, most of breaches of terms determined by law occurred in Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti region, in particular, 25 cases of breach. Out of those, in 21 cases citizens received information with delay, 4 applications were left without answer by the Local Self-government Institutions. Information was given with delay, or no response was received to 6 applications in Zugdidi Municipality, to 6 applications in Tsalenjikha Municipality, to 3 in Abasha Municipality to 2 applications in Senaki Municipality, to 2 applications in Chkhorotsku Municipality, to 2 applications in Martvili Municipality, to 1 application in Khobi Municipality and to 3 applications in Self-governing city Poti. It is worth mentioning that in Zugdidi Municipality initially no specific reasons were given to the delay of issuance of information. Although, on an advocacy meeting with Zugdidi Municipality held in December, a representative of the local self-governing Institution explained that they were receiving about 150 applications per day and due to this they could not respond to each of them.

Applications received by breach of terms determined by legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of Information	Reasons
1	Senaki	Gamgeoba	26.07.10	16.09.10	Volume of funds discharged for road rehabilitation works on the territory of Senaki	Vague content of Application
2	Senaki	Gamgeoba	30.03.10	15.04.10	Copy of 2010 Priority Documents	Report was not finalized yet
3	Zugdidi	Gamgeoba	13.12.10	28.12.10	Number of functioning Kindergarten on the territory of Zugdidi and number of those that are rehabilitated	Due to high volume of applications and lack of time
4	Zugdidi	Gamgeoba	13.12.10	28.12.10	Number of free canteens in Zugdidi and number of socially insecure citizens served by them	Due to high volume of applications and lack of time
5	Zugdidi	Gamegoba	13.12.10	28.12.10	Electronic version of 2011 Budget	Due to high volume of applications and lack of time

6	Zugdidi	Sakrebulo	18.01.11	09.02.11	Does the 2011 Budget envisage rehabilitation of Akhalsopeli and Kolkhida parts	Due to high volume of applications and lack of time
7	Zugdidi	Gameoba	18.01.11	10.02.11	Does the 2011 Budget envisage rehabilitation of Akhalsopeli and Kolkhida parts	Due to high volume of applications and lack of time
8	Tsalenjikha	Gameoba	17.09.10	30.09.10	What are the funds envisaged in Local Budget for Cultural activities	Unknown
9	Tsalenjikha	Gameoba	17.09.10	30.09.10	Amount of funds envisaged by Local Budget for rehabilitation of sports squares	Unknown
10	Tsalenjikha	Gameoba	17.12.10	10.01.11	Amount of funds envisaged by Local Budget for building of bridges	Period of New year
11	Tsalenjikha	Gameoba	17.12.10	10.01.11	Amount of funds in 2010 budget envisaged for rehabilitation of public schools	Period of New year
12	Tsalenjikha	Gameoba	17.12.10	10.01.11	Amount of funds in 2010 discharged for public schools, hostels and other institutions on the territory of Tsalenjikha Municipality	Period of New year
13	Tsalenjikha	Sakrebulo	21.01.11	03.02.11	Program of supporting villages implemented in 2010	Period of New year
14	Abasha	Gameoba	02.09.10	16.09.10	Amount of funds in 2010 budget discharged for development of infrastructure and building works	Unknown
15	Abasha	Sakrebulo	02.09.10	16.09.10	Amount of funds in local budget discharged for social security	Unknown
16	Abasha	Sakrebulo	12.10.10	03.11.10	Amount of funds in 2010 budget discharged for cultural activities	Unknown
17	Chkhorotsku	Gameoba	13.10.10	05.11.10	Amount of funds discharged for road rehabilitation within the program of supporting village in 2010	Replacement of an official responsible for issuance of information
18	Chkhorotsku	Gameoba	13.10.10	05.11.10	Amount of funds discharged and expensed for Chkhorotsku Municipality in 2010	Replacement of an official responsible for issuance of information
19	Poti	City Hall	27.07.10	09.08.10	Priorities envisaged in 2010 Budget	Repair works of the building
20	Poti	City Hall	27.07.10	09.08.10	Does the 2010 Budget envisage placing modern waiting-spots in Poti	Repair works of the building
21	Poti	City Hall	26.07.10	09.08.10	When will rehabilitation works for Central Clinic Hospital start	Repair works of the building

Applications which received no response:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Content of application	Reason
1	Zugdidi	Sakrebulo	28.10.10	Amount of funds in 2011 budget envisaged for cultural events for New Year 2011	Due to high volume of applications and lack of time

2	Martvili	Sakrebulo	24.12.10	Copies of Minutes of the Meetings for December 2010	Official responsible for issuance of information was not present due to death of his/her mother and monitoring received no response
3	Martvili	Sakrebulo	10.01.11	Information on a meeting planned for January	Was lost
4	Khobi	Gamgeoba	24.12.10	Activities implemented from 2010 Local Budget	Report was not ready

Kvemo Kartli Region

Braches of terms for issuance of information set by legislation amount to 24 in Kvemo Kartli region. Out of those 24, in 18 cases citizens received information with delay, in 6 cases they received no information at all. Information was issued with delay or not issued at all to 10 applications in Gardabani Municipality, to 6 applications in Marneuli Municipality, to 3 applications in Tsalka Municipality, to 4 applications in Bolnisi Municipality and 1 application in Self-governing city Rustavi. It is worth underlining that in all above listed Municipalities, no reason for delay or non-issuance of information was given, thus, the reasons are not known till now.

Applications received by breach of terms determined by legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of Application	Reason
1	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	31.08.10	20.11.10	Copy of 2010 Local Budget	Not known
2	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	13.09.10	11.10.10	Performance report for 2009 Budget	Not known
3	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	30.11.10	15.12.10	Information on the number members of Sakrebulo, their identities, official positions	Not known
4	Gardabani	Gamgeoba	24.11.10	10.12.10	Information on the program of supporting the village	Not known
5	Tsalka	Gamgeoba	03.09.10	17.09.10	Medical and Social Program for the population of Tsalka Municipality	Not known
6	Tsalka	Sakrebulo	30.11.10	16.12.10	Amount of funds and terms envisaged for rehabilitation of Medical Diagnostic Centre ltd and Emergency Medical Service ltd	Not known
7	Tsalka	Sakrebulo	30.11.10	16.12.10	Information on the funds discharged for the rehabilitation works of North-western wall of Tsalka Stadium and its terms	Not known
8	Rustavi	Sakrebulo	28.12.10	16.01.10	Copies of Minutes of Meeting for the meeting held on December 27 2010	Not known
9	Marneuli	Sakrebulo	22.11.10	10.12.10	Copy of 2010 Local Budget and contact information for members of the Sakrebulo	Not known
10	Marneuli	Sakrebulo	22.12.10	06.01.11	Regulation of Marneuli Municipality Sakrebulo	Not known
11	Marneuli	Gamgeoba	22.12.10	06.01.11	Village programs implemented in 2009	Not known
12	Marneuli	Gamgeoba	22.12.10	06.01.11	Village programs implemented in 2010	Not known
13	Marneuli	Sakrebulo	18.01.11	08.02.11	Funds discharged for nursery-schools on the territory of the Municipality	Not known
14	Marneuli	Sakrebulo	18.01.11	08.02.11	Priority Documents for 2011-14	Not known
15	Bolnisi	Sakrebulo	28.12.10	13.01.10	Copy of 2011 Local Budget	Not known
16	Bolnisi	Sakrebulo	28.12.10	13.01.10	Information on the one-time compensations issued to the citizens in November	Not known
17	Bolnisi	Sakrebulo	08.01.11	21.01.11	Copy of Minutes of the meeting held on January 11 2011	Not known
18	Bolnisi	Sakrebulo	08.01.11	21.01.11	Does the 2011 Local Budget envisage one-time material assistance for socially insecure citizens	

Information that was not issued

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Content of application	Reason
1	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	23.08.10	Information on the number of meetings held	Not known
2	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	21.12.10	Information on the main and supplementary property assigned to the Gardabani Municipality	Not known
3	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	21.12.10	Information on Sakrebulo meetings held in 2010 from 01.03.10 to 21.03.10	Not known
4	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	28.12.10	Does the 2011 Local Budget envisage funds for domestic transportation	Not known
5	Gardabani	Gamgeoba	21.01.10	Information on the quantity of Municipality staff, their identity and official positions	Not known
6	Gardabani	Sakrebulo	21.01.10	Electronic version of 2011 Local Budget	Not known

Adjara Region

7 cases of breach of terms set by the legislation were determined in Ajara. Response to 6 applications submitted by citizens to the Local Self-government Institutions were issued with delay, answer to 1 application as not issued at all. Information was issued with delay or not issued at all to 5 applications in Shaukhevi Municipality, to 1 application in Kobuleti Municipality and to 1 application in Self-governing city Batumi.

Information received with the breach of terms determined by the legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of application	Reason
1	Shaukhevi	Sakrebulo	26.07.10	06.08.10	Information on the work fulfilled within task programs in 2009	Not known
2	Shaukhevi	Sakrebulo	23.08.10	06.09.10	Amount of funds envisaged in 2009 Local Budget for improving road infrastructure, sports squares and water-supply	Not known
3	Shaukhevi	Sakrebulo	23.08.10	06.09.10	What kind of task programmes were envisaged in 2009 budget	Not known
4	Shaukhevi	Sakrebulo	23.08.10	06.09.10	Did the 2009 budget envisage rehabilitation of roads and sewerage systems within task programs	Not known
5	Shaukhevi	Sakrebulo	15.10.10	26.10.10	Contact information for members of Sakrebulo	Not known
6	Batumi	Sakrebulo	23.12.10	17.02.11	Information on the rehabilitation works of underground communication systems and streets in the suburbs and information on the beginning and commencement of works	In three weeks after submission of the application, citizen who addressed the Sakrebulo register for receiving response to his/her application, he/she was readdressed to another unit. As explained at the final instance, in particular by the chief specialist of the technical supervisory unit, this application was left without response due to the fact that this particular issue was to be discussed on a meeting in January, thus they had no exact answer on dates of commencement of rehabilitation works

Applications that received no response at all:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Content of application	Reason
1	Kobuleti	Gamgeoba	25.11.10	Does the 2010 Local Budget envisage road rehabilitation works for Rustaveli street in Kobuleti	Could not be found at the Chancellery

Mtskheta Mtianeti Region

Issuance of public information in Mtskheta Mtianeti region was conducted in accordance with the legislation in all Municipalities except 4 cases of breach in Mtsketa Municipality

Applications received with the breach of terms determined by legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of application	Reason
1	Mtskheta	Sakrebulo	10.10.10	25.10.10	Composition of the Sakrebulo	Not known
2	Mtskheta	Sakrebulo	10.10.10	25.10.10	How many Commissions does the Sakrebulo have	Not known
3	Mtskheta	Gamgeoba	17.11.10	08.12.10	Amount of funds in 2010 Local Budget discharged 2010 for social assistance	Not known
4	Mtskheta	Gamgeoba	17.11.10	08.12.10	What were the issues prioritized in 2011 Local Budget	Not known

Samtskhe Javakheti Region

There were 3 cases of breach of terms determined by legislation in Samtskhe Javakheti Region Ninotsminda and Akhalkalaki Municipalities.

Applications received with the breach of terms determined by legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of application	Reason
1	Ninotsminda	Gamgeoba	18.10.10	11.11.10	Plan of building works envisaged by the village program	Changes in staff
2	Ninotsminda	Gamgeoba	18.10.10	11.11.10	Copies of minutes of the meeting held within the program of village development, where village priorities are determined	Changes in staff

Applications that received no response at all:

#	District	Place of request	Date of submission	Content of application	Reason
1	Akhalkalaki	Gamgeoba	18.10.10	Copies of programmes connected with rural economy	Not known

Imereti Region

Applications submitted to Chiatura and Kharagauli Municipalities in Imereti region were answered with breach of terms determined by law.

Applications received with the breach of terms determined by legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of application	Reason
1	Chiatura	Gamgeoba	17.12.10	09.01.10	Information on activities planned for annihilation of unsanitary hearths at the territory of City Hospital	Not known
2	Kharagauli	Gamgeoba	16.11.10	February	Was the formation of 2011 local budget in conformity with the legislation	As explained by the head of Financial Unit, delay in the response was caused by the fact that the application should have been submitted for the Head of Municipality, due to the fact that heads of units were not authorized to issue public information. On November 16, the application was submitted for the Head of Gamgeoba. In 10 days the applicant received an explanation at the Chancellery that the Head had not yet signed the document, he had neither returned it to the Chancellery, not transferred to a relevant unit.

Shida Kartli Region

In Gori and Kaspi Municipalities of Shida Kartli Region 2 cases of delay in issuance of public information was found.

Applications received with breach of terms determined by legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of application	Reason
1	Gori	Gamgeoba	12.10.10	01.11.10	Was the Order of April 14 2010 on «Common security regulation gas development» valid for rehabilitation works of liquid gas in the centre settlement	Not known
2	Kaspi	Gamgeoba	05.08.10	17.08.10	Information on the condition and development of the rehabilitation works at 26 May Street in Kaspi town	Not known

Kakheti Region

Only 1 case of breach of terms set by legislation was determined in Sagarejo Municipality.

Applications received with breach of terms determined by legislation:

#	Municipality	Place of request	Date of submission	Date of acceptance	Content of application	Reason
1	Sagarejo	Sakrebulo	30.09.10	19.10.10	Information on rehabilitation works conducted on Stalin street in Sagarejo	As explained by a representative of the Sakrebulo, this application was transmitted to the Financial unit, although the applicant was not notified about this.

It is worth mentioning that in Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti and Guria regions no breaches of terms set by legislation was determined.

Except breach of terms determined by law, 2 cases of issuance of inaccurate and incomplete information in Senaki and Ambrolauri Municipalities.

Cases of not issuing of information to the other subjects¹⁷

It is important to separately indicate cases when local self-governing Institutions did not issue public information to other subjects and cases of delay in issuance of information.

According to one of the monitors, Kharagauli Municipality deliberately refused to issue public information requested by Sakrebulo members, media, non-governmental organizations and citizens. Chief editor of ``Chemi Kharagauli`` newspaper, requested the Gamgeoba to issue copies of reports submitted to the Chancelleries of the Parliament and President, or reactions to the requests of public information. Due to the fact that no response was received almost 2 month, journalists submitted same request to the Parliament on January 28, 2011. According to the information received from the Parliament on February,3 , 36 responses were issued to 36 applications received by Kharagauli Municipality. Soon after, on February 4, editors office of the newspaper received a response from the Gamgeoba, figures in this response did not match figures in the report submitted to the Parliament. As explained Gamgebeli , report sent to the Parliament initially was wrong and later he sent a corrected report to the Parliament. Newspaper addressed the Parliament requesting information on the date when corrected report was received from the Gamgeoba . On February 21 they received a letter indicating that the corrected report was received by the Parliament on February 8. Chami Kharagauli newspaper continues to monitor the issue.

In November, an applicant from Gori Municipality received a response with delay on an application submitted to the Gamgeoba requesting information on the quantity of applications issued in two months period. In July, no information was issued at all to the applicant requesting information, no explanations were given either.

Local self-government and citizens

It is worth mentioning that a tendency of increasing activity in issuance of public information to the applicants was revealed in the position and attitude of local self-governing Institutions.

In Chokhatauri Municipality an application was no registered with the explanations that it should have been addressed to Gamgebeli. Head of Ozurgeti office of GYLA prepared a letter requesting explanations on reasons for not registering the application submitted to the Gamgeoba. As explained by the Head of Gamgeoba, they were examining whether the application was in conformity with Article 78 of Common Administrative Code of Georgia. Moreover, they declared that the applicant did not submit the application on his own initiative, which does not constitute the reality. Soon after, conversations with some participants of the project took place with the order of Gamgeoba , which resulted I refusal of some of them to continue participating in the project, some of them decided not to ``offence Gamgebeli`` on their own initiative.

Particular attention needs to be paid to the case at Baghdati Municipality. In particular, an application was submitted to the Gamgeoba in September requesting structure of the Apparatus. While submitting the application, registration of the application was refused with the reason of absence of Gamgebeli. The applicant still submitted the application, although on the next day the applicant was invited to the Gamgebeli who asked him why did he need these ``intrigues``. It is worth mentioning that before, the applicant had submitted an application to the Gamgeoba asking for a position in case of any vacancies. Gamgebeli threatened the applicant that he would ``calm down`` with the perspective of finding a job in Baghdati. After finding out that the applicant was participating in a project ``People's Manifesto`` he asked the applicant to ask the Baghdati regional coordinator for ISFED to visit him. As explained by Gamgebeli to the Baghdati Regional Coordinator, the applicant was acting with ``tactlessness`` and this as the reason for refusal of issuance responding to the request. Although the applicant explained that this did not constitute the truth. It should be taken into consideration that in any case the applicant was refused of registering the application. After the conversation with the representative of ISFED, the applicant received an immediate response. However, after this incident, the applicant refused to continue participating in the project.

¹⁷ Meaning of other subjects- citizens who don't present the monitors of project.

An application was submitted to the Batumi City Hall requesting information on sports squares on the territory of Batumi, earmarking and addresses. In several days after submission of this application, the monitor was requested to give information whether he/she was a legal person and what he/she needed this information for.

One of the citizens participating in the project in Dusheti Gamgeoba requested form the Gamgeoba in September certified copies of administrative normative acts issued with the purpose of preparing priority documents for 2011. Application was registered, although the applicant was later invited to the Gamgeoba and Gamgebeli explained to him/her that GYLA was using the applicant for reaching its own goals. Applicant was requested to write a letter refusing his request of public information.

Generally, almost in all Municipalities, except those listed above, information was issued within the terms determined by legislation for issuance of public information. However, this could be affected by the fact that in some cases the representatives of local self-government bodies learned about the internationally funded project within which the applicants were acting as monitors. Cases of Baghdad and Ambrolauri Municipalities discussed above could be brought as an example for this. In particular, response received by the applicant addressed him/her as a member of non-governmental organization ``ISFED``.

As a conclusion, it can be said, that in most cases the local self-government bodies were trying to issue the requested public information to the citizens according to the law. It was obvious, that even in municipalities where the facts of violations have been observed, the representatives of local self-government bodies were ready to take into consideration the comments and recommendations of citizens.

SAKREBULO SESSIONS

Engagement level of ordinary citizens in the Sessions is quite low for today, notwithstanding the fact that law gives them this right. Sessions are usually attended by persons interested, in particular, non-governmental organizations and representatives of media. I may be caused by the fact that population is not duly informed on the planned Sessions. While Process on the Sessions are of priority for the populations, it is important that they attend the Sessions and observe the decision-making process, in order to increase accountability of Local Self-governing Institutions.

Public Board Institution is obliged to direct its Sessions openly and publicly. Publicity of Sessions means not only attendance of interested persons but also their due notification about the Sessions. In particular, following information should be announced in public a week prior to future Session:

- ✓ *Place where the Sessions shall be held;*
- ✓ *Date when the Sessions shall be held;*
- ✓ *Schedule of the Session;*
- ✓ *In case the relevant decision is made – information on its closure;*

Announcement if public implies placing the document on in the Administrative Organ in a place accessible for everyone. In case of necessity, public announcement may take place in another public place.¹⁸

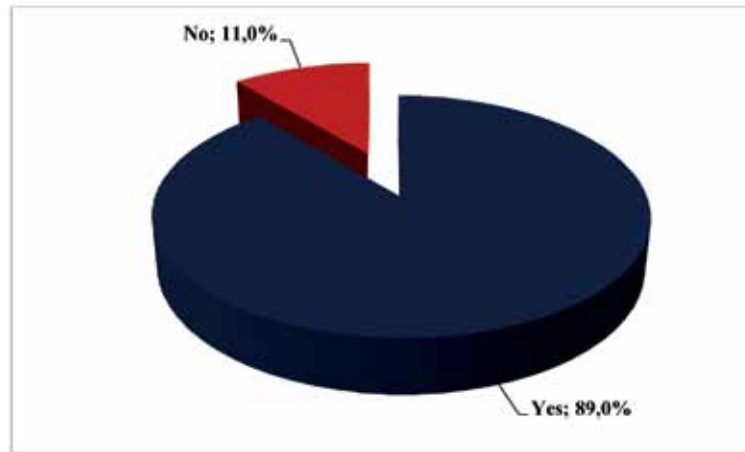
With the view of the publicity of information, except requesting public information, citizens carried out monitoring of the processes of informing population on the planned Sessions, in particular:

- ✓ Whether the society is informed on the place, date and time of the planned Sessions;
- ✓ Is the process of informing the society in conformity with the terms determined by legislation.

Informing the society

After analyzing monitoring forms and information received from the citizens, it has been determined that in most of the cases, local self-governing Institutions do inform the society about planned Sessions.

¹⁸ CACG Article 57.

Informing about the Sessions¹⁹

There has been 30 cases when the society was not informed about the planned Sessions. Out of those, 15 cases were determined in Kvemo Kartli Region, 9 cases were determined in Zemo Svaneti Region, 3 cases in Imereti Region, 2 cases were determined in Kakheti Region and 1 case was determined in Guria Region.

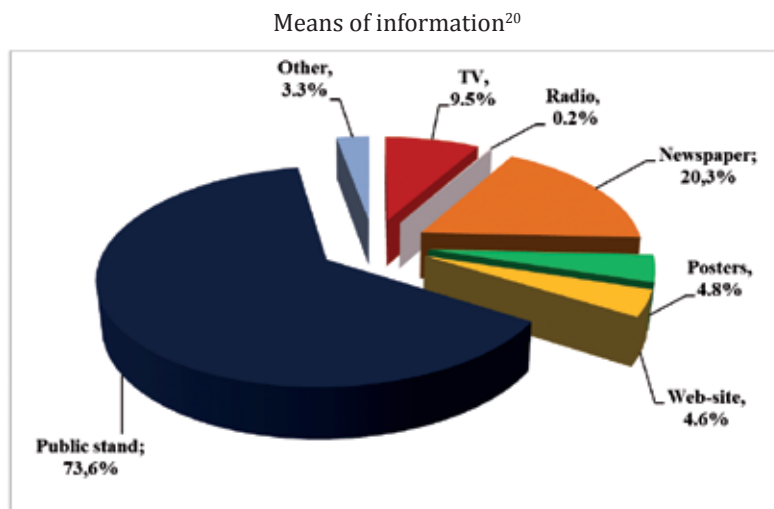
#	Region	Municipality	Quantity	Comments/remarks
1	Kvemo- Kartli	Gardabani	5	Population was not informed at all in August, September, October, November, December -2010
2	Kvemo-Kartli	Marneuli	5	Population was not informed at all in August, September, October, November, December-2010
3	Kvemo- Kartli	Tetritskaro	4	Population was not informed at all in August, September, October, November, December-2010
4	Kvemo-Kartli	Rustavi	1	No information was issued on the Session held in October,2010 due to the fact that date for the Session was determined one day prior to it on a Bureau meeting
5	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Zugdidi	6	Society was not informed about Sessions planned for August, September, October, December,2010 and January,2011. However, Coordinator of Free Elections was informed by a telephone call.
6	Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Martvili	2	Population as not informed in November and December,2010
7	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti	Poti	1	Population was not informed about planned session in January,2011
8	Imereti	Bagdati	1	A Special Session as appointed and information was not disseminated even one day prior to the Session in August,2010
9	Imereti	Kutaisi	1	Population was not informed on a special Session in December,2010
10	Imereti	Tskaltubo	1	Population was not informed on a special Session in December,2010
11	Imereti	Lagodekhi	2	Population was not informed in August and September ,2010
12	Guria	Chokhatauri	1	Population was not informed on a special Session in October,2010

Here we shall discuss Sessions, about which the population was informed but by breach of terms determined by legislation. In particular, In Samtredia Municipality where both local television and press operate, information about planned session as placed on a public stand only 5 days prior to the session. In September and December population of Kaspi Municipality was informed by breach of terms determined by law. Monitors who visited the Sakrebulo determined that the information was not placed at the Sakrebulo Office even two days prior to holding the Session.

¹⁹ Information processed on the basis of 518 monitoring forms

Means of information

According to the information received from the monitors, local self-governing institutions in most cases use public boards placed at their offices for informing the population about planned Sessions.



