



CBO Mapping Report (2019-2020)

(CBO Mapping – Interim Report)

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Preface

This research – CBO Mapping in Georgia (2019-2020) and their profiling – has been carried out by the researcher of Community Development Centre (CDC) with the support of Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (GSRDC) and Open Society – Georgia Foundation (OSGF) in the period from October 2019 to November 2020.

The main focus of the research was mapping the CBOs active at village or small settlement levels, identifying their organisational structure, working environment and barriers they are facing in the daily work. Currently, there are up to 160 such CBOs active in Georgia¹; taking into consideration that there are over 3,500 villages registered under jurisdiction of Georgia, this side of public life – community initiatives and initiators – is rather weak, as it amounts just to 4% of the total number. In order to resolve the multitude of general or topical problems existing at the village or community levels, it would be desirable to have at least one active community group or initiator in each of the communities. There is still a lot to be done from this standpoint, and the favourable environment shall be created in the first place. This can be achieved through various means and with the efforts of various stakeholders.

The existing level of community initiative development is the result of a certain process – the process that historically (and especially after gaining independence) brought us to the current stage. Historic dimensions are briefly reviewed in the Preface. The most important for the context of this research are the last three decades that can conditionally be divided into several phases (1994-2000: birth and strengthening of the third sector – very few CBOs can be seen at this phase; 2000-2010: replication of the experience from the centre into the villages and first community-based attempts – mobilisation from the external sources; and 2010-up to now: the phase of stabilisation and development of the community-based, self-organised groups). Such division represents the subjective vision and perception of the author of this Research, who herself has been the participant and observer of the mentioned processes.

Accordingly, this document contains a bit of the historic dimensions (community-based self-organisation and private initiatives before the soviet occupation), recent historic review (the development process from 1991 up to now) and attempts of more precise identification of the currently active CBOs, as well as the study of the challenges they're facing in their daily work.

¹ There is no such legal-organisational form defined by the Georgian legislation; hence, the community-based organisations are being registered as non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities, which does not allow us relying purely on the data provided by the Public Registry, and requires development of the additional criteria, in order to identify the community-based profiles of the organisations.

Along with this Report and accompanying recommendations, the CBO mapping process also produced the adjusted list of the currently active community-based groups, which will be finalised in summer 2021 (delayed due to the pandemic). This very list will serve as a basis for updating the Community Development Resource Centre, Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia database. As for the research of the community-based organisations as such, it can serve as a basis for any future project or development program aiming towards supporting the community-based initiatives in Georgia.

1.1. Community Self-organisation and Private Initiatives – Historic Dimensions

Reviewing the Georgian periodicals published from the second half of 19th century to 1921, one will notice that many topics important then were publicly discussed, and there were attempts of informing population and forming the public opinion; out of those, the topics of self-acting, mutual assistance, and solidarity, as well as the work of various thematic organisations and the efforts of private initiatives for rural and community development shall be mentioned. The process was led by the initiators – enlighteners, activists with varying political views. In 2015-2017, the CDC, together with partner organisations, has studied community development and self-organising experiences in Georgia in the period before Soviet occupation, and described about 20 cases² of special interest.

The historic research focused on few important issues. Among them are: **popular forms of societal self-activity** (self-organising is mainly observed around the issues of cultural-educational and economic interest), **forms of civil mutual assistance** (civil involvement in the process of creation the common good, as well as mutual assistance and solidarity between various community-based or societal groups)³ and **the role of the individual**, his efforts³ to change the existing environment and become the initiator of positive development (many such private initiatives were directed towards rural or community development and establishment of some kind of alternative self-government forms).

The processes that commenced in the second half of the nineteenth century and that were directed towards the establishment of high culture of civil cooperation (which was manifested in the activities of diverse unions and associations existing at the times) found the fertile soil after establishment of the first independent Georgian republic.

Whereas, before the independence, Georgia as a periphery of Russian empire had very limited rights of self-governance (only few cities had it in some form)⁴, and civil groups were creating some kind of alternative reality, one of the first and the most important deeds of the government of independent republic became the civil (self-government) reform. Establishment of the self-governments created favourable framework conditions for development of the local civil initiatives and stronger involvement of the citizens in local governance processes.

² Experience of Community Self-organisation and Cooperation in Georgia Before the Soviet Occupation. Community Development Centre, 2015 and 2016. Published in two volumes.

³ The research 'Examples of Community and Civil Solidarity in Georgia Before the Soviet Occupation' is being currently carried out by the CDC with the support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the results will be available in May 2021.

⁴ I. Khvadagiani, 'Self-Government – Self-governance reform in Republic of Georgia, 1918', the Soviet Past Research Laboratory, 2017. For 2021, with the support of Open Society – Georgia Foundation, it is planned to publish new research by I. Khvadagiani: 'City. City Self-governance in Democratic Republic of Georgia, 1918-1921'.

Unfortunately, due to a Soviet occupation of Georgia, it was impossible to further develop and institutionally or systemically strengthen these processes (self-government system and self-action culture); the Soviet repressive governance was persecuting the independent initiatives, free, self-activity- and self-organisation-based endeavours, and, generally, the people with initiative in the first place; the civil unions and associations were also subjected to the central control or, alternatively, such coercive associations were created, in which the fundamental principles of voluntarism and freedom were violated.

Accordingly, there was no experience of civil initiatives or local self-government in Soviet Georgia (1921-1991); the centralised Soviet governance did not let any space for self-activity based on freedom, on democratic principles. Even the groups acting under the organisational-legal status of union or association, as a rule, were subjected to the state control and censorship, and this totally contradicts the freedom of association principle, which implies voluntary union around some idea or goal with the like-minded people within the limits of the legislation, without any preliminary approval from or accountability to the 'superior authority'.

Based on the above, it can be said that the country had practically no experience of self-government and, hence, citizen's involvement and participation up until 1990-ies; even after this, due to a numerous other problems (collapse of the economy, deterioration of the elementary living conditions, poverty, crime, war), the self-governance reform still committed lots of errors, faced multiple barriers and underwent frequent changes (not always favourable, like, for instance, abolition of the self-government at the village levels in 2006, or 2017 abolition of self-governing status granted to 7 cities in 2014). All these factors make the situation far from perfect, or, put otherwise, it is quite distantiated from the local population, and in no way supports involvement of the citizens in local problem solution process or development of the community initiatives.

Since the country gained its independence in 90-ies of the last century, with the support of international donor organisations, efforts to ensure civil and community mobilisation commenced after 70 years of the forced interruption and repressive policies. Certainly, the Soviet repressions, limitation of the private property, centralised governance, tabooing any topics related to the First Republic by the regime could not go without consequences, and the country is still yielding the fruits of that period.

The development processes underway in the country prior to 1921, including those related to the initiative, self-activity, involvement and participation aspects of the civil life, were almost entirely deleted from the societal memory. This problem was further aggravated by the fact that there was practically no self-government experience in Georgia, and very courageous and progressive reform carried out during the First Republic, unfortunately, was unable to set the deep roots in societal memory due to a noticeably short period of its existence.

1.2. Efforts for Strengthening Civil Self-organisation

Development of the civil society organisations, i.e., the development of the third sector, commenced in the early 90-ies – almost immediately after the country gained its independence. This process, as mentioned above, can be divided into three conditional periods, and exactly in this process the topics of arising and development of the community-interest-oriented organisations is being considered.

The first stage, which can be conditionally attributed to the period of 1994-2004, was aiming towards the creation and development of civil sector in the country; the second stage – approximately 2000-2010 – brought to the agenda facilitation of the community and civil self-organisation at the village level; and the third stage – 2010 and onwards – represents the main stage of creation-strengthening and stabilisation of the community-based organisations.

1.2.1. Creation of Civil Organisations and Support to the Third Sector

Soon after gaining independence, in 1993-1994, the process aiming towards development of civil sector in Georgia commenced, and this process was led by the international organisations that were first to enter the country – USAID, ISAR Georgia, OSGF, etc. While the efforts of some of them were more diverse in nature and were directed towards the various fields of the societal life, others, from the very beginning, were mainly focused on the creation-development of the civil sector as such, and their main goal was establishment and strengthening of the not-for-profit civil organisations. For instance, the managers of ISAR Georgia stated in their 1995 report that upon entering Georgia for the first time, they were seeking for the partners among the civil organisations, which proved to be rather difficult task, since it appeared that there were practically no such organisations in the country.

Initially, the civil organisations were registered in accordance with the Law of Republic of Georgia on Civil Associations of the Citizens (#552-II s) passed by the Parliament on June 14, 1994. The Law defined civil organisation the following way *“civil association of the citizens is the voluntary formation of the citizens of Republic of Georgia that is created on basis of the interests, goals and common activity principles of its members”*. The definition is accompanied by the list of the specific work areas and possible topics (see Article 1, The Notion of Civil Association of the Citizens).

The Civil Code of Georgia of 1997 defined organisational-legal forms of association and fund as not-for-profit, non-commercial organisations. Association was defined as membership-based unity, and most of the NGOs were registered exactly as associations back then. 2006 amendments to the Civil Code of Georgia replaced association and fund with the notion of Non-entrepreneurial (Non-commercial) Legal Entity (N(N)LP), and, since that, NGOs are addressed to as N(N)LPs. There is no farther division or specification that would allow distinguishing the civil and community organisations by their organisational-legal form in the legislation (and neither it is necessary). Therefore, if we still need to specify the type of the organisation, we apply various non-legislative definitions and assumptions.

At the current stage, the entire efforts, both in the capital and in the regions, were directed exactly towards developing the third sector, and creating and strengthening the so-called first-generation NGOs. However, there were very few village or community level initiatives back then.

1.2.2. Transfer of Centre's Experience to Regions – the First Steps of Village and Community Mobilisation

Beginning from the late 1990-ies, and especially from the early 2000-s, and again with the support of international foundations, the issues of spreading the coverage of more-or-less developed CSOs, transferring the accumulated knowledge and experience from centre (the capital and regional centres) to the village levels comes high on the agenda. The initial focus on strengthening the third sector as such, and institutional development of the organisations working on various topics (which, along with the other efforts, implied equipping these organisations with specific knowledge and respective working methodologies) was gradually replaced by the efforts of sharing experience with the other, newbie groups acting at the regional levels, in case they existed, or facilitating creation of such groups.

Indeed, there were practically no village level organisations in the country back then. Even those organisations that were implementing various rural development programs from the central level, often acted spontaneously, in an unplanned manner in a matters related to the community mobilisation, since there was almost no knowledge accumulated in this field. The first stage of community mobilisation, creation and development of the community-level groups can be considered the experimental, experience-accumulation stage.

The representations of international organisations and programmes to Georgia (especially should be mentioned: Novib, Mercy Corps, Care International, EU, OSGF, UNDP, BP and others)⁵ or national organisations supported by them (TASO, CSRDG, ELKANA, CTC, CENN, CH/CDC, RDA and others) played important role in community mobilisation and development process. It also should be mentioned here that the methodologies of working with communities were different and these differences depended on the profile and strategic visions of program-implementing national or donor organisations.

The interviews with the several organisations working on community development issues conducted in the research process⁶ revealed that there was no experience of working with the communities at the initial stage; the approaches and methodologies were taken from the various countries and they were piloted in Georgian, post-Soviet reality; also, often the ready-made development programs were given to the communities from the external sources, but this practices were phased out by the primacy of down-up, community induced initiatives and visions.

From the early 2000-s, more groups and organisations mobilised around the community needs come to the stage. Their form and structure vary depending on the strategic goals of the specific organisation or program performing the community mobilisation. For instance, if the goal of the program was resolving infrastructural problems in this or that village, locally organised groups were rather of a technical nature and created for this single specific purpose; or, if the goal was supporting employment of women living in the rural areas, the group members were women mainly; etc. Accordingly, the community group development in that period was often determined 'externally'.

⁵ At the next stage of the research (2021), we plan to record interviews with the representatives of these organisations.

⁶ Interviewer: Anna Margvelashvili. Audio Interviews, 2019-2020. Taken from the representatives of the following organisations working on community development issues: Biological Farming Association ELKANA, Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia, Georgian Consultation and Training Centre, SIKa – Georgian Association for Educational Initiatives, Regional Development Association. Also, the interviews were conducted with active community-based organisations and self-governance experts. The interviewing process will be accomplished in 2021.

Despite the fact that all such groups have the same organisational-legal structure at the legislation level, the so-called community-based groups (CBOs) were differing from the civil society organisations (CSOs) acting at the regional levels before them, because their geographical coverage is more precise, limited and specific (this is just one village, as a rule), and they apply their efforts to the satisfaction of needs of their specific village. At the initial stages, covering the entire village could prove to be unachievable, and bringing together even few persons or finding one motivated person in the settlement – with the view of implementing small-scale projects – was considered a great success.

Even though the majority of CBOs created in 2000-2010, most probably, do not exist anymore⁷, this was the absolutely necessary stage to go through, and exactly the efforts applied back then created the certain background for the next wave of self-organised groups and community life development, which one can observe from approximately 2010.

1.2.3. Community Development-oriented Programmes

From approximately 2010, the first attempts of more or less coordinated and critical analyses of the accumulated experience, errors and successes can be observed. Besides, various national organisations, based upon the experiences gained during the previous period, commence development of their own successful approaches of working with communities, and all this adds to the success of performance at the next development stage.

One of the interesting processes related to the beginning of this conditional third stage is creation of non-registered organisation – Community Development Coalition (CoDeCo) – in 2011-2012⁸. That was the time, when the issue of sharing community mobilisation experiences between the partners of specific donor organisations gained certain importance.

The experience sharing process clearly showed that state, civil and community organisations all face the similar problems in process of working with community mobilisation issues: passiveness of the local population, lack of initiatives/initiators, certain mistrust to the civil processes and community leaders, weak local democracy, and low levels of self-organisation/activism. It was problematic to form some kind of association or interest groups at the community level; to unite people, like-minders around the common ideas. These problems were especially noticeable in the early 2000-s⁹. In consideration of all these, the working group, along with just sharing experience, discussed issues like comprehension of the methodologies and approaches used in community mobilisation, success and failure stories. They also agreed on main notions, terminology and efficient working approaches, etc. The Coalition also worked to

⁷ Unfortunately, due to a lack of specific studies of that period, no sufficient information on old CBOs is available. This would be helpful for assessing the situation from the current perspective. However, such information might still be found in the archives and reports of the implementing organisations, and, in case necessary, might become the subject of the respective research.

⁸ Back then, the Coalition united nine national organisations working on community development issues and applying various approaches and methodologies in their work. These organisations were implementing their programmes with the support of German organisations BfdW and EED (currently – BfdW). In 2010-2014, CoDeCo included the following organisations: The Centre for Cultural Relations – Caucasian House/Community Development Centre (CDC), Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSR DG), Biological Farming Association ELKANA, Consultation and Training Centre (CTC), Union REA, Association of IDP Women – Tankh moba, the Adult Education Association of Georgia (AEAG), Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN).

⁹ As a result of this almost two-year effort, the textbook supporting community works and community development processes has been published (2012) by the CoDeCo.

define number of terms, including definition of *community* and *development* that are still used by the Coalition member organisations¹⁰.

It is true that not all organisations working on community development issues in Georgia were members of the Coalition, but generalisation of the experiences of eight organisations can be considered good description of the main trends existing in that period.

The big part of 120 CBOs currently active in Georgia has been established exactly after 2010. Their creation and main scope, to a certain extent, is still defined in accordance with the strategic goals of external partners and donors. For instance, the multitude of self-organised women's groups can be explained by the prevailing number of women empowerment programs in the current period, and so forth. However, it should be mentioned that this period, unlike the previous one, is characterised with the appearance of many self-organised, mainly youth groups, which commenced their activities without external partners, based on their own initiatives. This fact can be considered the important, although not sufficient outcome of community development process in Georgia, but it should be mentioned that such self-organisation would be rather a fantasy in early 2000-s.

Resuming, one can state that despite numerous obstacles and complications accompanying the process, years of work, efforts of various organisations were not in vain: currently, there is quite an experience accumulated in Georgia; various instruments for working with the communities have been developed and introduced; the important roles of non-formal education, efficient local self-government and civil initiators in this process was defined. Besides, the main outcome of the efforts undertaken within this period are locally active CBOs, civil and community initiators (activists), leaders, change agents, interest groups, whose activities are related to the solution of local problems and promotion of development of local democracies.

We count commencement of the next stage of the community development from 2020 and pandemic. It was exactly during the pandemic and heavy regulations associated therewith, when we witnessed appearance of many initiatives and outstanding examples of high culture of community self-organisation and solidarity. Now, it is the matter of future observation, how these initiatives will develop. In general, the goal of the upcoming stage shall be ensuring coordinated and tireless efforts of various actors, efforts aiming towards strengthening existing community groups and providing more favourable environment for creation of the new ones.

¹⁰ From the standpoint of studying the modern history and development processes, CoDeCo's working documentation, minutes of the meetings and reports played very significant role and preserved valuable information, which can be used by the future researchers.

2. About the Research: Idea, Background

The abovementioned historic study of self-organisation forms and examples served as a basis for the broader research project – ‘**Experience of Community Self-organisation in Georgia. Historic Aspects and Current Challenges**’, which, in its turn, became an inspiration for this Research – ‘**CBO Mapping in Georgia, 2019-2020**’.

At the current stage, this Research has set two main objectives:

1. Reviewing and adjusting the existing database of civil groups active at village and small settlement levels in 2019-2020; and
2. Studying structure, working environment and problems of such groups.

Prior to the commencement of the works, the special questionnaire, aiming towards receiving answers exactly to these questions, has been developed with the involvement of and consultations with sociologists and community mobilisers.

3. Research Methodology

The research method implied total coverage of the research objects (CBOs) and face-to-face interviews with them. However, since the spring of 2020, due to the obstacles caused by pandemic and respective restrictions, part of the groups was interviewed on-line.

Unified database belonging to Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia, as adjusted with the help of the regional hubs¹¹ within the recent years¹², was taken as a basis for this Research. However, since the organisational-legal status of CBO is not separately defined at the legislation level, and, according to the Civil Code of Georgia, they are registered as non-commercial organisations, and grouping them by some other parameters in process of database development is quite complicated task, the initial lists also contained number of inaccuracies. The lists are to the certain extent consolidated in accordance with the data of Public Registry, based on fact of registration, although, taking into consideration that in case of cessation of the operations these organisations rarely apply for the liquidation procedures, the registry data of such (active) groups is incomplete, at the least.

The Research was based upon the geographical notion of the community and, in particular, upon the definition of Community by the abovementioned CoDeCo, according to which: ***‘the community is the unity of persons living at certain geographical area under the common socio-economic and cultural conditions and sharing similar interests, problems and needs’***.

