



Report of Civil Development Agency

to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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for the consideration of State Report of Georgia

Multi-Ethnic Society in Georgia

Report based on quantitative research

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INTRODUCTION

Civil Development Agency (*hereinafter* CiDA) is a leading NGO advocating for the human rights of disadvantaged. In 2002 CiDA was established in Kvemo Kartli, though its work extends to Samtskhe-Javakheti, Shida Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, and Kakheti. CiDA integrates IDPs, ethnic minorities, and other marginalized groups into community. CiDA promotes self-help activities *via* tolerance and integration, community mobilization, economic development and trainings. In addition, it makes government to respond to local needs through advocacy, civic participation, CSO networking and strengthening, public sector training, and development of independent media.

Present report is based on the research implemented within the framework of “Multiethnic Confidence Building Network” project¹ undertaken by CiDA. The research was carried out by the Applied Research Company (ARC). This document contains basic information concerning the research design and two regions of Georgia: Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti. These regions are densely populated by ethnic minorities. The Document contains main findings and recommendations prepared by CiDA. Full research is available in Georgian at the following link: <http://kvemokartli.ge/files/files/kvleva%20eng1.pdf>

DESIGN OF RESEARCH

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The goal of this quantitative research is to explore multiethnic society in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti.

Specific objectives of the research:

- Study of social and economic situation of population in the regions of research;
- Identification of impeding and favorable factors of interethnic relations;
- Study of interethnic relations – living, cultural and business relations;
- Exploration of current practice of interregional relations;

¹ The project is being implemented by the UNDP within the framework of the Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism (COBERM) financed by the EU. The Union of Democrat Meskhetians (UDM) is a partner of the project in Samtskhe-Javakheti region.

- Evaluation of awareness concerning local NGOs among population and investigation of general attitude towards their activities;
- Exploration of public confidence towards different institutions, nationalities and religious groups;
- Identification of the level of social activity of population (participation in elections, participation in resolution of community problems);
- Evaluation of involvement of different services and institutions in resolution of local problems;
- Identification of citizens' problems;
- Evaluation of gender sensitivity of population;
- Exploration of local industry and current/desired markets.

PERIOD OF RESEARCH

Field works were carried out in December 2010.

METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

The research was carried out according to the method of a direct survey by use of a structured questionnaire. One questionnaire was used for all ethnic groups. The questionnaire was translated into Russian. Russian questionnaires were filled in for those respondents who preferred to be interviewed in Russian. The questionnaire contained 108 questions.

SELECTION

Scope of Research

The research was conducted in the regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti and KvemoKartli. Based on the goals of the research two stage cluster selection was employed with prior stratification. Type of a settlement (town / village) and ethnic composition of a settlement were employed as stratification variables.

Survey was accomplished in all the municipalities of both regions². Three types of settlement were selected as selection points in each municipality³: villages with Georgian majority (80% and above), villages with mixed ethnic

²Population of the town of Rustavi was not selected as with its structure of population and the level of urban development Rustavi differs from all other municipalities of both regions of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti. According to the results of a survey conducted earlier by the research company ARC, the survey of Rustavi population changes a general picture of Kvemo Kartli significantly. At this stage the town of Rustavi would not have been relevant to the objective of the current research as: 1) the bigger part of employed population of Rustavi is

composition and villages with prevailing ethnic minorities (80% and above). Survey was conducted in towns, town type villages and villages.

The scope of research was set at 1000 respondents. 500 respondents were interviewed in each region. The number of respondents to be interviewed in each municipality was identified according to the *pro rata* principle in respect with the number of population. Percentage co-relation of respondents to be interviewed in town type settlements and villages was specified proportionally to co-relation of population of towns and villages of the municipalities under research.

Selection Procedure

Primary selection unit was the registration district that was identified by simple random selection. The secondary selection unit was the household that was selected according to the principle of random walk. For this purpose the starting point, the step and the trajectory were identified in each district. Interviewers received guidelines with a step of a trajectory and the method of selection of a respondent in a family. The final unit of selection was represented by an adult member of a family who was identified according to the Last Birthday Selection Method.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE REGIONS UNDER RESEARCH

KVEMO KARTLI



employed in the capital city; 2) Rustavi is an urban town which differs from other towns of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti; 3) In view of density of Rustavi population its share in the selection would have been greater which would have altered the general picture of the research.