Imereti Region

Population of Imereti Region is usually informed about planned sessions by means of public boards. In Samtredia and Chiatura Municipalities, notwithstanding the fact that local televisions operate there, information is placed on public boards. In Vani, Tskaltubo, Chaitura, Sachkhere Municipalities, population is informed by means of press when possible, as the press is printed once in 2-3 months. Special attention should be paid to Zestaponi Municipality, where information about planned Session is disseminated solely by means of public boards. However, after recommendations received from project participants, they starting informing the population by means of local television as well.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Sachkhere	Press	Public board, Press
2	Samtredia	Television, web-site	Public board , web-site
3	Tkibuli	Television, Press	Public board, Television
4	Terjola	Press	Public board
5	Baghdati	Does not exist	Public board
6	Vani	Press	Public board
7	Zestaponi	Television, Press	Public board
8	Khoni	Television, Press	Public board
9	Tskaltubo	Press	Public board
10	Kharagauli	Press	Public board, Press
11	Chiatura	Television, Press	Public board
12	Kutaisi	Television, Press	Public board, Television

²⁰ Information processed on the basis of 518 monitoring forms. It should be underlined that the citizens were given an opportunity to mark several alternative versions.

Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti Region

In most of Municipal Administrations in the Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti Region population is informed about the planned Sessions by means of public boards. Its worth underlining that in Zugdidi municipality, where television, press and web-site operate, Local Sel-government uses only public boards for informing the population, and even this does not occur in all of the cases. In Chkhorotsku Municipality, information used to be disseminated by television, but the television as acquired by a private person and since then no information has been disseminated. In Martvili, Chkhorotsku and Khobi Municipalities, it is not possible to inform the population on each and every planned Session due to the fact the press is printed only once in 2-3 months. In the Self-governing city Poti, where all forms for disseminating information are accessible, population is informed about planned Sessions only by public boards and web-site.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Khobi	Press, web-site	Public board, web-site
2	Tsalenjikha	Television, press, web-site	Public board,web-site, Television
3	Senaki	Press, web-site	Public board, press
4	Chkhorotsku	Press, web-site	Public board,
5	Poti	Television, radio, press, web-site	Public board,web-site
6	Mestia	Does not exist	Public board,
7	Abasha	press	Public board, press
8	Martvili	press	Public board,
9	Zugdidi	Television, press, radio	Public board,

Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti Region

There are no permanent Television or web-site operating in Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti Region. As far as the press is not printed defensively, population is informed about planned Sessions at the Municipality only by means of the public boards.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Lentekhi	Press	Public board
2	Oni	Press	Public board
3	Ambrolauri	Press	Public board
4	Tsageri	Does not exist	Public board

Samtskhe Javakheti Region

In Samtskhe Javakheti region, local Self-governing Institutions use the same means for informing population about planned Sessions as in most of other Municipalities – public boards.

Notwithstanding existence of local television and press in Borjomi Municipality, information about planned Sessions is accessible on public boards. In Aspindza Municipality information could be disseminated by means of press and web-site, but the newspaper is printed only once a month. In Ninotsminda Municipality information about Sessions already held is announced by television. In Akhalkalaki Municipality, all means of information are used for informing the population about Sessions, as for the television, a screen line is used for dissemination.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Borjomi	Television, press, web-site	Public board
2	Adigeni	web-site	Public board
3	Akhalkalaki	Television, press, web-site	Public board, Television –screen lines

4	Ninotsminda	Television, press, web-site	Public board
5	Aspindza	Press, web-site	Public board
6	Akhaltzikhe	Television, press, web-site	Public board, Television

Shida Kartli Region

Notwithstanding the fact that there are other means of information, e.g. local television in Khashuri, press and web-site in Kaspi, web-site in Kareli and all forms of information in Gori , all four Municipal Administrations inform the population about planned Sessions by means of public boards.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Gori	Television, press, radio, web-site	Public board
2	Kareli	web-site	Public board
3	Kaspi	press, web-site	Public board
4	Khashuri	Television, web-site	Public board

Here we should underline results reached in Gori Municipality in terms of improving dissemination of information. During an advocacy meeting, project participants shared their views with the representatives of local authorities with the view of how to improve informing society about planned Sessions. In particular, they suggested to use boards placed at the centers of villages for useful farmers information additionally for information about planned Sessions. Head of Sakrebulo admitted that this advise would be taken into consideration and they would place there not only information about planned Sessions, but also about current projects and decisions taken. Recommendations made by the population at the meeting were taken into consideration.

Kvemo Kartli Region

Notwithstanding the local television and web-site operating in Marneuli Municipality, information about planned Sessions is announced by means of public boards. However, television usually transfers interviews with members of the Sakrebulo about important Process on the Sessions. In the Self-governing city Rustavi, where all forms for informing is available, information about planned Sessions is also posted on the public boards. In Tsalka Municipality, where newspapers are printed once in three months, information about planned Sessions is also posted on the public boards. Bolnisi Municipality should be discussed separately, where the course of the Sessions is transferred by television together with the use of all other available sources of information.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Rustavi	Television, Press, web-site	Public Board
2	Gardabani	Web-site	Public Board
3	Dmanisi	Web-site	Public Board
4	Bolnisi	Television, Press, web-site	Public Board, Television, Press
5	Tsalka	Press, web-site	Public Board
6	Tetritskaro	Web-site	Public Board
7	Marneuli	Television, web-site	Public Board

Mtskheta Mtianeti Region

In Mtskheta and Mtianeti Municipalities no means of information are available, thus, population may receive information about planned Sessions only by means of public boards. Notwithstanding operation of press in Dusheti, information about planned Sessions is posted on the public boards. However, articles about held Sessions are printed in press.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Tianeti	Does not exist	Public Board
2	Mtskheta	Does not exist	Public Board
3	Kazbegi	Press	Public Board, Press
4	Dusheti	Press	Public Board

Adjara Region

Ways used to inform public about planned Sessions in the Self-governing city Batumi could be considered to be satisfied, because they use different means for information, though television could be used additionally as well. Similarly, in Kobuleti newspapers could be used for informing public in addition to the public boards and web-site. It is worth mentioning that local television and press exists in Adjara region, which covers all six municipalities, accordingly both can be also used for informing population.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Kobuleti	Press, web-site	Public boards, web-site
2	Shuakhevi	Does not exist	Public boards
3	Khulo	Press,web-site	Public boards, Press
4	Khelvachauri	Web-site	Public boards, region press
5	Batumi	Television , radio, Press, web-site	Public boards, Press, web-site
6	Keda	web-site	Public boards

Guria Region

In Lanchkhuti and Chokhatauri Municipalities, with the available local press, information about planned Sessions is posted on public boards. In Ozurgeti Municipality, except posting information on public boards, interested persons may receive information about place, date and time of the Session by means of phone messages.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Chokhatauri	Press,web-site	Public boards
2	Lanchkhuti	Press, web-site	Public boards
3	Ozurgeti	Television, Press, web-site	Public boards, phone messages

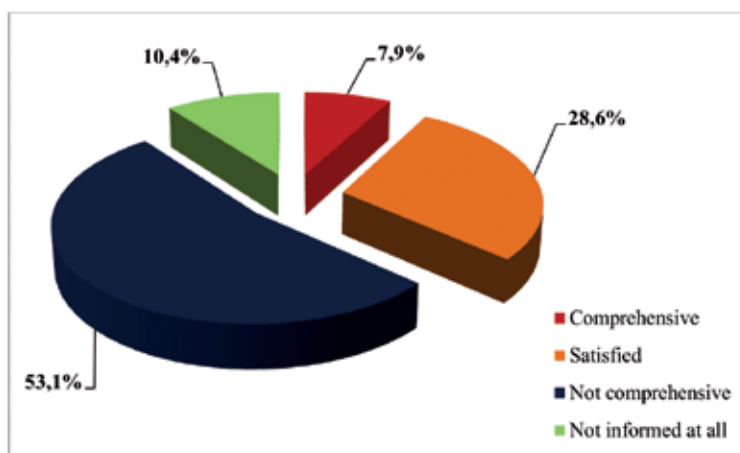
Kaheti Region

In Khakheti region as well as in most of other regions information about planned Sessions is placed on public boards. In Telavi and Lagodekhi Municipalities, notwithstanding availability of local television, information is placed on public boards. Gurjaani Municipality is worth mentioning as they use television screen lines for informing public about upcoming Sessions, together with other available means of disseminating information.

#	Municipality	Available main means for information	Information means used for dissemination
1	Kvareli	Does not exist	Public boards
2	Dedoflistskaro	Press	Public boards, Press
3	Akhmeta	Does not exist	Public boards, Press
4	Telavi	Television	Public boards
5	Sighnaghi	Web-site	Public boards, Web-site
6	Lagodekhi	Television, radio	Public boards
7	Sagarejo	Does not exist	Public boards
8	Gurjaani	Television, Press	Public boards, Press, Television –screen lines

Citizens' comments/advices

As determined by the monitoring some Municipalities do not use available means for disseminating information about planned Sessions, though they are available to them. According to citizens informing public about planned Sessions solely by means of posting on public boards should not be considered satisfactory, as far as, it is not accessible for most part of the population, especially for those living in villages. It should be underlined that only few of Municipalities have press and television. In some Municipalities where press does exist, newspapers are printed only once in 2-3 months, thus even by means of press public cannot be duly informed. Same should be said about using web-site as means for announcing information, as far as, not everyone can access internet as well. Basing upon all above said and information received from the monitors, we found out that citizens consider that they are not duly informed.²¹



Basing upon information received on coordination meetings and monitoring forms, we found out that the population does have recommendations on the improvement of the process of informing the public. According to them, more information means could be used in those Municipalities where they are available, in places where other means are not available, information could be spread by means of posters disseminated in public places.

Attending the sessions

Citizens were systematically attending Sessions during the monitoring. In total 438 Sessions were attended by the monitors.

Quantity of Sessions according to Regions

#	Region	Quantity
1	Kvemo Kartli	46
2	Mtskheta Mtianeti	28
3	Samtskhe Javakheti	44
4	Shida Kartli	28
5	Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	50
6	Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti	26
7	Imereti	66
8	Ajara	58
9	Guria	23
10	Kakheti	69

²¹ Information processed on the basis of 518 monitoring forms

There were no problems faced by the citizen in terms of attending the Sessions. Situation in all regions was satisfactory.

However, a case that occurred in connection with attending Batumi Sessions deserves particular attention. It took quite awhile for one of the citizens to get a pass to the Session held in August. A person responsible for issuance of passes called about five persons double-checking if he/se should let an ordinary citizen attend the Session. Few minutes before starting the Session, one of the 'persons' who was present and who knew the monitor as a journalist indicated to the official that this person should have been given the pass. Only after this case was the citizen let inside the building in order to attend the Session. It should be mentioned the comments of citizens living in Kutaisi regarding the procedures to get a pass for attending the session. According to them the procedures are quite difficult and too long.

According to the information of citizens and based on monitoring findings, it was revealed, that in most cases discussion process during the Sakrebulo sessions was being held openly and transparently. In most cases the representatives of local self-government bodies were trying to take into consideration the interests of citizens and discuss and make decisions regarding the priorities of citizens positively at the sessions.

Local self-government and Citizens

Taking into consideration the fact that public is not duly informed about Sessions in most of the cases almost no one except those involved in the project attended the Sessions during monitoring. However, according to Dusheti Municipality other persons attended the Session as well in February. Generally, level of informing public and their engagement is quite low, thus Sessions are attended only by those having professional interest, like journalists or representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The special attention should be paid to the success in gained by relationship between the citizens and the representatives of local self- government in terms of administrative procedures in municipality of Gori. Concretely, Sakrebulo used to discuss and decide administrative applications and requests presented to the Sakrebulo without participation of applicants. After recommendations presented to them, which was taken into consideration by local authorities, all parties are engaged in the administrative cases and both sides are given an opportunity to express their views and answer questions.

Based on monitoring of Sakrebulo sessions, it can be concluded, that in most Municipalities and cities of Georgia the mechanisms of informing the public about planned sessions are not effective, which can be considered as one of the reasons of the passiveness of citizens towards attending the sessions. The second reason can be named the difficulty of procedures for attending the sessions.

BUDGETARY PROCESSES

Citizens as the initiative groups conducted monitoring of budgetary processes regularly through requesting public information and attending on meetings of Sakrebulos. Budgetary processes were implemented according to the following directions:

- Whether the local budget formation and modification were in conformity with the rules set by the law.
- To what extent the priorities of the population were envisaged in the 2010 and 2011 local budgets.
- Whether the planned activities according to 2009 ``The Village Support Program`` were executed.

According to the information provided by the monitors and based on analyzed monitoring forms, information was elaborated according to regions.

Adjara Region

It is remarkable that budget formation and making changes to the budget in all municipalities of Adjara region was implemented in conformity with the rules set by legislation. As identified from information submitted by the monitors, priorities of the population were partially envisaged in the 2010 and 2011 local budgets. As for the 2009 Village Support program, all the planned activities in municipalities of Adjara region were implemented.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Batumi	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Kobuleti	Partially	Partially	Yes
3	Khelvachauri	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Keda	Partially	Partially	Yes
5	Shuakhevi	Partially	Partially	Yes
6	Khulo	Partially	Partially	Yes

2011 local budget for Batumi is focused entirely on the program financing and priorities reflected in it fully coincide with the needs revealed by focus groups. It should be highlighted that funds envisaged for the healthcare, social welfare, education and infrastructure development are increased in comparison to the budget of the previous year. This was caused by the increase in the Batumi area and its population and on the basis of the joining of territories to the Khelvachauri municipality.

Batumi local budget 2011 was fully oriented on program finance and the priorities envisaged in it were fully in conformity with the needs of the population, identified as a result of the focus groups. It was the same for Khelvachauri and Kobuleti local budgets. Taking this into consideration, changes have been made to activities envisaged by the project and repeated studies have been presented on round table held in February, in order to have motivated suggestions and recommendations submitted to the Batumi Assembly for making changes to the budget. As determined by the study, social and ecological problems (Gasification, electric energy, rehabilitation of roads and soil-pipes, street lightening, unemployment etc.) are the most concern of the population. Environment protection has become an issue of a high priority, which is directly connected to the increase of Batumi territory, current repair-rehabilitation works and Batumi becoming a tourist zone actively throughout the year.

Funds envisaged for the social welfare activities in 2011 local budget of Kobuleti municipality were cut down in comparison with the 2010, due to the fact that the 2011 budget does not envisage funds for one-time financial support. At the same time quite an amount has been envisaged for preparation works of tourist-economic zone on the Choloki territory.

While working on the Khelvachauri budget, increase in funds was identified directed towards roads, torrent canals, building of bridges, sports squares, rehabilitation of water head-quarters and paths. One of the factors for facilitating all the listed issues is the program for village support, within the framework of which huge amount funds are spent both as special transfers and local budget incomes. Inasmuch as Sakrebulo financially reflected all the problems in the document, no recommendation letters were submitted to the Sakrebulo or Gamgeoba by active citizens.

As a result of the budget monitoring in Adjara region, several important issues have been determined. Particularly, reports requested are insufficient and contain poor information, which is mainly expressed in the statistical and percentage figures on the implementation rate of the planning. In the second half of 2010 increase of Adjara budget is caused by the increase in income, however expenses made from the reserve fund is not strengthened by law. Funding for cultural events has been increased, not taking into consideration.

It should be taken into consideration that the approval of drafts of the local budgets was fulfilled till the end calendar year (in December). Members of the new Sakrebulo and representatives of the municipality apparatus were more motivated in solving problems important for the population, more than the members of the previous Sakrebulo. Activity to this extent was expressed in the fact that prior to the budget forming process, they were actively meeting with the population and identifying their problems and needs, they organized public discussions of the draft budget. Sound funds are envisaged for solving real needs and problems both by means of special transfers from the central budget and incomes of local budget.

Guria Region

No grave breaches were identified in the budget forming process and in the process of making changes to the budget in Guria region. It should be noted that in all three municipalities, work on the priority documents commenced with delay, however, in all cases, priority documents together with 2011 budgets of relevant municipalities were

submitted to the Sakrebulo within set terms. Draft budgets were published in press in all three municipalities. All the three drafts were returned to Gamgebeli in conformity with the terms set by legislations.

Notwithstanding the fact that in Ozurgeti, Lanchkhuti and Chokhatauri municipalities, 2011 draft budgets were in conformity with the 2011-2014 priority documents, priority documents themselves did not duly envisaged real needs of the population. Except for the road rehabilitation and development of communal economy, no other issues were envisaged, which are of utmost importance for welfare of local population. Same could be said about priorities envisaged in 2010 local budget. As for the 2009 Village Support program, only Ozurgeti municipality had not implemented all the planned activities, in Chokhatauri and Lanchkhuti municipalities, they were partially implemented.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Chokhatauri	Partially	Partially	Partially
2	Lanchkhuti	Partially	Partially	Partially
3	Ozurgeti	Partially	Partially	No

As it was noticed above, no major breaches have been revealed as a result of the monitoring. On the contrary, positive tendencies have been identified in Ozurgeti municipality, most of the important issues are being discussed in public, on meetings organized by Sakrebulo. For example, public hearings have been dedicated to issues like rules for receiving and discharging social aid from the budget of local self-governing institutions, scavenging of living remainders, introduction of taxes etc.

Imereti Region

The budget forming process and the process of making changes into the budget were conducted in conformity with the rules set by the law in almost all municipalities of Imereti region. However it should be noted that 2011 Budget was considered at a special Session of Sakrebulo and not on an ordinary Session in the self-governing city of Kutaisi and municipality of Tskaltubo. Particularly, procedures for organizing the budget in self-governing city Kutaisi were implemented in conformity with the terms determined by law. However the fact that the 2011 budget was considered on a special Session is worth paying particular attention. Although discussion on the budget for self-governing city Kutaisi were planned for the Session on December 27, the draft was considered and approved on a special Session on December 18, 2010. It is even more important to learn that e.g. in Kutaisi, instead of Sakrebulo Chairman, Budget of the self-governing institution was presented to the Sakrebulo by the Head of Financial-Urban Unit of City hall. Session commenced with the delay in two hours, instead of planned 14:00, it started at 16:00. At same Session, where Budget for the year 2011 was considered, Sakrebulo made certain changes and modifications to the 2010 Budget. Unfortunately, one regrettable tendency has been revealed during the budget monitoring: active citizens did not implement proper monitoring of budget examination and approval at the corresponding self-governing institutions. Active citizens either gained no information about dates for the Sessions where the 2011 Budget would be examined and approved, or the information was shared with them 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Session. Accordingly, it was almost impossible for active citizens to attend the Session by that time.

As a result of the monitoring, it was revealed, that in 2010 and 2011 local budgets almost all municipalities envisaged priorities of the population only partially, except for Tkibuli municipality, where all the priorities of local population were taken into consideration totally. As for the 2009 Village Support program, planned activities in all municipalities were fulfilled.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Samtredia	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Baghdati	Partially	Partially	Yes
3	Zestaponi	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Tskaltubo	Partially	Partially	Yes
5	Kutaisi	Partially	Partially	-----

6	Sachkhere	Partially	Partially	Yes
7	Tkibuli	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Terjola	Partially	Partially	Yes
9	Vani	Partially	Partially	Yes
10	Kharagauli	Partially	Partially	Yes
11	Chiatura	Partially	Partially	Yes
12	Khoni	Partially	Partially	Yes

To some extent tendencies existing those local self-governing Institutions which are included in Imereti Region were revealed during the Budget monitoring. To this end, in certain cases direction which received financing does not fall under sole authority of local self-government Institutions as determined by Law of Georgia on local self-governing entities. As an example could be brought discharging funds from the Local Budget for Local Units of Ministry of Interior and public schools (Self-governing city Tskaltubo), Improvement of base belonging to Dasavletis Tskali LTD financed from the budget of Self-governing city Kutaisi.

Increase in 2011 local budgets administrative expenses in comparison with the year 2010 (Kutaisi, Kharagauli) were observed. While number of staff engaged in the administration of Self-governing city Kutaisi has not been changed since 2010, their remuneration has increased in comparison with 2010.

Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti Region

Priorities of Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti population in 2010 and 2011 budgets were envisaged only partially, in almost all cases. Tsalengikha and Martvili municipalities are remarkable, as most important issues of the population were taken into consideration. As for Mestia municipality, population priorities were only partially envisaged by the 2010 budget, however, 2011 local budget took all the important issues into consideration. Main activities planned within the 2009 Village Support program were implemented in all municipalities except for Abasha and Senaki municipalities.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Khobi	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Tsalengikha	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Senaki	Partially	Partially	Partially
4	Abasha	Partially	Partially	Partially
5	Poti	Partially	Partially	-----
6	Chkhorotsku	Partially	Partially	Yes
7	Zugdidi	Partially	Partially	Yes
8	Mestia	Partially	Yes	Yes
9	Martvili	Yes	Yes	Yes

Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti Region

As identified by the monitoring in Racha Lechkhumi - Kvemo Svaneti region, that priorities of population were partially envisaged in all four municipalities in 2010 and 2011 local budgets. As for the 2009 Village Support Program, all main activities were implemented.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Oni	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Tsageri	Partially	Partially	Yes

3	Lentekhi	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Ambrolauri	Partially	Partially	Yes

Samtskhe Javakheti Region

As identified by monitoring executed by citizens in Adigeni, Aspindza, Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Borjomi and Ninotsminda municipalities, issues raised by the active citizens in Samtskhe Javakheti region were partially taken into consideration in 2010 and 2011 local budgets. All planned activities within the 2009 Village Support Program were implemented, except for Aspindza municipality. However, it should be highlighted that the process not duly implemented. On the basis of 2010 example, we may conclude that when the planning and implementation of the project, population interest were not duly envisaged. According to the part of population, they did not know about village meetings, some state that their views were not taken into consideration. Population states that the program that would be financed within this project was known beforehand. All the stated impeded envisaging population's views in the decision-making. Moreover, there is no effective communication about village meetings. Population was not duly informed on the limits of funds that would solve the problem.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Borjomi	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Adigeni	Partially	Partially	Yes
3	Akhalkalaki	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Akhaltsikhe	Partially	Partially	Yes
5	Ninotsminda	Partially	Partially	Yes
6	Aspindza	Partially	Partially	Partially

Despite the fact that the local self-government has a positive attitude towards cooperation, active citizens admitted that needs of the population is not envisaged by their engagement which causes the feeling of distrust.

Shida Kartli Region

In Shida Kartli region, like other regions, priorities of the population were partially envisaged by the 2010 and 2011 budgets, as for the 2009 Village support program, all the planned activities were implemented.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Khashuri	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Kareli	Partially	Partially	Yes
3	Gori	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Kaspi	Partially	Partially	Yes

In Shida Kartli region, like in Samtskhe Javakheti, budget forming process went without active engagement of local population. However it is remarkable, that the self-governing institution is ready to improve its activities in terms of openness and transparency. A good example of which is the steps taken by Gori municipality.²²

Kvemo Kartli Region

Population priorities were partially envisaged in 2010 and 2011 local budgets, except for the self-governing city Rustavi and Marneuli municipality. All main activities planned within the 2009 Village Support program were implemented.

²² See in details in chapter of public information- Sakrebulo sessions.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Rustavi	Partially	Yes	-----
2	Gardabani	Partially	Partially	Yes
3	Dmanisi	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Bolnisi	Partially	Partially	Yes
5	Tsalka	Partially	Partially	Yes
6	Tetritskaro	Partially	Partially	Yes
7	Marneuli	Partially	Yes	Yes

When analyzing information requested from Kvemo Kartli municipality, it is clear that reports are imperfect and contain poor information. The information is mainly presented in the form of statistic data on implementation of plans.

Budget processes in Marneuli were not transparent. It was difficult for the population to learn about dates of Session. Thus, they could not observe the budget processes at all.

In January 2011 suspension in the functioning kindergartens was a substantial problem in self-governing city Rustavi. City Administration of the self-governing city Rustavi was addressed with issue of cut down of kindergartens which was an important issue for the population. A legal entity of Rustavi kindergarten unity responded to this issue in a letter 03.02 2011 No. 21-03 decrease in the functioning of kindergartens and related increase in the holidays was caused by prolongation of tender procedures, as far as no candidates for procurement were determined on certain tenders. As far as winners of tenders have already been determined now and agreements with them have already been signed, legal entity for Kindergarten unity has restarted the study process.

Mtskheta Mtianeti Region

Issues of high priority for the population were partially taken into consideration in Dusheti, Mtsketa, Kaszbegi and Tianeti municipalities in 2010 and 2011 budgets. As for the 2009 Village Support program, all the planned activities in the four municipalities were fully implemented.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Dusheti	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Mtskheta	Partially	Partially	Yes
3	Kazbegi	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Tianeti	Partially	Partially	Yes

Similar to other regions, there was almost no engagement of the population in the discussions of 2011 budget. One of the reasons for this was low interest in the population.