¹¹ Regional Hub – the CSOs selected under the EU-supported ‘Civil Society Development Initiative’ Project, who represent the program partners in the region.

¹² It shall also be mentioned here that there is CSO Georgia’s unified database, which compiles the information on CSOs registered in Georgia based on data from Public Registry. However, neither here one can find the separate list of the community-based organisations, since the community group might mean the different thing for the different organisations. In general, the organisations working in the field of community mobilisation have their own lists. This project relayed on the lists provided by the CSRDG Resource Centre, although they will also be compared with the other existing databases in 2021.

As for the community organisation/group, for the purposes of this specific Research, they are understood as: ***non-entrepreneurial, non-commercial legal entity registered under the Civil Code of Georgia or non-registered initiative group, coverage area of which is limited to the settlement with the population not exceeding 10,000 inhabitants, with the scope of activities aiming towards improvement of wellbeing and living conditions of local population, community or interest group of certain community.*** This has been agreed by CSRDG/CDC on basis of the general working documentation of CoDeCo.

According to the initial list at our disposal, the number of active CBOs made 240. 100 out of them told us that that they have either ceased or suspended their activities.¹³ About 20 organisations failed to satisfy the Research requirement on geographical coverage. 95 (registered and non-registered) out of the remaining 120 were interviewed. This number provides for 4.02% margin of error, with the 95% of acceptable confidence level.

Face-to-face or on-line interviews covered all the regions of Georgia, in which, according to the preliminary data, active groups existed. Due to the second wave of the pandemic, the Research was unable to cover several municipalities and organisations. According to data in our possession, there are no more active groups in Georgia as of today. It was not possible to obtain more accurate preliminary and unified lists at this stage. In order to adjust the list of currently active CBOs, the Research will be accomplished after the end of pandemic, most probably – in summer 2021. Based on the above, current results of the Research are deemed to be interim. As for the compiled data of 95 organisations, they still reflect the main trends existing in this field.¹⁴

Accordingly, **the Research (interviewing) mainly covered:** groups created with the support of organisations working in the field of community development (CSRDG, TASO); part of the groups created under BP (RDA) program; and groups self-organised within the last decade (mainly youth groups).

It should be mentioned that, as discovered in the process of checking the initial list through the phone calls, biggest number of shut-down organisations was detected in Gori Municipality (15) and Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti Region (27). Despite the fact that identification of the reasons for cessation of activities by this or that organisation was not the goal of the Research, we were still asking this question and most frequently sounded reason was “no funding”.

Despite over-20-year experience in community development programme implementation and numerous studies of the civil sector, no **in-depth study of community groups** currently active in Georgia has been carried out yet. Neither the unified database of active organisations has been adjusted by the community belonging. Due to this, we do not have any reference document (for instance, one describing the situation in 2000, 2005, 2010 or 2015), against which we could check the progress, see the trends and

¹³ It also should be mentioned that creation or abolishment of the community groups is a dynamic process. For instance, after we covered Marneuli Municipality under this Research, new organisations appeared there, while some of those registered in our database are planning (to the best of our knowledge) to cease their activities.

¹⁴ At this stage, the generalised outcomes of the Research do not include: social enterprises (despite the fact that they very often are similar to CBOs in essence); community radio stations and community groups created on the protest wave (mainly environmental issues. For instance, protesting against construction of Hudoni HPP); neither did the Report cover the solidarity initiative groups created to address the problems brought about by the pandemic. These people, as a rule, come together to provide some assistance to their own community. After performing the single humanitarian activity, part of them (for instance: Youth for Khulo) disbanded.

arrive to certain conclusions. We hope that this Report and the attached CBO database will serve as a reference document in the future.

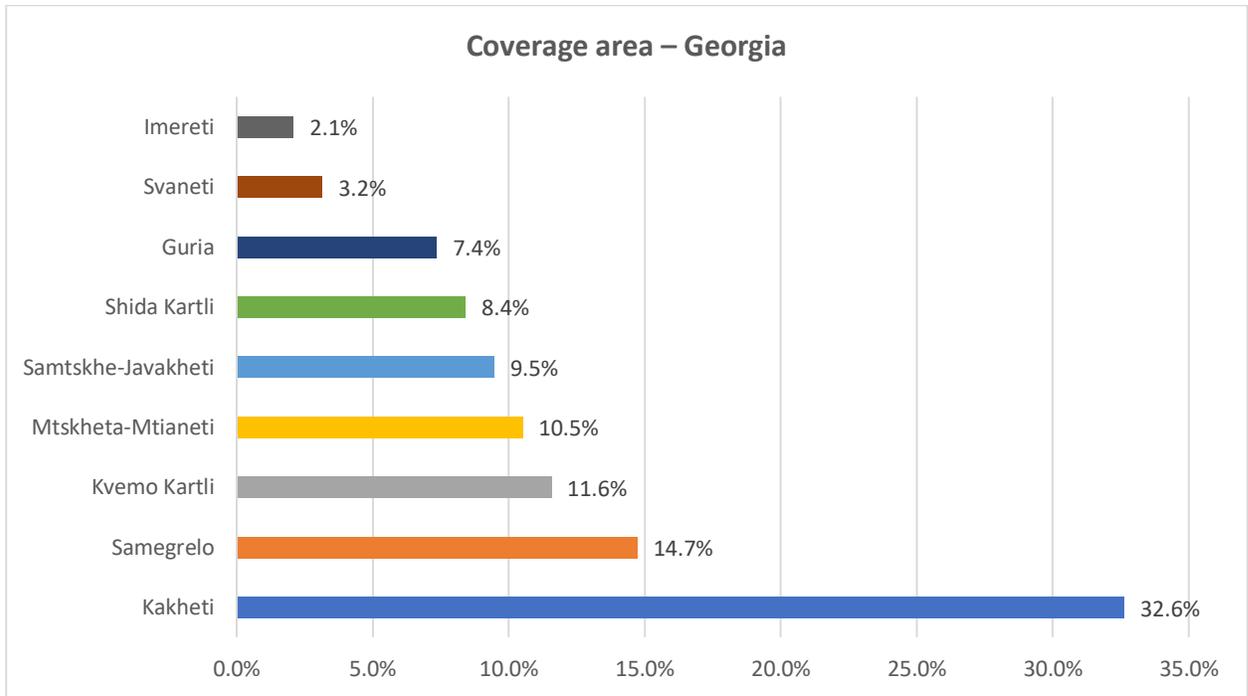
The abovementioned informational gaps can still be filled up, for instance, if we conduct the telephone survey of organisations that ceased their operations (according to the initial list – 83 organisations) and identify: the year of their registration; projects implemented; reasons for creation and cessation. This survey would allow reconstructing the past situation to the certain extent and analysing the future development data in the common context. As a whole, existence of the diverse and numerous community studies would provide us with the higher quality information for better understanding of these aspects of the civil processes underway throughout the modern history of Georgia.

4. Part 1 – General Characteristics of CBOs

4.1. Coverage Area, Experience and Reasons for Creation of Community Groups

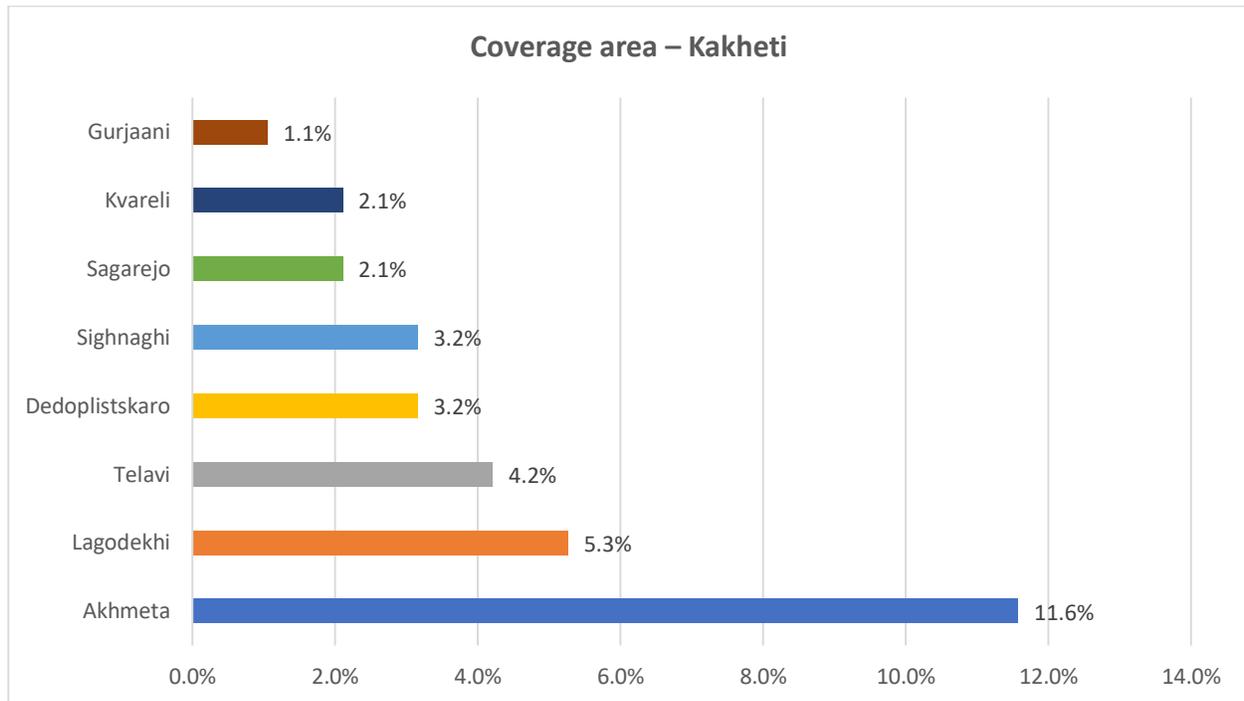
The survey demonstrated that the biggest number of active CBOs in Georgia is in Kakheti Region (32.6% = 31 organisations). Next follows Samegrelo (14.7% = 14 organisations), though the numbers here are almost 11.6% less than those of Kakheti (see Chart 1).

Chart 1. (percentage distribution)



In Kakheti itself, the biggest number of community groups/organisations can be found in Akhmeta Municipality (see Chart 2). Such load distribution can be explained by various reasons: for years Kakheti was the priority intervention region for various international and national organisations; the development programmes were implemented here, and this is especially true for Akhmeta Municipality with its Pankisi Valley, in particular. The other reason might be that there are branch offices of many international and national organisations represented in Kakheti, and this ensures closer local cooperation with various groups and initiatives, including provision of consulting in case necessary. Besides, there is a bunch of strong local organisations active in the region, and their programmes positively influence the community initiatives.

Chart 2 (percentage distribution)

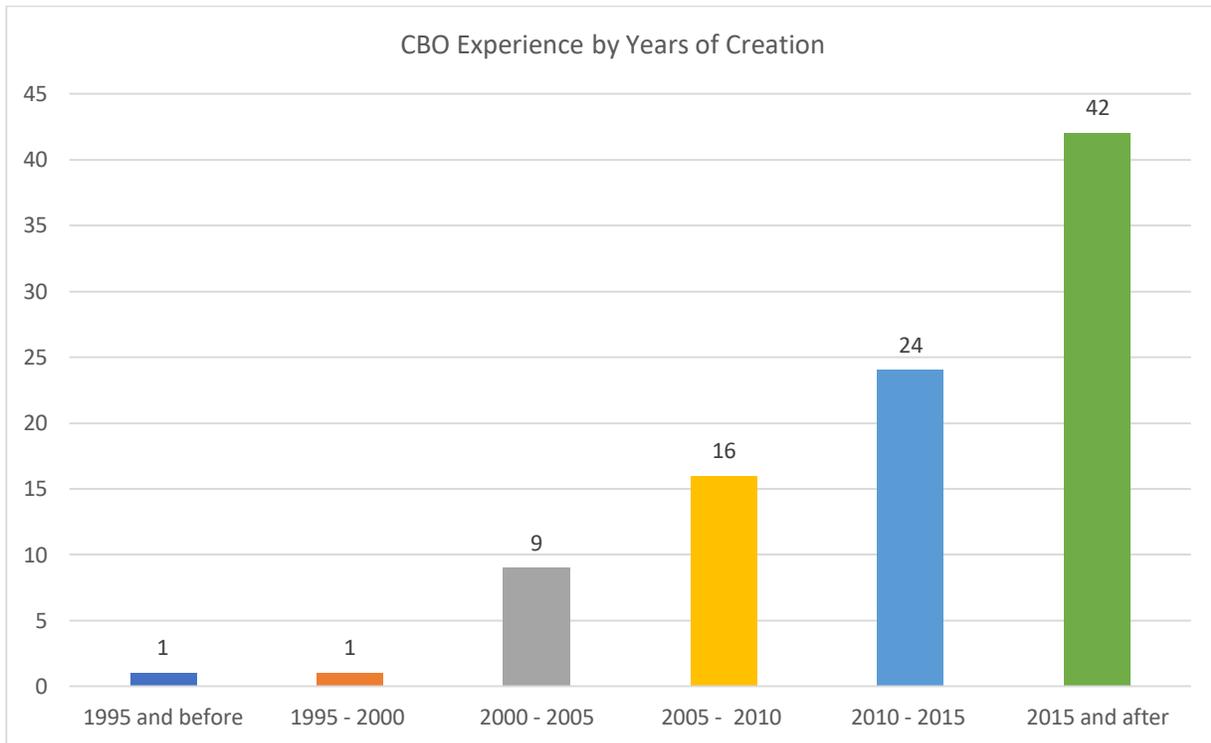


It should be mentioned that the biggest number of the first- and second-generation organisations (est. 1995, 2002, etc.) is also found in Kakheti.

The above circumstances can be considered an advantage for facilitation of the community self-organisation in the region, since, on the one hand, good examples are viral and, on the other hand, the coincidence of various factors create favourable environment for steering some processes. Obviously, the in-depth study might reveal some additional factors that can be important for the situation analysis. In general, the observations show that in those villages and communities, where some civil organisation has implemented this or that development programme, new projects and innovations are embraced with greater preparedness, than in those, where no such efforts were undertaken in the past. Certainly, there also are negative experiences in the locations, where the programs failed.

Many of the currently active CBOs (66 organisations) were created in 2010-2020, and these include youth self-organised groups and women initiative groups mobilised with the help from various programmes, as well as the self-organised groups in the mountain regions. 25 organisations created at the previous stage (2000-2010) are still active, and we can assume that approximately the same number have ceased their operations since then. If it will be possible to review database of CBOs active by 2025, we would be better able to see the creation-cessation dynamics and seek the root causes.

Chart 3 (percentage distribution)



It was also interesting for us to look into the issues of motivation for creation of community groups. 93 out of the 95 respondents answered this question. **39 out of them created their organisation due to an 'external opportunity'** (project of NGO or international organisation that implied creation of the community group and mobilisation elements; or the announced grant programme, which required the CBO participation); for **32 organisations leading reason was personal or like-minded group's desire to commence self-activities**, notwithstanding the external factors and opportunities, while **22 organisations considered the external factors and personal or like-minded people's desire the equally important factors**. To put it in the other words, they wanted to start working in their village for changes, they saw the need for self-organising, and this coincided in time with the various external opportunities, which made the decision easier for the group leader/leaders.

As mentioned above, the external opportunities (which is a significant pre-requisite for the commencement of community activism and plays the role of the incentive) imply community mobilisation programmes carried out in the region by the various civil/international organisations. Such programmes may cover various topics: **education, consultancy and access to small-scale funding**. Such an approach (in consideration of all the components) proved to be quite efficient not only for the purposes of strengthening the specific groups, but also, in the first place, for creation of the environment favourable for community activism. Another important approach implies **ensuring maximum access to the non-formal education at the community level and building capacities of the community leaders**. As a rule, exactly these community leaders become the initiators of creation of various local groups, will it be the single-activity groups aiming towards resolution of one specific problem, or longer-term-oriented community initiatives.

It should be mentioned that in the future, the respective actors shall pay more attention to implementation of community development programmes in those regions, which, as seen from the Chart 3, are distinguished for the smaller number of active local organisation. Also, we believe it is reasonable to provide the special support (technical, financial) to those groups that were created solely self-initiated without any external opportunities, and that often experience serious lack of funding and other means.

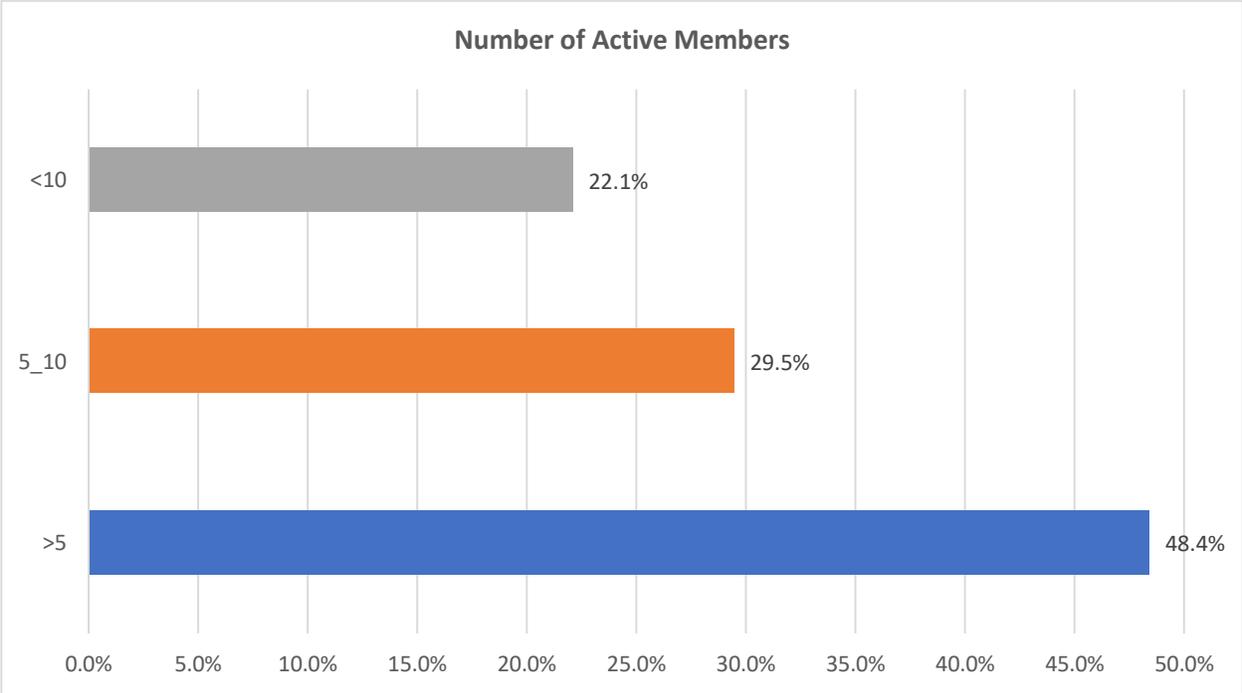
4.2. Structure of Community Groups

4.2.1. Number of Members

The question about number of the active members in the organisation (see Chart 4) was answered by 93 respondents. Number of members in many of them (48.4%) does not exceed 5; 5-10 members can be found in 29.5%, while 22.1% state that they have more than 10 members.