³ In number of municipalities we failed to find all types of settlement. Specifically, we could not find a village populated only by ethnic Armenians in Adigeni and Borjomi municipalities of Samtskhe-Javakheti region; neither were we able to identify mixed population in Aspindza District. Similarly in Tetri Tskaro District of Kvemo Kartli the survey was carried out mostly in villages with majority Georgian population.

Kvemo Kartli is situated in the south part of Eastern Georgia. The territory occupies 6.5 thousand square kilometers which is 9.4% of the whole territory of Georgia. The town of Rustavi is the administrative center of the region. Kvemo Kartli consists of 7 administrative centers: Rustavi (town), Bolnisi, Gardabani, Dmanisi, Tetrtskaro, Marneuli, and Tsalka. There are 353 settlements in the region among which there are 7 towns, 8 town type settlements and 338 villages. The region is notable with its developed communication infrastructure - The main motor and rail way links Tbilisi to Armenia and Azerbaijan *via* Kvemo Kartli.

According to the data of 2002 census the number of population of the region is 497530 (among them 241285 – men and 256 245 - women). 45.1% of the population in the region is ethnic Azerbaijani, 44.7% - Ethnic Georgian, 6.4% - ethnic Armenian, 1.5% - ethnic Greek, 1.3 % - ethnic Russian.

The share of the region in Country's GDP is 11% and its share in the industrial production of the Country is 21%. Number of large enterprises are situated in the region –Chemical plant “AZOTI” and a metallurgical plant in the main town of the region – Rustavi,a thermal power station Mtkvari–Energ, mining companies Kvartsiti and Madneuli producing copper and gold; these are the largest enterprises in the region.Service industry is less developed. Vegetable, fruit and potato growing is the major type of farming. Breeding of cattle is more developed in Tsalka District that is situated at relatively further distance. Households are basically busy with growing of vegetables, potato and corn.

SAMTSKHE-JAVAKHETI

Samtskhe-Javakheti is situated in the Southern part of Georgia. It borders Armenia and Turkey. The territory of the region occupies 6.4 thousand square kilometers which is 9.2% of the whole territory of Georgia. Town of Akhaltsikhe is the administrative center of the region. Samtskhe-Javakheti consists of 6 administrative units: Akhaltsikhe, Akhalkalaki, Ninotsminda, Borjomi, Adigeni and Aspindza. There are 266 settlements in the region among which there are 5 towns, 7 town type settlements and 254 villages.



According to the data of 2002 census the number of population makes 207 598 (among them 100400 is men and 107198 is women). 54.6% of the region's population is ethnic Armenian, 43.4% - ethnic Georgian, 1.1% - ethnic Russian. Representatives of other ethnic minorities constitute less than 1% of the population.

The whole industrial product of the region is actually produced in Borjomi which has favorable transportation links to the rest of Georgia. For the perspective of economic development tourism and current construction between Akhalkalaki and the Turkish town of Kars are most promising.

Main agricultural activity of the region includes cattle breeding, potato and fruit growing. Households are basically busy with growing potato and animal forage.

Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti are the regions where the largest numbers of ethnic minorities densely reside in Georgia.

According to the latest census carried out by the Statistics Department of Georgia in 2002 ethnic minorities constitute 16,2% of the total number of population. Apart from Georgians the Azerbaijanis make the largest ethnic group in Georgia (6,5%) settled densely in the regions of Kvemo Kartli, particularly in the following districts: Marneuli, Gardabani, Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Tsalka, Tetrtskaro and the town of Rustavi. The largest concentration of Azerbaijanis is recorded in Marneuli (83%), Dmanisi (66%) and Bolnisi (65%) regions.⁴

⁴ Separate Azerbaijani settlements are also found in Inner Kartli, Kakheti and Tbilisi.

Armenians make the second largest ethnic group (5,7%) with compact settlement in Samtskhe-Javakheti, specifically in the districts of Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda where their number exceeds 95% of the population of the municipalities and in Akhaltsikhe where Armenian population constitute 36%.⁵

FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

These conclusions present a brief resume of the information obtained from the public survey followed by recommendations prepared by CiDA. Full research is available in Georgian at the following link: <http://kvemokartli.ge/files/files/kvleva%20eng1.pdf>

Rule of law, trust and security

The majority of respondents point out that they feel safe in settlements where they live. Feeling of safety is stimulated by absence of ethnic conflicts in the regions: only 5% of respondents have heard about such conflicts for the last two years.