Particularly, it should be noted the case in Dusheti municipality, 2011 local budget draft of Dusheti self-governing unit was published in Dusheti Matsne, although not fully. The draft budget was published in terms of income, expenditures from the local budget and transfers, 10 lines in total. As explained at the self-governing institution, full text was submitted to the newspaper, but the newspaper consists of only four pages, thus they did not manage to publish the full text. It is also remarkable, that the Dusheti Municipality Gamgeoba does not issue information on the budget expenses not only to the active citizens, but to the non-governmental organizations as well.

Kakheti Region

In Kakheti region, like in other regions, priorities of the population were partially taken into consideration in 2010 and 2011 budgets, as for the 2009 Village Support program, all planned activities were fully implemented.

#	Municipality	Population priorities in 2010 Budget	Population priorities in 2011 Budget	Implementation of activities planned in 2009 within the Village support program
1	Kvareli	Partially	Partially	Yes
2	Telavi	Partially	Partially	Yes
3	Gurjaani	Partially	Partially	Yes
4	Sagarejo	Partially	Partially	Yes
5	Akhmeta	Partially	Partially	Yes
6	Dedoflistskaro	Partially	Partially	Yes
7	Sighnaghi	Partially	Partially	Yes
8	Lagodekhi	Partially	Partially	Yes

In some of the municipalities, draft changes to the budget were not published beforehand (for example, in Kvareli municipality). Changes were not annexed by clarifications' note.

During monitoring Telavi, Gurjaani, Kvareli and Lagodekhi budgets one similar tendency was revealed. Budget volume was increased in all municipalities as a result of changes and amendments made after the local budgets were approved. Thus, increase is a result of budget transfer policy. Planning a small volume budget and predictably, increasing it in the first quarter.

Second revealed tendency is the fact that budget implementation reports of all municipalities for 3, 6 and 9 months consist of several pages. Quarter budgets consist of listing of incomes and expenses according to directions, without any details or analysis. Reports are improper and contain poor information. Requested reports contain just statistical data on implementation rate. This is why these reports were approved without any analyzing or examination. These reports give no opportunities for making conclusions not only for the population, but for the Sakrebulo members as well.

As shown by budget monitoring of the current year, implementation of plans in relation to the income tax is a problem everywhere. The only exception is second and third quarters of Telavi, where the plan was over-fulfilled. This was caused by extraction of previous debts. This problem is caused by improper relationship between tax organs and municipality, which in its turn may influence low level of planning. It seems that the Tax Organs give priority to the taxes for central budget. Best example of this tax is the property tax of enterprises. Low rate of tax extraction is revealed in land tax. As for the duties, best rate is given in fulfillment of gambling plan, where this duty is envisaged (Telavi as an example), 192% implementation rate was given in second quarter.

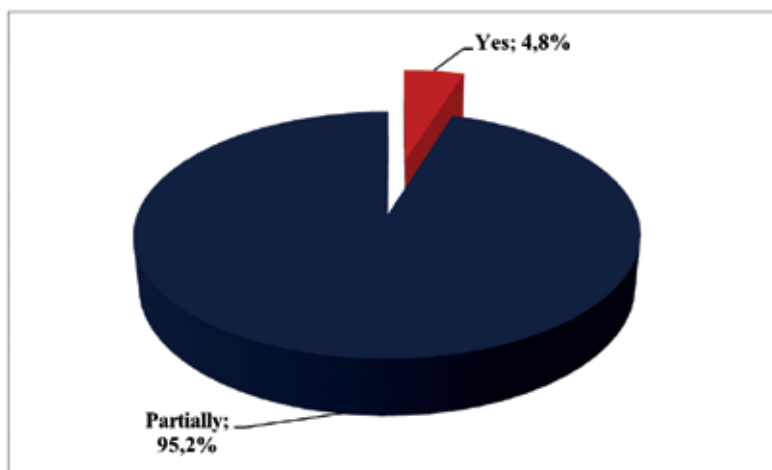
Reports on municipality reserve fund expenses are worth particular attention. Sometimes no provisions of the law are observed. For example, in 6 and 9 month reports funds from reserve fund has been used for executive organs' expenses in Gurjaani Municipality. Expenses for public order in the functional classification of the local municipal budgets expenses should be highlighted. Financing these expenses, as well the public schools and parliamentary deputy bureau expenses represent interference of central authority into the competences of local authority. However, organic law on local self- government does give this opportunity.

It is positive that local municipalities plan to organize public discussions in Khekheti region till the end of the year and to approve the budget by that time. It is remarkable that approval of the 2011 budget in Kakheti region was executed till the end of calendar year, unlike previous years. It seems that the 2011 local budgets are more oriented on the real needs of the population than the 2010 local budgets, as far as the budget envisages problems that were identified as a result of population study. It was to great extent facilitated by the Village Support program, for which huge funds have been discharged from the central budget in transfers and from local budget incomes.

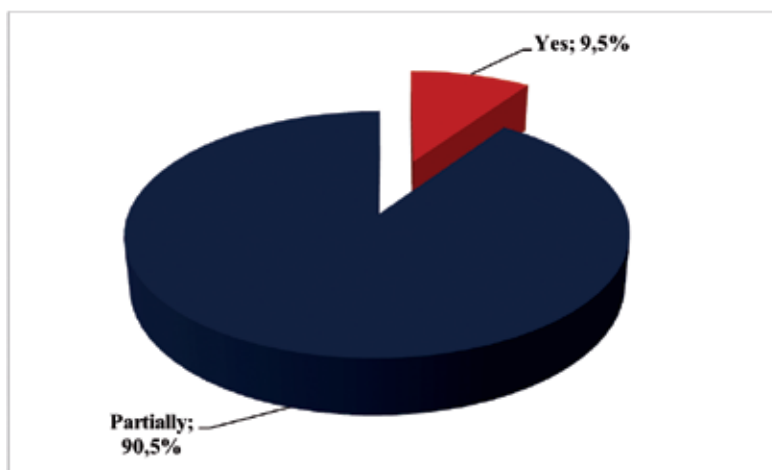
Citizens' priorities

According to fact, that one of the main aspects of monitoring is to what extent are the local self-governments taking into consideration priorities of population, monitoring showed that in almost all Regions the actual problems of citizens have been taken into consideration partially in 2010 and 2011 local budgets.

Priorities of population in 2010 local budget



Priorities of population in 2011 local budget



RECOMMENDATION PROPOSALS

During the monitoring citizens submitted their views and recommendations to the local self government institutions in order to ensure that issues of utmost importance for local population are taken into consideration in local budgets. These recommendations were based on the unsolved problems identified not only within the focus group findings but also within the project "Community mobilize Action." In addition other problems of utmost importance for the population

Recommendations submitted by the citizens to local self-governing institutions, concerned issues within the authority of local self-government and other issues as well. This aimed at informing local self-governing institutions on issues at the disposal of various institutions, in order to solve them in the future or present them to another institution, taking into consideration that at the time of submission of these recommendations, presented problems were of utmost importance for the population.

Overall, 58 recommendation letters have been submitted. Including Adjara-4, Guria-3, Imereti-12, Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti-9, Racha Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti -4, Samtskhe Javakheti-6, Shida Qartli- 4, Kvemo Kartli- 6, Mtskheta-Mtianeti-4 and Kakheti-6

Adjara Region

Kobuleti

Population filed recommendations to the Kobuleti Municipal Administration and Sakrebulo. Most important among them are rehabilitation of Village inner roads, Kobuleti Hospital rehabilitation, lack of cultural educational centers, need for garbage boxes at the central and public places of the village; preferential for the population prices on fertilizers for development of agriculture. Gamgeoba of Municipality responded in written explaining that these recommendation would be taken into consideration during formation of the local budgets for the following years, expressing readiness to solve the problem, on one hand, and leaving us in ambiguity, on the other, as far as he did not specify year when this problem would be solved.

Keda

Active citizens of Keda municipality submitted recommendations (3) to the Keda Municipal Administration and the Assembly in the process of forming the 2011 budget. Recommendations concerned following problems: 1) regulation of inner roads in villages; 2) scavenging from community centers and installment of garbage boxes; 3) financing agricultural programs and providing the population with preferential prices on the fertilizers; As we can see from the above said, recommendation letters requested to take into consideration three problems, while responding to the letters, Gamgeoba informed the monitors that none of the problems could be taken into consideration. Among others, garbage boxes could not be installed in the community centers as far as the territories do not meet the criteria and scavenging in communities was fulfilled according to the agreement. Repair of inner roads was implemented in accordance with by the Road Department following a request from Adjara municipality. As for the priorities of agriculture development, this issue falls under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Khulo

Active citizens in Khulo municipality submitted recommendations (4) to Gamgeoba and Sakrebulo at the budget forming process. Recommendation letter dealt with the problems that should be envisaged by the 2011 budget: 1. Building-rehabilitation of a kindergarten in Vashlovani community; 2) Supporting employment opportunities; 3) problems in the field on energetic and healthcare; 4) road rehabilitation. No response was received by the monitoring on this letter; thus it is impossible to make conclusions to what extent these recommendations were taken into consideration.

Shuakhevi

Active citizens in Shuakhevi municipality submitted recommendations (5) to Gamgeoba and Sakrebulo at the budget forming stage. Recommendation letter dealt with the problems that should have been envisaged in the budget: 1) water-supply – changing the pipelines; 2) healthcare, equipping laboratories and hospitals with proper equipments; 3) improving education level – supporting study of foreign languages, bringing specialists; 4) issuance of loans with low-interest rate, in order to facilitate business commencement; 5) improving of infrastructure aiming at tourism development. Similar to the Khulo municipality, no response was given to these recommendations by the Shuakhevi municipality, thus it is impossible to make conclusions to what extent these recommendations were taken into consideration.

Guria Region

Within the framework of the project, draft budgets of Ozurgeti, Lanchkhuti and Chokhatauri municipalities were examined together with the active citizens. Most of the remarks made were taken into consideration by Ozurgeti Sakrebulo during the budget examination.

Ozurgeti

Out of 5 remarks presented to the Chairman of Sakrebulo, first one was dedicated to the priority document. Except for the road rehabilitation and development of communal economy, citizens requested to add to the priorities for 2011-14 issues that were important for future welfare of the population. For example, priorities like agriculture development, support to the tourism development, support to the small business and others should be taken into

consideration. Second remark was dealing with the high quantity of staff and remuneration in the self-governing organs. Last three remarks were dedicated to improper expenditure of local budget. In particular, a separate section was dedicated to the support of a helpless artist Marina Ujmajuridze in the Article on cultural events planned for 2011. According to the citizens, reflection of an expense in the budget in this form constitutes a violation of law. Recommendations were made to regulate this issue on a permanent basis. For example, a recommendation was made to envisage funds in the budget for encouraging persons engaged in art, these funds would be distributed to persons working the cultural field as rewards. In the 2011 plan for the social and cultural events, an article was envisaged: Christmas Alilo (together with the Patriarch), which includes acquiring presents for the representatives of government representatives and transmitting to the Eparchy as presents. In the comments presented, population was highlighting that they were not against presents given to the eparchy, but they considered that financing of these presents should be private and not from the local budget. Police expenses envisaged in the budget according to the Law on Local Self-government falls neither under the personal authority nor the delegated authority of the local self-governing institution. There is only one provision in this law making such an expense lawful – Article 65² paragraph 4 (temporary authority of a local self-governing unit). We mean a change made to the law in 2009 which made most of the improper expenses of the local self-government institutions lawful.²³ Sakrebulo discussed the letter on a public session held on December 22, 2010. Sakrebulo thanked the applicants for submitting this information and took them into consideration except one issue, police financing would be decided by majority votes at the Session. Representatives of self-governing institution admitted that they would take recommendations made by the population into consideration by all means. The citizens received a modified version of this plan, where remarks made by the citizens were already taken into consideration. In particular, an article on the support to the artist marina Ujmajuridze is deleted and the article on Christmas activities was also modified, acquisition of presents for representatives of government was deleted as well.

It is remarkable that active citizens of Ozurgeti presented their remarks on the priority document of Ozurgeti self-government. Huge interest was generated by analyzing the priority document as well. As indicated in the analysis, changes were caused by the gaps in the legislation in relation to the priorities. In particular, Gamgebeli starts working on the local budget in March by working on the priority document, which is presented to the Sakrebulo together with the draft budget till November 15, usually within the period till November 10, Thus, Sakrebulo reads the budget and priority document only after November 15. Accordingly, if Sakrebulo does not approve the priorities, there will be no time for its modification. As a result we get a very important document, presented to the Sakrebulo at the point when it is almost impossible to make any changes to it. This affects the level of independence as well, and Sakrebulo, as an organ is ignored. Moreover, Sakrebulo is not capable of making important changes to the budget, as far as most of the expenses in the budget may be envisaged by taking the priorities into consideration, it is quite logical that in case of major changes to the budget, budget may not fit the priorities, which is inadmissible. If we take into consideration that Sakrebulo is not involved in preparation of priorities, we may assume that Sakrebulo may not always agree with it. Thus, one of the major authorities of Sakrebulo – approval of budget – may not fully realized.²⁴

Chokhatauri

Four comments have been submitted to the Chairman of Chokhatauri Sakrebulo regarding changes to the draft budget. First comment was dealing with the financing for local units of the Ministry of Interior. Citizens considered the financing improper, that according to the law, it did not fall under competencies or delegated authority of a self-governing institution. Population considered that financing of the members of parliament from local budget was also improper. A separate article in the budget was dedicated to financing of religion. Population considered that financing religion did not fall under competencies of the local self-government institutions and thus they found it to be improper. High quantity of staff and remuneration net was one of the issues during discussions on Chokhatauri budget. Citizens requested to spend this money on issues of higher importance, which with its essence fall under the authority of the local self-government institution. None of the comments were taken into consideration in the Chokhatauri budget.

²³ „Spending Policy of the Local Self Government in Georgia”. Analytical Research. Caucasian Institute for Economic and Social Research Institute. Tbilisi, Georgia. 2009, p.28.

²⁴ Representatives of the Assembly agreed with the remarks made on this issue. An agreement has been reached a draft of legislative changes will be prepared and presented to the Parliament.

Lanchkhuti

Four comments were presented to the Chairman of Lanchkhuti Sakrebulo regarding draft budget. Comments were mainly made on financing public schools from the budget, as far as, local self-governing institutions are authorized to finance only those issues that are connected to under- school and institutions that give education besides the schools, financing public schools in a prerogative of central government. A separate article in the budget was dedicated to financing religion. Citizens admitted that requests for financing could be made by Orthodox as well as other religious directions, however, supporting religion does not fall under the prerogative of local self-governing institutions, thus discharging funds for this is improper. One of the issues during discussions on Lanchkhuti draft budget was high quantity of staff and remuneration net. One of the issues dealt with financing local organs of the Ministry of Interior.

Imereti Region

Kutaisi

Active citizens submitted 5 suggestive recommendations to Kutaisi Sakrebulo. Suggestive recommendations highlighted issues like cleaning of Kutaisi city, dissatisfaction of students with the transportation fees in the city and initiative of so-called students' cards, installing new boards in the city suitable for tourism development, decreasing the 100 000 GEL budget envisaged for installing fountains and discharging economized funds on direction of higher importance. For example, citizens in their recommendation letters were requesting to use funds from the 2 350 000 GEL budget, envisaged for cleaning activities in Kutaisi, for solving clearance problems existing in Kutaisi. In particular, they were suggesting more frequent scavenging of garbage boxes located at the living buildings, taking into consideration that clearance is one of issues among problems indicated in the report of a focus group held in Kutaisi. One of the issues indicated as an additional problem in the report was the dissatisfaction of students with the transportation fees. Active citizens served as initiators and submitted to the Sakrebulo recommendations on introducing students' cards system. According to them, students have the right to have preferential prices and introducing students' cards could regulate the situation to this extent. In addition to this, active citizens recommended adding an extra component to the budget envisaged for tourism development in Kutaisi (in total 48 000 GEL). In particular, they suggested installing new public boards that would be more appropriate for development of tourism. According to their suggestion, photos of Kutaisi sightseeing spots and maps containing information on how tourists can reach the destination should be posted to the boards.

Suggestions included program Block, according to the project, its budget had been determined in 1 900 000 GEL and aimed at recruiting 1 chief coordinator, 3 leading coordinators and 110 coordinators at the Housing Infrastructure Management and Development Unit. Citizens received detailed information on this issue during advocacy meetings with the local self-government institutions. In particular, according to them within the program Block local self-governments were discharging funds to the co-partnerships for following works: roofing the apartments, organizing yard amenities, repairing elevators, repairing facades, organizing basements and repairing roads in the yards. According to the local self-governments, co-partnerships choose which of the listed problems they want to solve and spend funds accordingly.

Citizens admitted in the recommendation letters that except of budgeted 100 000 GEL for exploitation of fountains, less could be spent on the exploitation and more prioritized issues could be funded instead.

Answers to the recommendations submitted to the Kutaisi municipality were received with the one month delay. Suggestions of Kutaisi population concerning programs already approved for 2011 budget were assigned to relevant units for consideration: Urban Units of Culture, Sport, Education, Monument Protection and Youth, Amenity Building, Healthcare, Social Welfare and Refugees, and Urban Unit of Economic Policy and Strategic Development. According to the municipality itself, program Block has been partially implemented in Kutaisi.

Baghdati

Active citizens submitted their suggestion concerning Bagdati Municipality 2011 local budget draft. According to the submitted recommendations, 7 in total, active citizens have found that using funds from Local Budget for Local Units of the Ministry of Interior is legally improper, so they recommended Sakrebulo to direct 48 000 GEL envisaged for this towards other issues. Recommendations also considered discussed financing public schools from Local Budget. Citizens gave negative evaluation to decreased budget for funding patio rehabilitation, healthcare

and social welfare from the Local Budget. They addressed the municipality to envisage funds for sewerage system rehabilitation which was not envisaged by the draft. At the same time they requested reduction of funds allocated for sport events, 440 000 GEL in total, and requested detailed information about expenses for each program. Citizens gave positive evaluation to the increase of funds in the budget envisaged for funding the library, as far as, one of the problems listed in the focus groups constituted financing the municipal library.

According to the response received from Baghdati Sakrebulo, 'funds for good functioning of sewerage systems are not envisaged in the Budget due to the fact that sewerage systems do not exist in Baghdati Region at all', response gives detailed information on the funds envisaged by budget for sport activities and cultural events, exactly what purposes should it serve.

Sachkhere

Active citizens in Sachkhere submitted one recommendation to the Sakrebulo on envisaging funds for rehabilitation of Merab Kostava Square. This issue was considered and approved but according to the municipality, this particular issue could not be envisaged in 2011 local budget.

Khoni

Active citizens from Khoni municipality submitted letters of recommendation to Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba. Recommendations were dealing with the issues of clearance of city cemeteries, placing garbage boxes, intensive scavenging, arranging amenities in inner streets, organizing entertainment activities for the youth (entertainment centre, club); recommendations discussed availability of healthcare (preferential programs for those who are not pensioners or socially insecure but leave in poverty; problems of unemployment; designing corresponding programs for rural economy (e.g. financing procurement of fuel materials, bane-chemicals, organic and mineral fertilizers); informing public about civil defense, 8 recommendations in total. Regretfully, the above mentioned issues haven't been taken into consideration by local authorities. The reason named, that the local budget was already approved.

Chiatura

Active citizens submitted two recommendations to the Chiatura municipality. Recommendations were dealing with the issues of improving systems for drinkable water and its quality, organizing clearance issues on the territory of Chiatura hospital and nuptial house. Active citizens got promise that clearance issues will be envisaged in local budget as for drinkable water, information was transmitted to the appropriate organ. As soon as answer is received the local authority will inform the population.

Tkibuli

Active citizens submitted 3 recommendations to Tkibuli Municipality. Recommendations concerned financing from Local Budget of issues like inner urban roads, inner rural roads and street lightning.

Kharagauli

Active citizens submitted 3 recommendations to Kharagauli municipality. A letter was submitted for the Chairman of Municipal Administration, where incredible increase in expenses was fixed against the poor budget of Kharagauli. Critiques were directed towards optimization of library and poor financing of kindergartens. As explained by Gamgebeli, due to poor budget reduction of the library was inevitable, books would be transmitted to schools and this would make keeping them possible. As for the kindergartens, again, poor budget was the reason for poor financing for them. As for the increase in expenses for managing Gamgeoba, this was caused by acquisition of computers and recruiting 3 persons on the position of watchman. It is positive, that in comparison to 2011, funding social welfare has been increased with 10 thousand GEL expressed in one-time financial support for those living under.

Terjola

Although in most of villages issue of remainder scavenging was already regulated, village Chognari still has a problem due non-existence of dumping and garbage boxes. Active citizens considered this to be of high priority and submitted recommendations for the Gamgeobeli and Chairman of Sakrebulo. There was no written response. As explained by the municipality later on, fund for scavenging were envisaged by the local budget, acquisition of a sanitation car was already planned and it would remove Chognari remainders from the main road.

Tskaltubo

Active citizens submitted recommendations to the Sakrebulo on 2011 local budget, it was highlighted that due to the abolishment of voluntary authority of self-governments, Assembly should not have financed for 2011 issues like Local Units of the Ministry of Interior and public schools. Instead, they requested implementation of works that were of the problems for the population of municipality, which was not paid proper attention to within the activities planned for 2011. One of such problems was inner road building form villages, rehabilitation of bridges and footbridges, installment of waiting-spots. Recommendations highlighted problems with the kindergarten amenities and expressed gratitude for building gymkhanas. Municipality had no sporting centers before and it was of utmost importance for the population.

According to the local self-governing institutions, remarks and recommendations made by the population about 2011 budget would be taken into consideration while making changes and amendments to the 2011 budget. AS explained by the self-government institution, 5 kindergartens were added to Tskaltubo municipality in 2010, as for the inner road rehabilitation and building of bridges and foot-bridges, funds have been discharged within the framework of 'Village Development Program'.

Zestafoni

Active citizens of Zestafoni submitted 2 recommendations to the self-governing institutions: regulation of problems with roof-covering and elevators for multi-store houses. As explained to the applicant orally, 99 339 GEL had already been discharged from the budget for solving these issues. Later on, on an advocacy meeting more details were given on this issue, on the bases of co-funding, works would be implemented together with the co-partnerships of the owners. Works that are to implemented are divided in three parts: 1. 3000 (three thousand) GEL value, 2. 7000 (seven thousand) GEL value and 3. 15 000 (fifteen thousand) GEL value works. Local self-governing institution is financing works according to presented estimates within limits of the sum shown above. In particular, it acquires relevant materials. As indicated on the advocacy meeting, houses where invalids inhabit will be given priorities within the framework of elevators' rehabilitation program.

Vani

One of the main problems for Vani municipality is non-existence of irrigation systems. Same problem was revealed during the focus-group questioners. As far as this problem was not envisaged by the 2011 local budget, Vani population submitted recommendations to the Gamgebeli and the Chairman of Sakrebulo. A promise was made that these problems would be taken into consideration during changes and amendments to the budget.

Samtredia

Active citizens submitted 3 recommendations to the Sakrebulo of Samtredia municipality. According to the suggestions submitted to Gamgeoba and Sakrebulo, negative evaluation was given to the financing of Police and public schools out from the local budget, it was highlighted that these funds should have been directed towards inner roads' rehabilitation, budget for which was cut-down in compared to the 2010 Budget. Samtredia municipality gave substantial response on the submitted suggestions and recommendations. In particular, they explained that Law (Law on Police and Law on Public Healthcare) gave authority to finance police and public healthcare, they were additionally informing that although the budget did not envisage much funds for the inner roads' rehabilitation, a Municipality Development Fund was planning to implemented works for more than 2 million GEL in this filed.

Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti Region

Martvili

A recommendation letter was submitted to the Chairman of Sakrebulo and Gamgebeli, requesting funds in the budget for: rehabilitation of inner roads, well-organizing village ambulatories, repairing gardens and improvement of drinking water quality. According to the information received from Gamgeoba, road repair works would be implemented within the village support program. In particular, roads would be graveled (Gurdzemi, Salkhino, Abedeti, Tamakoni, Taleri, Khuntsi, Kitsia, Inchkhuri, Doshake, Najakho villages). Opening kindergartens are also planned (Bandza, Kuzru, Didi chkoni and Leikhaindravo villages). As for the ambulatories, their rehabilitation does not fall under authority of the municipality, according to Gamgebeli of Martvili municipality.

Mestia

Citizens submitted a recommendation letter to Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba about repair of 22 meter bridge in Latala village. This issue was positively solved and the population was promised: to elaborate a plan for a shorter bridge, to prepare a plan for iron-concrete bridge and find funds for financing the bridge building.