Were this question broken down in more detail in the questionnaire, most probably, it would appear that the majority of groups have just 1-3 active members, and these numbers largely depend on the specific community leader, who manages to gather the small groups of like-minded people around himself.

Chart 4 (percentage distribution)



In general, it would be desirable to include into the future CBO development supporting activities the measures for broadening the circles of the like-minded people, and it also would be reasonable to commence the discussions on possible forms and approaches thereof.

It also should be mentioned here that self-organised groups of the Azerbaijani community are distinguished for number of their active members, volunteers and like-minded persons; the number of volunteers in them often reaches 50-90 young persons. Such groups establish high culture of participation, involvement.

4.2.2. Gender and Age Composition of Community Groups

The big part of CBOs includes women: over 75% of women in 50 organisations and 50-75% of women in 17 (see Charts 5 and 6 / 94 responses). This situation, along with the other reasons, can be explained by the fact that there are numerous local organisations and international programmes working on the various aspects of rural women empowerment in the regions of Georgia. Often, such programmes imply self-organisation of women-groups and, hence, promote the community-based activism in the country. As for the organisations in which men prevail, these are mainly the groups active in mountain areas (Tusheti Council, for instance) or created around some infrastructural projects (RDA Partners, for instance).

Chart 5 (quantity indicators)

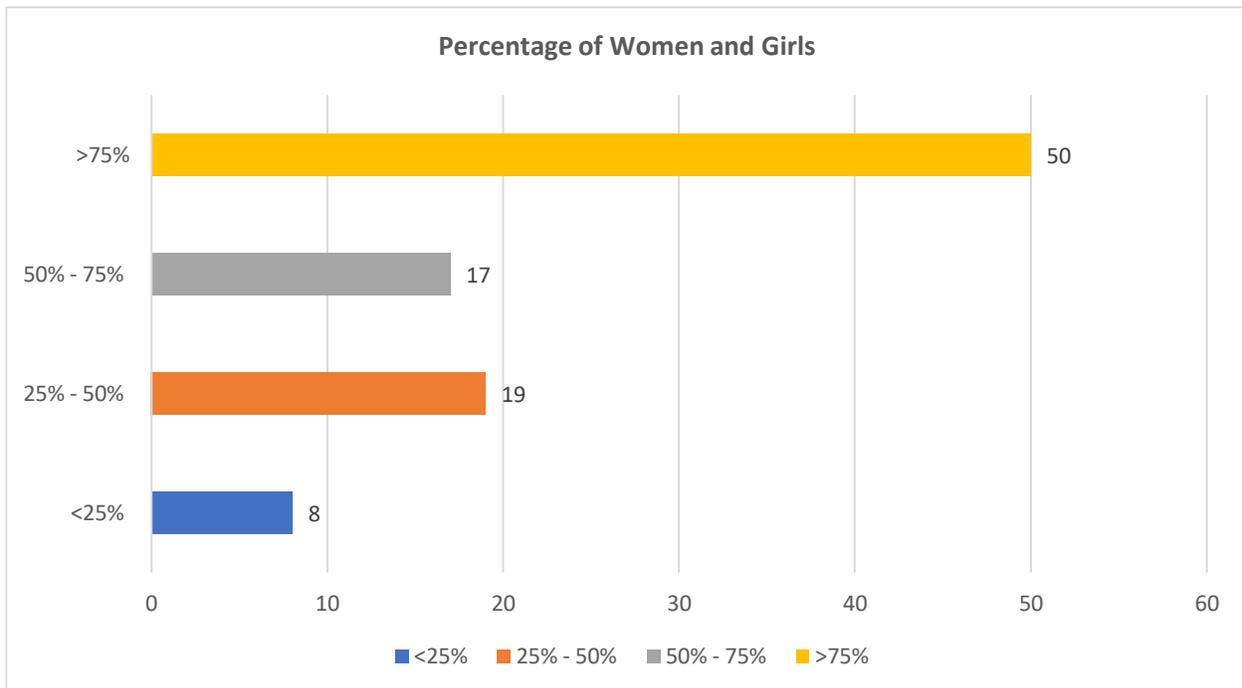
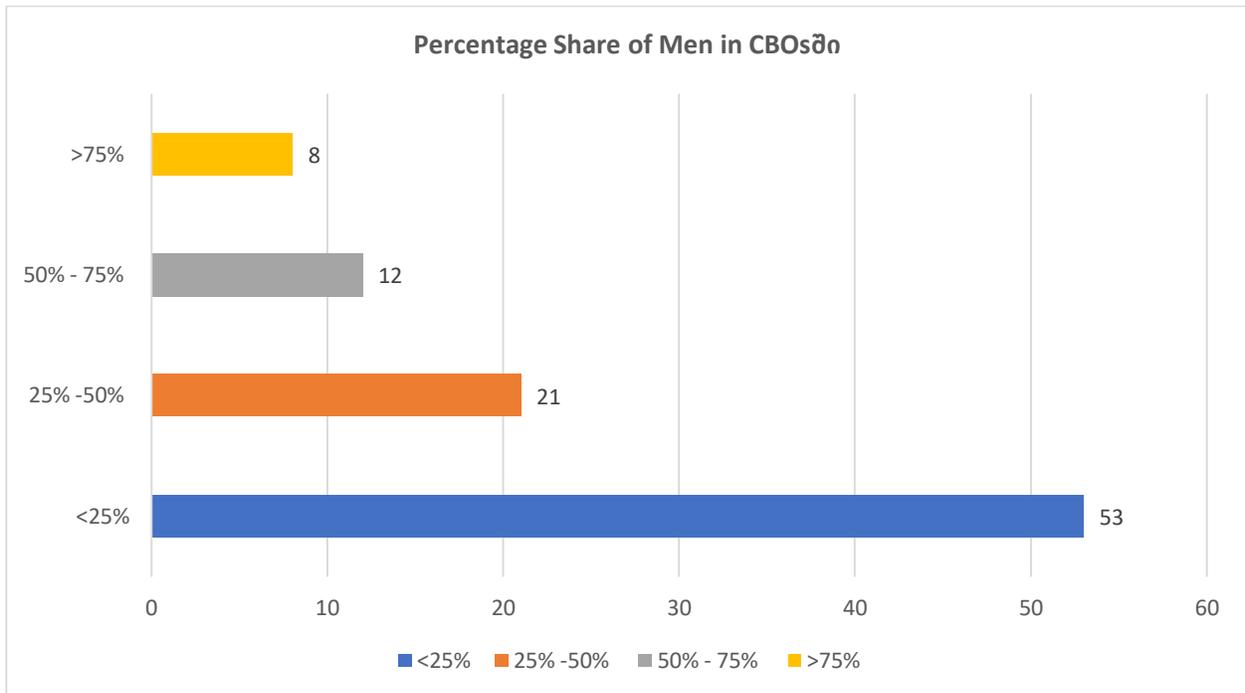
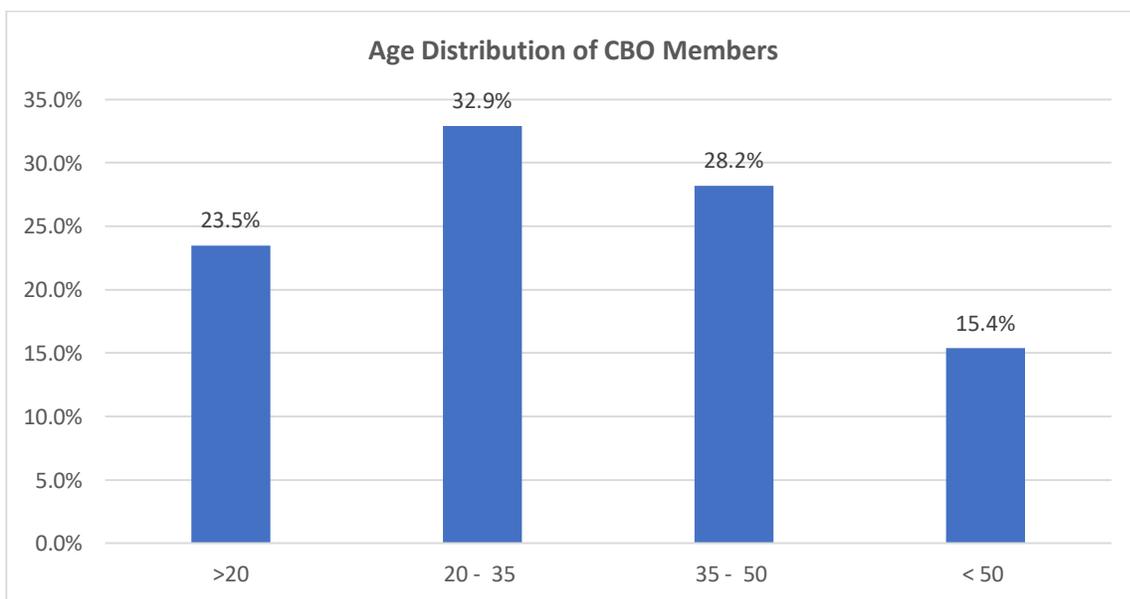


Chart 6 (quantity indicators)



As for the age composition, the CBOs are quite diverse; it can be said that all age groups from 20 to 50 are involved in community activism (see Chart 7). It also should be mentioned here that the majority of the self-organised groups created without any external support/opportunities represent the youth groups.

Chart 7 (percentage distribution)



4.2.3. Dynamics of CBO Member Numbers and Numbers of Volunteers

50.5% of the CBOs have the same number of members as they had in moment of creation, although, the member composition might change; such changes, as a rule, do not relate to group leaders. The number of members has grown only in 34.4% (as revealed by the inquiry, partially on the account of hired staff), while reduction of the member numbers was observed in 15.1%. This trend might indicate towards the weakness of the internal organisational dynamics and that various groups are rarely able to expand the circle of the like-minded persons (main core) and mobilise the new members around the community idea (see Chart 8 / 95 responses).

Situation with the involvement of volunteers into the CBO activities – which is extremely important factor for the community activism – is far from perfect. In the conditions of insufficient human and financial resources, exactly the volunteers represent the force that can enable resolving the smaller-scale village/community problems and give higher legitimation to the activities of local groups. 95 respondents answered the question on the number of volunteers involved into their activities: 52.5% of them claimed to have up to 10 volunteers, while 31.6% stated that they can mobilise up to 30. It should be mentioned that highest volunteer participation (50-90) can be observed in CBOs from Azerbaijani communities (see Chart 9 / 95 responses).

Chart 8 (percentage distribution)

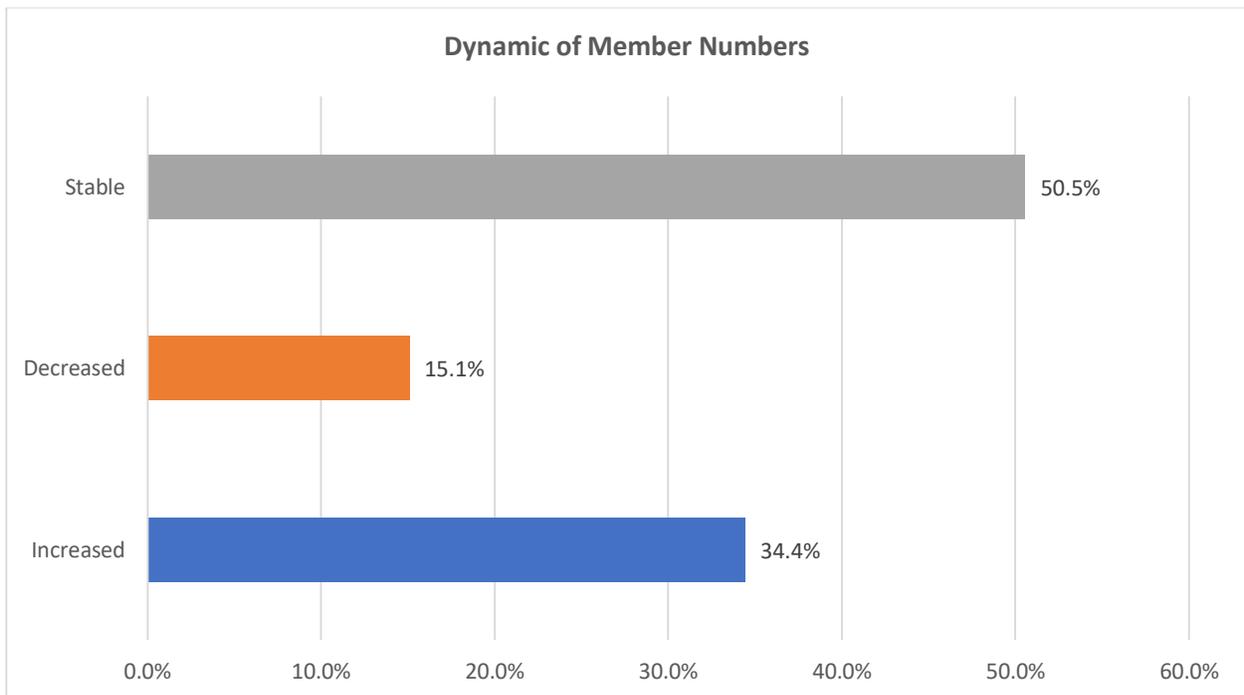
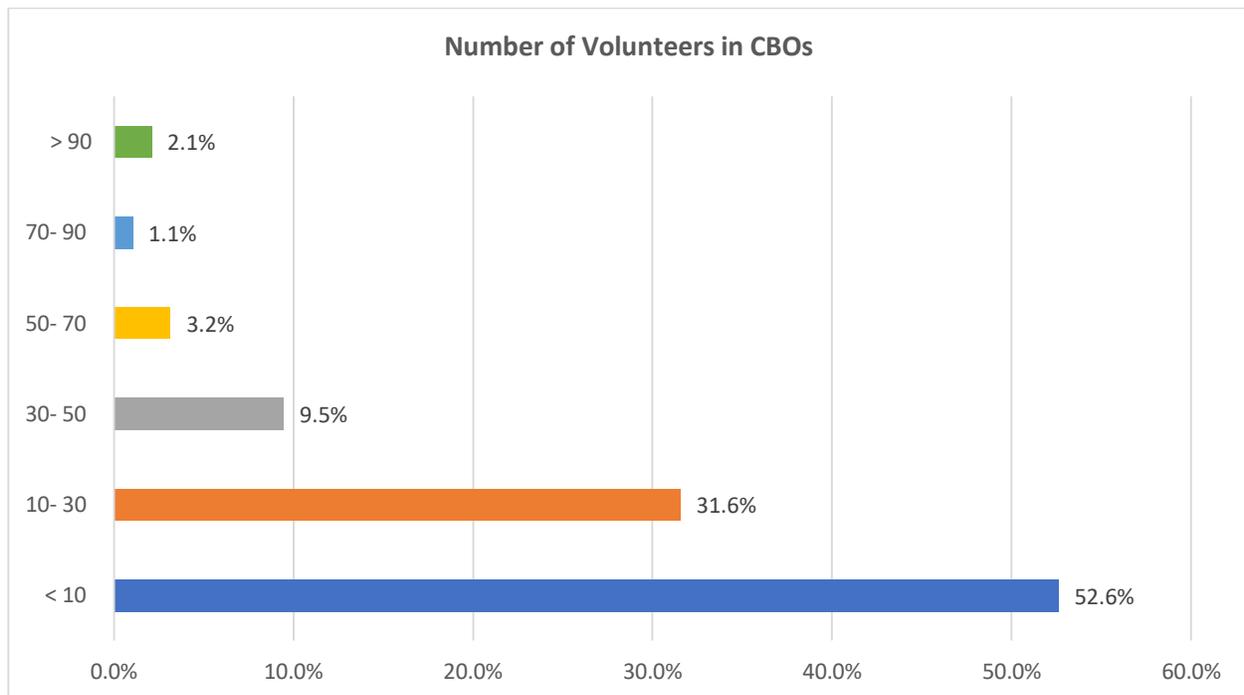


Chart 9 (percentage distribution)



4.3. CBO ACTIVITIES

4.3.1. Activity Areas and Forms of Systematic Activities

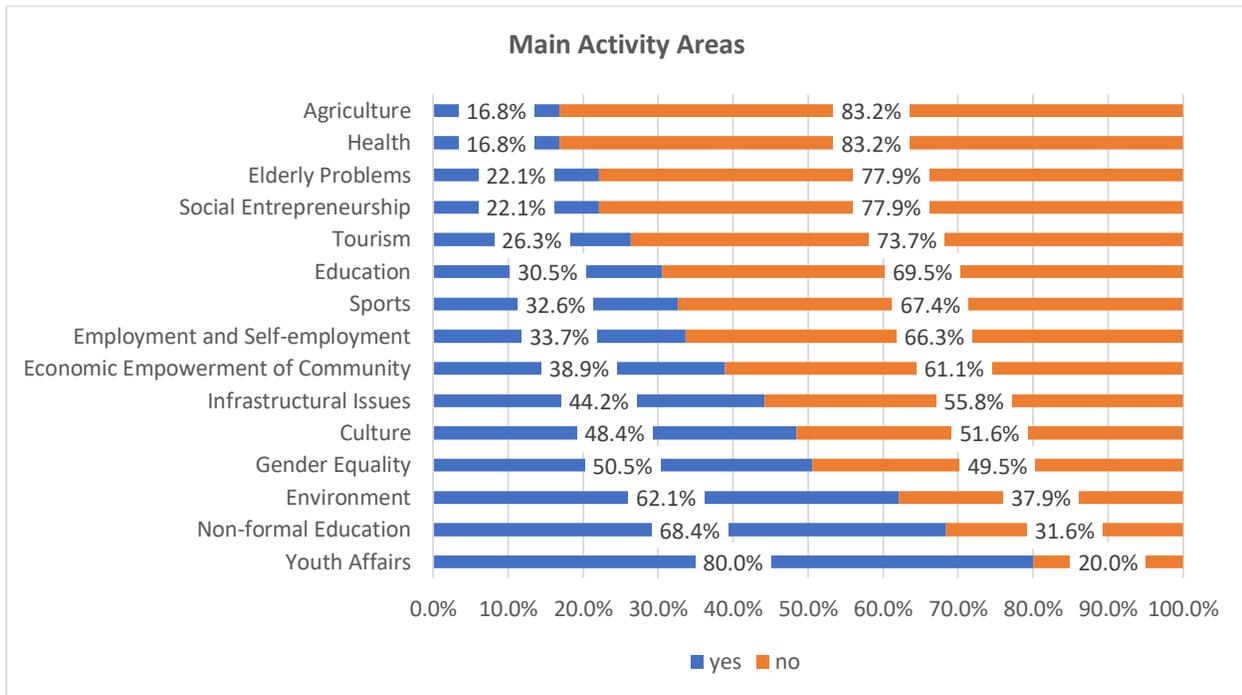
The goal of the question on the activity was to find out the main areas of interest of currently existing CBOs. In the future, it would be necessary to add the disabled persons topics to the answer options.

The main areas of activity of the currently existing CBOs are as follows: youth issues and programmes (80.0%), non-formal education (68.4%), environmental issues (62.1%), gender equality issues (50.5%), etc. (see Chart 10)¹⁵.

It would be interesting to compare these data with the statistics of organisations active in 2000-2010, which, unfortunately is not possible due to the non-existence of the respective studies. The comparison would allow us understanding what issues were important then, how the priorities changed and what were the reasons for such changes: the agendas of international and national organisations implementing community development programs, improvement of the services provided by the state in some areas or anything else. In general, we see less involvement of community groups in the areas where the state strengthened its role (i.e., infrastructural projects, day centres for the persons with disabilities, etc.), and their focus shifts to the areas lacking attention from the state actors.

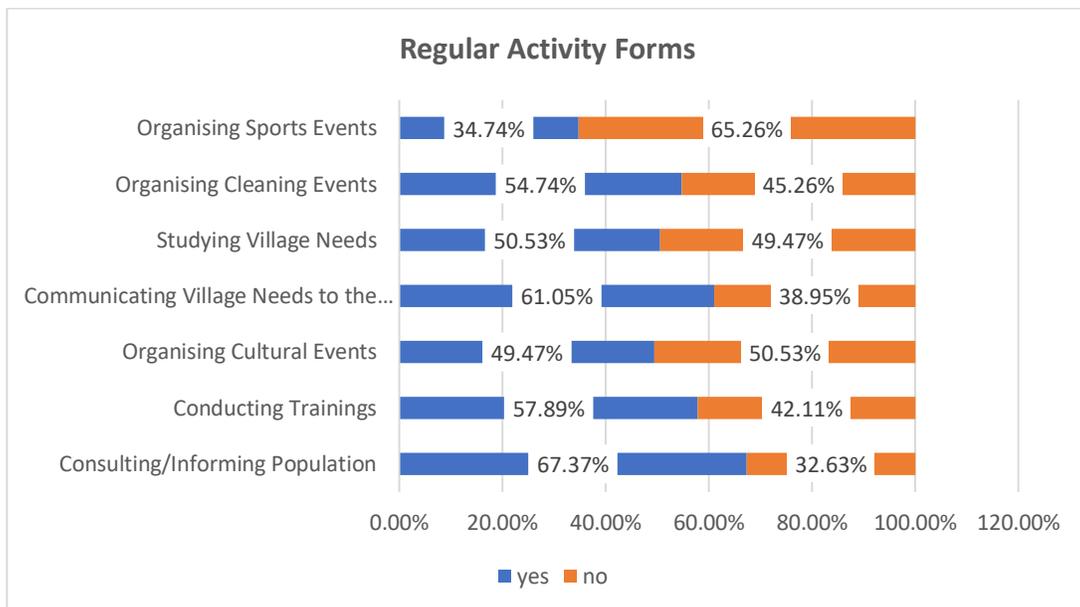
¹⁵ High numbers of groups working on women issues and of the women's CBOs in general can be explained by the long-standing activities of TASO Foundation on the one hand, and by the active contribution of UN Women in the target regions (Samegrelo and Kakheti) within the recent years, on the other.

Chart 10 (percentage distribution)



Distribution of the answers to the question on the forms of activities performed by the CBOs more or less regularly and stably was as follows: 67.37% systematically provides consultations and informs population on various topics; 61.05% – communicates information on the local problems to the government; 57.89% systematically conducts various meetings and trainings. Besides these, quite regularly the village cleaning actions (54.74%) and surveys for identification of local needs (50.53%) are being organised.

Chart 11 (percentage distribution)



The data demonstrate that the CBOs have high potential of becoming the mediation link between local population and municipal governments. They, in particular, can annually (at least) investigate the local problems, arrange meetings on the problems identified and communicate this information to the municipal governments. It would be desirable to equip the CBOs with the better survey skills: for instance, in order to study problems in the village, it is necessary to develop unified approach and questionnaire that will be easily available for any stakeholder group (this, for instance, can be done on basis of the community development resource-centre).

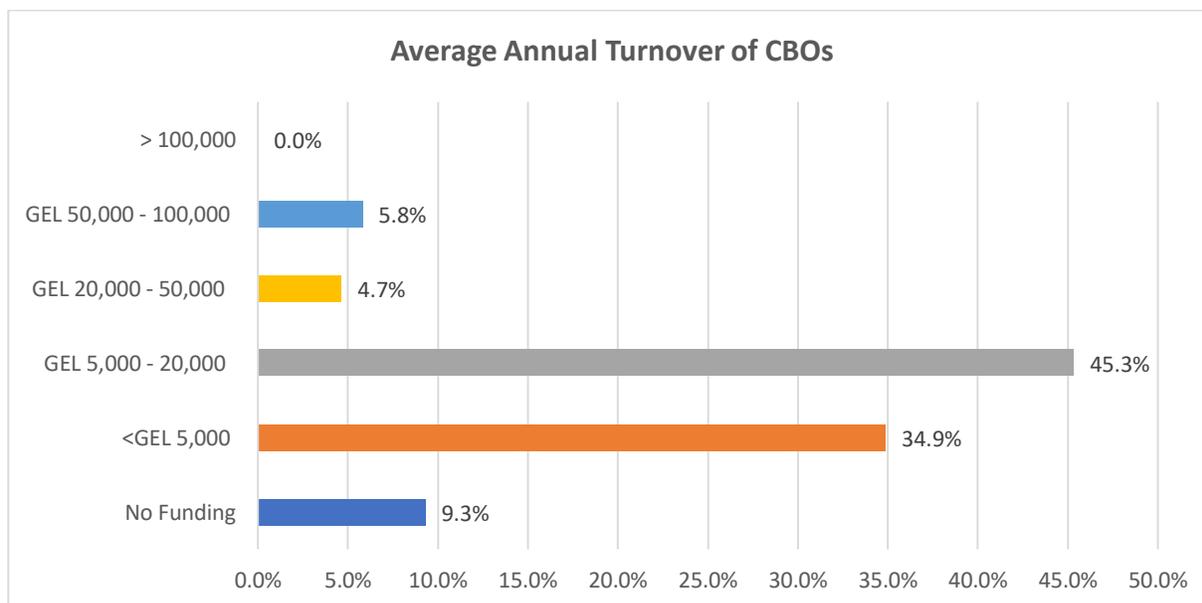
Along with such intermediary function, the important role of the CBOs as the non-formal education and informational-consultancy centres is clearly visible. It should be discussed, what are the options for building non-formal education capacities of the community centres, what forms of cooperation with Community Education Centres (Dvv International) can be applied, what kind of modules shall be introduced, etc. As for the consultancy, it is possible to better train the CBO representatives in this area (existing state programmes, small-scale project writing, etc.) and let them serve the villagers, since most of them are already doing this. We consider important empowerment and support of the community organisations in the mentioned areas.

4.3.2. Annual Turnover, Main Funding Sources, Access to Funding (Projects Implemented)

Annual turnover: Annual turnover of 80% of the interviewed CBOs (86 responses out of 95) does not exceed GEL 20,000 (see Chart 12). 34.4% out of them have funding up to GEL 5,000, and the remaining 45.3% – in the range of GEL 5,000-20,000. Only experienced and ‘old’ groups are receiving funding over GEL 20,000. However, they often have a features of local CSOs, rather than of CBOs. In the other words, they are growing and transitioning from the community level to the level of quite strong local NGOs.

It should be mentioned that 9.3% of the groups have no funding whatsoever. These are mainly self-organised youth groups with relatively smaller experience (1-2 years) that carry out various small-scale voluntary activities. However, they are not stable, and their activities are fragmented. Better involvement of such groups into the community programmes is desirable.

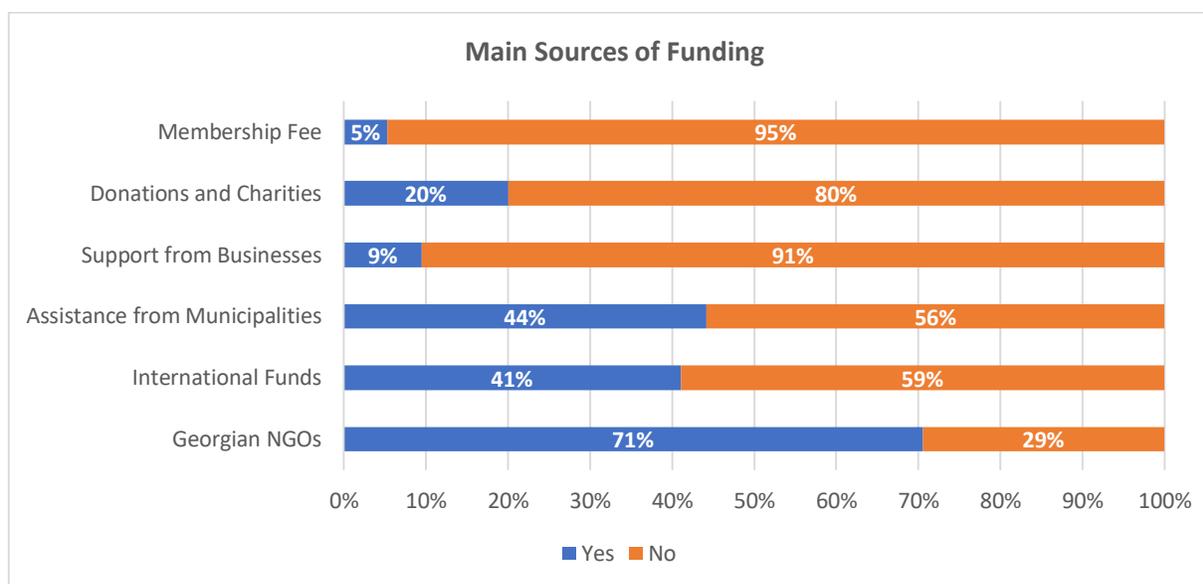
Chart 12 (percentage distribution)



The **main source of funding** (71.0%) are the NGOs working in Georgia (which, in their turn, are funded by the international donors). 41% also names the international funds as the main source, although, this does not mean that they have the direct access to grants of these international funds (see Chart 13); most frequently, they refer to the situations, when funding is performed by the international donor via the national CSO.

Access to the international grant programmes remains the big problem for CBOs. For instance, at the stage of on-line interviewing, the team of interviewers of this Research encountered the problems, because part of the CBOs does not possess any internet-communication skills and is unable to use the e-mail; this, in the most cases, is further aggravated by the fact that the group members often do not speak English. These two factors, not to mention the other obstacles, are sufficient for depriving CBOs of the direct access to the funding from international donors (including those, working in Georgia).

Chart 13 (percentage distribution)



As for the municipal funding (44.0%), after asking additional questions it was revealed that this is either the co-funding mechanism or technical assistance, since it is required by the various donor organisations. This trend shall be retained, because, probably, this is the main reason, why CBOs are establishing relations with the local governments and trying to convince them at all. Here we can see the signs of emerging dialogue and, quite possibly, in the longer-term, this might become the positive factor for raising the culture of cooperation between the sectors.

20% of the interviewed groups name the donations and charities as their funding source; however, it should be mentioned that this, as a rule, is rather periodic then systematic, and cannot be considered the stable source of income. In general, how this component (the share of donations and charities in community activities) can be increased, deserves more consideration and discussion. For instance, it might be interesting to share the practices and examples, like those of the Knowledge Cafe – Put Your Brick, or of Orbeliani-Georgian Platform – Orbeliani More, etc.

Meanwhile, there are the local examples of fund mobilisation and civil/community solidarity in Georgia (especially in the pandemic period, but not only). For the future, we consider reasonable to better

study these examples and develop certain formats that can be piloted in various communities. The goal of such formats should be ensuring involvement of the broader strata of population into the community problem solution process, both at the village/community and country or the municipality levels in general.

Number of implemented projects (see Charts 14 and 15 / 95 responses): despite the fact that the question was about the projects implemented during the last three years with the external funding, many organisations included here also events, since not all of them have the project implementation experience. Taking into consideration these circumstances, 47.4% of the CBOs have implemented 1-5 projects (events) during the last 3 years, 14.7% – 5-10, and 34.7% – more than 10. Answer ‘None’ was given by 3.2%. The latter include those CBOs that were more active 3 years ago, and now, due to various subjective or objective reasons, have temporarily suspended their activities; however, they still consider themselves active and hope that they will be able to perform at the community level again.

Whether the organisation will or will not temporarily suspend its activities, largely depends on leader, one person. Practice shows that in case the leader experiences some problems and abandons the community-related activities, often, the group stops entirely. This circumstances once again stress that, at the current stage of development, CBOs are still largely depending on the personalities and their institutional foundations are too weak. Almost no rotation, transfer of duties and continuation, internal delegation, attraction of new staff and like-minded persons or, for instance, leader replacement can be observed (see Chart 8 on dynamics of CBO members).

The fact that project funding is so low, can often be explained by the external factors, and by the lack of such funding opportunities, in particular. Interviews with the CBOs left us with the impression that they can do much more locally and are prepared to bear the responsibility, despite often obvious lack of the human resources.

Chart 14 (percentage distribution)

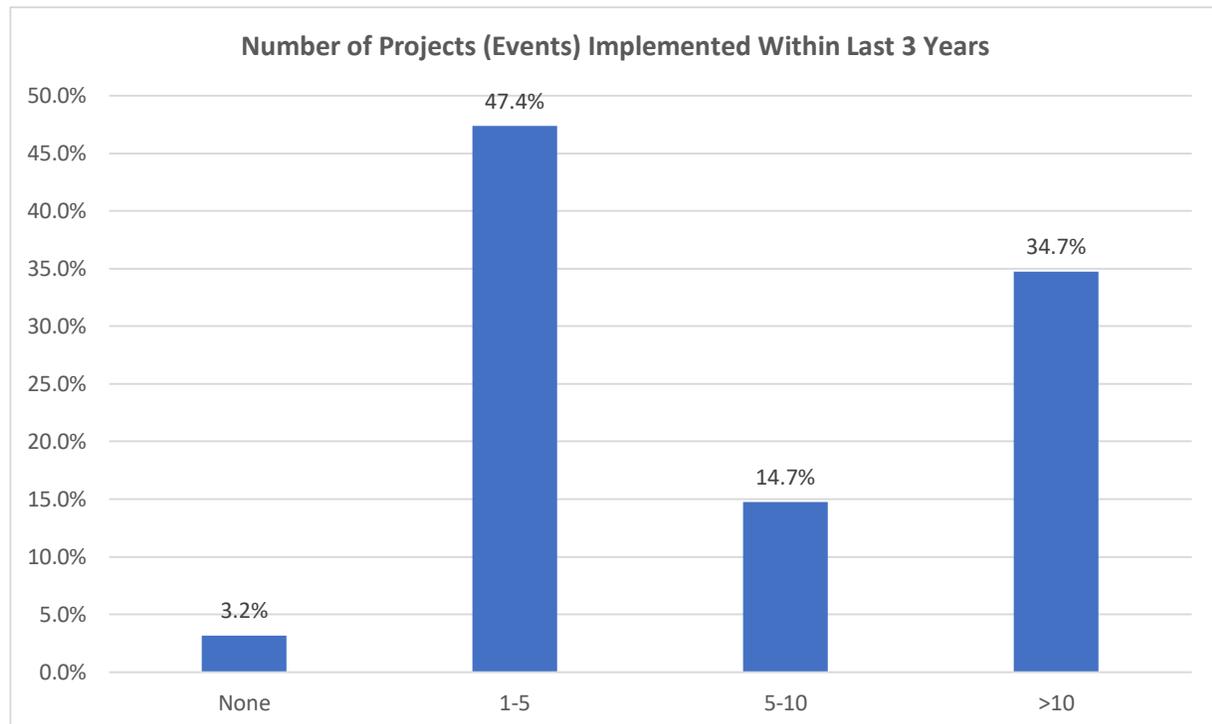
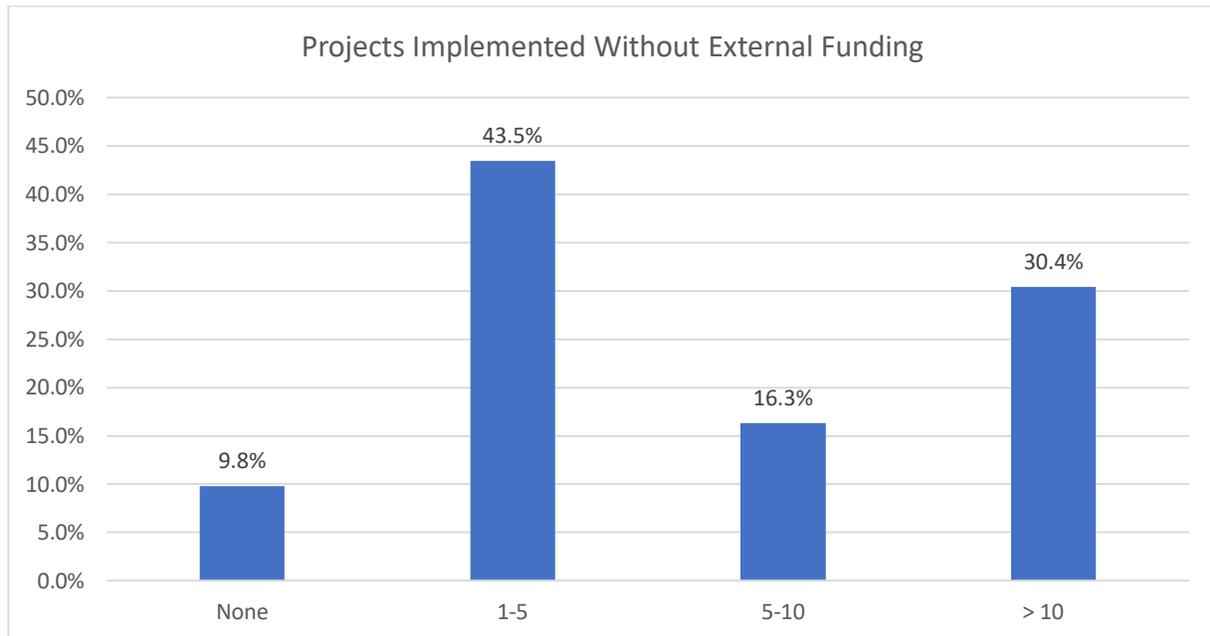