Abasha

Population raised a question for financing a kindergarten rehabilitation in Tkviri village from the 2011 local budget. According to the explanations given by the Chairman of Sakrebulo, works for supplying the kindergarten with the electricity were implemented in 2010 with the total cost of 466,66 GEL. Fifty thousand GEL is envisaged in 2011 local budget for kindergartens' rehabilitation. After inspecting the kindergartens, they will decide exactly what amount will be discharged for the Tkviri kindergarten rehabilitation works.

Senaki

Recommendation letters were presented to Senaki municipality as well. Two issues were highlighted: repair of the land-cover on the sport square in Menji community (the newly established square has a low quality cover) and asphalt coverage for Eki community (it was promised before elections, that this issue would be envisaged in the 2011 budget, however, the draft says nothing about it). Great funds are necessary for asphalt coverage in Eki community, although it is not envisaged by the local budget, a plan has been elaborated and the request has been submitted to the central level. As for the coverage for the sports square in Menji community, authorities promised to improve it by spring.

Khobi

Recommendation letters were submitted to Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba, dealing with the problems of water supply systems and quality control, establishing an entertainment center, supporting the process of counter installing, repairing inner roads in villages. Recommendation letter also envisaged solving older problems. For example, one of the unsolved problems in 2009 was the rehabilitation of public schools, which was not implemented due to lack of funds. Population received a written response that the school will be fenced in June 2011. According to oral information, 20 thousand GEL has been envisaged for this.

Zugdidi

A recommendation letter was submitted to Gamgebeli and the Chairman of Sakrebulo on the following issues: Additional garbage-boxes on Dadiani, Tavisufleba, Tabukashvili, Chkondidi streets, clearance of the territory adjusted to the Choushia river, amenities for the streets, for example rehabilitation of Giorgi Chkondideli street and equipping it with the anti-flooding system, inner road problems in villages, rehabilitation of 500 m part on the road connecting Akhalsopeli and Kolkhida villages, which was promised to the population back in 2009. The road was graveled but the road has fallen and it is hard to move for transports. Rehabilitation of central roads in Dzveli Abastumani, which connects 8 villages to each other, one more rehabilitation for Jakhuti bridge, building of dams in Orsantia village along the Enguri river (population raised this issue several times), street lightening for some of

Zugdidi streets (for example, Tatarishvili and Shevchenko streets), establishment of a playing spot in Chkondidi street, regulation of water supply in Zugdidi, irrigation problems in villages, transportation problems for students and teachers, preferences for those who do have a status of being socially insecure but live in poverty, unemployment and support to employment opportunities for the youth, programs for supporting agriculture development and inclusion in the budget (for example existence of a program, that would ensure preferential prices on chemicals and mineral fertilizers) During the monitoring, population of Shevchenko street addressed to Gamgebeli and the Chairman of Sakrebulo requesting information on whether funds had been envisaged for rehabilitation of anti-flooding systems for Shevchenko street. They received an answer from the Assembly Chairman that their problem was envisaged in 2011 budget. Preparatory works for Shevchenko street rehabilitation have already been launched. Regulation of problems connected to the Akhalsofeli and Kolkhida village roads need huge funds, thus they should be envisaged in various projects. In addition, if necessary funds are available, Chkondideli street will also be taken into consideration. Dam issues of Orsantia village will be envisaged in the Village Support Program. After discussing the recommendation, it was decided that 100 garbage boxes shall be procured and they will replace the old ones. As for the schedule for drinking water supply, it was clarified that by the following year this problem will be solved and the population will have 24 hour water supply. Some villages have only partial irrigation. Population was promised to solve the problem of transportation fee for students. Representatives of Zugdidi local self-governing institution gave positive evaluation to recommendations presented by the population and admitted that by presenting these issues, a permanent cooperation of the society and local authorities should be arranged.

Tsalenjikha

Recommendation letters have been submitted to Gamgebeli and the Chairman of Sakrebulo. Population highlighted one particular issue: envisaging funds for arranging a square in Terenti Graneli park and operation of side-shows installed there. According to the response, this issue will be taken into consideration while making changes to the 2011 budget. Another issue was to install street lightening in Sabuladze district of Tsalenjikha. They were promised that street lightening will be envisaged during changes to the 2011 budget and works will start in spring.

Chkhorotsku

Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba received letters of recommendation where the population was requesting to take following issues into consideration: 1. Repair of inner roads in villages (Letsurtsume, Choga, Khabumi communities and Etseri district roads, Napichkhovo – Taia Mukuri connection roads). 2. Regulation of drinking water issue for Khabumi and Etseri communities. 3. Availability of healthcare for those who are not yet pensioners and at the same time are not registered among the socially insecure, however live in poverty. 4. Elaboration of programs for supporting agriculture development and its reflection in the budget. Gamgebeli responded to the letters submitted by the population. According to his letter, road repair works will be implemented within the Village Support program. A project has been prepared for regulation of drinking water issue, which has been submitted to the relevant Unit on the central level and a response is expected. In case it is approved, municipality will be engaged in the project with 30% co-financing. As for the paragraphs 3 and 4 of the recommendation letter, it is not possible to regulate these issues on the local level.

Poti

During the budget formation, a tendency has been identified, to take issues raised by the population into consideration, at least partially, in 2011 local budget. Thus, Poti population, like population in other municipalities, submitted recommendations to Sakrebulo and City hall of self-governing city Poti. Recommendation letter considered solving following issues: 1. supporting employment opportunities; 2. Infrastructure development; 3. supporting sports' development, in particular development of specific fields of sport. Monitors received responses both from Sakrebulo and City hall. According to the responses, issues raised by the recommendation letter could not be envisaged in the budget. The letter speaks about infrastructure development and states that covering streets with asphalt and regulating central park could not be implemented until works for underground communication would be finalized.

Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti Region

Oni

Main problems identified during the project were clearance, water supply, street lightning. Recommendations on the listed issues were presented: 1. Additional garbage-boxes for the city; 2. Repair of inner roads for the city and villages, repairing of pavements; 3. improving quality of drinking water; 4. Rehabilitating cultural house and cinema; 5. Finding specialists of healthcare; 6. supporting employment opportunities for the population. Recommendation letters submitted by the population was discussed by Sakrebulo on the Session held on December 28, and they admitted that they would be taken into consideration to possible extent in the changes and amendments to 2011 budget. During a meeting held with the Chairman of Sakrebulo, following possibilities have been identified: Additional garbage-boxes could not be taken into consideration in the budget, but funds for cleaning the streets had been discharged and the works would be started on March 1st. 2. Repair of the Pipileti-Jashkva should have been implemented by co-financing with the Ifadi organization, but due to the organizational changes at the organization, these works had not yet been temporarily suspended. Rehabilitation works of Oni streets would start as soon the weather conditions improve. Aghmashenebeli street and adjusting two squares will be rehabilitated from funds discharged by the State (1,420 thousand GEL), rest of the main streets would be rehabilitated from the local budget in the amount of 1,600 thousand GEL (squares, Stalini street, Demetre II street). Accordingly, pavements will be repaired. 3. A headquarter is needed for improvement of drinking water. Municipality is waiting for the water company and positive results for this problem. 4. Youth issues may be solved for the moment by improving the squares and installing toys for children on the territory of sport-school. 5. As for the healthcare, a hospital envisaged for 16 persons is planned and the works will end in 2010, the hospital will be equipped with modern equipment, and the personnel will be trained and specialists will be invited if needed. 6. Issues of unemployment may become even bigger, as the services are moving to the centre of the province.

Lentekhi

Local population requested solving clearance problems and unemployment problems, at least by increasing staff number of yard-keepers. Local self-governing institution made a positive response. 2011 Lentekhi budget does envisage funds for organizing a landfill in Lakhshiri. After the tender is executed, local services will start working and recommendations on increasing the staff number will be made.

Ambrolauri

Municipality Sakrebulo received recommendations to take following issues into consideration: non-existence of garbage-boxes and landfills in villages, rehabilitation of sewerage systems (which was initially included in 2009-2010 budgets, works hand been commenced, but not finished), bank- strengthening works in Khvanchkara and Choro cillages – Rioni river-side, non-existence of a cemetery on the territory of the municipality, which causes anti-sanitation, support to agriculture development programs, support to the healthcare – specifically by envisaging funds for inviting specialists, implementation of activities necessary for improvement healthcare availability. Monitors received no response to this letter, thus it is impossible to make conclusions to what extent will the recommendations be taken into consideration.

Tsageri

Citizens are facing problems with water supply. Rehabilitation of inner water supply system, which commenced in 2010, was suspended and population requested restarting the issue. Rehabilitation of the rest of the streets' water supply systems will be taken into consideration during changes to 2011 local budget. As promised by the local authorities, funds for regulating water pipelines and sewerage systems will be envisaged in the 2011 local budget.

Samtskhe Javakheti Region

Akhalkalaki

Initiative groups of Akhalkalaki municipality submitted recommendation letters to the local self-governing institution and presented 10 suggestions on the draft budget and activities of the self-governing institution. Issues not

envisaged by the draft were highlighted. For example, improvement of irrigation and drinking water systems in villages; elaboration of relevant programs for agriculture development; quality of drinking water in Akhalkalaki city; financing development of infrastructure, inner roads in villages; amenities for city squares, entertainment centers in villages, organizing lavatories in the city near market and park for preventing anti-sanitation. It is also important to set a transport line for Gogasheni-Akalkalaki route, which will support population of 4 villages. Self-governing institution considered these recommendation prior to approving the budget, taking into consideration its high priority, and admitted that: in 2011, rehabilitation of irrigation systems would be implemented funded by State Budget, rehabilitation of Ikhtila-Baraleti-Kotelia systems were also planned for 2011, 270 00 GEL had already been budgeted for this work, 40 thousand GEL was envisaged for gravelling roads. It was highlighted that rehabilitation works for 5 streets was to implemented in the current year, with total value of 200 000 GEL, village roads shall be rehabilitated in following years. As for the rehabilitation of ambulatories in villages, they have submitted this information to the Ministry of Regional Development and were expecting an answer. Transport line for Gogasheni-Akhalkalaki route is already functioning; however, it should be taken into consideration that its route needs further improvement. As for the lavatories in the city, this issue will be considered according to the available funds in the budget.

Borjomi

Out of recommendations submitted to Borjomi municipality of utmost importance are: installing garbage boxes in Borjomi city, on Gogiastsike, Firosmeni, Jafaridze, Guramishvili streets; regulation of inner roads' issue in Borjomi, roads leading to villages and inner roads in villages, (Chobiskhevi, Kvamiskhevi, Rveli, Zanavi villages); Street lightening in Borjomi (Gogiastsikhe, Tsminda Nino, Guramishvili streets).existence of professional-technical institute, there is a problem of cinema in Borjomi, non-existence of entertainment opportunities for youth, there are no entertainment centers, clubs; problems of access to healthcare. Active citizens submitted specific suggestions to the local self-governing institution, in order to set preferences for the part of population who are not yet pensioners and do not have a status of socially insecure but live in poverty. One of the problems for the population of Borjomi municipality is high fee for the gas, which is one of the highest in the whole region. Elaboration of programs for agriculture development, like procuring chemicals and fertilizers. Submitted recommendations were examined prior to approval of budget, and as promised by the local authorities, they will later be taken into consideration in proportion to budget income. Following was highlighted: existence of garbage boxes, 95 % of garbage boxes are already purchased, 5 sanitation cars were purchased last year. It was noted that this problem is usually raised during holiday season and purchase of 1 additional sanitation car and the rest of garbage-boxes is planned for 2011. In addition, landfills are being organized in villages, on this issue they have addressed Ministry of Environment Protection. As for the water supply systems, it was noted that rehabilitation works for water supply systems started last year, in parallel, road rehabilitation works will be implemented. It was noted that the company in charge for the rehabilitation has an obligation to rehabilitate roads as well in order to bring to state it was in before the works commenced. If the roads were in bad condition before the rehabilitation works started, they should be repaired by the municipality. Thus, this issue will be studied, after the water supply system rehabilitation is finalized. Road rehabilitation works are implemented in villages as well. It was highlighted that a 5 km road from Dviri village to Takhtisdziri village is not yet rehabilitated, which was marked by the Assembly representative for future consideration. It was also noted that streets that want to be equipped with street lightening should address the Assembly in written and they will be registered in the list. On the issue of rehabilitating the cinema, it was noted that the cinema belongs to 'Kartuli Filmi' and funds from the budget could be discharged for its rehabilitation. As for the agriculture development and development of business, it was stated that investors are being invited who will rehabilitate the infrastructure and improve tourist services. Self-government has positive expectations.

Aspindza

Active citizens in Aspindza municipality submitted recommendations on rehabilitation of irrigation systems and regulation of street lightening in villages and the region. It was noted that these problems are of high priority and they will be taken into consideration in 2011 Aspindza budget within the projects that are to be implemented for infrastructure development.

Adigeni

Recommendations submitted in Adigeni municipality were about rehabilitation of inner roads, clearance issue and rehabilitation of cultural house. Self-governing institution expressed readiness to take the recommendations into consideration in 2011 local budget. Active citizens received promises on clearance issues and rehabilitation of cultural house. An investment project has been elaborated for the rehabilitation of inner roads and sent to the coordination center. As for the irrigation problems in Bolajuri village, a promise has been made that this problem will be solved a private person.

Akhalsikhe

In recommendation letters following issues were highlighted: insufficient quantity of garbage boxes, solving of which has been promised, street lightening, irrigation problems in villages, rehabilitation of pavements, activities encouragement of healthy life, healthcare, employment opportunities, development of agriculture. Submitted recommendations were examined prior to approval of budget and will be later taken into consideration. In the recommendation letter submitted by Akhalsikhe population highlighted problems of drinking water quality. It was noted in relation to this problem that water quality meets the standards. A new water reservoir will be built and as soon as it starts functioning in spring, this problem will also be solved.

Ninotsminda

Citizens of Ninotsminda, involved in the project, examined the draft budget. Ninotsminda population presented remarks and suggestions on the 2011 budget. Recommendations related to the irrigation problems in villages, economic situation, which may cause migration of population. Taking this into consideration, they consider that it is important elaborate programs that would facilitate agriculture development, and reflected in the budget, as it does not envisage solving this problem. Quality of drinking water is an issue in the city. It is not necessary to envisage water examination in the budget. It is important that the budget deals with the infrastructure development in the following fields: inner roads in villages, rehabilitation of Pushkini street in the city, arranging a square in the city, and arranging entertainment squares in villages; rehabilitation of ambulatories in villages, arranging kindergartens in villages, for example in Gandza village. It was identified that rehabilitation of Kartlosi park was finalized in spring 2010 and it will be opened in the beginning of spring in 2011. During budget discussions it was noted that the Ninotsminda budget is quite poor, 2 million GEL in total and totally depends on the central budget. Thus, it cannot afford rehabilitation of roads and streets. A separate project for road rehabilitation does not exist and it is not planned either, as far as, first the highway rehabilitation shall be finished. They have presented a project to the municipality fund on rehabilitation of irrigation systems additionally on 5 kilometers. As for the quality of drinking water, they expressed their concern, as far as centralization of this system was arranged and relevant service, responsible for reacting in case of break-downs, was not operating. They informed the Ministry for Regional Development on ambulatory rehabilitation in villages and they are waiting for a response. Self-governing institution has positive expectations towards the cooperation. It was noted that the suggestions are of high priority and necessary works should be implemented and these issues shall be taken into consideration.

Shida Kartli Region

Active citizens in Gori, Kaspi, Khashuri and Kartli examined the draft budget and submitted their views and recommendations. They raised issues of utmost importance for local population, in order to ensure that they are taken into consideration in 2011 action plan. Citizens involved in the project informed the self-governing institution on issues that fall under their direct competency. In addition, population highlighted issues that belong to the competency of the central government, in order to let the local self-government identify these problems and submit to the competent authorities. For example, they informed the self-government on issues like, gasification, irrigation in villages, building of ambulatories and a problem landfills, rehabilitation of roads etc. These issues are of the highest priority for the population in Shida Kartli. 2011 budget was approved in December 2010, to which recommendations have been presented in all four municipalities of Shida Kartli region.

Kareli

Active citizens in Kareli municipality presented their recommendations to the local self-government institution. They requested solving problems like, water supplying and water supply systems' rehabilitation in the city and in villages; arrangement of entertainment centers; arranging landfills; scavenging; installing garbage containers; rehabilitation of city pavements; rehabilitation of inner roads in villages; establishing a center for agriculture techniques, and orientating it on social-economic issues, and special rates for the population on its services; a program that can ensure preferential prices on chemicals and mineral fertilizers; gasification and other programs for solving this problem. As expressed during examination of recommendation letters, drinking water supply is a priority and the budget has envisaged rehabilitation of water pipe-lines in Kareli and Rigi villages. The water pipe-line problem has been solved, as all rehabilitation works have been implemented in 2010. Issue of a landfill is being regulated and ways to solve the problem will be found, a territory has already been identified. It is envisaged to rehabilitate roads and pavements and the works will be prolonged. As for the entertainment centers for the youth, certain works have already been implemented, new sports squares have been arranged.

Khashuri

Khashuri municipality draft budget was examined within the project with the active citizens and remarks have been made. Population informed the local self-governing institution on issues that fall under its direct authority. Population also highlighted issues that fall under competency of central government, in order to let the local government identify them and submit to the central government. These issues are: water supply and rehabilitation of pipe-lines in the city and villages (Khashuri, Plevi, Tkotsa and other villages); repair of inner roads; non-existence of ambulatories in villages; installing garbage boxes. Although gasification does not belong to the direct responsibility of the local government, it could be facilitated by elaborating relevant programs. Representatives of local self-government explained that rehabilitation of pipe-lines is implemented by municipality fund in Khashuri and in villages. As for the scavenging, issues of scavenging are being regulated by discussing it with the Ministry of Environment. Attention has been paid to the gasification as well, a plan has been presented, implemented by Socar-gazi. Gasification of Kvishkheti, Bekami, Osiauri, Tskhramuri, Surami, Vaki, Tezeri, Khisi and Tsotskharni are planned for 2011, and Alisa and Plevi villages in following years.

Kaspi

Rehabilitation of water pipe-lines in the city and in villages. Gasification and its support by envisaging relevant programs in the budget. Arranging anti-flooding channels on main streets of the city. Arranging landfills and their clearance. Establishment and rehabilitation of kindergartens and cultural houses in Kaspi municipality. To this extent, temporary decision should be taken for founding and financing a school in Rene village, which is not envisaged in the budget. Improving inner roads in villages and roads connecting with the highway and paths. For example, non-existence for a path leading from Rene village to Nigozi village, which is an issue for children. Rehabilitation of filters for cement factory and installing new filters.

Gori

Citizens of Gori, involved in the project, examined the draft budget. They presented remarks and suggestions on the 2011 local budget Water supply system and drainage canalization system arrangement, healthcare, improving irrigation system for schools in former buffer zone, elaborating programs to support agriculture development and reflecting in the budget, a program for supplying the population with firewood for Winter season, or gasification and introduction of a relevant preferential tariffs, initiating status of internally displaced persons for those living in villages along the conflict (Kosha, Zardiaantkari, part of Khurvaleti) and presenting to the Ministry of Refugee and Accommodation and elaborating relevant social programs aiming at their social rehabilitation, a kindergarten is necessary for Ditsi, Arbo and Kordi population, preferential transportation fees for all teachers and students of all public schools, landfills and their scavenging. Following was stated about the recommendation letters: A development fund of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure is financing rehabilitation of the irrigation system. It is planned to build 10 bore-holes on the territory of villages adjusting to the conflict, which will supply this territory; As for the preferential prices on transport for teachers according to the municipality, this could not be financed by the municipality, but they will address private transportation companies with this is-

sue, as they did last year. It was highlighted that the same question was raised by the Gori resource-center of the Ministry of Education. A program has been elaborated for agriculture development. Within the program, farmers are informed on possible diseases and methods or instruction for fighting with them. As for the preferential transport fees for internally displaced persons, it was stated that this is a good suggestion, though it is not necessary to elaborate a rule for this, It was also noted that for preferences, it is important to have estimates. Concerning the landfills and their scavenging, it was stated that an important issue had been raised and relevant services would be ordered to study it for further regulation. As for the kindergartens it was noted that under the municipality project, which envisaged transformation of the suggestions made by the population, or within the village support program, procuring relevant territory and rehabilitation, These children will also be involved in the municipality voucher program, which will finance the kindergartens. Gasification issue was also introduced.

Kvemo Katli Region

Rustavi

Active citizens applied to the self-governing city Rustavi and recommended to make changes in priorities, suggested to the Rustavi Sakrebulo to prioritize social and healthcare activities in 2011 Rustavi budget, which was founded on the social situation in Rustavi. Applicants received no written response to their recommendations, but in his television interview Head of the Finance-budget Commission of Sakrebulo explained that social and health-care was determined to be a priority for the Rustavi budget.

Marneuli

Two recommendations were presented by the citizens in Marneuli, dealing with the state of two building works in Marneuli municipality: local cinema and central library of Marneuli. Building works for the cinema are executed by a private company. After expressed interest from the population, local self-governing institution got interested in this issue and promised to enquire about state of works for building and to start negotiations with the company to ensure that the whole process would be finished till the mid period of 2011. As for the building process of the library, on January 1,7 2011 a tender was announced on the building works of the library, a winner company has not yet been determined, but works should be finished by November 1, 2011. One more initiative of the population was employment opportunities for the youth at the newly built library. It would be useful, if youth was given an opportunity to work in the library.

Gardabani

Recommendation letters have been submitted to local self-governing institutions requesting regulation of following issues: Creation of domestic transportation, Regulation of ecologic problems in Gardabani , landfills and pariah-dogs, drinking water and drainage/canalization systems. During an advocacy meeting in Gardabani municipality on February 16, Gardabani municipality made a promise to the active citizens that recommendations would be taken into consideration. It was decided that an experimental route would be determined for regulation of domestic transportation in order to determine quantity of travelers per day. This would be organized by the municipality starting from March. Ecologic problems would be solved in September 2011 (landfill and pariah-dogs) after the regional project is finished an a new landfill is built on the Rustavi-Gardabani border. 1 sanitation car for Gardabani would be procured, which would ensure scavenging, and a reserve garbage-box would be installed at the entrance of Lelashkha village. Issue of pariah-dogs would be solved later. Drainage/canalization system and drinking water system has already been regulated in 2011 and the only problem was Samgori, for which fund had already been discharged and this problem is already being partially regulated.

Dmanisi

Following recommendations have been submitted to Dmanisi municipality local self-government institution: 1) regulation of inner roads Dmanisi and villages, especially a 30 km road leading to Gomareti village; 2) repair of clearance systems for canalization; 3) rehabilitation works for the Dmanisi hospital. Regretfully, no written response has been received on the recommendations presented by the population. Active citizens in Dmanisi municipality raised an issue of rehabilitation works for Mtisdziri-Javakhati irrigation systems. At the Assembly Session in

Dmanisi municipality, while deciding on this issue local Sakrebulo requested signature of 1% of registered voters, which to our point was not founded. On an advocacy meeting held later, representatives of local self-governing institution explained that, there were no funds necessary for the implementation of this project, that they were working on gaining funds from central budget and non-governmental organizations. It is worth mentioning, that as for today, functioning of above mentioned buildings has not been improved and it provides irrigation water to Javaheti village and a part of Dalali village.

Tetrtskaro

Recommendations submitted to the Tetrtskaro municipality concerned drinking water supply, infrastructure regulation and social problems, improvement of medical services, quality of drinking water in Tetrtskaro city and Manglisi town. As explained by the authorities, significant works have been implemented for improvement of drinking water quality in 2010. In particular, drinking water main-lines have been rehabilitated; water is chlorinated on a daily basis in Tetrtskaro city and Manglisi town, which made the quality of drinking water much higher.

Tsalka

Recommendations made by the citizens in Tsalka municipality dealt with the healthcare issues together with other ones. Real problem of proper medical equipment existed in the municipality. As explained by the local self-government institution, this issue is being regulated and relevant funds have been envisaged in 2011 local budget for municipal healthcare program.

Mtskheta Mtianeti Region

Recommendation letters have been submitted to the self-governing units in Dusheti, Tianeti, Mtsketa and Kazbegi about problems that the population was facing, according to the citizens involved in the project, expenses should have been made from the local budget and these recommendations should have been reflected in the 2011 action plan of the local self-governing institutions. Recommendations presented to the local self-governing institutions dealt with the issues under direct competencies of local self-governing institutions and aimed at informing local authorities on issues under the competencies of central authority as well on those problems which were of high priority for the population at the time when the recommendations were submitted.

Dusheti

Two recommendations have been submitted on the draft budget of Dusheti municipality, requesting cutting down expenses for the transportation and technical exploitation under 2011 draft budget, as far as, funds have been increased in comparison to the previous year budget. A recommendation was made to clean a ravine and to reconstruct bridges located on the ravine. Local self-governing institution has promised that works for repair and clearance of bridges and strengthening the river-sides would start by September 2009 (promises made during advocacy campaign). According to the promises made by the municipality, recommendations would be taken into consideration when working on the 2011 draft budget. While approving the budget, Gamgeoba of Dusheti municipality took this recommendation into consideration. In the draft budget of 2011 expenses envisaged for the transportation and repair-management of transport amounted to 137,5 thousand GEL and in the approved budget, same expenses amounted to the 81,5 thousand GEL. As for the clearance of ravine and reconstruction of bridges, one of the major problems for Dusheti population, it could not be envisaged in the 2011 budget due to lack of funds.

Tianeti

Three recommendations have been submitted to Tianeti municipality, including issues that by its essence do not fall under the competence of the local self-governing institution. These are natural gas supply improvement, problems of scavenging in Tianeti town and organizing a landfill on the adjusted territory, road problems. According to the municipality, road issues have been solved. As for the landfill and scavenging, administration is planning to announce a simplified electronic tender for the services of environment protection, scavenging and sewages. On

the issue of the natural gas supply, it was stated that the rehabilitation works are planned on different stages, some of them will be finished in 2011 and some in 2012.

Mtskheta

Three recommendations have been submitted to Mtskheta municipality on the following issues: asphalt covering for some of Mtskheta streets, non-existence of entertainment center (cinema, internet-café), unsettled state of sewerage systems in villages. As promised by the local authorities these issues have been envisaged in 2011 budget. In particular, 2011 budget has envisaged rehabilitation of historic parts of the city and other streets as well. Whole range of works has been planned for 2011, as organizing entertainment spots, rehabilitation of sewerage systems. 3 174 526 GEL has been envisaged for these works in total.

Kazbegi

Recommendations were submitted to Kazbegi municipality as well. Recommendations concerned issues under the authority of self-government institutions and issues of high priority for the population. For example, problems of water supply, regulation of sewerage systems, drainage systems in Stepantsminda town, need for ambulances in Gudauri, repair works in village schools, regulation of inner network for gas supply, finishing the process of installing counters, street lightening, and repair of roads leading from towns to villages, problem of unemployment, arrangement of green spaces, rehabilitation of sports hall, organizing parks for tourism aims. According to the information received from the municipality, whole range of activities have been implemented in 2010 aiming at solving living problems for population, that some of the problems raised by them have already been envisaged in 2011 budget. In particular, rehabilitation works for the water supply systems headquarters in Stepantsminda town have been ended in 2010, rehabilitation of inner network for the water supply has been implemented, 4 villages are equipped with the electric counters, local roads have been repaired in Stepantsminda town, Sioni town, and Gardabani village, Street lightening has been repaired in Stepantsminda town, Gergeti village and Arsha village. Problem of individual counters will be solved in nearest future and will be ended by 2010. As for today, works in Stepantsminda town, Sioni, and Sno have been implemented.

Kakheti Region

Telavi

Four recommendations were presented to the Telavi municipality during public discussions on the draft local budget. Recommendations dealt with the amenity problems, quality of drinking water and rehabilitation of water pipelines, rehabilitation of soil-keeper collectors in Telavi on Ketevan Tsamebuli street, clearance of channel and covering with asphalt, regulation of square amenities, rehabilitation of anti-flooding systems in Tsinandali village. Citizens requested to take these problems into consideration in 2011 local budget. Sakrebulo of Telavi municipality took into consideration road rehabilitation on Ketevan Tsamebuli street. A damaged part of the road has already been repaired and the anti-flooding channels have been rehabilitated on Ketevan Tsamebuli street. Telavi municipality also considered issues of road repair and canalization systems' rehabilitation in Tsinandali village. Applicant received a written response that regulation of these problems was envisaged by 2011 budget. Sakrebulo envisaged square amenities and drainage-canalization system in the 2011 budget.

Kvareli

Two recommendations were presented by active citizens to Kvareli municipality: first recommendation concerned installment of a wide screen monitor in the city avenue. Sakrebulo considered the issue and approved it. Second issue submitted dealt with the pariah-dogs problem. No response was given to this issue.

Sighnaghi

Active citizens submitted specific recommendation letters to Gamgeoba and Sakrebulo. They requested regulation of landslide problems on Erekle Meore street in Signagi, restoration of public library, rehabilitation of Sarajshvili

street and establishing internal roads. According to the explanations given by Sakrebulo, partial repair of the landslide part has already been implemented from the local budget. Taking into consideration volume of funds needed, municipality has raised the issue for the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure. As for the library, a process for finding a suitable place for public library has already been launched. Sarajishvili street problems will be solved, after finding needed funds. Due to financial problems Signagi Matsne is not operating, Municipal administration will support a private person or an LTD that undertakes to ensure its functioning.

Sagarejo

Two recommendations were submitted to the Sagarejo municipality: improvement of water supply head-quarter and Landfills. According to the letter received from Sakrebulo, 2011 budget does envisage works for the improvement of water supply head-quarter. Positive response was received from both Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba on arranging landfills. It has been envisaged in 2011 local budget.

Dedoflistskaro

Active citizens submitted recommendations to the Chairman of Dedoflistkaro Sakrebulo and requested rehabilitation of roads in Gamarjveba street from local budget. This issue has later become a matter of advocacy and the decision-makers of Sakrebulo promised the population to execute rehabilitation works in the nearest future.

Lagodekhi

Two recommendations have been submitted to the Lagodekhi Sakrebulo and Gamgeoba apparatus on rehabilitation works for the roads in Lagodehi-Gurjaani highway and asphalt covering for the roads on the territory of so-called weekly market in Kabali village. As explained by Sakrebulo, road rehabilitation of the Lagodekhi-Gurjaani highway and Kabala weekly market is being executed by Department for Roads. Both projects should be ended by 2011. As for the Village Support program, Sports square building works have not yet been finished in Khiza village, water supply rehabilitation works have not been finished either.

It is remarkable that important part of the recommendations, remarks and suggestions were taken into consideration by the local self-government institutions. The citizen received official letters promising that concrete problems would have been envisaged in 2011 local budgets. In particular cases, local authority made a promise that the recommendations submitted by the active citizens would have been envisaged in local budgets during the amendments.

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

During the monitoring, population was permanently submitting applications and recommendation letters to local authorities, aiming at submitting problems of high priority for the population to the authorities for future regulation. In addition, the population on advocacy meetings, once again raised issues that were left without reaction by local authorities after they were submitted, where they personally spoke on their importance. Herewith, it should be mentioned, that the identification of populations' problems have been carried out jointly by citizens and representatives of project implemented organizations, which later was presented to the local self-governments at advocacy meetings. To identify problems, the different approach was used in Batumi city. Concretely, the citizens carried out the research. Based on research the priorities of citizens have been identified and presented to the advocacy meetings. On some of the issues, population received only promises, though there were problems, which were solved by means of initiating by the population and cooperating with the local authorities.

Adjara region



Batumi

Venue : Sakrebulo of Batumi City

Date/time: 23.02.2011/15:20

Topic: Mini bus, cleaning, roofing, internal roads and yards problems

Participants: Head of sanitation service; representative of economic department of City hall; chairman of financial and budget commission; Sakrebulo members; Sakrebulo majoritarian deputies; citizens.

Process: During the meeting important problems were discussed. According to the local government most of the problems named are considered in the 2011 budget. As for the mini bus route, it will be considered in the future.

Outcome: The route will become effective in the near future, according to verbal promise of the local government.

Khelvachauri

Venue: Sakrebulo of Khelvachauri Municipality

Date/time: 25.02.2011/12:00

Topic: The problem of stadium construction completion in the village of Simoneti and the salary to be given for the works done.

Participants: Members of Gamgeoba apparatus; Sakrebulo members; citizens.

Process: All of the problems, revealed after the work of the focus groups were discussed at the meeting. According to the representatives of Local-Selfgovernment bodies, For the purpose of street lighting (in Makhinjauri settlement, Gantiadi, Akhalsheni farm) the sums are considered in the "Village Development" program. In order to rehabilitate the damaged (flooded/eroded) roads the purchase of ready-made concrete is considered. Bus stop construction funds (in Korola and Simoneti) are considered in the budget. During the meeting it was explained to the citizens that it is not the competence of sakrebulo to equip the schools, solve healthcare problems, gasification problems. The attention was paid to the main problem of the meeting regarding the stadium construction completion in the village of Simoneti and the salary to be given for the works done was discussed.

Outcome: Local self-government representatives explained, that in village Simoneti the stadium is being con-

structed by a private company, which will be contacted in order to clear the matter (the above company has already purchased the metal grid for fencing the stadium) and the issue of the salary to be given out will also be cleared.



Kobuleti

Venue: Sakrebulo of Kobuleti Municipality

Date/time: 02.03.2011/12:00

Topic: The problem of village roads and drainage channels; the problem of gasification and electricity; street lighting and sanitation; healthcare problems.

Participants: All Sakrebulo members; citizens.

Process: Issues problematic to the local population were discussed at the meeting and certain promises were made from the Sakrebulo part regarding the problems. During the meeting it was also explained to the citizens, that electricity and gasification problems, healthcare problems

(drugs supply and professional competence of the medical personnel) and technical equipment of schools is not within the Sakrebulo competence.

Outcome: As explained by Sakrebulo members the funds for road rehabilitation is considered in 2011 budget. Frequent need of cleaning the drainage channels is caused by current conditions of roads and therefore this problem is also considered in the budget.

Keda

Venue: Keda Municipality

Date/time: 18.02.11/12:00

Topic: Repair of the Pirveli Maisi community village club and rehabilitation of a school

Participants: Trustee of the Pirveli Maisi community; director of the Pirveli Maisi public school; the elder of Pirveli Maisi village; chairman of Financial and Budget Commission; citizens

Process: The participants actively reviewed the issues topical for the Pirveli Maisi community – repair of the village club and rehabilitation of the school. According to citizens to retain youth it is necessary to have entertainment centers, clubs functioning in villages. They also talked about the dire condition of the Pirveli Maisi four-year public school and the issues necessary for rehabilitation thereof.

Outcome: The trustee of the community promised the population that he would get directly involved in the process of repair of village club and would suggest to a Municipality Gamgebeli to envisage the matter when entering budget modifications and if it is impossible to include the matter in 2011 budget, to definitely have it included in the 2012 budget. As for the rehabilitation of the public school, works will be performed under the rural support program. Representatives of the government also promised the population that village club and public school will be equipped with new, modern inventory. It is notable as well as that in both cases workers and builders will be identified locally that will facilitate the employment of local population.

Khulo

Venue: Gamgeoba of Khulo Municipality

Date/time: 03.02.11/12:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of a kindergarten in Vashlovani community

Participants: Gamgebeli; trustee of the Vashlovani community; citizens

Process: At the meeting the citizens mentioned that the problem of the rehabilitation of Vashlovani community kindergarten was identified back in 2009 under the Community Mobilization project implemented jointly by IS-FED and GYLA and it was presented to local government at advocacy meetings; the latter had promised to consider the funds necessary for the resolution of the problem in the 2010 budget, although this remained a promise and the problem remains unresolved. Unfortunately, the matter was not reflected in the 2011 budget either.

Outcome: According to the representatives of local self-government they are itself interested in resolving this problem, but the Ministry of Finance refuses to fund salaries and therefore the problem cannot be resolved.

Shuakhevi

Venue: Sakrebulo of Shuakhevi Municipality

Date/time: 22.02.11/11:00

Topic: Drinking water problem in Vill. Jabnidzeebi

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; head of the Gamgeoba infrastructure office; head of the Financial and Budget Officer; head of Tskalkanali Ltd.; Jabnidzeebi community trustee; deputy of Sakrebulo chairman; head of Sakrebulo faction; chairmen of standing commissions of Sakrebulo; citizens

Process: According to the citizens the water problem has been current in vill. Jabnidzeebi since the abolition of the communist regime. The issue of resolution thereof according to leadership was raised at the level of the government of Adjara, the World Bank was also going to address this problem but the shortage of water remains an issue in this village, along with other villages. According to the Municipality leadership half million GEL is necessary to address this problem and the local cannot cover this in any way. Although, in addition to the lack of funds, representatives of local authorities participating in the roundtable have not demonstrated significant readiness for the resolution of the problem or the willingness to determine alternative ways; moreover, they were emphasizing that other villages had similar problem as well and they could not address the mentioned problem in this village on an exclusive basis.

Outcome: The trustee of the community mentioned that the only thing that can be done in this direction is the construction of water mains under the rural support program which has already been planned. Although, in the opinion of the citizens unless followed by next steps, the water main will be useless for the village. Since the problem cannot be resolved at the local level village the trustee and citizens decided to approach the Adjara government to request resolving this problem.

Guria Region

Ozurgheti

Venue: Sakrebulo of Ozurgeti Municipality

Date/time: 10.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Formation of free teaching courses in Ozurgheti

Participants: The chairman of Sakrebulo; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; bureau members; representatives of press service; the head of vocational teaching centre; citizens.

Process: The representatives of self-government suggested their own ideas on how to form and practically operate the free courses. They also noted that Sakrebulo (city Sakrebulo, representative body of Municipality) is partly funding the vocational centre, where similar courses function. However, it was also noted at the meeting that the formation of the courses should take place on competition bases, in order to ensure the transparency of the process, cover wider masses and focus on quality.

Outcome: As the Chairman of Sakrebulo promised, the issue will be considered in the Sakrebulo action plan which is being developed at sakrebulo.

Chokhatauri

Venue: Sakrebulo of Chokhatauri Municipality

Date/time: 16.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Formation of free teaching courses in Chokhatauri Municipality

Participants: The chairman of Sakrebulo, deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; bureau member; Gamgeoba representatives; citizens.

Process: The representatives of the self-government noted that the funds necessary to form the free courses are not available in Chokhatauri sakrebulo budget. They also noted that law does not permit local self-governments to fund other organizations.

Outcome: After mobilizing the necessary funds in the budget Chokhatauri Municipality will announce a competition. The vocational teaching program will be co-funded and the terms will be defined by sakrebulo.

Lanchkhuti

Venue: Sakrebulo of Lanchkhuti Municipality

Date/time: 15.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Solving the problems of sewerage system in Lanchkhuti Municipality

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; chairman of infrastructure committee of Lanchkhuti Sakrebulo; Sakrebulo members; water and sewerage representatives; citizens.

Process: Lanchkhuti sewerage system problems were discussed at the meeting. 1 700 000 Euro is needed to completely rehabilitate the sewerage systems. According to the local government representatives, they had sent a letter to the ministry of regional development an infrastructure regarding the issue. Unfortunately this problem is not considered to be solved in 2011. However, the Municipality is trying to solve local problems to a certain extent in certain regions. Namely, by means of co-funding from the population, sewerage pipes have been changed on several sectors (Gorgasali and Kvirkvelis streets).

Outcome: Gamgeoba will continue its efforts to solve local problems. As for global rehabilitation of the sewerage system, it will work on the problem more actively and try to solve the problem in 2012.

Imereti Region**Kharagauli**

Venue: Kharagauli Municipality, administrative building of Vill. Kitskhi territorial unit

Date/time: 29.12.10/14:00

Topic: Setting up a water main for 8 households living in Vil. Bori

Participants: Chairman of the Sakrebulo; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; trustee of the Kitskhi territorial unit; deputy trustee of the Kitskhi territorial unit; citizens.

Process: At the meeting the citizens presented and discussed the problems related to water main. They said that purchasing and installation of a 7-10 ton reservoir on the water main would help the population to resolve the above-mentioned problem. Further, the representatives of the village brought up the problem of the absence of a road and also expressed a wish that local self-government to help them to build an electric mill.

Outcome: According to the chairman of Sakrebulo GEL 8,300 has been allocated from the local budget for vill. Bori. This amount will be used to resolve water and road problems, and the issue of construction of a mill will be reviewed in detail in the future.

Tkibuli

Venue: Gamgeoba of Tkhibuli Municipality

Date/time: 24.01.11/11:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of water supply system within the Tkhibuli Municipality and the improvement of water supply

Participants: Deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; manager of the Tkibuli Service Center of United Water Supply Ltd; chief specialist of Gamgeoba; citizens

Process: Meeting participants discussed the issue of the improvement of water supply in Tkibuli. Manager of the Tkibuli service center provided to the participants a kind of a report. He mentioned that last year 20 kv miles pipes were replaced, 2 water intake reservoirs were repaired. Sanitary norms are observed at the water main and distribution stations. But because the system is not in proper condition, namely, due to old pipes it is impossible to ensure continuous water supply to the population. Moreover, representatives of local self-government talked about the water tariff as well which is set as GEL 0.40 and will not be modified because the city receives water through gravity feed.

Outcome: According to the local self-government representatives it is planned to start the replacement of pipes in current year. The replacement of pipes will continue from March 2011, although specific number of kilometers of pipes that will be replaced this year could not be specified. It was mentioned also that the renewal of the pipes will increase the duration of water supply. It is worth noting that according to the citizens attending the meeting they will not be satisfied with given promises and will monitor the activities to be taken by the local self-governments for the resolution of this issue.

Vani

Venue: Gamgeoba of Vani Municipality

Date/time: 28.01.11/12:00

Topic: Repair of the railing of the bridge on river Sulori in Village Salkhino

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; trustee of Village Salkhino territorial unit; infrastructure office employee; citizens.

Process: The citizens talked about the need to restore the bridge railing in Village Salkhino and the risk of falling off the bridge due to infirm condition thereof. They held discussions at the meeting about material and funds that would be needed for restoring the railing. Further, the citizens and the representatives of local self-government once again reviewed the problems identified as a result of focus groups. Deputy of Gamgebeli reviewed in detail and talked about those problems reflected in focus group reports that have already been resolved.

Outcome: The representatives of local self-government and population agreed that the problem should be resolved, although at that stage they were not sure as to which funds would be used for repairing the railing. Main emphasis was placed on that the funds necessary for fixing the problem must be envisaged in rural support program or local budget at the time of entering modifications. The citizens received a promise that as soon as the way of resolving the problem is specified local self-government will provide detailed information to the population about the resolution of this issue.

Khoni

Venue: Gamgeoba of Khoni Municipality

Date/time: 01.02.11/11:00

Topic: Organizing landfills at the cemeteries in the city and intensive removal of waste

Participants: Gamgebeli; deputy of Gamgebeli; citizens

Process: The issue of maintaining the cemeteries was brought up by the population back in 2009 during advocacy



meetings under the Community Mobilization phase implemented jointly by ISFED and GYLA. The Gamgebeli at that time carried out capital fencing of cemeteries and a one-off cleaning of the area. Over times the problem of the removal of waste from cemeteries became actual again. The population living close to the cemetery territory is concerned about existing situation, therefore they are asking for intensive removal of garbage.

Outcome: According to Gamgebeli it is impossible to carry out any specific works in winter time and promised the citizens that by spring they would arrange for the setting up of landfill, and would instruct the city cleaning office to remove waste from these areas and clean the area on a bimonthly basis.

Terjola

Venue: Gamgeoba of Terjola Municipality

Date/time: 02.02.11/11:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of access road to the Eklari historical spring of village Chognari

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; infrastructure office head; citizens

Process: Due to the letter submitted by village Chognari population to the Gamgeoba prior to the meeting deputy Gamgebeli was quite well informed and aware of the substance of the problem. Although at the meeting the citizens emphasized the historical importance of the spring and the need for utilizing thereof. Additionally, the problems identified as a result of focus groups were discussed at the meeting. The issues were generalized after the review.

Outcome: Deputy of Gamgebeli promised the citizens that the mentioned problem will definitely be resolved by the beginning of April 2011. Although he mentioned that they still have not determined whether the works will be performed under the village support program or will be included at the time of entering modifications in the local budget. According to the representatives of local self-government as soon as they determine the specific source for resolving the problem they will provide detailed information to the citizens in writing.

Chiatura

Venue: Gamgeoba of Chiatura Municipality

Date/time: 08.02.11/14:00

Topic: Repair a damaged sewage well in front of the Chiatura drama theater

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; head of municipal improvement office; head of the oversight office; citizens

Process: The issue of the damaged sewage well in front of the Chiatura drama theater was identified by the population in 2009 under the Community Mobilization phase of implemented jointly by ISFED and Young Lawyers Association of Georgia (GYLA) and submitted to the local self-government at an advocacy meeting. Namely, due to the damaged sewage system in front of the theater fecal matter would spill in bad weather causing the pollution of the area. Local self-government pumped the sewage system several times, although the problem was addressed temporarily and reoccurred again soon. Notably, one of the citizens applied to the Gamgeoba prior to the meeting, although has not received a written response. But the problem appeared to have been resolved several days prior.

Outcome: At the meeting the representatives of self-government stated that they took consideration of the problem brought forward by the population and following the receipt of the application, several days before the meeting carried out rehabilitation works.

Sachkhere

Venue: Gamgeoba of Sachkhere Municipality

Date/time: 07.02.11/13:00

Topic: Village Savane and Village Ivantsminda water supply

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; chairman of Sakrebulo; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; citizens

Process: Main section of the meeting was focused on the topic of advocacy, namely, the issue of water supply to village Savane and Village Ivantsminda. Although, in addition to the advocacy topic the problems identified as a result of focus groups were reviewed and discussed in detail, as well as the priorities of the population and the activities planned in 2011 were discussed at the meeting.

Outcome: According to Gamgebeli a place for the reservoir has already been selected in conjunction with addressing the problem, preparatory works will commence from spring 2011 although it will not be possible to fully resolve the issue until 2012.

Kutaisi

Venue : Sakrebulo of Kutaisi self-government city

Date/time: 22.02.2011/14:00

Topic: Cleaning problems; discounts on transport for students.

Participants: First deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; chairman of city economy committee; Sakrebulo majority member; chairman of committee on economic issues; leading specialists of Sakrebulo legal department; representatives of Sakrebulo apparatus, media representatives; citizens.

Process: All the problems reflected in the reports of Kutaisi focus groups were discussed at the beginning of meeting. Regarding water in general, it was noted that the amount of sum for the rehabilitation of sewerage systems and drainage systems have been allocated in the local budget of 2011, improving the material and technical base of the nursery schools is also being planned. As for the issues like healthcare, gasification and electricity, the representatives of the self government noted that these are the issues beyond their competence. Special attention was given to cleaning and students initiatives. Namely, in regards with the cleaning it was noted that new bins were bought and would appear in the city streets in the nearest future. An LTD has been created to work in this direction. Regarding the discounts on transport for students, an initiative came up regarding the allocation of certain sums from the local budget in order to provide the students with the discounts on transport fees. As noted at the meeting, the idea is good, but due to the fact that the local budget funds 1200 beneficiaries, which is quite a big sum already, the citizens were offered to give develop their proposal into a project, give exact number of students in the city and propose what types of discounts can be made for them. Some of the citizens came up with an initiative of making discounts on theatre and cinema tickets, museums, libraries and galleries for the students.

Outcome: The representatives of local self-government bodies promised, the bunkers will be removed from the houses in the nearest future. A special working group will be responsible for checking the cleanness of the city. Current disposal tip is planned to be removed from Nikea Street, which has been one of the most pressing problems for the citizens of Kutaisi for many years. As for the benefits for the students, it was agreed that the citizens would present their initiatives during March, 2011 and Sakrebulo members would mediate in every instance.

Baghdati

Venue : Sakrebulo of Baghdati Municipality

Date/time: 17.02.2011/14:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of bridge in village Daphenili

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; head of Sakrebulo financial department; lawyer of Sakrebulo; citizens.

Process: All the problems reflected in the reports of the focus groups were discussed at the meeting. One of them

was the problem of electricity vouchers as in mountainous regions of Bagdati, and namely in Khani, only two vouchers arrived on 3500 users, while within the frameworks of the program, there should have arrived at least 40. Regarding the cleaning, though there is a problem of fencing the disposal tip, still a refuse collector vehicle has been bought as well as a rubbish bin that has been placed in compact settlement of refugees. Sewerage problems are not funded from the above budget, as Bagdati municipality has got no sewerage. Special attention was paid to the issue related with rehabilitation of bridge in village Daphenili. The citizens talked about the necessity of capital rehabilitation of bridge.

Outcome: According to the representatives of local self-government bodies, the local budget funded the emergency repair works on the bridge. As for the capital rehabilitation of the bridge, it will be fully rehabilitated in 2011.