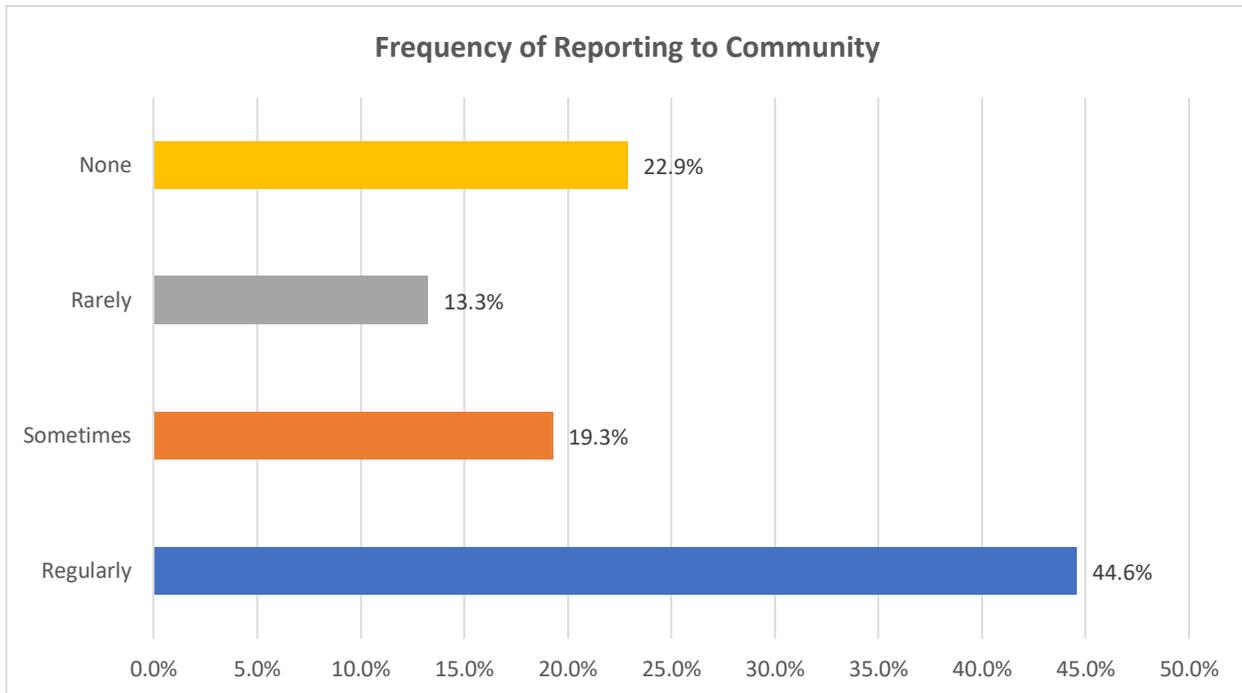
Chart 15 (percentage distribution)



4.3.3. Culture of Accountability to Community

CBOs' **accountability to the community** is often linked with the projects, too. To the question 'how often do your CBO reports to the community?', only 44.6% of the interviewed (83 responses) answered 'regularly' and claimed that the reporting depends on the project (in case of existence of the specific project, it is done in the beginning and in the end). Unfortunately, the questionnaire did not allow us investigating, in what form the reporting is performed: through the face-to-face meetings, general meetings, distribution of the informational leaflets, etc. Many CBOs mention social networks as the reporting platform. In this case, they might reach out to the certain part of the community, but its less probable that they are able to cover all the village groups.

Chart 16 (percentage distribution)



25% of the interviewed say that their motivation for reporting is attracting donors. However, for the majority of those CBOs that regularly report to the community (in various forms), important and prevailing motivation factors are exactly the feed-back from the community and transparency (see Chart 17).

Better informing the community on the goals, plans, projects, etc. of the CBO is an important prerequisite for gaining trust. Without the trust from the community, legitimation of the CBOs will remain low. It should be mentioned that in 2011-2012, when number of meetings on the main issues and obstacles in the development process was conducted in the various villages, one of the problems listed was exactly the lack of trust from population towards community leaders. That analyses and discussions were related to the experiences of 2000-2010 period. Current surveys do not put the issue of trust so high on the list, and self-esteem of the CBOs is much higher now (see Chart 18). Despite this, the frequency of CBO reporting shall increase, and it is desirable to cover as many different stakeholder groups, as possible. Accordingly, the reporting forms also need to be discussed.

Chart 17 (percentage distribution)

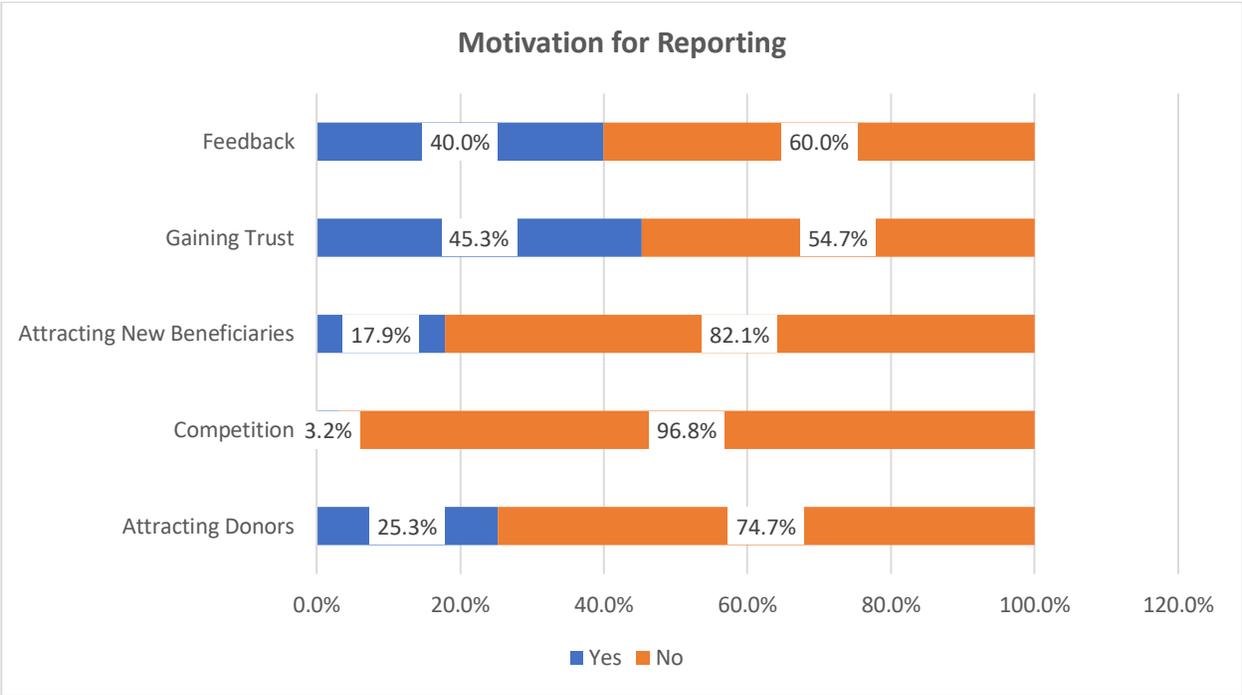
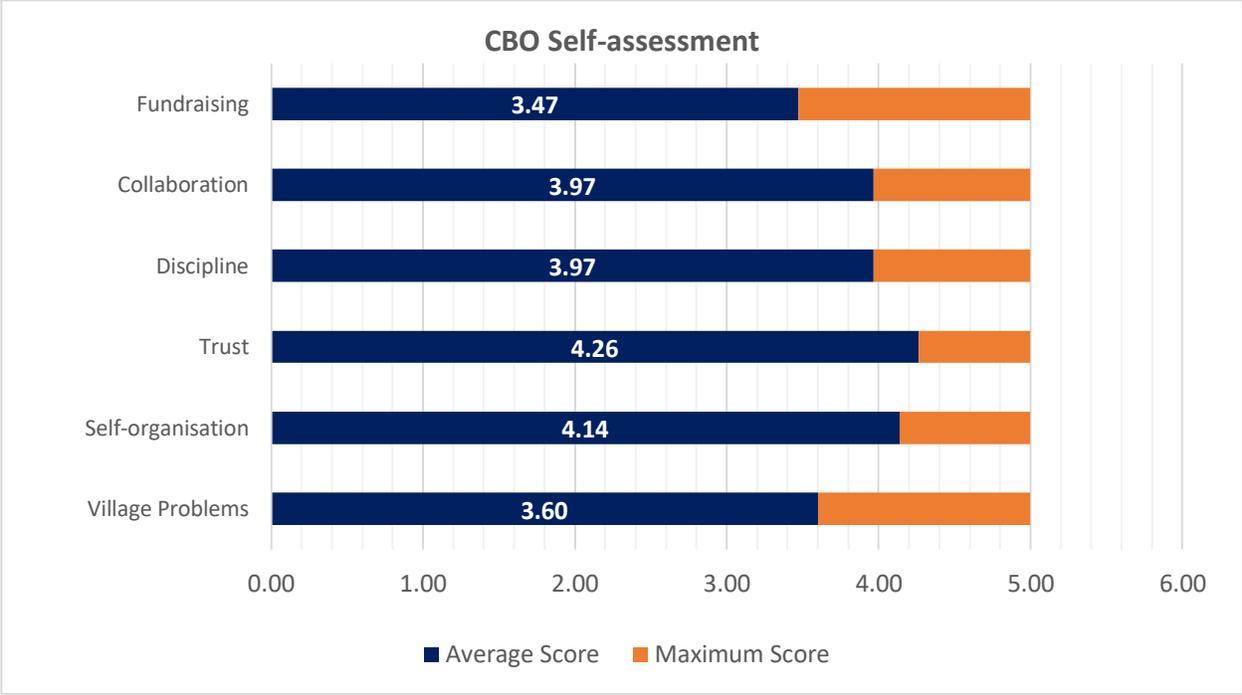


Chart 18 (average values)

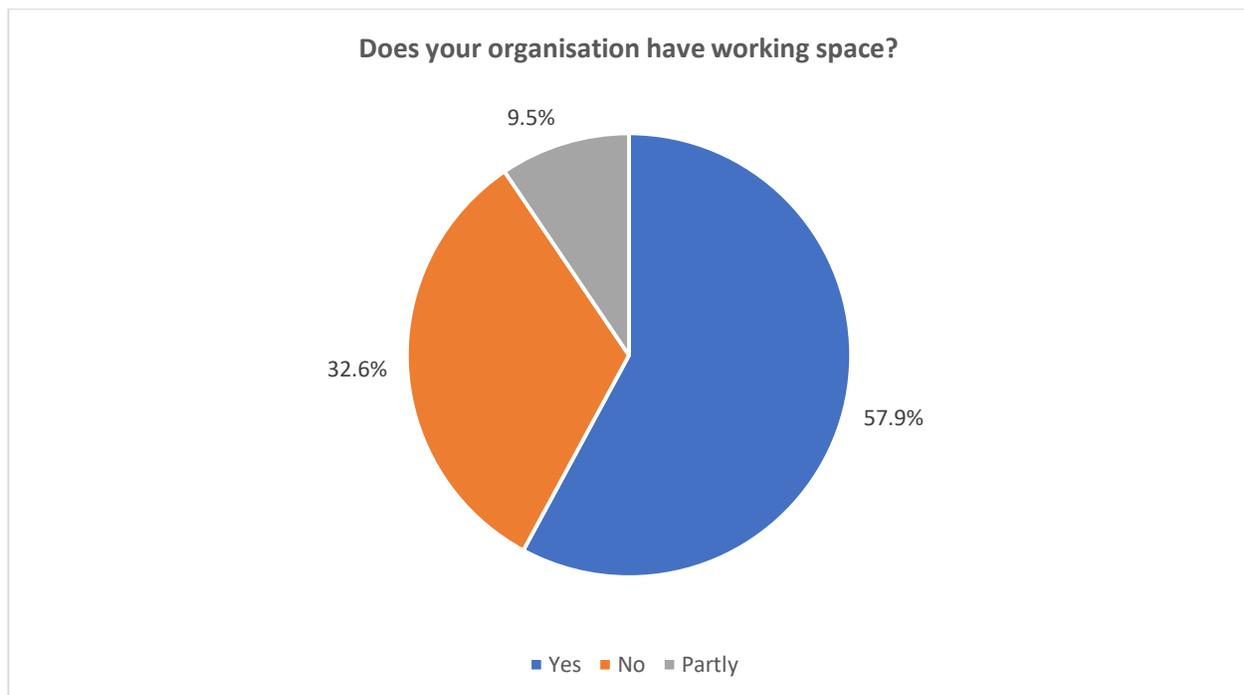


4.3.4. Obstacles to CBO Activities

Working space: traditionally, one of the main obstacles to CBO activities is non-existence of working space, community centres. The thing is that public property rights are not properly distributed yet. Many buildings located in the municipalities are still in the custody of the Ministry of Economy, and their transfer requires number of bureaucratic procedures to be undertaken. Therefore, the local governments are unable to manage these properties according to their needs. As of today, though the part of the property has been returned to the municipalities, it was not done to the full extent. These circumstances are important, since the absolute majority of CBOs are working exactly from such public (village administration, former club or house of culture, village kindergarten) buildings.

First of all, it should be mentioned that 57.9% of the interviewed CBOs have the working space, while 9.5% think that they only partially possess such spaces. Here, those organisations are implied that have been allocated the working space temporarily or work from home, or whose issue is not finally resolved yet. It should be mentioned that the vast majority of CBOs from Azerbaijani communities have arranged the working space for their community activism right in their homes.

Chart 19 (percentage distribution)



It is thanks to the national organisations working on community issues that most of the CBOs have proper working spaces. This is considered the efficient approach to working with the communities and, therefore, space equipment and refurbishment sums are envisaged in the programmes.

The space allows conducting community events, ensuring regular gatherings of, or opinion exchange and discussion between the CBO members; it provides with the opportunities for community

members to visit and receive advice, etc. These offices fulfil the functions of community centres and these, donor refurbished spaces often host the village meetings and other important community events.

The following problem was identified: the offices in the public buildings are given to CBOs either under two-year usufruct (as required by the law) or based on the oral agreement. CBOs usually receive the funds for the space refurbishment from donors. The two-year contracts are threat-containing, as their term might not be extended (for instance, in case of appointment of the hostile official. There were such cases in reality); besides, due to lack of human resources and time, it is not easy at all for the CBOs to undergo all these complicated bureaucratic proceeding biannually. On the other hand, there are numerous cases, when such spaces were allocated to the CBO on basis of just an oral agreement, and there is no official document supporting such an arrangement. In the countries with the low political culture, such relationships might provide for certain 'control' and limitation of freedom of expression of the CBOs. Especially on the background of prevailing stereotype that all the NGOs are 'opposition'. These factors were mentioned by numerous respondents.

Obstacles: besides the survey of organisational structures and working spaces, we were interested in understanding the obstacles CBOs are facing in their daily routine. The question about the obstacles existing in the communities was answered by only 75 organisations, since this question was added to the questionnaire at the later stage.

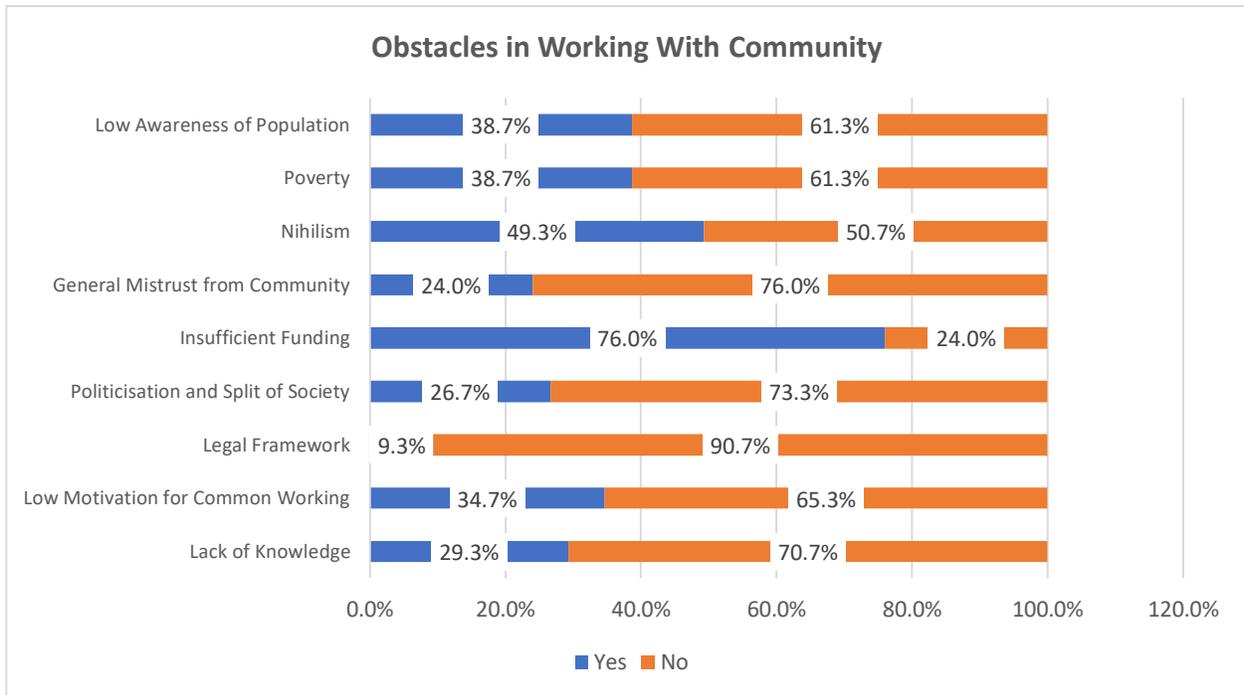
According to the respondents, the main obstacle is **insufficient funding (76.0%)**. Problem is lack of targeted (community level) funding; as well as insufficient information on various donors and grant programmes; competition from the stronger organisations; lack of knowledge on how to fill out the grant application and on the other important aspects; and bad knowledge of English. This last factor deprives even relatively developed CBOs of the possibility of directly participating in the programmes announced by the international organisations.