Zestafoni

Venue : Sakrebulo of Zestafoni Municipality

Date/time: 18.02.2011/14:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of elevators in apartment houses

Participants: Head of district council administration; head of Sakrebulo apparatus; representatives of Gamgeoba military service; citizens.

Process: All the problems reflected in the reports of the focus groups were discussed in details at the meeting. The first issue was water supply. Some of the works have been carried out namely in Kvaliti settlement. Since it is impossible to do similar works throughout the town with the local budget, these works were carried out only in Kvaliti settlement. As for drainage, again Kvaliti settlement has been repaired as well as the settlement of Kamechis Tavi, though some works are still on in this direction. Regarding the healthcare it was noted that the insurance company Irao is funding the construction of 25 bed hospital, apart from that a private clinic is operating in Zestafoni with a very good technical and material base and almost every village has a well equipped medical outpatient clinic. Electricity voucher saw also a problem, as individual meters are available in the village of Sazano, where 4220 people live. They received only 2 vouchers. Street lighting works are considered in 2011 budget on the perimeter of Argveti, Chkheidze, Batonishvili, Ketiladze, Zaporozhie streets, on the territory nearby the hospital. Regarding the problems of cleaning the town was mentioned, that the road repairing works to the new tip were included in the 2011 budget. 5 trucks were bought.

Outcome: The representatives of local self-government bodies promised, that by local budget, 2010, within the frames of the program "block of flats" rehabilitation of 10 elevators will be carried out. Special attention will be paid to the apartments where the disabled people live.

Tskaltubo

Venue : Sakrebulo of Tskhaltubo Municipality

Date/time: 21.02.2011/13:00

Topic: Cleaning issues; water supply of the sanatoriums of "Meshakhte" and "Iveria"

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; first deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; chairmen of fraction National Movement; chairman of fraction in the Sakrebulo; media representatives; citizens.

Process: All the problems reflected in the reports of the focus groups were discussed at the meeting. One of them was the water supply related issue. The self-government provided the information that the problem is caused by obsolete resort infrastructure. The municipality is expecting funds from the Bank of Asia. Street lighting works are also being carried out. As for hospitals, Aldagi BCI has started a 15 bed hospital and it will be finished by the end of the year. The problem of an ambulance was also touched upon, as ambulance was named as one of the most pressing problems in the focus group reports. As the representatives of the self government stated they have informed the ministry on the issue. They requested additional brigade on the Tskaltubo territory, otherwise the local population will not have the opportunity to receive timely service. Cleaning problems of the municipality were also discussed in details. The chairmen of the sakrebulo provided us with the information that 50 new containers, 4 refuse collector vehicles had been purchased. As for the problem of water supply rehabilitation in "Meshakhte"

and “Iveria” sanatoriums, it should be noted that the project group is in this matter since 2009. During these two years citizens have received numerous promises from the ministry to solve the water supply problems for the refugees. According to our information there was a tender announced on the 7th of April 2010 on water supply, rehabilitation and roofing of sanatoriums and among them were “Meshakhte” and “Iveria” sanatoriums, though how it’s ended and who won is unknown for the citizens. It was also noted at the meeting that the ministry policy is to move the refugees to new dwelling houses and privatization of old sanatoriums.

Outcome: A promise was made to place the rubbish bins in compact settlements of refugees as well, where sanitary conditions are especially poor. They will also be placed in town streets and squares, Brotseula and Kopitnari settlements, resort centers, in plants and offices along the Kutaisi-Samtredia, Tskaltubo-Kutaisi and Kutaisi Khoni highways. Household refuse is being removed from the bunkers on daily basis. As for water supply rehabilitation in “Meshakhte” and “Iveria” sanatoriums, we were provided information that the rehabilitation is not planned from the local budget in 2011, but it was noted that in 2010 a water tank was bought for the refugees living in these sanatoriums and today water is supplied to them by alternative means.

Samtredia

Venue : Sakrebulo of Samtredia Municipality

Date/time: 24.02.2011/14:00

Topic: Roofing of apartment houses

Participants: Gamgebeli; deputies of Gamgebeli; leading specialist of financial department; media representatives; citizens.

Process: At the beginning of meeting problems identified by the focus groups were discussed. According to the representatives’ of Local-Selfgovernment, the libraries, the public library reconstruction works have already finished with the financial support of one of the NGO and local budget funding. It has been equipped with latest technologies. Drainage pipes and roofing problems have been solved in public schools. Water supply works are still on, almost every school is equipped with artesian well from which it is supplied. Two new nursery schools have opened in the villages of Gomi and Tolebi. The nursery schools operate on co-funding principle. Gassification process is almost complete on the town territory. Priority is given to compact settlements. The issue related with sewerage system rehabilitation in Balneological resort “Samtredia” was discussed at the meeting as well. The self-government representatives stated that the building is a private property and it is beyond the local government competence to carry out the rehabilitation works. The main attention at the meeting was paid to the roofing of apartment houses related problem.

Outcome: As local self-government representatives explained, within the frames of the “Block of Flats” program 7 blocks were roofed in 2010 and sewerage systems were changed in 3 flats. At present 6 camaraderie have applied the local government and their requests will be satisfied according to the order of application. In the second half of the year, when summing up the budget accomplishments, the funding allocated to this program might increase.

Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti Region

Martvili

Venue: Gamgeoba of Martvili Municipality

Date/time: 31.01.11/10:30

Topic: Restoration of the bridge linking Khoni and Martvili

Participants: Gamgebeli; deputy of Gamgebeli; an officer in charge of providing public information; citizens

Process: The participants of the meeting reviewed the issues related to the restoration of the bridge linking Khoni and Martvili in detail. In addition to the advocacy topic they also discussed the problems identified as a result of focus group meetings. The Gamgebeli discussed each one in detail and finally stated that the majority of the mentioned issues require resolution on an on-going basis.

Outcome: As a result of the meeting the design of the bridge was developed and sent to the road department.

Mestia**Venue:** Gamgeoba of Mestia Municipality**Date/time:** 25.01.11/12:00**Topic:** Restoration of a 22 meter bridge in village Latala; rehabilitation of road in village Tebdashi**Participants:** Gamgebeli; representatives of the Economic and infrastructure Unit; citizens

Process: Village population attending the meeting identified 2 main problems. They talked about the condition of the road of Village Tebdashi and the need for rehabilitation thereof. Although main emphasis was placed to the issues related to the restoration of the bridge. The citizens justified the need for a bridge and demanded the local self-government to perform the works necessary for the restoration of a bridge in Latala, namely, the construction of a bridge with reinforced concrete structure.

Outcome: The city administration put forward three promises at the meeting: 1) development of a design for a shorter bridge, 2) development of a design for a reinforced concrete bridge 3) identification of funding necessary for the construction of the bridge.

Chkhorotsku**Venue:** Gamgeoba of Chkhorotsku Municipality**Date/time:** 02.02.11/11:00**Topic:** Restoration of the electricity supply to the kindergarten at Vill. Meore Chogi**Participants:** Gamgebeli; director of educational center; senior lead-teacher of village Meroe Chogi kindergarten; citizens

Process: The meeting commenced with the review of the problems identified as a result of focus groups. The fact is noteworthy that the majority of the listed issues has been resolved or is being resolved. The emphasis was placed to the problems identified during the advocacy meetings under the Community mobilization project implemented by Fair Elections and GYLA in 2009, that, due to various reasons remained unsettled, namely, the issue of rehabilitation of a water supply system. As for the kindergarten of village Meore Chogi, the problem is that it has been over a year that electricity is not supplied. The citizens mentioned also that they receive promises from local self-government every day that they will resolve the problem although it has not been resolved to date.

Outcome: According to the Gamgebeli currently reorganization is underway and upon completion he will meet the head of the resource center, consider the issue of the Village Chogi kindergarten, which, in his opinion, will be resolved positively. Further, the Gamgebeli gave a promise to the population that under the rural support program they will try to resolve the problem of water supply system, namely, to acquire water pipes and the restore the water supply system.

Khobi**Venue:** Gamgeoba of Khobi Municipality**Date/time:** 03.02.11/13:00**Topic:** Fencing of Village Kheta public school**Participants:** deputy of Gamgebeli; chairman of social issues commission of the Sakrebulo; head of the Department of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons; employee of Gamgeoba apparatus; informational support and public relations unit; head of the infrastructure office; citizens

Process: A long-standing problem was selected as an advocacy topic for the meeting which was actual back in 2009. Since then the citizens received a number of verbal promises but the issue remained unresolved. This time the population insisted that the local self-government specify the issue which may have caused unfavorable disposition towards the citizens and the NGOs attending the meeting. They were unable review the reports of focus groups since according to the local self-government representatives they are well aware of local problems and are doing everything to eliminate them.

Outcome: Local self-government provided a written response to the population saying that the works to fence off Kheta school yard will take place in June 2011.

Tsalenjikha

Venue: Gamgeoba of Tsalemjikha Municipality

Date/time 08.02.11/11:00

Topic: Street lighting of the Saabulazo district

Participants: Gamgebeli; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; member of Sakrebulo; citizens

Process: The citizens attending the meeting explained to the representatives of self-government the need for street lighting in the Saabulazo district. They also talked about the problems identified as a result of focus group meetings, namely, activities accomplished and those planned for 2011.

Outcome: The promise was given that specifically the installation of street lighting in the mentioned district will be included in 2011 at the time of entering modifications to the local budget and the works will commence in spring 2011. A written promise was provided as well.

Senaki

Venue: Gamgeoba of Senaki Municipality

Date/time: 07.02.11/14:00

Topic: Asphalt pavement of the Eki community road; the issue of the poor quality of sports playground in Satsuleiskiro community

Participants: Deputy of Gamgebeli; member of Sakrebulo; chairman of the infrastructure commission; citizens

Process: Eki community population received a promise during the pre-election period that the road pavement would be provided but the promise was not fulfilled in 2010. The citizens raised this issue once again and additionally raised an issue of poor quality of the cover of the newly constructed sports playground.

Outcome: Representatives of self-government mentioned with regard to the asphalt pavement of the Eki community road that the design has been developed and since it requires large amount of funds it was not included in the 2011 local budget, but the request has been made at the central level. As for another issue citizens were promised that the contractor of works will be asked to fix the deficiency in Spring.

Abasha

Venue: Sakrebulo of Abasha Municipality

Date/time: 23.02.11/11:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of Village Tkviri kindergarten

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairmen; citizens

Process: The issue of rehabilitation of Village Tkviri kindergarten was brought up by the citizens as urgent back in 2009 during the advocacy meeting under the joint Community Mobilization project of Fair Elections and GYLA. Further, the representatives of local self-government mentioned the water tariff as well which has been set as GEL 0.40 and will not be modified since the city receives water supply mainly by gravity feed. Since the problem was not resolved the population brought up this issue again and applied to the Sakrebulo with an application in which it was mentioned that in 2010 the works of electricity supply to the building were performed in village Tkviri kindergarten in 2010.

Outcome: According to the chairman of Sakrebulo GEL 50,000 has been allocated for the repair of kindergartens in the 2011 local budget. It was mentioned also that first the kindergartens should be inspected and by the end of March it will be determined as to which amount will be allocated specifically for Vill. Tkviri kindergarten. He also mentioned that it is planned to place three cottage type structures for kindergartens in three villages of the municipality.

Zugdidi**Venue:** Gamgeoba of Zugdidi Municipality**Date/time:** 15.02.11/13:00**Topic:** Rehabilitation of the roads linking Akhalsopeli and Kolkhida; Shevchenko and Chkondideli streets; problem of the floodwater system.**Participants:** Deputy of Gamgebeli; second deputy of Gamgebeli; chairman of the Faction National Movement at Sakrebulo; head of the cap. Office; citizens**Process:** With regard to the road rehabilitation during the monitoring period the citizens entered applications to the administration and the Sakrebulo requesting the resolution of the problem they had brought up at the advocacy meeting. The citizens and local self-government representatives reviewed all the applications. In addition to the road rehabilitation issue at the meeting they discussed also the problems related to the problems of the embankments in Vil. Orsantia and the floodwater system in the Zugdidi municipality.**Outcome:** Deputy of Gamgebeli explained each problem in turn. According to him the following works were performed on Akhalsopeli and Kolkhida section: a road was cut, it was repaired using the inert materials, but the road dropped again. According to him the setting up of this road is associated with large amounts and it is very costly for the municipality therefore this issue should be envisaged under various projects. As for Shevchenko Street, it is being studied and the resolution of this issue will be commenced in the nearest future. The setting up of floodwater system for Zugdidi is quite problematic requires large amounts. In case of identification of funds Chkhondideli Street will definitely be envisaged. As for the problem of embankments in Vill. Orsantia this issue was studied by the representatives of local self-government and it has been determined to include it in the rural development program.**Poti****Venue:** Municipality of a self-governing city of Poti**Date/time:** 22.02.11/15:00**Topic:** Dismantling legitimized garages in the yards of multi-apartment buildings**Participants:** City mayor; deputy mayors; citizens**Process:** The citizens mentioned at the meeting that they were willing to find out whether the garages legitimized in the yards of multi-apartment buildings would be dismantled and whether compensation amounts would be issued to the owners in case of dismantling and in which amount. According to the population earlier they obtained consent from neighbors on the construction of garages in accordance with the law. Deputy Mayor of the city explained to the citizens that no one was going to dismantle the garages forcibly and in the yards where garages will remain they will not perform municipal improvement works. Although the mayor of the city stated that they will ask the neighbors and if neighbors will apply to the municipality saying that the garages serve as an obstruction, the municipality will be compelled to cancel the title of the holders of the garages and carry out planned works. At the meeting the mayor mentioned also that in Batumi this process went smoothly and the authorities would like Poti to look nice similar to Batumi; citizens agreed to this, although they asked for the payment of compensation, similar to Batumi, since the construction of garages involved quite high costs. It is noteworthy that at times during the meeting the deputy mayor would address the citizens in an improper manner for which the mayor of the city apologized to them.**Outcome:** Local self-government representatives mentioned that if the population applied to them requesting the abolition of the garages they would perform dismantling otherwise "you would remain to be in the same garbage", they told the attending citizens. In the opinion of the population given current reality government can quite easily have somebody write an application and perform the dismantlement of the garages without reimbursement of compensation thereof.

Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti Region**Lentekhi**

Venue: Gamgeoba of Lentekhi Municipality

Date/time: 28.01.11/15:30

Topic: Problem of cleaning

Participants: Gamgebeli; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; citizens

Process: The conversation concerned the landfill of the Lentekhi borough. The citizens requested the installation of garbage cans in the districts and adding yard-keepers in the municipality which, in their opinion will take care of two problems: cleaning of the borough and employment.

Outcome: According to deputy chairman of Sakrebulo the place for the landfill has been identified on the Lakhshiri area. Also, in 2011 garbage bunkers will be placed in the center of the borough and as for the employment of yard-keepers a tender will be announced. Information was provided in writing as well.

Tsageri

Venue: Sakrebulo of Tsageri Municipality

Date/time: 02.02.11/11:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of potable water pipelines of Tsageri

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; members of Sakrebulo; head of financial-budget office; citizens

Process: The issue of the poor condition of potable water pipes was brought up by the population in 2009 during the advocacy meetings held under the community mobilization project implemented jointly by the Fair Elections and GYLA. In the same year the rehabilitation of the system was commenced, although it was suspended in 2010. The citizens asked for the continuation of the works in the remaining streets.

Outcome: Representatives of local self-government discussed and promised to the citizens that when entering modifications in 2011 budget they will identify the funds to address the problem.

Oni

Venue: Gamgeoba of Oni Municipality

Date/time: 01.02.11/13:30

Topic: Construction of the Vill. Pipileti bridge; rehabilitation of Vill. Zhashkvi road

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; majoritarian deputy representative; representative of NGO Imedi; editor of newspaper Oni; citizens

Process: The meeting was so interesting that it went on for quite long. The citizens were happy that they could talk about all problems with self-government firsthand. In turn, the self-government got disposed positively and was able to talk about the works performed thereof, about resolved problems, current and planned activities. They reviewed quite comprehensively and discussed the issues of rehabilitation of road and the construction of a bridge in villages.

Outcome: According to local self-government the works will commence after the weather conditions are better. The construction of vill. Pipileti bridge and the rehabilitation of Village Zhashkvi road will be performed in collaboration with an NGO.

Ambrolauri

Venue: Gamgeoba of Ambrolauri Municipality

Date/time: 15.02.11/14:00

Topic: Improvement of inner roads in Ambrolauri; rehabilitation of Shishinashvili and Chichinadze streets

Participants: Gamgebeli; deputy of Gamgebeli; citizens

Process: Shishinashvili and Chichinadze streets were identified specifically as advocacy topic for the meeting although the majority of inner roads of Ambrolauri require improvement, which was a subject of special emphasis at the meeting. Further, the issue of access roads to apartment buildings was discussed as well. The streets were identified at the initiative of the citizens living in these streets for according to the information obtained from the administration funds for addressing this problem is not envisaged in the 2011 budget. The citizens provided justification to the Gamgebeli telling how difficult it is for them to move on these streets, especially in bad weather.

Outcome: Gamgebeli could not promise to the citizens that the problem of the Shishinashvili and Chichinadze streets will be resolved under the local budget at this stage. Although he said that they would study the condition of other streets as well and that they might be able to rehabilitate the roads through co-funding and with the assistance of various programs. As for the road sections that are for access to apartment buildings funds will be identified for them and the condition of these roads will be improved in 2011.

Samtskhe Javakheti Region

Borjomi

Venue: Sakrebulo of Borjomi Municipality

Date/time: 03.02.2011/15:00

Topic: Sanitation, water pipes, road rehabilitation cinema, business development and agriculture development issues.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; chairmen of Sakrebulo commissions on social and budgetary issues; deputy district councilors; social security service department executive; head of Sakrebulo apparatus; citizens.

Process: While discussing the issue it cleared out that when developing the project the Ministry of Defense considered the possibility of requesting the accepted application, but since the local budget is of limited possibilities, the rating point was defined as 160 000. As the Social Security service executive stated it will not be a problem to raise the rating point up to 200 000 as people of this category are not very great in number and therefore it will not be associated to a lot of expenditures. It was also noted that a family with 200 000 points is a family of average poverty according to social categories. It may possess a car or other technical equipments and maybe indeed a better income than a poor family, but social programs do not provide them with insurance policy and neither have the opportunity to use individual insurance. Anyway, they might as well need hospitalization and lack the possibility. That is why it is important to provide them with this opportunity to participate in this program.

Outcome: As a result of a very interesting discussion it was decided to consider the issues according to incomes in the quarterly budget and make decisions accordingly. As for cleaning problem, this year one more refuse collector and remaining bins are planned to be bought. Apart from this disposal tips are being arranged in the villages and the Ministry of Environmental protection has already been applied for the permission. The condition in village Fafa was mentioned, as well as 5 kilometers of Dviri village road that has not been rehabilitated yet. Sakrebulo members took notes on these issues to further discuss them. It was also announced, that those streets, who want to have the street lighting should apply the Sakrebulo and their requests will be considered in relevant planning. As for the cinema rehabilitation, it was stated that the above is building is the property of "Georgian Film" and budget funds cannot be spent on it. In regards with business and agriculture development it was noted that investors are being attracted, who rehabilitate the infrastructure and therefore improve touristic services.

Akhalkalaki

Venue: Sakrebulo of Akhalkalaki Municipality

Date/time: 04.02.2011/15:00

Topic: Akhalkalaki water quality; irrigation system; road and outpatient clinic rehabilitation; new Gogasheni-Akhalkalaki route and the issue of public toilets.



Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairmen of Sakrebulo commissions on social and budgetary issues; head of Sakrebulo apparatus; citizens.

Process: The population provided the information regarding the priority issues and the ways of solving them. The representatives of self-government noted that water quality is checked on daily basis and it is correspondent to state standards, which is proved by laboratory test results presented at the meeting. It should be mentioned that water quality was indeed a problem, because two years ago a decayed animal was found in the spring source which caused panic and distrust to water quality. By now the problem has already been solved.

Outcome: The representatives of local self-government promised, that Irrigation system rehabilitation will be carried out in the current year and will be funded from the state budget. Also 5 streets will be rehabilitated from local budget this year and village roads will be rehabilitated in subsequent years. Regarding the village clinics, they informed the Ministry of Regional Development and are expecting their reply. New Gogasheni-Akhalkalaki route is already operating since 2010, however the traffic needs to be better organized. As for the public toilets in the town, this issue will be considered according to income increase in the budget.



Akhalsikhe

Venue : Sakrebulo of Akhalsikhe Municipality

Date/time: 03.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Water quality; sanitation; road rehabilitation; irrigation systems; leisure; healthcare

Participants: Deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; deputy of Gamgebeli; financial manager of Water Supply Company; a journalist of Channel 9; citizens

Process: The population provided the information regarding the priority issues and the ways of solving them. The issues mentioned in recommendation letter were discussed at the meeting, concretely: lack of waste bins - purchase of

waste bins is considered in 2011 budget and not only for the central streets but for the entire town. In addition refuse collector removes the rubbish twice a week. Rehabilitation of inner streets of the town- street facing program started last year and this year 5 more streets are planned to be rehabilitated. This will be the end of the town streets rehabilitation and starting from the next year village road rehabilitation is planned. Street lighting- street lighting installation is considered in 2011 as well as village road lighting. Irrigation water in villages- World Bank is funding melioration systems rehabilitation in the current year. Sidewalks - current year budget considers the rehabilitation of sidewalks of central streets as well as Kostava street and the right side of Didi Mamashvili street. Leisure - Sports school rehabilitation and sports and cultural events are being planned for a healthy lifestyle. Healthcare - Local budget considers corresponding projects which will introduce allowances on current service, though it will not have substantial influence on medical service prices. Employment program is not considered in the budget as there is no possibility for that with current incomes. Regarding the agricultural development it was noted that two projects have been presented to World Bank for funding. A reply will be received by spring. Water quality meets the state standards and as soon as the new water reservoir starts operating spring will no more be a problem.

Outcome: As for the main issue of the meeting, the representatives of local self-government explained, that the new reservoir construction started, funded from municipality funds. It is calculated to supply ground waters and equipped with new filters ensuring water quality.

Ninotsminda**Venue:** Sakrebulo Ninotsminda Municipality**Date/time:** 04.02.2011/12:00**Topic:** Organizing a new park in Ninotsminda**Participants:** Deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; chairman of cultural issues commission; organizational and PR department heads; head of economic development department, citizens**Process:** At the beginning of meeting, during discussion of the recommendation letters it was noted that Ninotsminda budget is very limited. Therefore roads and melioration systems cannot be rehabilitated in villages. This is carried out within the frameworks of Millennium Challenge Program. There is no separate project on village road rehabilitation and it is not planned either, as central roads have to be finished first. Concerns were expressed regarding water supply and quality since after the centralization of the system there is no local department responsible in case of accidents and damages. Information was sent to the Ministry of Regional Development in connection with the outpatient clinic rehabilitation and a reply is being expected from there.**Outcome:** Self-government has very positive attitudes towards cooperation. It was noted that the proposals are very topical and need to be considered in local budget and relevant projects. As for the main issue selected for advocacy meeting, it was mentioned, that the rehabilitation of park "Kartlosi" is already finished and park will open in spring of 2011.**Adigeni****Venue:** Sakrebulo of Adigeni Municipality**Date/time :** 01.02.11/11:00**Topic:** Rehabilitation of inner roads of borough Adigeni**Participants:** Chairman of Sakrebulo; deputies of Sakrebulo's chairman; citizens**Process:** At the beginning of the meeting the substance of the project was discussed briefly. The citizens and representatives of local self-government discussed the proposals submitted by the population to the administration and the Sakrebulo. Special emphasis was placed to the issues related to the rehabilitation of the borough and inner roads of the village. As mentioned by the representatives of local self-government the rehabilitation of village inner roads has been suspended and presumably this problem will not be resolved in 2011. Although, they said that the problem of inner roads of the borough can be resolved. The issues of the rehabilitation of the cultural center, arranging for resolving the issues of irrigation water in vill. Bolajuri and cleaning of the borough were discussed additionally..**Outcome:** Chairman of Sakrebulo stated that the investment project has been designed in relation to the rehabilitation of the inner roads of the borough and it has been sent to a relevant coordination center. As for the issue of cleaning it will be resolved in 2011, after the tender is announced. And the issue of irrigation water in Vill. Bolajuri will be resolved by a private individual. A native of this village has promised the population to resolve this problem.**Aspindza****Venue:** Sakrebulo of Adigeni Municipality**Date/time :** 02.02.11/11:00**Topic:** Rehabilitation of irrigation channels; improvement of street lighting**Participants:** Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairman of Sakrebulo Property management and natural resources issues commission; deputy of Gamgebeli; citizens**Process:** At the beginning of the meeting the citizens presented recommendations that had been submitted to the staff of the administration and Sakrebulo prior to the meeting. The representatives of local self-government mentioned that the People's manifesto is a fairly good project for it facilitates the cooperation of citizens and local

self-governments. Further, the citizens are directly involved in the process of resolving their own problems that facilitates more rapid response from the local self-government to the issues current for the population. Following the discussion of recommendations participants of the meeting discussed in detail the issues of rehabilitation of borough Aspidza irrigation channels and the issues of setting up street lighting within the district and the villages.

Outcome: It is noteworthy that the self-government of the Adigeni municipality is fairly inclined towards cooperation with the population. The representatives of Sakrebulo and the administration stated that they will definitely take into account the recommendations. They mentioned also that the problem brought up by the citizens at a meeting, related to irrigation system and street lighting is quite noteworthy and will certainly be envisaged in the 2011 local budget of the Aspidza municipality, as a line item under the infrastructure project to be implemented.

Shida Kartli Region

Gori

Venue : Sakrebulo of Gori Municipality

Date/time: 10.02.2011/15:00

Topic: Karbi and Mereti village road rehabilitation and problems of the population. Namely: irrigation system rehabilitation, discounts on transport for teachers and refugees, agriculture development, sanitation and nursery school issues.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairman of Sakrebulo committees; representatives of infrastructure and economic development departments of Gamgeoba; head of Gamgeoba's apparatus; financial department representatives of Gamgeoba; citizens.

Process: Apart from the topics above it was also mentioned at the meeting that local self-government fails to timely react on the incoming mail and village attorneys do not inform the population on current projects and decisions. Regarding the disposal tips and daily rubbish removal it was noted that there are holes in every village which are emptied and cleaned by the relevant departments, to which the reaction of the people attending the meeting was extremely negative. They stated that as a rule this method did not work and the rubbish is not removed, but thrown into the river, which leads to the pollution of environment and ecology. If a family has a domestic animal, they use the household rubbish to feed them, or if a family has got a car, they take the rubbish to Gori and throw it away in the bins there.

Outcome: According to the promises made by local self-governments, the irrigation system projects are funded by the Ministry of Regional Development and Municipal Development Fund. 10 wells will be constructed in the villages nearby the conflict zone, which will supply the above territory with water. Regarding the allowances in transport for teachers it was noted that it cannot be funded by the municipalities, however, they will apply the transport companies to make such allowances, as it was done the previous year. In regards with the agriculture development the municipality has a program, under which the notice boards have been purchased and installed. Within the frameworks of this program the farmers are informed on possible diseases and means of struggling against them.

Regarding the allowances in transport for refugees it was said that it would be necessary to develop a certain rule for this purpose and Sakrebulo asked for proposals of the rule. It was also noted that in order to develop such a rule it was necessary to have certain figures to rely on and to consider when estimating costs. In connection with the nursery schools it was said that it is necessary to have a written request of the villagers and an appropriate building will be bought or rehabilitated within the frameworks of the project considering co-financing the proposal or by the village development program. The same way these children can be included in municipality voucher system, which will enable financing the nursery school. As for road rehabilitation, a promise was made to consider the issue in a municipality funded rehabilitation project, if a difficult cost estimate becomes necessary, then the road will be completely rehabilitated next year and this year the damaged section will be graveled.

Kaspi

Venue : Sakrebulo of Kaspi Municipality

Date/time: 28.02.2011/13:00

Topic: Zemo Rene village elementary school building rehabilitation; road rehabilitation

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairman of legal committee; chairmen of municipality legal committee; Kaspi resource center executive; parents of Rene village elementary school;citizens

Process: The population applied the government with a request to repair the school building. Another issue was arranging a sidewalk from the village of Rene to Chobalauri (a sidewalk was not arranged when constructing the highway so the pupils have to cross it). In case if the sidewalk is not arranged in a timely manner, additional transport will be necessary to take the pupils to school from Rene to Chobalauri. David Zanguri, the executive of the resource centre noted that the elementary school of village Rene has no official status and it is considered to be one of the classes of Chobalauri School. That is why the resource centre is unable to raise the issue of its rehabilitation. As for the transport, school administration is free to apply the Ministry of Education, as the school has no transportation expenses. Chairman of Sakrebulo was unable to give a definite reply on the issue of school rehabilitation due to lack of necessary funds and considered our proposal to rehabilitate the building from the funds of the village program and co-financing of the region.

Outcome: As for rehabilitation of school in village Rene, if the villagers decide at the village meeting to spend the funds allocated within the framework of the village development project on elementary school rehabilitation, than the issue will be solved positively in 2011.

Kareli

Venue : Sakrebulo of Kareli Municipality

Date/time: 02.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Ensuring transport to village Bredza; water supply and disposal tip problems.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairmen of Sakrebulo committee; Sakrebulo members; Kareli transport enterprise executive; attorney of village Bredza; citizens

Process: During the discussion it became clear that though there is transport in the direction of bredza, still no transport is available after 15:00 and therefore this creates a big problem for the villagers. It is notable that 14 villages are facing the same problem together with bredza – Kvenatkotsa, Zemo(upper) and Qvemo(lower) Shaqshaqeti, Berdzenauli, Satsikuri, Bredza, Abano, Gulikaantubani, Koda and Chvrinisi. This is a direction connecting to conflict zone and therefore providing appropriate transport is very important.

Outcome: After the discussions transport enterprise executive stated and concluded the following: one more vehicle will be added in this direction at 16:00 and if the number of passengers is too small, the bus scheduled to depart at 15:00 will depart at 18:00, which will also contribute to transportation of the people employed in Kareli. Issues given in the recommendation letter were also discussed and it was stated, that the water supply problem was already solved, because entire municipality water pipes were replaced in 2010. Regarding the disposal pit it was noted that this issue is also being worked on. A site has already been allocated and now the final approval has to come from the Ministry of Environmental Protection. As soon as there is a definite reply, this problem will be solved too.

Khashuri

Venue : Sakrebulo Khashuri Municipality

Date/time: 02.02.2011/10:30

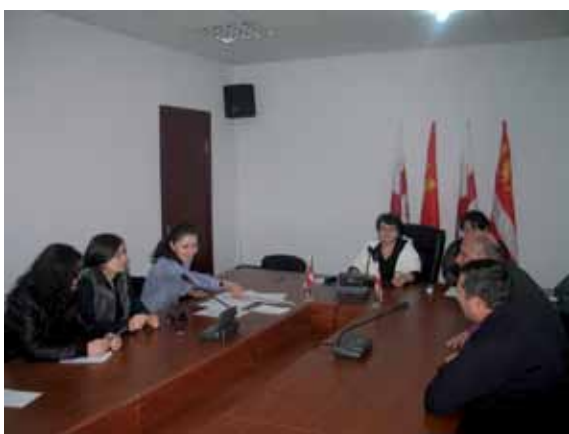
Topic: Didi Flevi village water supply and water system rehabilitation; sanitation and gasification problems in Khashuri region villages.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairmen of budget commission of Sakrebulo; Sakrebulo members; citizens.

Process: The population provided the information regarding the priority issues and the ways of solving them.

Outcome: As for the rehabilitation of water supply and water system, it was noted that water system rehabilitation is carried out gradually in different stages. Stage one involves Khashuri and Surami system rehabilitation, and the following stage will cover the rehabilitation of the entire region. This is carried out by municipal development fund. Regarding the rubbish collection it was noted that a tax has been collected only in Khashuri town and Surami, but starting from the next year it will be introduced in the villages as well. Organizational issues are coordinated with the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The problem of gasification was also discussed at the meeting and a plan was presented, which is being carried out by Socar Gas. Kvishkheti, Bekami, Osiauri, Tskhramukha, Surami, Vaka, Tezeri, Khtsisi and Tsotskhari gasification will be carried out during the current year. And next year it will continue in the direction of Ali and Flevi.

Kvemo Kartli Region



Rustavi

Venue : Sakrebulo of Rustavi Municipality

Date/time: 25.02.2011/13:30

Topic: The problems of water supply, refuse tips and kindergarten.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo ; citizens.

Process: Issues problematic to the local population were discussed at the meeting and certain promises were made from the sakrebulo part regarding the problems. As for water supply, (Rutavi Water) "Rustavtskali" is a private company and Sakrebulo cannot interfere in its business.

Outcome: According to Sakrebulo chairman, the new Rustavi refuse tip will soon start exploitation and eliminate the ecological and pollution problems.

The problem of kindergartens, which includes the rehabilitation of the building, as well as its material and technical equipment, turned out to be unknown to the Sakrebulo representatives. They promised to include the issue in the next year budget. As for healthcare problems are already being equipped with necessary inventory and medications.

Marneuli

Venue : Sakrebulo Marneuli Municipality

Date/time: 09.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Theatre construction works; road rehabilitation; youth employment possibilities in the library; drinking water problems.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; Sakrebulo members; financial and budget commission chairman; head of infrastructure department of district council; NGO representatives; media; citizens.

Process: The meeting was quite interesting. Local self-government representatives, Non-governmental sector, media and ordinary citizens came up with different interesting proposals. Important issues such as problems connected with power supply - exaggerated readings, weak transfer cables (a breeze is already a disaster in Marneuli, because the power is often cut). According to the self-government representatives it is difficult for them to negotiate with "Energo-Pro" representatives who regulate the water and power supply and gasification provided they have absolutely no levers to influence them (private companies). However, there were interesting ideas from Sakrebulo members. Sakrebulo member, who is a majority deputy at the same time, expressed his wish to organize a youth campsite in the village of Ofreti, which has suitable natural conditions for the purpose. They intend to continue working with different NGO-s in this direction There were some skeptical attitudes from the self-governments. They believe they do not possess enough authority to solve problems. This must be due to lack of information and awareness.

Outcome: As for theatre construction, local self-government representatives promised at the meeting that gameoba and sakrebulo will start negotiations with the construction company and the works will be completed no later than the middle of the year. One of the Sakrebulo representatives interested in the issue will come up with the problem at the nearest Sakrebulo meeting. Chairmen of Sakrebulo explained that asphalt coating in Muskhelishvili Street is considered in the project and they are waiting for weather improvement to start the works. As for Sulkhan-Saba Street, Sakrebulo chairman invited one of the inhabitants of the street attending the meeting to his office in order to start consultations to solve the problem. According to self-government representatives this problem (replacement of damaged pipes, water supply interruptions etc.) cannot be solved with local financing only. Water supply rehabilitation works are being carried out throughout Marneuli by a united water supply company, Ministry of Regular Development and Infrastructure with the financial support of Asian Development Bank. The first phase of works will be completed by 2012.

Bolnisi

Venue: Sakrebulo of Bolnisi Municipality

Date/time: 09.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Water supply; drainage and sewerage systems; healthcare; educational and ecological problems.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; citizens.

Process: Issues problematic to the local population were discussed at the meeting and certain promises were made from the Chairman of Sakrebulo regarding the problems. Regarding the sewerage system the chairmen explained that the problem is being solved. Namely, I and II stages of sewerage system laying is completed and at present the water pipes are being replaced. Regarding the healthcare problems – hospital construction works are being carried out.

Outcome: As the Chairman of Sakrebulo explained, the improvement of ecological environment (Kazreti mine) issues is the competence of the central government and there is a necessity of certain changes in the legislation as well.

Gardabani

Venue: Sakrebulo of Gardabani Municipality

Date/time: 16.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Internal transport creation in Town; ecological problems (disposal tip and stray dogs); drinking water and drainage/sewerage systems.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; Gamgebeli; deputy of Gamgebeli; Sakrebulo financial committee chairman; Ltd "Tamaz Zhgenti and Co" executive; citizens.

Process: The meeting took place in quite a tense atmosphere, because the active citizens complained the worst situation in the field of requesting public information was in Gardabani Municipality. Chairman of Sakrebulo noted that certain improvements of the town were planned in 2011 and the town would completely be modified if necessary funds were raised. During the meeting the problem of internal town transport was also raised, because the citizens actively involved in the project believe that the transport, currently available in the town is not sufficient for the transportation.

Outcome: Since the main topic of the meeting was creation of internal transport, it was decided to allocate a trying version of a public minibus for the inhabitants of the town. Also the ecological problems (disposal tip and stray dogs) will finally be solved in September 2011 when construction of the new type of disposal pit will be completed on the border of Rustavi and Gardabani Towns. Within the frameworks of this project Rustavi will purchase 3 and Gardabani will purchase 3 vehicles that will ensure removing of daily disposal from the town. One additional reserve bin will be placed in Lelashkha settlement. The process of removing stray dogs from the town will start in spring 2011.

Dmanisi

Venue: Sakrebulo of Dmanisi Municipality

Date/time: 29.01.11/13:00

Topic: Water supply to Vill. Javakheti; Dmanisi municipality irrigation system

Participants: Dmanisi municipality trustee; 2 members of Sakrebulo; UNDP program coordinator; citizens

Process: At the beginning of the meeting recommendations prepared and submitted by active citizens were discussed. Special emphasis was attached to the issue of water supply to Vill. Javakheti. Local self-government mentioned that it is necessary to resolve the problem and that they are working on this issue, although full-fledge resolution of the problem cannot be achieved solely with the Dmanisi municipality funds and it is necessary to resolve the problem from the central budget or a grant. Since the irrigation systems on the area of the Dmanisi municipality are state-owned property, respectively, the law prohibits using funds from the local budget. Under the Letter No 137 dated March 3, 2009 the Sakrebulo applied to the Ministry of Agriculture requesting addressing the mentioned problem, the specialists were dispatched, they studied the volume of works required for the restoration of the Mtisdziri-Javakheti irrigation system although due to high costs the work on this matter was suspended.

Outcome: Currently the process of the identification of newly funds from the central budget as well as the NGOs is underway. According to local self-government representatives it will be possible to resolution the above-mentioned problems only after the identification of the funds.



Tetrtskaro

Venue: Sakrebulo of Tetrtskharo municipality

Date/time: 30.12.10/12:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of access road to Vill. Abeliani

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; deputy of Gamgebeli; head of the financial-budget unit of Gamgeoba; person responsible for the provision of public information from the Sakrebulo; citizens

Process: At the beginning of the meeting local self-government representatives talked about the activities carried out thereof and the priorities to be taken into account in the 2011 local budget. They mentioned that special attention was attached to the important issues such as the supply of potable water to the population, improvement of infrastructure and the resolution of social problems. It was mentioned also that from April, 2011 it is envisaged to commence the rehabilitation works of 2nd Tetrtskaro Street and the Menkalisi water supply system. The construction of a 15-bed new hospital has been commenced, as well as the resolution of other important issues for the population. The issue of the access road to Vill. Abeliani was discussed with special attention; this issue which was identified back in 2009 under the joint Community Mobilization project by Fair Elections and GYLA.

Namely, due to the rehabilitation road it was impossible to move using the means of transport.

Outcome: Notably, the rehabilitation of the Vill. Abeliani access road has been completed and currently it is possible to travel using any means of transport, in any weather.

Tsalka

Venue: Gamgeoba of Tsalka Municipality

Date/time: 03.02.11/12:00

Topic: Healthcare system

Participants: head of the Financial office; members of Sakrebulo; social services employees; citizens.

Process: At the beginning of the meeting the citizens submitted the recommendations developed thereof, which, in their opinion should definitely be envisaged in the 2011 local budget. The issues identified as a result of focus groups meetings were reviewed. During the discussion at the meeting it was discovered that the majority of these problems have already been resolved, namely, the access road to the capital road has fully been repaired, full metering took place, street lights were installed at almost all streets, the issue of water supply was resolved, old electricity poles and lines were replaced, there are no street dogs in the streets any more. The participants of the meeting reviewed the problems related to the healthcare system with special attention. According to the citizens the hospital does not have new equipment which makes it difficult to examine patients and to make a precise diagnosis...

Outcome: The head of the Financial Office of the Municipality mentioned that the 2011 local budget includes municipal healthcare program through which the problems in the hospitals will be resolved and new equipment will be supplied to the hospitals.

Mtskheta Mtianeti Region

Mtskheta

Venue: Sakrebulo of Mtskheta Municipality

Date/time: 06.01.11/12:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of inner roads and sewage systems; absence of entertainment institutions.

Participants: Head of the staff of Sakrebulo; chief specialist; member of Sakrebulo; chairman of the Legal mandate-procedural and ethics issues commission; citizens

Process: At the beginning of the meeting the citizens submitted recommendations to the representatives of the government; namely, they discussed such important problems for the population as the asphalt pavement of inner roads, the absence of sewage systems and entertainment institutions in the villages. The citizens demanded the government to take into account and resolve the mentioned problems.

Outcome: The representatives of local authorities stated that the problems listed by the citizens are envisaged in the 2011 local budget and will definitely be resolved in the nearest future.

Kazbegi

Venue: Sakrebulo of Kazbegi municipality

Date/time: 24.01.11/12:00

Topic: Individual electric metering

Participants: Gamgebeli; head of the staff of Gamgeoba; trustee of borough Gudauri; head of the Financial-budget office; citizens

Process: The meeting was conducted through the dialogue. Mainly the problems listed by the population back in 2009, during advocacy meetings under the Community Mobilization project implemented jointly by Fair Elections and GYLA were discussed. Local self-government representatives mentioned that in several villages the problem of individual metering has already been resolved. In addition to electric metering meeting participants discussed the issues of potable water, inner roads, rehabilitation of the internal system of natural gas and the issues related to setting up street lighting. Namely, what has been achieved, what is being done and the activities planned under the 2011 local budget.

Outcome: Local self-government representatives mentioned that the matter of individual electric metering is being resolved gradually and will be completed in 2012.

Dusheti

Venue : Gamgeoba of Dusheti Municipality



Date/time: 15.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Cleaning the ridge nearby Dusheti; reinforcement of the ridge banks, rehabilitation of bridges

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; citizens.

Process: As the population explained, all the three issues – cleaning the ridge nearby Dusheti, reinforcement of the ridge banks, rehabilitation of bridges – are the priority issues as solving only one of them will bring no results and cleaning the ridge will make no sense unless the banks are reinforced and the bridges are rehabilitated. The participants came to the conclusion that, lacking the necessary funds to build and reconstruct the bridges and considering the foreseen floods in spring, it is necessary to carry out preventive measures first. Namely: start the cleaning works of the ridge.

Outcome: As the chairmen of Sakrebulo promised, some funds will be raised in the local budget in the nearest future to buy petrol for the equipment at hand of the Local-Selfgovernment and the ridge will be cleaned.

Kakheti Region

Telavi

Venue : Sakrebulo of Telavi Municipality

Date/time: 28.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of the road to the village cemetery; rehabilitation of drinking water pipes in the village of Saniore

Participants: Deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; attorney of village Lafankuri; media; citizens.

Process: Regarding the rehabilitation of the road to the village cemetery it was decided at the meeting that the appropriate departments would have to develop a project and the specialists would have to study the issue on site and present a cost estimate. Drinking water pipes rehabilitation was also discussed at the meeting.

Outcome: According to promise made by representatives of Local-Selfgovernment, some fuel will be allocated for the equipment at the disposal of the village in order to carry out the drainage works for the road. Regarding the drinking water pipes rehabilitation, it was decided to study the issue in details and arrange a meeting with the village population on the subject.

Lagodekhi

Venue : Sakrebulo of Lagodekhi Municipality

Date/time: 01.03.2011/12:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of the bridge and damaged sections of its railings on Shroma ridge in Lagodekhi.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairman of infrastructure and space planning committee; head of Sakrebulo apparatus; citizens.

Process: As the representatives of the local government explained, necessary fund cannot be allocated from the local budget, as the section of the road in question is a highway of international importance. However, they can apply the road department of Georgia in written to solve the problem.

Outcome: Gangebeli wrote a letter for the attention of the chairman of the road department of Georgia.

Gurjaani

Venue : Sakrebulo of Gurjaani Municipality

Date/time: 24.02.2011/14:00

Topic: Cleaning the ridge in the village of Vejini and reparation of damage.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairman; head of infrastructure department; media; citizens.

Process: The number of population, using the filled in ridge as a road to their homes was discussed at the meeting. Also the number of population endangered by the filled in ridge, the reasonableness of lowering the bed of the ridge from the technical point of view was discussed. It was noted also, that the works had to be carried out before the floods started. As for the damage, it was defined in 5000 Gel, which can be paid out from the reserve fund.

Outcome: Starting date of the works was defined as the end of March and regarding compensations, the local self-government promised to consider and discuss the issue.

Sighnaghi

Venue : Sakrebulo of Sighnaghi Municipality

Date/time: 24.01.2011/14:00

Topic: 24 hour water supply in Signaghi; Chavchavdze str. Rehabilitation; allocation of a building for the public library in Signaghi.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairmen of financial and budget commission; chairmen of NGO "Save Village"; local leader of Christian Democratic Movement; citizens.

Process: The meeting was quite active. The participants discussed the problems revealed by the focus groups. The representatives of local government discussed each of the problems and it turned out that most of them had already been solved. Special attention was paid to the problem of drinking water and the building for the public library.

Outcome: At the meeting the chairman of Sakrebulo promised to ensure 24 hour water supply of the town and to rehabilitate Chavchavdze Street. As for the building for the public library, there have been made no definite promises.

Sagarejo

Venue : Sakrebulo of Sagarejo Municipality

Date/time: 14.02.2011/12:00

Topic: Street lighting, drinking water supply, putting rubbish bins, pedestrian part and drainage rehabilitation in Stalin street.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; chairman of space and territorial planning and infrastructure committee; head of mandatory and procedural issues department; chairmen of the committee on social issues; chairman of the committee on property disposition and natural resources; leading specialist of Sakrebulo organizational issues department; town cleaning department representatives – Ltd. "Progress"; citizens.

Process: During the discussions the representatives of the local government and the inhabitants of Stalin Street discussed each of the problems in detail. After the discussions the chairmen of Sakrebulo asked the chairman of space and territorial planning and infrastructure committee to further study the condition of the drain pipes and positively solve the issue by the end of March. Town cleaning department representatives – Ltd. “Progress” was asked to provide rubbish bins to the street. The issue of street lighting was also discussed, but there have been no certain promises made regarding the problem.

Outcome: The inhabitants of Stalin Street were publicly promised by the sakrebulo chairman and other officials to rehabilitate the road, the drainage system and ensure the requested rubbish bins.



Dedoflistskaro

Venue: Sakrebulo of Dedoflistskaro Municipality

Date/time: 17.02.2011/16:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of Gamarjveba str. in Dedoflistskaro.

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; deputy of Sakrebulo's chairmen; Gamgebeli; head of District council apparatus; citizens.

Process: During the discussions the representatives of the local government and citizens discussed the problem of road rehabilitation works in Gamarjveba Street, that started and was stopped later. The chairman of Sakrebulo explained the reasons for this. Apart from that, the rehabilitation of nearby streets was also discussed.

Outcome: The representatives of the local government promised the local population to cover the issue in details and solve the problem in the nearest future.

Akhmeta

Venue : Sakrebulo of Akhmeta Municipality

Date/time: 11.03.2011/13:00

Topic: Rehabilitation of Sabero road

Participants: Chairman of Sakrebulo; leading specialist of the department of infrastructure and economic development; first deputy of Gamgebeli; head of Sakrebulo apparatus; citizens.

Process: During the discussions the citizens requested capital rehabilitation of the Sabero road. In response to this the deputy councilor explained the reasons for partial rehabilitation of the road and the works carried out and noted that no other works are planned in this direction in 2011 as there are very limited sums allocated for road rehabilitation in the budget.

Outcome: As explained by the chairman of Sakrebulo, in case if there is any financial possibility from the central budget allocated for road rehabilitation, priority will be given to Sabero road reconstruction. As for the local budget, it will always be possible to repair the damaged sections in case of such.

ACHIEVED RESULTS

During the monitoring period, based on applications, recommendations and advocacy meetings, in 43 cases the local self-governments took into consideration the issues and solved problems presented by citizens. As for 65 issues, according to promises of local-self governments, they would be taken into consideration in the nearest future.