Besides funding, other problems also require attention: **poverty (38.7%), nihilistic attitudes (49.3%), lack of doing-business-together culture (24%)** in the communities. Combined, these answers show how heavy the situation is in communities in general. The efforts of just one CBO, however strong, will not be sufficient to resolve all of them. In such circumstances, the efforts of each of the community leaders directed towards achievement of the positive changes in their micro-universe shall be especially appreciated.

Politicisation of the society is perceived as a problem by 26.7% of the respondents. In an open discussion outside of the interviews, even more respondents named the problems arising due to a low political culture and affecting the activities of community groups. For instance, CBOs, just like the NGO sector in general, are always perceived as an opposition, and as soon as any of them poses some 'inconvenient' question or expresses any criticism, they are labelled as 'lurking' and 'oppositional', which almost totally excludes the further possibilities of collaboration with government. In order to retain the 'politically neutral' status (which is almost necessary pre-requisite for any CBO to be able to continue its activities), local groups are forced to avoid any mention of acute and problematic issues existing in the community, since the complications associated with such expression of positions (making relations with local self-government tense) adversely affects the entire work of the organisation. Such political agenda of 'ours-or-theirs' created and introduced by the local self-governments in some municipalities can be

considered as sort of the means for manipulating with the CBOs. This is further aggravated by the working space problems described above.

Chart 20 (percentage distribution)



5. Part 2: CBO External Affairs

5.1. CBO Networking and Mutual Cooperation

The questions about CBO networking were answered by 75 respondents (supplemental questionnaire). 76% out of them say that there are other similar CBOs active in their municipalities and only 67% state that they cooperate with the other groups (Charts 21 and 22).

The CBOs active in the same municipality not always have the sufficient information about each other. In case of more detailed questioning, they confirm that there are various groups, although, it seems that cooperation and links between them are weak. Also, it is very difficult to say exactly what is meant by the cooperation. It is hard to identify the specific forms of the cooperation through the questionnaire and in the future some clarification will be needed here. During the conversations outside of the interview we observed that often under cooperation they mean joint attendance at trainings or other events and real cooperation is more common between the CBOs of mountain municipalities, which can be explained by the specificities of their regions. However, we failed to notice the forms of cooperation, like uniting around the common municipality goals, setting strategic goals, advocating, etc.

Chart 21 (percentage distribution)

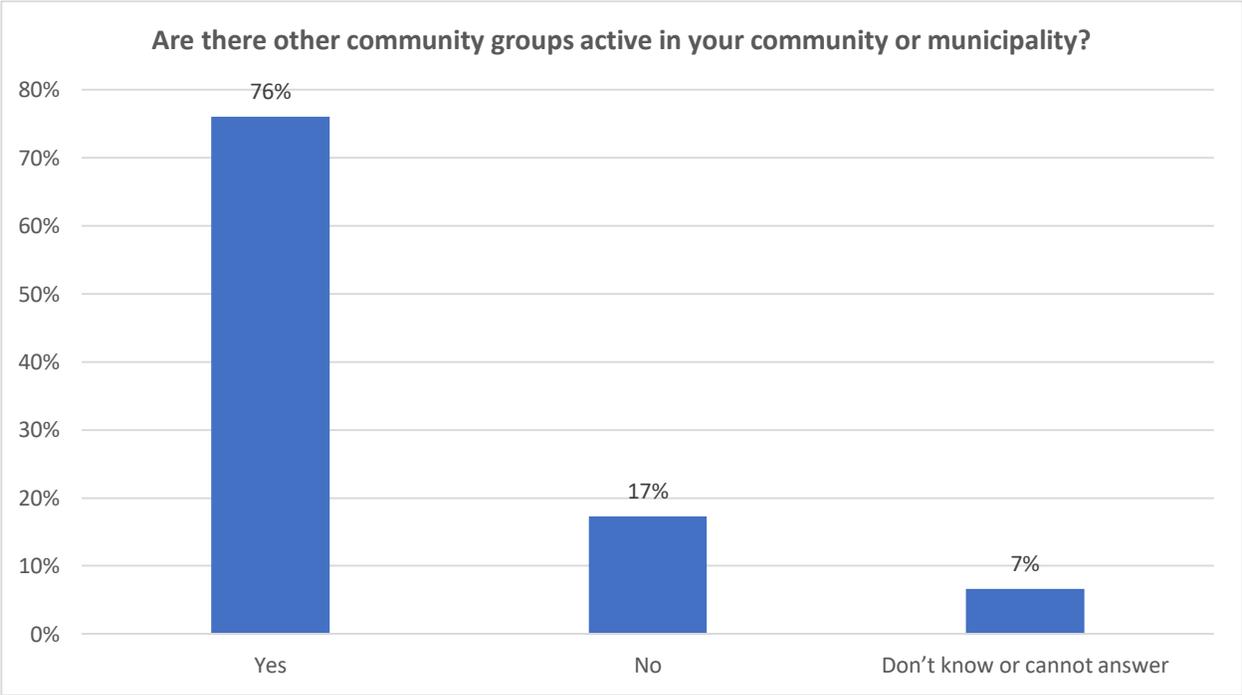
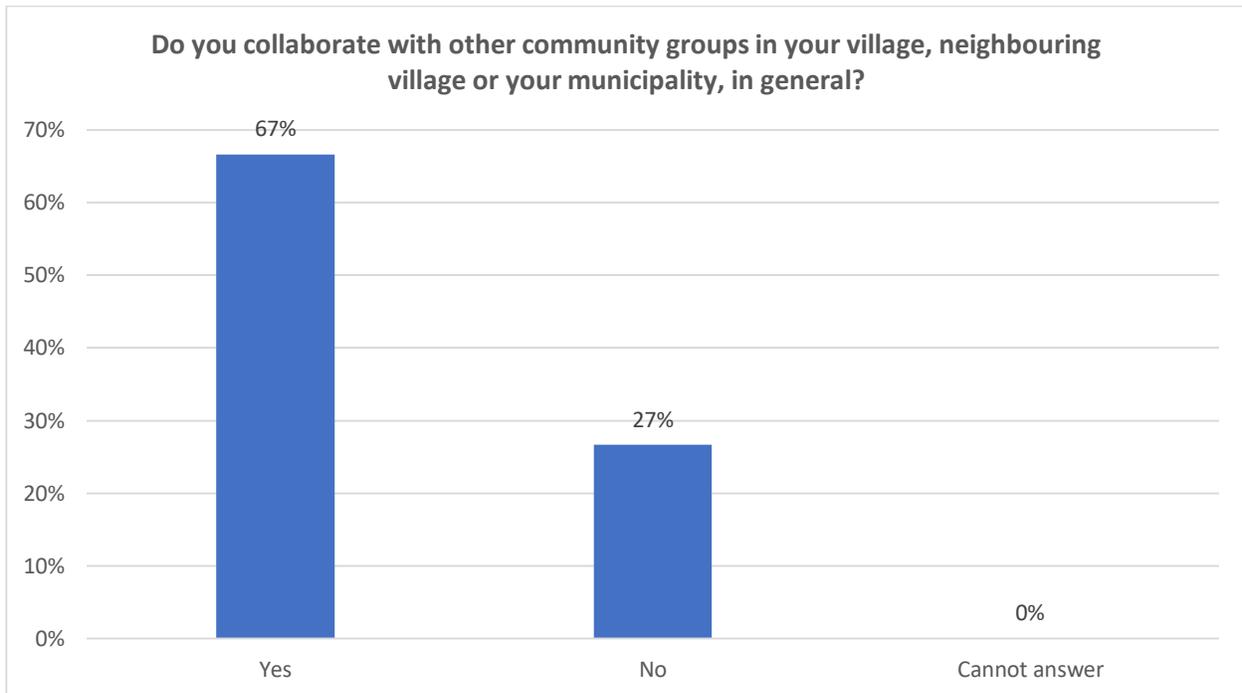


Chart 22 (percentage distribution)



5.2. Relations of CBOs with Central and Local Governments and Their Impacts

72.6% of the interviewed CBOs (82 responses to this question) has no relationship whatsoever with the central government. Such relationships were confirmed by 27.4%. 8.1% out of these claim that their relationships with the central government (various ministries and institutions) are good; 4.7% has average and 3.5% very good relationships (see Chart 23). These CBOs are mainly the youth groups that received the support from sports and youth grant programmes and gained the positive experience; or the organisations working in the field of environment that are also involved with the various programs of the respective structures. In most cases, the CBOs are unable to make their voice heard at the central level and, therefore, their impact is minimal (see Chart 24).

Chart 23 (percentage distribution)

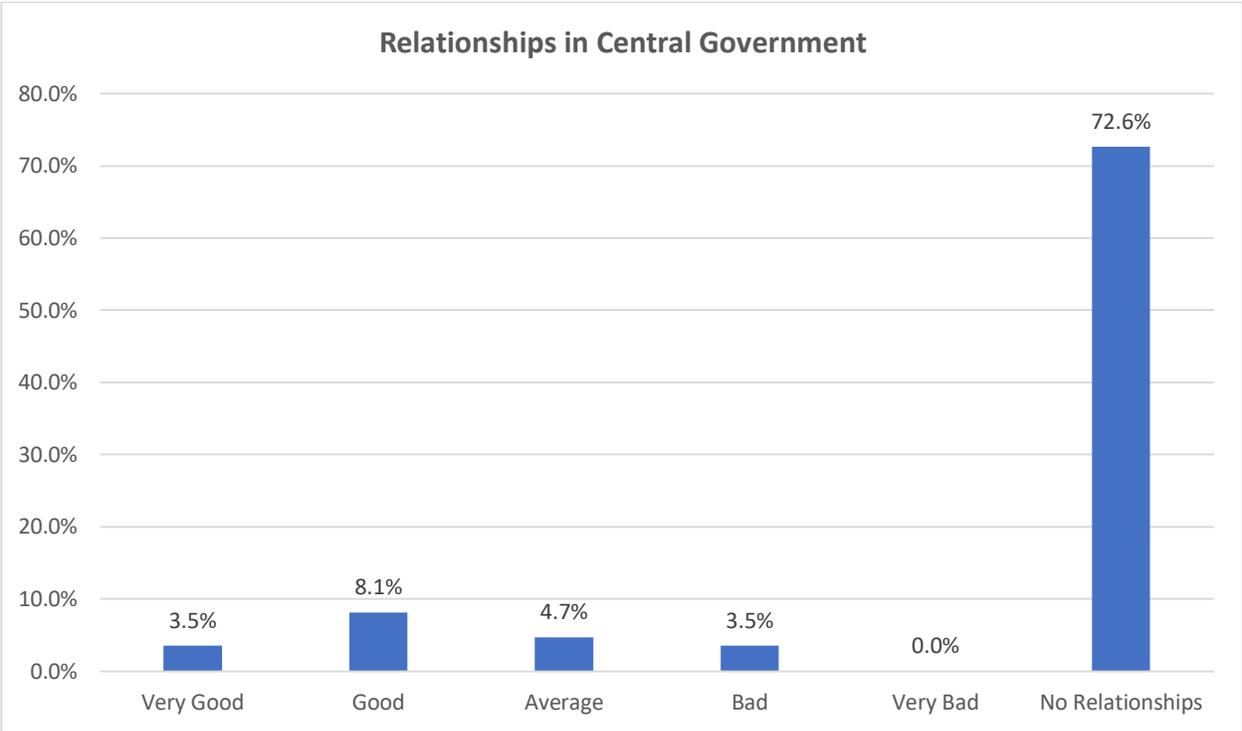
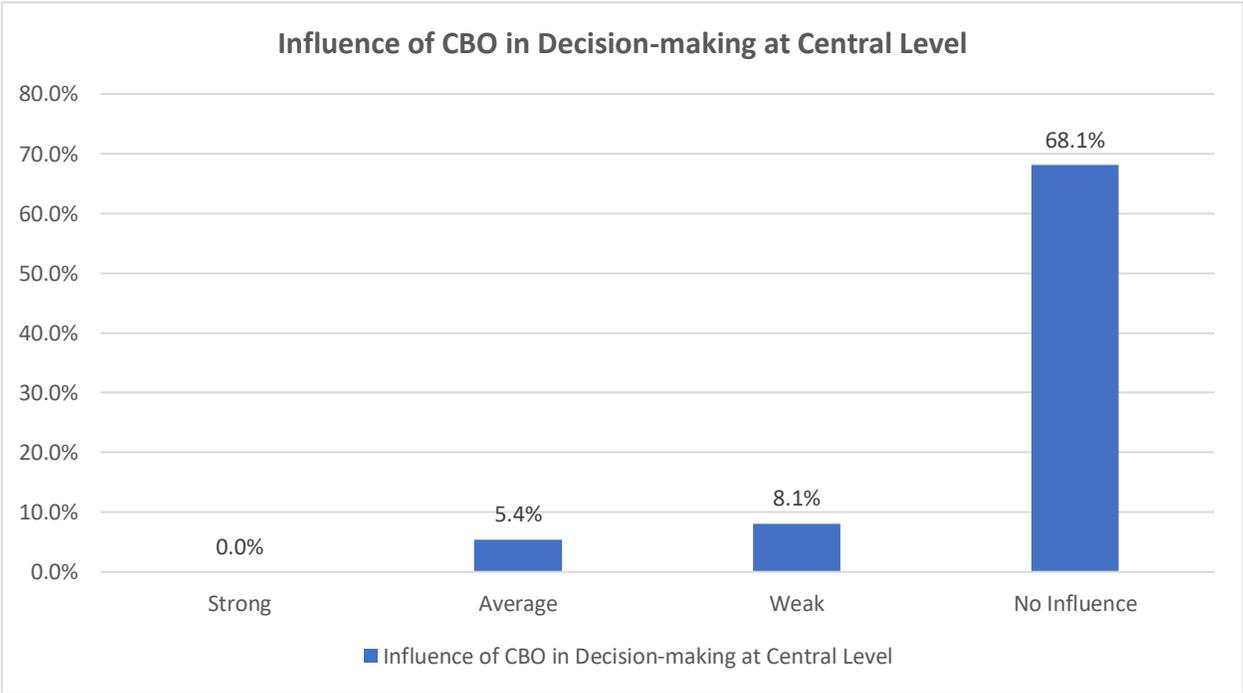


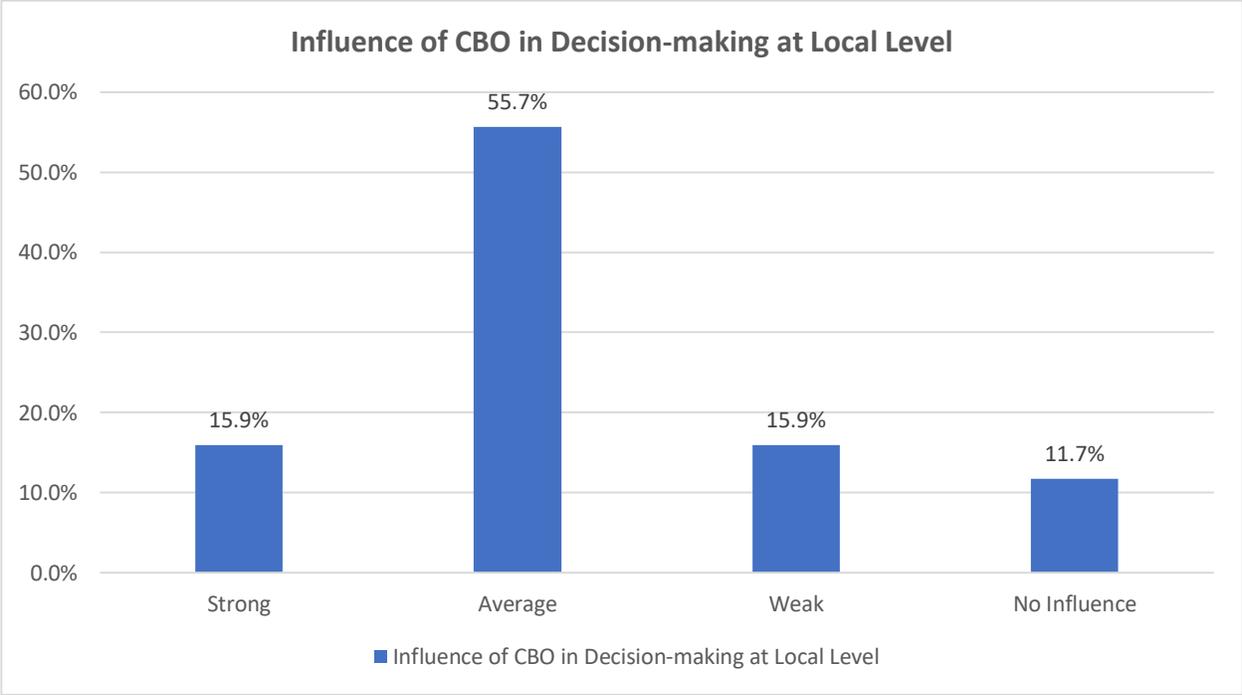
Chart 24 (percentage distribution)



It is a matter of the discussion, whether the voices of CBOs should be heard at the central government level and whether they should have an impact on the decision-making process. Are not the CBOs the grassroots level groups? And maybe their coverage area should not exceed local level, i.e., the municipality? This would be true for the country with the actual decentralisation and properly functioning self-governments. But in places, where local self-government is unable to make decisions on broad range of issues, is always ‘hang on to every word of the centre’ and has no financial independence, we believe, it would be desirable to make CBOs more visible at the society’s agenda and make their voice audible at the central level. This might imply creation of the joint platform, better media coverage or any other means for making CBOs better visible. However, in the perfect case, the CBOs shall be able to resolve local problems locally, through the cooperation with the local governments, but this will require actual decentralisation of the country.

As for the relationships with the local governments, the answers (92 responses) vary between ‘average’ (34.8%), ‘good’ (37%) and ‘very good’ (34.8%). Majority of the respondents (55.7%) indicated that CBOs have ‘average’ impact on the decisions of local self-governances (see Chart 25).

Chart 25 (percentage distribution)



It should be mentioned that the questionnaire did not distinguish between the municipal and village (representative of the territorial authority) governments at the local level, but the respondents themselves assessed differently relations with former and latter. In most of the cases it was stated that CBOs have more constructive relationships with the municipal governments than with the village representatives. Although, there were opposite examples too, when the village representatives were active supporters of the community groups. Besides, in some villages the CBOs have almost no connection with the municipal government due to geographic conditions and absence of the municipal transport.

Anyway, the CBOs have no significant impact in decision-making process. It would be desirable to more thoroughly investigate the nature of the CBO impact: what kind of impact are CBOs having in the decision-making process, how this impact is manifested, etc. Also, it is necessary to study the reasons, which prevent CBOs from becoming the influential actors, research the means of turning them into more serious power, etc.

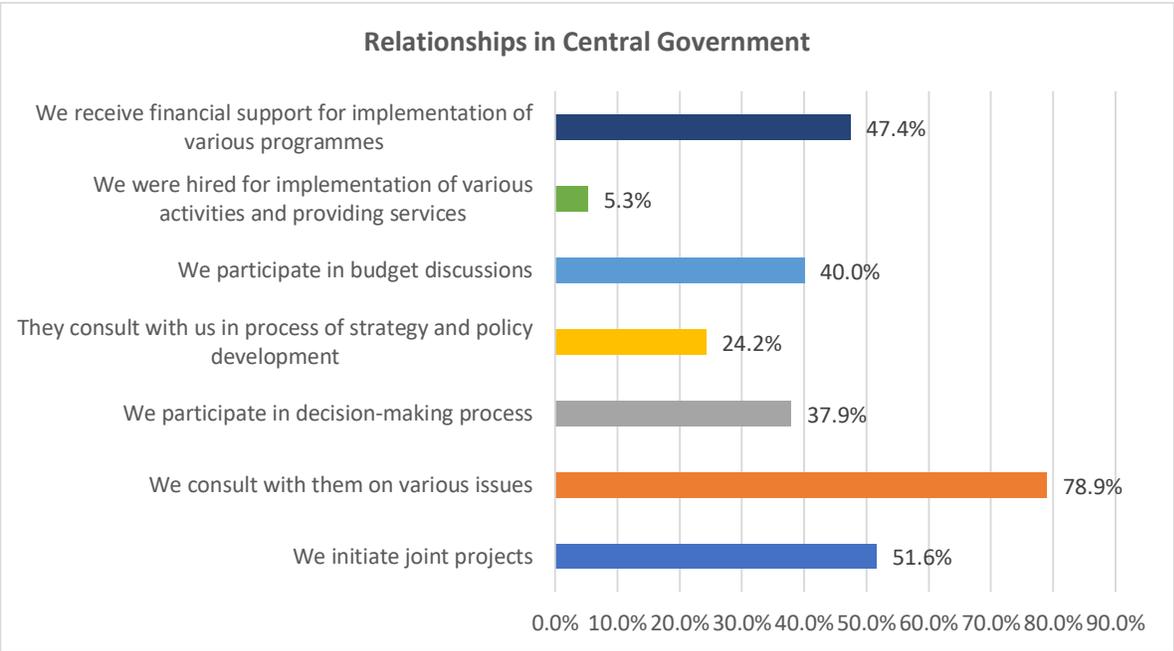
5.3 Forms of Relationships with the Local Governments and Existing Obstacles

Among the forms of cooperation with the local governments, most frequently are mentioned consultations on various problems (78.9%). 51.6% of the respondents speak about practises of joint project initiation, although, due to the format of the questionnaire, it is not quite clear, what they mean by ‘joint project initiation’. During the discussions outside of the interviews, we found out that this might imply request of the CBOs for certain co-funding, when external donors set such requirements. This might be witnessed by the 47.4%, who claim that they ‘have co-funding for implementation of various programmes’ (see Chart 26).

As for participation in budget discussions (40.0%), this, as a rule, is nominal and implies just presence at the presentation of already approved budget. Only in exceptional cases some CBOs manage to get involved in budget development process and make their positions heard. From this standpoint, it would be interesting to review the practices of those municipalities, which introduced the participatory budgeting process.

24.2% states that they consult with the local governments on local strategies and policies. Unfortunately, this, often, also implies just nominal participation in various commissions or councils, creation of which is mandatory or recommended by the law for the local municipalities. For the future, these aspects of CBO activities shall be studied more thoroughly.

Chart 26 (percentage distribution)



It also should be mentioned that, when asked ‘what factors condition success of relations between CBOs and local governments?’, 49.5% says that the government shares their ideas (at this stage, it is unclear, what actions follow such ‘idea sharing’), while 45.3% says that they have intensive relationships with the government. The latter means that they to meet and discuss issues with the local governments, while this still remains problem for the number of community groups. In many municipalities, intensiveness and character of relationships with CBOs still depend not on the institutional position, but on the benevolence or general attitudes of specific officials.

The research was also interested in identifying the CBO-local government **relationship hindering factors**.

Some of the CBO answers indicate that civil groups see main problems in local government. These answers, in particular, are: 1) local government does not possess resources sufficient and necessary for ensuring dialogue with the CSOs (32.6%); 2) government representatives have no necessary qualification and skills in respective fields (31.6%); 3) government does not wish to cooperate with us (11.6%).

Table 27

Obstacles in Relationships with Local Governments		
1	Government representatives have no necessary qualification and skills in respective fields	31.6 %
2	Establishing communication with government is difficult	14.7 %
3	Our staff members have no necessary qualification and skills in respective fields	18.9 %
4	We do not have sufficient staff/members	17.9 %
5	We do not have sufficient information	11.6 %
6	Corruption is an obstacle in relationships with government	1.1 %
7	Government does not wish to cooperate with us	11.6 %
8	Our organisations does not trust the government	1.1 %
9	local government does not possess sufficient resources and potential necessary for ensuring dialogue with the CSOs	32.6 %
10	Local government does not trust our organisation	3.2 %
11	We do not know, how to ‘get closer’ to the government and get involved into policy-development process	8.4 %

However, as it can clearly be seen from the table, there are self-critical answers too. In particular, one that states that CBOs lack human resources and knowledge for building closer and result-oriented cooperation with the local governments. This component can be addressed under the community development programmes.

In general, there still remains the impression that in many cases relationships between CBOs and local governments are rather nominal and, as the representative of one Eastern Georgian CBOs put it:

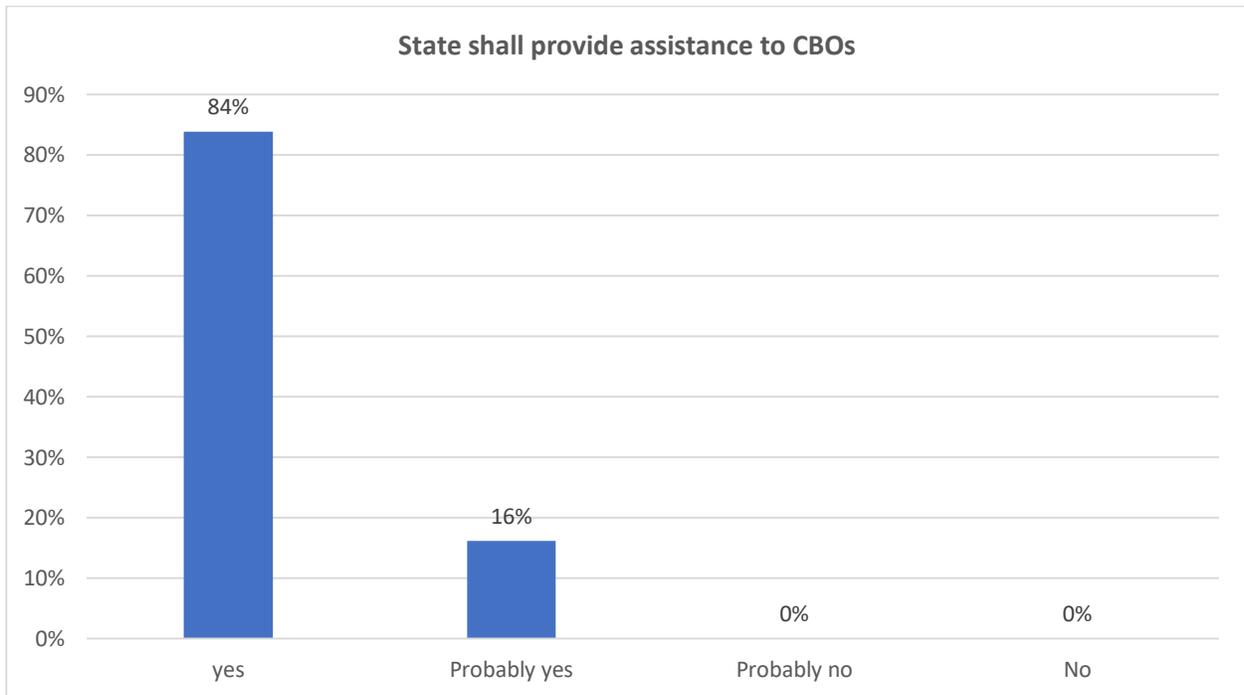
'they neither hinder us, nor cooperate with us, and nor deny us. Nominally, they agree with everything we say.'

Table 28 (percentage distribution)

Forms of Relationships With Government		
1	Our relationships with government are not fruitful	8, 4 %
2	Former members of our organisation are employed in the governmental structures	7.4 %
3	Members of our organisation participate in the work of commissions and councils created by the government	13.7 %
4	We imposed political pressure through public campaigns	7.4 %
5	Government plans budget with our participation	21.1 %
6	Government shares our ideas	45.5 %
7	We have intensive relationships with government	45.3 %

And lastly, we were interested in researching the CBO opinions on **the necessity and possible forms of state support to the self-organised community groups**. The question 'should the state be providing assistance to the CBOs?' was answered by 95 respondents and 93 out of them believe that yes, the state (central and local governments) can support local CBOs through various means and programmes.

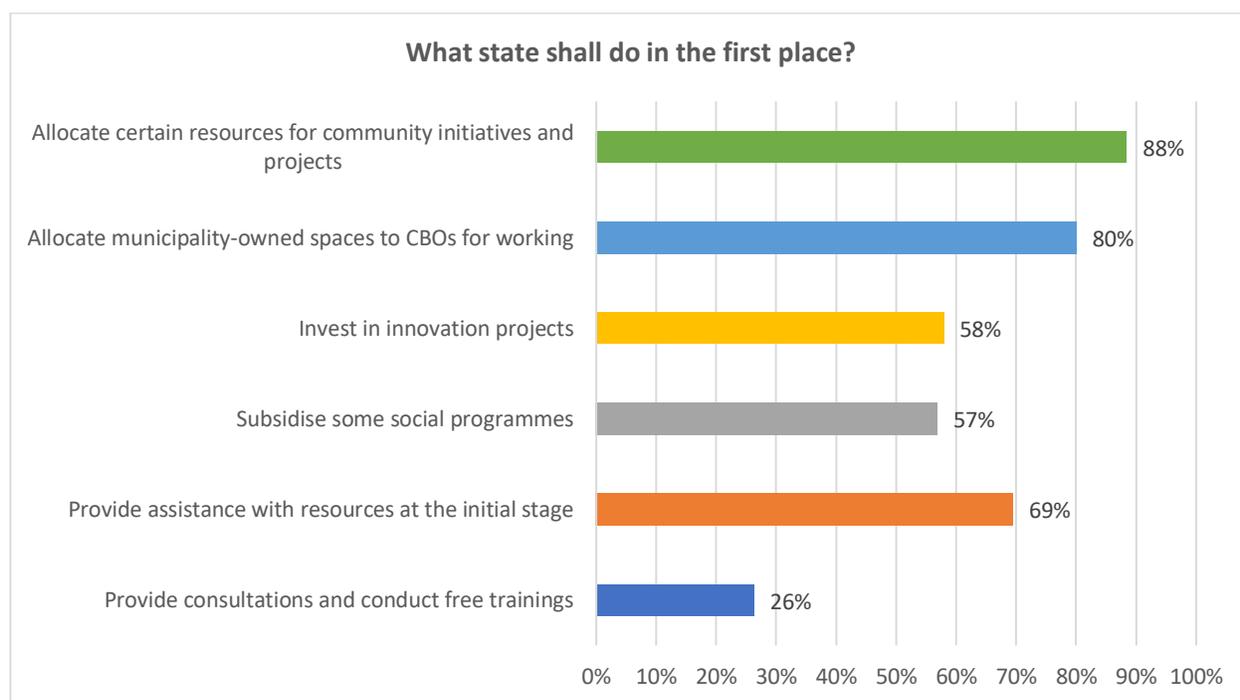
Chart 29 (percentage distribution)



As for the **assistance forms**, 88% of the respondents believes that the state can assist CBOs through sharing various resources, and this does not imply only financial resources, but also providing respective information and consulting, informing them on various social and other state programmes, etc. Part of the CBOs (26%) would also support the idea of state providing trainings, especially at the initial stages of their activities. It also should be mentioned here that this answer was given by those self-organised groups, which do not have an access to funding or strong partners at the national level. Often, they do not know where and how to start the local activism.

From the standpoint of resource sharing, special attention should be paid to the fact that 80% supports idea of allocating municipality-owned working spaces to the CBOs, since this still remains the issue for many of them. We have discussed this issue above and here will just repeat as a recommendation that more efficient practices and legal means of transferring such spaces shall be developed, in order to avoid waste of CBO resources and time on bureaucratic procedures biannually.

Chart 30 (percentage distribution)



Not less important is the opinion of CBOs that the state shall more actively be getting involved into the innovation programmes or even becoming their initiator, will they be related to youth or environmental issues. Also, the attention shall be paid to the fact that CBOs consider themselves as a kind of conductors of various social programmes (for disabled persons, socially vulnerable or aged people). As a whole, analysing the answers to these questions, it can be said that state shall ensure better cooperation with the CBOs, as they are the important implementing resources at the local level. Hence, the state, in the first place, shall support creation of the favourable framework conditions (providing spaces and extension services) and establishment of constructive collaboration (permanent and result-oriented dialogue).

6. Summary and General Recommendations

The Research 'CBO Mapping in Georgia – 2019-2020' was carried out in the period of 01.10.2019-01.11.2020 with the main goal of adjusting the list of community groups active in Georgia (so-called CBO mapping) and studying their working environment and structure.

The study was carried out on basis of pre-developed questionnaire. The initial intention of covering all the active groups through face-to-face interviews had to be adjusted due to the pandemic, and part of the interviews were conducted on-line. Currently, the responses of 95 CBOs are processed. As a result, we were able to identify the main trends reflecting the situation with activities of the current CBOs (registered and non-registered) and problems they are facing. About 30 organisations remain to be interviewed and the final report will reflect their data too, although, we believe, the main trends will not change, and the problems CBOs are facing in different regions are largely similar. This is due to the state policies in various fields and existing societal factors, which cannot be changed solely by the efforts of the local community groups.

Main Findings

Number of CBOs active in the country is not sufficient: ratio between the number of existing CBOs and number of the villages registered under jurisdiction of Georgia (appr. 3,600) is very low (4%) and their geographical distribution is asymmetric. CBOs are mainly concentrated in Kakheti and Samegrelo, which, no-doubt, is linked to the long-standing community mobilisation activities of the international and national organisations carried out in these regions. These activities supported creation of various local community groups and provided funding/support that allowed these local groups surviving up to the present day. Motivation of creating local organisation is most frequently connected with exactly such external factors that imply the opportunities provided by the assistance from such organisations (see Chapter 1.1).

In Georgia, the external opportunities are important condition for commencement of the community activism and are one of the main success factors. Here we mean the special community development/mobilisation-oriented programmes, as well as: ***training, consultations and access to small-scale funding, maximum access to the non-formal education at the community level and building capacities of the community leaders***. As a rule, exactly this community leaders become the initiators of creation of various local groups, will it be a single-purpose group for resolving some specific issue or more long-term-oriented CBOs. Accordingly, in order to initiate community activism, it is very important to identify such community initiators and provide them with the support at the initial stages.

The main problem to be named is the **weak organisational structure** of the CBOs and low level of stability in development. As a rule, the organisation is represented by one or, maximum, two leaders, who, with more-or-less success, manage to involve other members of the community into the specific activities, but usually fail to retain them for the longer periods. Since the CBO activities depend exactly on such leaders (there are very rare occasions of changes in core team, rotation, etc.), the existence/non-

existence and the performance of the organisation is largely conditioned by their agendas (do they have time to work, their health status, change of living address, etc.).

Often, the respondents name **insufficient funding** as the reason for suspending activities or low pace of development. Here they mean the **lack of programmes** specially dedicated (thematic) to the support of community activism, as well as low access of community leaders to the existing programmes and resources (**language barrier, complicated application forms** and lack of the respective knowledge in general), etc. The annual turnover of the vast majority (80%) of CBOs is below GEL 20,000, with 34.4% below GEL 5,000. It should be mentioned that 9.3% of them have no funding whatsoever (see Chart 12). The main source of funding are funds/organisations working in Georgia. Donation and community fundraising systems are weakly developed.

Besides the insufficient funding, the following reasons were named as obstacles by the interviewed CBOs: **poverty (38.7%), nihilistic mindset (49.3%), lack of culture of working together (34.7%), low self-awareness of the population (38.7%) and mistrust**. 26.7% of the respondents perceive **politicisation of the society** as a problem. During the discussions outside of the interview, more respondents mentioned the problems arising due to low political culture as hindering factor for CBO activities. As a whole, these answers (see Chart 20) reveal the heavy situation existing in the society, which, of course, cannot be changed by single community group.

Situation with **involvement of the volunteers** into the CBO activities – a very important aspect of CBO performance – is far from perfect. In the conditions of lack of human and financial resources, exactly the volunteers can become the force that allows resolving small-scale village/community problems, as well as gives more legitimacy to the CBO activities.

In general, in number of cases, **the forms of CBO-local community communications shall be improved**: level of accountability and frequency of reporting, attraction of volunteers and like-minded people, issues of community-based philanthropy, etc.

One of the factors hindering CBO development is lack of information and knowledge ('we don't know what to do'), as well as **insufficient networking** and lack of knowledge on others' experiences, success and failure stories.

The main areas of CBO activities are youth issues, non-formal education, etc. (see Charts 10-11). CBOs manage to more-or-less regularly consult and inform the population on various topics, communicate local problems to government and conduct various meetings and trainings. In the other words, the CBOs often position themselves as a mediator between local community and government, consultation links with potential centres of non-formal education.

The vast majority of the CBOs has no **relationships with central government** whatsoever and, therefore, their activities have no impact at this level (see Charts 23-24). As for the **relationships with the local governments**, they are mainly 'good' or 'average' and mainly have nominal form (consultation and informational meetings, etc.). In general, the intensiveness of the relationships with the CBOs in various municipalities depends on the benevolence or personal attitudes of the public officials, rather than on the institutional position of the local self-government. Also, great deal of the relationships depends on how 'oppositional' the CBO is perceived by the existing government. It is natural that the high levels of politicisation and polarisation existing in the country also impact the community levels, community activism.

The respondents state that one of the **factors hindering relationships** with the local governments is that the local authorities lack the resources necessary for establishing dialogue with CBOs, their representative have no sufficient knowledge and skills or are unwilling to cooperate with the local groups. We also encountered the self-criticism. In particular, some of the respondents say that the CBOs themselves have no sufficient resource and knowledge to build closer and result-oriented relationships with the local authorities (see Table 27).