Issues taken into consideration and solved problems

Region	Municipality	Results
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Tsalenjikha	A citizen went through an urgent operation. She needed another operation and addressed the Gamgeoba due to the lack of funds. Gamgeoba took his situation into consideration and transferred 300 GEL to him.
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Chkhorotsku	A sports square was arranged in Taia village at the initiative of population.
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Khobi	20 000 GEL was budgeted in 2011 budget for fencing the Kheti public school, after population raised the issue.
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Martvili	A plan for Khoni-Martvili bridge was elaborated and sent to the Department for Roads, as a result of applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings. Particular work has already been fulfilled and transportation for small vehicles is allowed now.
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Zugdidi	According to the applications of citizens and advocacy meetings: 1) The issue related with rehabilitation of bridge in village Orsantia have been learned by the representatives of local self-governments and was decided to fund it by "Village Supporting Program" 2) Rehabilitation works for Shevchenko bridge are being in process
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Mestia	A citizens, who's house had been burnt down by fire, requested support form the Gamgeoba in written. A financial support was given to the citizen in the amount of 1500 GEL .
Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti	Oni	1) Installment of street lightening in the Oni suburb Akhasheni was implemented on the basis of an application submitted by a citizen. 2) Funds for arranging a small square on Baratashvili street was budgeted in 2011 budget, which will be implemented in spring. 3) An application requesting arrangement of water supply in the citizen's yard was approved. 4) This on an advocacy meeting and filing an additional application, Assembly found funds for purchasing 15-20 garbage boxes (an issue raised in the recommendation letter)
Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti	Lentekhi	On the basis of an issue raised on advocacy meetings and submitted application, raising an issue of clearance and employment for yard-keepers, a tender was announced and a winner company 'Communal 2009' employed yard keepers and streets in the town are permanently cleaned.
Imereti	Chiatura	Upon the request of the citizens a damaged well in front of Chiatura dramatic theater was repaired
Imereti	Tkibuli	An issue of street lightening indicated as one of the points in the recommendation letter, was positively solved.
Imereti	Kutaisi	According to the recommendations of citizens in Kutaisi the fund for cleaning was increased and number of works has been fulfilled, including purchasing of waste-disposal vehicles and installing of the new garbage boxes.
Imereti	Baghdati	Funds for the library were increased in the 2011 budget following submitted recommendations of citizens.
Imereti	Tskaltubo	Some of the works in relation to the issue of cleaning raised by the population during the advocacy meetings were fulfilled, concretely, 3 waste-disposal vehicles, new garbage boxes were purchased, and scavenging of living remainders is implemented on a daily basis.

Mtskheta Mtianeti	Dusheti	1) According to applications submitted by citizens, 71 socially insecure persons received 150 GEL as a one-time support for purchasing firewood. 2) 137,5 GEL was envisaged in the 2011 draft budget for managing the transport and equipment. After recommendations were submitted, this amount was cut-down by 56 thousand GEL and the total amount now is 81,5 thousand GEL.
Shida Kartli	Kareli	An issue of transportaion on Kvenatkotsa-Bredzi was solved after the population submitted applications and raised this issue on round tables. One additional transport was added to this route on 16:00, and in case there are not enough passengers, the one planned for 15:00 will leave on 18:00.
Shida Kartli	Gori	1) Recommendations were taken into consideration by the municipality in Gori, to consider citizen>s applications on Sessions in accordance with the administrative application procedures, which was already fulfilled on the December Session. 2) As recommended by the population, in November December, they were informed about planned Sessions and their schedules on the public boards installed in villages.
Shida Kartli	Khashuri	An issue of water supply for Didi Plevi was positively solved after submitted applications and advocacy meetings. This problem will be solved within Village Support program.
Samtskhe Javakheti	Akhalkalaki	Following applications submitted by the population, quality of water was examined and determined that it is good for drinking.
Samtskhe Javakheti	Aspindza	Following recommendations made by the population, have been taken into consideration within the margins of local authorities: 1) water supply; 2) supplying the population with chemicals and in preferential prices; 3) individual counters; 4) rehabilitation of inner roads in villages; 5) gasification
Samtskhe Javakheti	Adigeni	According to the recommendations of citizens, the following issues were taken into consideration and allocated into the 2011 local budget: 1) cleaning (inadequate number of garbage boxes and lack of covers for the existing ones); 2) rehabilitation of culture house.
Kvemo Kartli	Bolnisi	An anti-flooding channel was rehabilitated in Rachisubani village, following recommendations made by the population
Kvemo Kartli	Tetritskaro	According to the citizens' recommendations the rehabilitation works for the road leading to Abeliani village have ended and all kinds of transports are allowed in all weather conditions.
Kakheti	Sighnaghi	1) According to applications submitted by citizens, street lightening was fixed on erekle II street in Signangi; 2) According to applications submitted by citizens, an ambulatory was rehabilitated in Vakiri village
Kakheti	Akhmeta	1)According to applications submitted by citizens, a kindergarten and a road leading to it were rehabilitated in Kistauri village 2) A Sabero road was partially rehabilitated in Akhmeta town.
Kakheti	Gurjaani	A ravine was partially cleaned in Vejini village, following recommendations made by the population.
Kakheti	Telavi	1)Following the recommendations made by the population, a road leading to the cemetery in Lapankuri village was gravelled 2) A road with the servitude rights located on the territory of No. 5,7 and 9, living houses on Ketevan tsamebuli street in Telavi was rehabilitated, anti-flooding channels were installed and the channel towards the street was cleared.
Kakheti	Sagarejo	A road on Stalini street was corrected and anti-flooding channels were installed, following an application submitted by a citizen.
Guria	Ozurgeti	Alost all remarks made for the budget were taken into consideration by Ozurgeti Sakrebulo, in particular, special expenses were deleted, except for the police expenses.
Ajara	Kobuleti	A road in Tsikhitsdziri, which was in a bad condition, was rehabilitated upon an application submitted by a citizen.

Promises of local authorities:

Region	Municipality	Result
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Zugdidi	As a result of the joint applications of the population, problems of Chkondideli street will be studied in March-April and if additional funds are determined, the street will be rehabilitated.
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Mestia	As a result of the applications submitted by the population and the advocacy meetings concerning the rehabilitation of a bridge in Latali village, 3 promises were made by the authorities: 1. Elaborating a shorter bridge plan 2) preparing a plan for iron-concrete bridge construction 3) Finding funds for building the bridge
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Chkhorotsku	On issues mentioned by citizens in recommendation letters , the local authorities gave the following promises: 1) Inne roads in villages (Letsuirtsume, Choga, Khabume, Jumiti, Etseri, Napichkhovi-Taia Mukhuri connection road) would be regulated within the Village Support program. 2) Regulation of drinking water issue in Tseri community. A plan has already been elaborated and submitted to the central level. The self-government is ready to participate with 30% funding, if a positive response is received. 3) According to the citizens' applications and advocacy meeting, the local self-government promised to discuss the kindergarten issue in village Chogha after the reorganization, which probably will be decided positively.
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Tsalenjikha	1)The population made a promise concerning an issue raised in the recommendation letter on rehabilitation of an entertainment center in the Terenti Graneli park, that they would take this issue into consideration during changes and amendments to the 2011 budget. 2) Following applications submitted to the budget and advocacy meetings, local authorities promised that during changes and amendments in the 2011 budget they would take into consideration installation of street lightening in the suburb of Saabuladzo.
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Abasha	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, kindergartens will be examined and by March they will have final estimates for fund to be discharged for the Tkviri village kindergarten
Samegrelo Zemo Svaneti	Senaki	1)A project has been elaborated concerning asphalt coverage in Eki community and submitted to the central level. If necessary funds are found these works shall be implemented. 2) As a result of applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, population was promised that in Satsuleiskiro community an improper cover of a sports square would be improved.
Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti	Tsageri	As a result of applications and advocacy meetings, local authorities discussed the raised issue and promised the population that when making changes to the 2011 budget, they would envisage rehabilitation of drinking water pipe-lines.
Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti	Ambrolauri	Following the applications and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, funds for rehabilitating roads leading to living houses will be discharged and the problem will be solved in 2011.
Racha Lechkhumi Kvemo Svaneti	Oni	1)Following the applications and advocacy meetings, as promised by local authorities, building works for the Pipileti village and rehabilitation of Jashkvi road will be implemented together with a non-government organization. The project has been submitted to the non-governmental organization 'Ifad'. 2) Streets for the implementation of works are being selected on the basis of requests made the population.
Imereti	Kharagauli	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by local authorities, works for arranging a head-quarter for the water supply system and supply of the population with drinking water will be implemented.

Imereti	Kutaisi	Following recommendations made by the population, scavenging of garbage-boxes at living houses is planned. In addition, scavenging of a landfill located on Nikea is planned.
Imereti	Tkibuli	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, changing water supply pipe-lines is planned for March 2011, which will increase water supply duration.
Imereti	Vani	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, funds for rehabilitating banisters on the bridge on Sulori river in Salkhino village, shall be envisaged either in the village support program, or when making changes to the budget. Population was promised that as soon as the ways of solving the problem are set, local authorities will inform the population in detail. Head of Vani Administration raised the issue for the Department for Roads, requesting to study the issue and asking for finding ways for solving the problem within the scope of possible.
Imereti	Khoni	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy activities, as promised by the local authorities, a landfill will be arranged near the cemetery in spring, and clearing services of the town will be requested to clear the landfill twice a month.
Imereti	Terjola	Following the applications submitted by the population, as promised by the Head of Administration, rehabilitation of a road leading to the historic Eklari spring in Chognari village shall be implemented in the beginning of April 2011.
Imereti	Sachkhere	Following the applications submitted by the population, as promised by the Head of Administration, works for regulating water supply system of Savani and Ivantsminda villages in the beginning of spring 2011, though the full arrangement of the issue is not possible till 2012.
Imereti	Baghdati	Following the applications submitted by the population, as promised by local authorities, full rehabilitation of a bridge in Dapenili village will be fulfilled in 2011.
Imereti	Tskaltubo	Following the applications submitted by the population, as promised by local authorities, new garbage-boxes shall be installed in places of compact inhabitation, where a particular anti-sanitation exists. they shall be installed in the streets and squares of the city as well, resorts, enterprises along Kutaisi-Smatredia, Tskaltubo-Kutaisi and Kutaisi-Khoni highways. scavenging of garbage-boxes shall be executed on a daily basis.
Imereti	Zestafoni	Following advocacy meetings, roof-covering for the multi-store houses on Agmashenebeli street and repair of elevators are planned. During the selection process, particular attention shall be paid to houses where disabled people live.
Imereti	Samtredia	As promised by the authorities, within the program 'block' in 2011, rehabilitation of additional 6 houses are planned besides the planned ones, after the budget results are summed up.
Guria	Ozurgeti	As promised by the Head of Administration, on arranging free courses in Ozurgeti municipality, this issue shall be envisaged in the action plan being elaborated in the Assembly. On the basis of a competition, financing shall be provided to programs that offer free services to the population
Guria	Chokhatauri	Arrangement of free courses in Chokhatauri shall be implemented after funds are mobilized for elaboration of free courses, according to the promise made by the head of Administration.
Guria	Lanchkhuti	Repair of sewerage system in Lanchkhuti municipality. The Administration will do its best to solve the problem in the future, as for the rehabilitation of global sewerage system, activities shall become more active and the issue shall be finally solved by 2011.
Mtskheta Mtianeti	Dusheti	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the Head of Administration, in the nearest future fuel shall be procured and the ravine shall be cleared by equipment on the municipality account

Mtskheta Mtianeti	Mtskheta	Rehabilitation of inner roads and sewerage systems, non-existence of entertainment places. As stated by representatives of local self-governing institution, problems raised by the population shall be envisaged in the 2011 budget and solved in the nearest future.
Mtskheta Mtianeti	Kazbegi	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, individual counters for Kazbegi population shall be installed by 2012.
Kvemo Kartli	Tsalka	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, problems existing at hospitals shall be solved and new equipment provided within the municipal healthcare program in 2011
Kvemo Kartli	Rustavi	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, local authorities made following promises: 1)The landfill in Rustavi which is in the building process shall be exploitive, and it will solve the ecologic and pollution problem of the town. 2)Concerning the amenities issue for the kindergartens, which envisages rehabilitation of the building and material equipment, existence of this particular problems was a surprise, for representatives of the Assembly. As promised, this issue shall be taken into consideration in the next year budget. 3)Problem of healthcare is being regulated, in particular, hospitals are being equipped with the necessary equipments and medications
Kvemo Kartli	Marneuli	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, local authorities made several promises: 1) Building a cinema- local self-governing institution made a promise on the meeting that the Sakrebulo will start negotiating with a building company and the process shall be finished not later then the mid period of current year. A member of Sakrebulo was got interested in the issue and he will present it to the Assembly on next session. 2) As soon as the weather conditions improve, rehabilitation works for asphalt coverage on Sulkhan-Saba abd Muskhelishvili streets shall commence. As for the Sulkhan Saba street, a citizen who was attending the Session was invited by the Chairman of Assembly for consulting on ways to solve the problem. 3) The new Library is building in Marneuli, in which the local youth would be employed , as Gamgebeli promised.
Kvemo Kartli	Gardabani	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by local authorities, an experimental transport route shall be arranged in March 2011 for Gardabani population, a new landfill shall be arranged on the Rustavi-Gardabani border, one additional reserve garbage box shall be installed in Lelashkhi community and starting from 2011 issue of pariah dogs shall also be solved.
Shida Kartli	Gori	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, municipality funding project for road rehabilitation shall envisage funds for repairing Karbi-Mereti village road, if these works require additional funds, the road shall be graveled first and the full rehabilitations hall be fulfilled by the next year.
Shida Kartli	Kaspi	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, decision on rehabilitation of a public school in Zemo Rene village shall be made on a village meeting planned for March 4. As explained, if the population decides to use the funds envisaged for the Village Support program for rehabilitatio of building where first school clasees are located, this issue shall be solved in 2011. The village meeting was held on March4, and the decisio was made to rehabilitate water supply sistem for the school and as for the rehabilitation of the building was not supporting.
Shida Kartli	Borjomi	Concerning the recommendation letters submitted by the population, thay were promised by the local authorities, that the issue shall be taken into consideration in the future, according to the budget income.

Ajara	Keda	A community plenipotentiary promised the population that he personally will actively engage in the repair works for village Pirveli Maisi club and will address the head of administration to take the issue into consideration when making changes to the 2011 budget, if it is not possible to envisage these funds in the 2011 budget, then for the 2012 budget it shall be taken into consideration. As for the rehabilitation of Pirveli Maisi public school, these works shall be implemented within the Village Support program. Authorities promised that the village club and public school shall be equipped with the new, modern equipment. It is remarkable, that that in both cases workers shall be selected locally, facilitating employment opportunities for the local population.
Ajara	Batumi	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, following problems shall be solved: 1) to change amortization columns of street lightening on some streets, 2) to rename Svishevski street following a joint application; 3) the roof repair and clearing the basement from water shall be implemented for the inhabitants of Tabidze No. 8 building. 4) budget does envisage funds for solving pariah-dogs' problem and scavenging. 5) a promise has been made concerning two new transport routes for certain directions in Bagrationi administration (Besiki, Ostrovski, Moscow streets and cross-line for Vaja Pshavela, Luka Asatiani streets), that a new competition is planned in March 2011 for transport services, and the transportation problem for the city shall be solved. After the bus-stop system starts operating, populations shall have the opportunity to use public transport, and the route shall be planned according to the population's needs.
Ajara	Kobuleti	1) Supplying the population with fertilizers in preferential prices, aiming at supporting agriculture development. Concerning the recommendation letter submitted by the population in relation to these problems, they were promised that the issues shall be taken into consideration during the budget forming process next year. 2) Pillars of street lighters shall be changed in some villages; 3) Funds necessary for road rehabilitation in villages are envisaged by the Village Support program, 4) Rehabilitation of 'Chekhedine' road shall be implemented once again, 5) clearing anti-flooding channels shall be envisaged when making changes to the budget.
Ajara	Khelvachauri	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, local authorities made promises concerning following problems: 1) Building bus-stops (Korolisavi village), funds are already envisaged and population of Simoneti village was promised that the funds would be envisaged when making changes to the budget. 2) As for the problem of Simoneti village, sports square is arranged by a private company, and they will contact the company to find out details concerning this problem (the company has already purchased a fence) and the issue of remuneration shall also be discussed.
Samtskhe Javakheti	Adigeni	An investment project has been repaired and sent to the relevant coordination center. As for the problem of cleaning, it shall be solved in 2011, after a tender is announced. An issue of irrigation system in Bolajuri village shall be solved by a private person. One of the inhabitants of the village has promised to solve the problem.
Samtskhe Javakheti	Aspindza	As declared, problems shall be solved by all means. It has also been noted that issues of street lightening and irrigation systems raised by population on a meeting are quite important and they will be taken into consideration in Aspindza 2011 budget, under an article on infrastructure to be arranged.
Kakheti	Sighnaghi	Following the applications submitted by the population and a round table, Chairman of the Assembly promised that the city shall have 24 hour water supply and rehabilitation of Chavchavadze street shall be implemented.

Kakheti	Sagarejo	A public statement has been made by the Charimand on Assembly and other officials that Stalini street rehabilitation shall be implemented in the nearest future, anti-flooding channels shall be repaired and new garbage boxes shall be installed
Kakheti	Dedoplistskaro	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, local authorities promised to discuss the problem of Gamarjveba street in Dedoplistskaro and to cover adjusting small streets with asphalt in nearest future.
Kakheti	Akhmeta	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the Chairman of Assembly, in necessary funds are found, road rehabilitation shall be taken into consideration by the central budget. As for the local budget, it will always have possibility of partial repair in case the road is damaged.
Kakheti	Kvareli	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, funds for installing a new broad-screen monitor in the city center has been envisaged.
Kakheti	Lagodekhi	After a letter was submitted and private meetings held, head of Lagodekhi municipal administration submitted a letter to the Department for Roads, concerning bridge on the Shroma river ravine in Lagodekhi with damaged banisters which exposes danger to the population.
Kakheti	Gurjaani	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, as promised by the local authorities, Vejini ravine shall be cleared.
Kakheti	Telavi	Following the applications submitted by the population and advocacy meetings, several promises has been made by local authorities: 1)Concerning the road leading to the cemetery, a specialist shall be requested to study the issue and make estimates. 2)Equipment on the account of the village shall be discharged to fulfill works for repairing a drainage channel. 3)Issue of drinking water pipe-lines in Saniore village shall be studied and a meeting shall be held with the population. 4)A citizen who submitted a letter concerning Saniore village was invited for considering the problem related details to a private meeting at Gamgeoba. As they promised that the above mentioned problem would be taken into consideration in the nearest future. 5)According to the response received on a submitted application, 2011 budget shall envisage funds for repair of anti-flooding channels and pavement.

ENGAGEMENT OF THE POPULATION AND ATTITUDE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

It is remarkable that during the project implementation, local authorities, almost in all cases, had positive attitude towards interest expressed by the citizens to learn about everyday work of local self-government organs and to solve problems important for the society by cooperating with them. It should be highlighted that new members of the Assembly, unlike the former municipal authorities, were more motivated to solve issues of concern for local population. Activity to this extent was expressed in meetings with the population held prior to forming the budget, and identifying problems and needs. In addition they were arranging public discussions, which facilitated at least partial consideration of population's priorities in the 2011 local budget.

Local authorities expressed different approach towards activity and engagement of citizens. Generally, in most of cases, local authorities gave positive evaluation to initiatives of the population, remarks, comments and recommendation letters submitted by them. For example, though, there were some gaps in due issuance of public information in Zugdidi municipality, local authorities gave positive evaluation to recommendation letters submitted by initiative groups and they noted that informing local authorities about important issues for the population should be done on a permanent basis, by presenting remarks and comments of citizens, which may facilitate cooperation between local authorities and the population. This shall make activity of local authorities in terms of solving local problems, more effective.

However, in some municipalities, local authorities consider that they are fully informed about problems that are of high priority for the population, and that they do not need 'indications' made by civic organizations or individual

citizens. One of the examples for this is the attitude expressed by Khobi municipality on advocacy meetings. During the meetings, they underlined that they systematically interviewed the population on their needs, thus, views expressed by citizens on the meeting were considered overmuch.

In some cases, as a result of negative attitude from local authorities, some citizens left the project and some became passive. One of the examples for this are cases identified in Baghdati, Chokhatauri, Dusheti municipalities.²⁵ One of the reasons for this attitude could be the fact that prior to the monitoring interest of local population towards activities of local authorities was quite low. Individual citizens seldom submitted applications, attended Sessions or engaged on the budget processes. Increase in activity of local population and their interest caused certain suspicion and questions from local authorities, which, on its turn affected activity level of citizens and, in some cases, resulted in decrease of engagement. One of the reasons, causing this, could be the fact that in municipalities, especially in villages, almost everyone, including the population and local authorities, know each other. In addition, some of the citizens may have had some kind of fear, that if they 'bother' local authorities too much, they would not be well-accepted in their own municipality.

In some municipalities, local authorities expressed readiness to improve their activity in terms of transparency and openness. Gori municipality is one of the good examples, where local authorities took submitted recommendations into consideration concerning informing the society and improving procedure of reviewing applications of citizens on the Sessions. Positive tendency was identified in Zugdidi municipality as well, which is expressed in the fact that issues of importance for the society, are reviewed publicly on meetings organized by the Assembly. For example, public hearings were dedicated to issues like issuance of social assistance from local budget, duties on scavenging living remainders etc.

In most of cases, local authorities tried to react on requests of the population in conformity with the rules set by the legislation. However, this could as well be caused by the fact that in most of cases, local authorities learnt that activities implemented by the citizens were envisaged by a project funded by international organizations and the citizens were monitors of non-governmental organizations at the same time. One of the examples are cases identified in Baghdati and Ambrolauri municipalities.²⁶

GAPS IN THE LEGISLATION

- Temporary authority of local self-government organs – to voluntarily decide on material-technical support to State government organs in special occasions – is a step back in strengthening local self-government and in reaching a declared level of decentralization in the country.²⁷ It is interesting that, expenses 'voluntarily' made for material-technical support to state government organs, were declared legal from January 1, 2006. A temporary change which was in force from 2009 to January 1st 2011, was continued for additional two years. Thus, this regulation shall last till January 1st 2013. It is of utmost importance, that by this regulation, local government has to make huge expenses out of the local budget for directions, that falls neither under the direct, nor delegated authority of its local self-government unit.
- Municipal representative organ (Sakrebulo) is not duly engaged in the elaboration of priority document for the local self-government unit. As for today, representative organ does not participate in identifying priorities, as far as only by November 15 does Sakrebulo receive the priority document and a draft local budget which is brought in conformity with the priority document. In this case, if the Sakrebulo does not approve priorities, there is no time for making changes to it; approval of budget will not be made within terms determined by legislation. Finally we get priority documents and Sakrebulo has not participated in the process of its approval. It ignores the representative organ and affects independence level of local self-government.
- As for the changes which entered into force since elections of local self-governing organs, issue of authority of Gamgebeli (Mayor) caused certain misunderstandings. In particular, it concerns articles of the organic law, which precludes Gamgebeli (Mayor) from promoting or using disciplinary means against heads

²⁵ See detailed information in chapter of Public information – self-government and citizens

²⁶ See detailed information in chapter of Public information-self-government and citizens

²⁷ „Spending Policy of the Local Self Government in Georgia“. Analytical Research. Caucasian Institute for Economic and Social Research Institute`-CIESR. Tbilisi. Georgia. 2009.p.14

of structural units of municipality or other employees, while entitling to appoint and to release them²⁸. Additional clarifications are necessary for these regulations.

- A form for budget application is not determined in municipalities, according to which, expending organizations will be able to make funds requests. Expending organizations make applications, which contain only needs for funds, without indicating what works or service they are supposed to implement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Information that does not need a 10 day term, should be issued in conformity with the legislation – immediately.
- Information on the date, place and time of Sessions and decisions made, should be given to the population. Local Mass-media, boards in public places and posters should be used fro this to possible extent.
- Heads of local territorial units should inform population of relevant city, village, community and town about made decisions.
- Procedural issues on admission of citizens to Sakrebulo sessions should be simplified, aiming at facilitating attendance of citizens.
- Engagement of citizens and consideration of important issues should be done to maximal extent, in the decision making process and during public meetings.
- Publication of the budget and changes made to it should be ensured by local authorities to gether with clarification notes.
- Reports on budget implementation should be drafted properly and it should include an analysis on budget fulfillment.
- Terms determined by legislation on using funds from reserve fund should be observed.
- A tendency for ungrounded increase of administration expenses should be decreased.
- Approval of local budget should not be made on special Sessions.
- In order to ensure independence of local self-government, material-technical expenses for activities that do not fall either under direct or delegated authorities, should be prohibited.
- Special forms for budget requests should be elaborated
- Detailed regulation of authorities for Gamgebeli (Mayor) should be elaborated
- A procedure for appointing a Gamgebeli (Mayor) should be clarified.
- Gamgeoba (City hall) should be requested to provide Sakrebulo with priority documents, not later then July 15 of the panned year.

²⁸ Organic law of Georgia “about local self-government”-article 33.3;article 33.9