Majority of the CBOs thinks that **the state shall provide certain assistance** through various means and programmes, including financial and infrastructural (allocation of the office spaces) support.

This is the brief summary of interim findings. Below are listed the main recommendations that can be useful for international and national donors or organisations working in the field of rural/community development, as well as for the representatives of central and local governments and CBOs themselves. The recommendations are divided into several large areas and combine general ideas that can be useful for better studying the practices of community self-organisation practices with the specific actions that would be able to improve the CBO performance. These recommendations provide opportunities for development of the specific programmes in various areas.

1. Need for Community Studies

- It would be desirable to initiate more studies in the various areas at the community level, in order to have more fact-based answers to the questions existing in this field and be able to observe and analyse the processes in dynamics. We would, for instance, add survey of the abolished CBOs with the view of reconstructing the nearest past (identifying the abolition reasons). Studying the impact of small grant programmes on the communities would also be useful, etc.

2. General Recommendations for Empowerment of CBOs

- It is important to equip the CBOs with knowledge and information on the issues that were identified as problematic by the Research: advocating, ways of gaining full information on various state programmes, community need identification methods, etc. The cycle of trainings and discussions can be dedicated to these (and other) issues. Such an assistance is especially necessary for those self-organised groups that, as a rule, do not know where to start. Accordingly, it is necessary to improve their competences. The similar non-formal courses can be planned not only for the existing CBOs, but for those community leaders, who are just planning to get involved into activism, too.
- It would be desirable to develop the on-line-available small and simple manual on studying and advocating the community needs for the CBOs. It would also be good to process the outcomes of the needs' study and, possibly, plan and provide assistance in implementation of the various campaigns (including advocating various issues or arranging small fundraising campaigns).
- Maximum empowerment of the community activity platforms (forum of community leaders, community development resource centre, various platforms, etc.), permanent work on regular update of the community-related materials and useful resources. The joint platforms might also include the cycles of on-line discussions with participation of national CSOs and local CBOs, on the topics (based on the research) like: attracting volunteers to the community activities; importance and forms of reporting to the community; improvement of networking – including with the rural schools, local churches, other CBOs, local businesses and governments; planning and conducting

local fundraising campaigns for the community projects; discussing possible models and success stories; etc.

- It would be desirable to increase the targeted funding of CBOs/number of grant programmes and funding volumes. The community activism grant programmes shall be targeted (this helps avoiding the competition with the stronger organisations) and shall allow participation of only CBOs (definition – with certain pre-developed criteria and prerequisites).
- Selecting several pilot CBOs and organising small-scale community education and resource model centre on their basis. It would be desirable to consult on this issue with the regional community development centres (dvv international) and other non-formal education providers, who already have readily available educational model prepared for implementation (CTC, SIQA, etc.). The local teachers – after taking respective trainings – can serve as local trainers, since they, as a rule, are involved into the community activities anyways.

3. Recommendations for National-level Actors

- The grant-issuing organisations shall think more about spreading the information (through any available means, including resources of the local organisations, like, for instance, regional hubs, democratic involvement networks, etc.). The grant application forms, language (English language is still a huge problem for majority of CBOs), required preconditions (working experience, for instance) and reporting forms shall be as simple as possible, in order to allow newbie CBOs to participate and get involved in programmes. At the same time, it would be nice if the grant programmes were supported by the consulting, mentoring components, which would serve for improvement and development of CBO skills in grant management process.
- In general, we would welcome more discussions on ways of improving the overall community self-organisation environment. Since the environment improvement is unavoidably linked with the local self-government system, there is a lot to be done at the national level too. It would also be interesting to discuss the issues, like which approaches and methodologies are successful and how it is possible to ensure uninterrupted support to the community development process. These discussions can be initiated in the format of various fora and meetings, which usually are organised by the national-level CSOs with the active participation of local community groups.
- It would be reasonable to raise CBOs higher in the society's agenda, and make their voices more audible, will it be through joint platforms, better media coverage or other means. This would help increasing CBO visibility in the country.
- The practices and forms of municipal space (office space) allocation to the CBOs by the municipalities shall be reviewed and simplified.
- We shall think about possibilities of establishing on-line system (maybe on basis of some coalition or the respective ministry), where the annual rural needs' research reports will be compiled and archived. These materials can be useful for the future researchers. Besides, the priorities of small grant community programmes can be based exactly on such generalised and compiled data.
- Participatory budgeting, as a form of funding community ideas and projects, shall be made the part of municipal self-government working routine. The local groups shall be informed on such form of participation as broadly as possible, in order to enable them communicating the community skills to the mentioned programmes.

- We shall not forget about those community leaders/initiators, who work individually and represent the significant resource for development of mobilised and organised activities in the various communities. It would be desirable to involve such individual leaders into the joint platforms and networks, in order to inform them and enable to better coordinated performance.

As a summary, it can be said that, taking into consideration the above experiences and the problems CBOs are currently facing, it would be reasonable to implement more CBO empowerment-oriented and CBO-supporting programmes throughout the country.

Also, it would be desirable to organise some kind of uninterrupted cycle for CBO development, that could include the following **parallel** components/stages:

- **Community mobilisation** – coverage expansion, with the focus on the so-called passive regions and municipalities. Identification of community leaders and groups and support to their establishment/empowerment process. Here, bigger attention should be paid to the regions with lower community activism.
- **Component of ‘setting on feet’ for new and self-organised CBOs:** technical and financial support, with the view of strengthening them and supporting their community-oriented activities. Here, the special attention shall be paid to the self-organised CBOs, who have no access to funding and consultations. They, usually, do not know where to start and how to achieve success, therefore, their activities are fragmented.
- **Expanding activities of relatively experienced and strong CBOs to the municipal level** and supporting their transformation into and equipment as the community extension and education centre.
- **Support to integration of all three stage CBOs into unified network**, with the view of improvement of information availability and sharing. Good examples are easily replicated and in the conditions of negative-impregnated existence such examples will certainly bring in the positive charge. That is the reason, why it is important to strengthen the networking and sharing elements.

It might be that the external assistance formats are criticised and considered ‘imposed’, since the community activism shall be the private initiative based. However, the experience shows that such external assistance launched many important processes (including unsuccessful, failed), and fact that there are about 120 CBOs active in Georgia today is exactly due to such external efforts undertaken. Now, at this stage of development, we need even more work, because the preparedness of the society, acceptance of the new and participation and involvement culture has grown since the last decade.

Despite the fact that, based on the previous experience, currently active organisations might cease their activities tomorrow, their ongoing contribution and efforts for changing society to better is of the utmost importance. The CBO might be created with the only one specific purpose and after achievement of such goal (for instance, saving some historical building in the village), be abolished. We think that this is the totally acceptable practice, although, taking into consideration our reality, we shall put stronger emphasis on CBO sustainability. One of the important prerequisites for ensuring their

sustainability might be paying more attention to **economic strengthening and social entrepreneurship component** of the community development programmes.

In general, where the self-governance is weak, active civil groups can resolve many problems in rural areas and can become the important link in general chain of development. Today, vast majority of CBOs is capable of adequately perceiving the reality, has proper solution-oriented vision and skills, but lack the access to the resources. Accordingly, existence of such groups (empowerment of the existing and support to creation of new ones) can play significant role from the standpoint of democratic development of the country. However, in order to duly perform in this capacity, they still need more external support.

7. Annex 1 – List of Interviewed Organisations / (as of December 2020)

#	Organisation Contact person	Region	Municipality	Village/settlement	Interview date	Interviewer
1.	Civil Initiative/Knowledge Café	Kakheti	Sighnaghi	Tsnori	12.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
2.	Pensioners' Association	Kakheti	Sighnaghi	Tsnori	12.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
3.	Nukriani CBO/Nukriani Workshops	Kakheti	Sighnaghi	Nukriani	12.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
4.	Women and Youth Initiative Group Arboshiki	Kakheti	Dedoplistskaro	Arboshiki	13.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
5.	NNLE Society Pirosmeni	Kakheti	Dedoplistskaro	Khornabuji	13.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
6.	Initiative Group Khornabuji 'Tamaris Tsikhe'	Kakheti	Dedoplistskaro	Khornabuji	13.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
7.	Community Fund Leli	Kakheti	Lagodekhi	Leliani	17.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
8.	Women and Youth Community Centre Tsodniskari	Kakheti	Lagodekhi	Tsodniskari	27.05.20	Ana Margvelashvili
9.	Community Centre Vardisubani	Kakheti	Lagodekhi	Vardisubani	27.05.20	Ana Margvelashvili
10.	Youth Community Centre Hereti	Kakheti	Lagodekhi	Heretiskari	27.05.20	Ana Margvelashvili
11.	Community Union Kedeli	Kakheti	Lagodekhi	Apeni	October 2020	On-line
12.	Community Union Anibani	Kakheti	Lagodekhi	Shroma	October 2020	On-line
13.	Vardisubani Community	Kakheti	Telavi	Vardisubani	13.11.19	Ana Margvelashvili
14.	Community Development Centre Aisi	Kakheti	Telavi	Pshaveli	08.01.20	Ana Margvelashvili
15.	Women Initiative Group of Kvemo Khodasheni	Kakheti	Telavi	Kvemo Khodasheni	30.05.20	Ana Margvelashvili
16.	Women Initiative Group of Ruispiri	Kakheti	Telavi	Ruispiri	October 2020	On-line
17.	Youth Education Centre of Akhalsopeli	Kakheti	Kvareli	Akhalsopeli	27.05.20	Ana Margvelashvili
18.	Civil Society for Development	Kakheti	Kvareli	Eniseli	03.05.20	Ana Margvelashvili
19.	Vejini	Kakheti	Gurjaani	Vejini	03.05.20	Ana Margvelashvili
20.	Civil Society Development Centre Spektri	Kakheti	Sagarejo	Ninotsminda	16.06.20	Ana Margvelashvili
21.	Women Initiative Group of Ninotsminda	Kakheti	Sagarejo	Ninotsminda	16.06.20	Ana Margvelashvili
22.	Women Initiative Group	Kakheti	Akhmeta	Kvemo Alvani	08.01.20	Ana Margvelashvili
23.	Tushuri Brand	Kakheti	Akhmeta	Kvemo Alvani	13.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
24.	Akhmeta Centre for Youth Involvement and Development	Kakheti	Akhmeta	Zemo Alvani	08.01.20	Ana Margvelashvili

25.	Youth for Rural Development	Kakheti	Akhmeta	Matani	06.08.20	Ana Margvelashvili
26.	Jokolo 21	Kakheti	Akhmeta/Pankisi	Jokolo	09.08.20	Ana Margvelashvili
27.	Pankisi Valley Tourism and Development	Kakheti	Akhmeta/Pankisi	Jokolo	09.08.20	Ana Margvelashvili
28.	Diverse and Equal Georgia	Kakheti	Akhmeta/Pankisi	Duisi	09.08.20	Ana Margvelashvili
29.	Pankisi (Elderly) Women Council	Kakheti	Akhmeta/Pankisi	Duisi	09.08.20	Ana Margvelashvili
30.	Community Union Kisristskali Development Centre	Kakheti	Akhmeta	Kasristskali	October 2020	On-line
31.	Tetritskaro Youth Centre	Kvemo Kartli	Tetritskaro	Tetritskaro	15.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
32.	Community Fund Kodori 2013	Kvemo Kartli	Tetritskaro	Tsintskaro	15.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
33.	Community House of Khikhani	Kvemo Kartli	Marneuli	Khikhani	18.12.19	ირაკლი ირემაძე
34.	Institute for New Thinking	Kvemo Kartli	Marneuli	Khuldara	21.12.19	ირაკლი ირემაძე
35.	Kusumlo Youth Centre	Kvemo Kartli	Marneuli	Kasumlo	09.07.20	ირაკლი ირემაძე
36.	Kvemo Sarali Community Centre	Kvemo Kartli	Marneuli	Kvemo Sarali	09.07.20	ირაკლი ირემაძე
37.	Aghmamdeli Community Centre	Kvemo Kartli	Marneuli	Aghmamdelo	09.07.20	ირაკლი ირემაძე
38.	NNLE 'Imedi 2013'	Kvemo Kartli	Tsalka	Sakdrioni	07.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
39.	Union 'Akhalseni 2014'	Kvemo Kartli	Tsalka	Akhalseni / Kiriaki	07.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
40.	Multi-profile Education Centre – Gumbati (NNLE)	Kvemo Kartli	Tsalka	Gumbati	07.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
41.	Community Union 'Akhali Gumbati'	Kvemo Kartli	Tsalka	Gumbati	07.02.20	ირაკლი ირემაძე
42.	For Better Future	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Mtskheta	IDP Settlement of Tserovani	09.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
43.	NNLE Mtashi	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Mtskheta	Kv. Lalubani	13.06.20	Ana Margvelashvili
44.	Community Union Buriani	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Mtskheta	Buriani	June 2020	On-line
45.	Gudamakari Community Union	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Mtskheta	Gudamakari	October 2020	On-line
46.	NNLE Khevsureti and Community	Mtskheta-Mtianeti / Khevsureti	Dusheti	Korsha	June 2020	On-line
47.	Organisation Gergati	Mtskheta-Mtianeti /	Kazbegi	Village Gergeti	June 2020	On-line
48.	NNLE Stepantsminda	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Kazbegi	Kazbegi	19.06.20	Ana Margvelashvili
49.	Kazbegi National Park Friends' Association	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Kazbegi	Kazbegi	19.06.20	Ana Margvelashvili

50.	Educational-intellectual Centre 'Khevis Momavali'	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Kazbegi	Kazbegi	18.06.20	Ana Margvelashvili
51.	NNLE Lomeki	Mtskheta-Mtianeti	Kazbegi	Sno		On-line
52.	NNLE Betlemi	Shida Kartli	Gori	Skra	18.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
53.	NNLE Berbuki Kindergarten	Shida Kartli	Gori	IDP Settlement of Berbuki	18.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
54.	St. Ilia the True Knowledge Centre	Shida Kartli	Gori	Shindisi	18.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
55.	NNLE For Our Healthy Future, Maia Burduli, 595 30 73 97	Shida Kartli	Mtskheta	Tserovani	20.02.20	On-line
56.	Nikozi Youth Group / (Mariam Devadze) – 598 961 662	Shida Kartli	Gori	Nikozi	February	On-line
57.	Karaleti Community Youth Organisation	Shida Kartli	Gori	Karaleti	09.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
58.	Karaleti Women Solidarity Centre	Shida Kartli	Gori	Karaleti	09.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
59.	NNLE Liakhvis Kheoba	Shida Kartli	Gori	IDP Settlement of Shavshvebi	09.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
60.	Village Miriani Initiative Group	Shida Kartli	Kaspi	Miriani	18.02.20	Ana Margvelashvili
61.	Make Rural Youth Stronger	Zemo Svaneti	Mestia	Pari	31.10.19	Ana Margvelashvili
62.	Youth for Mountains	Zemo Svaneti	Mestia	Mestia	31.01.19	Ana Margvelashvili
63.	Lalkhori	Zemo Svaneti	Mestia	Becho Gorge	01.11.19	Ana Margvelashvili
64.	Community Fund 'Nepa'	Samegrelo	Zugdidi	Anaklia	11.12.19	Ana Margvelashvili
65.	Initiative Group 'Elva'	Samegrelo	Zugdidi	Ganmukhuri	11.12.19	Ana Margvelashvili
66.	Women Goup Edelweiss	Samegrelo	Zugdidi	Akhalkakhati	12.12.19	Ana Margvelashvili
67.	Community Union Khurcha	Samegrelo	Zugdidi	Khurcha	12.12.19	Ana Margvelashvili
68.	Community Fund 'Egrisi'	Samegrelo	Zugdidi	Orsantia/Koki	13.12.19	Ana Margvelashvili
69.	Initiative Group of Young Volunteers	Samegrelo	Tsalenjikha	Tsalenjikha	13.12.19	Ana Margvelashvili
70.	N(N)LE 'House of Initiatives' Lia Khelaia, 599 352835	Samegrelo	Senaki	Nokalakevi	25.07.2020	On-line
71.	Georgian Institute for Trainings and Development	Samegrelo	Senaki	Teklati	-	Ana Margvelashvili
72.	Education and Development Centre 'Makroni'	Samegrelo	Abasha	Samikao	-	Ana Margvelashvili
73.	Education and Development Centre Toliskuri	Samegrelo	Khobi	Torsa	-	Ana Margvelashvili
74.	Maghvidzara	Samegrelo	Chkhorotsku	Mukhuri	-	Ana Margvelashvili
75.	Women Initiative Group Tanastori	Samegrelo	Chkhorotsku	Chkhorotsku	-	Ana Margvelashvili

76.	Association Biliki	Samegrelo	Chkhorotsku	Khabume	October 2020	On-line
77.	Women Initiative Group of Lesichine Community 'Deka'	Samegrelo	Chkhorotsku	Lesichine	30.10.2020	On-line
78.	Tkemlana Union	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhaltzikhe	Tkemlana	23.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
79.	Community Union Abatkhevi	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhaltzikhe	Abatkhevi	23.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
80.	Union Tsinubani	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhaltzikhe	Tsinubani (at Abatkhevi)	23.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
81.	Tskrutis Imedi	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhaltzikhe	Tskruti	22.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
82.	NNLE Association for Civil Initiatives	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhaltzikhe	Vale	31.07.2020	On-line
83.	Community Union Ude	Samtskhe-Javakheti	ადიგენი	Ude	23.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
84.	Union Varkhani 2010	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Adigeni	Varkhani	22.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
85.	Union Otskhe	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Adigeni	Benara	22.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
86.	Imedi 2009	Samtskhe-Javakheti	Akhaltzikhe	Tsinubani (towards Atskutri)	23.06.2020	Ana Margvelashvili
87.	Community Union 'Imedi'	Guria	Ozurgeti	Tkhinvali	October 2020	On-line
88.	Self-assistance Group 'Kalta Unia'	Guria	Ozurgeti	Laituri Settlement	21.10.2020	On-line
89.	Community Centre Imedi	Guria	Ozurgeti	Kvemo Natanebi	21.10.2020	On-line
90.	Community Centre Juma	Guria	Ozurgeti	Maria Community	21.10.2020	On-line
91.	Community Centre Imedi	Guria	Ozurgeti	Maria Community	21.10.2020	On-line
92.	Youth Centre Progresi	Guria	Chokhatauri	Chokhatauri	21.10.2020	On-line
93.	Women for Development of Region	Guria	Ozurgeti	Dvabzu	19.10.2020	On-line
94.	Women for Future of Chiatura	Imereti	Chiatura	Village Rgani	21.10.2020	On-line
95.	IDP Initiative Group of Khoni	Imereti	Chiatura	Khoni	21.10.2020	On-line