The research demonstrated that respondents trust mostly in the President (81,7%), the army (79,5%) and the police (79%). Trust in educational institutions is 61,9%. Political parties are trusted less (26,2%), the same is true for business organizations (33,2%) and media (40,5%). Both Georgians and non-Georgians have higher trust in the bodies of local government (District Council–59,7%, Local Government–59,6%, Village Leader–56,8%), than in State administration of the President’s entrusted officials (51,6%). In respect with measurement of trust there is certain difference between Georgians and Non-Georgians. Namely, Georgians trust more in the President, the Army, the police and religious institutions. Non-Georgians trust in the President and the police.

It is interesting to compare these data with the outcomes of research conducted in 2009⁶, according to which the majority population in both regions had trust in the Army (Kvemo Kartli 87%, Samtskhe-Javakheti 85%), the Police (Kvemo Kartli 83%, Samtskhe-Javakheti 85%), religious institutions (Kvemo Kartli 91%, Samtskhe-Javakheti 77%),

⁵ Armenian settlements are also found in Kakheti, Batumi and Tbilisi.

⁶ „Research of population and nongovernmental/civil organizations living and located on territories adjacent to Georgia and Armenia borders”, prepared by ”ACT Research” at the order of CARE International Caucasus for the Project STAGE II, Georgian side partner of the Project – Civil Development Agency (CiDA), August-October, 2009, see electronic version of the research on the webpage of CiDA: <http://cida.ge/upload/files/saqartvelo-somxetis%20sasgzvrspiras%20regionebis%20kvleva.pdf> (in Georgian) page 17.

the school(Kvemo Kartli 89%, Samtskhe-Javakheti 89%)and the President(Kvemo Kartli 86%, Samtskhe-Javakheti 76%). Comparison of these two researches demonstrates stability of trust towards State institutions. The army and the Police still maintain top three positions; however, the President's institution is taking the lead at the moment. Confidence towards educational and religious institutions has decreased considerably.

Greater number of respondents (64,3%) consider that rights of different ethnic groups are protected in Georgia, one third of the respondents (31,8%) believe that these rights are more or less protected and only 3.9% of the respondents consider that the minority rights are not protected. Significant difference is observed among various ethnic groups: in Kvemo Kartli the great majority of both Georgian and Non-Georgian citizens state that the rights of ethnic groups are protected, while only 30.2% of Non-Georgian population of Samtskhe-Javakheti shares this opinion and 60.3% of them believe that the minority rights are more or less protected.

The survey included a separate question in regard with protection of the rights of religious groups. 62.4% of the interviewed think that the rights of religious groups are protected, 34.2% of them believe that these rights are more or less protected and 3.4% consider that the rights are not protected. Only 29.3% of Non-Georgian respondents of Samtskhe-Javakheti believe that the rights of religious groups are protected, while this figure in Kvemo Kartli reaches 67.3%. It is notable that Georgian respondents living in Samtskhe-Javakheti, in contrast with the Georgian respondents living in Kvemo Kartli, consider that the rights of ethnic and religious minorities are less protected.

Recommendations

- The role of State administrations of the President's Trustees has to be enhanced in the process of implementationof the State Policy on Civil Integration in regions;
- Measures have to be taken at both regional and municipal level in regard with training of public servants on the issues of ethnic minorities;
- Awareness of Georgian and Non-Georgian population should be raised on human rights (including religious rights) and mechanisms for the protection of human rights (including regional representation of the Public Defender's Office).

Education and the State Language

14.7% of Non-Georgian respondents say Georgian is their native language; 37% claim that they are fluent in Georgian. 26.6% of Non-Georgian respondents cannot speak the State language in Samtskhe-Javakheti; this figure amounts to 30% in Kvemo Kartli. According to the 2009 research 42% of population of these two regions was not

able to communicate in Georgian⁷. It is remarkable that the level of knowledge of the State language in the foregoing regions has significantly improved in one and a half year.

92% of respondents believe that every citizen of Georgia should speak state language. According to the research the majority of respondents think that ethnic minorities have desire to learn the state language. 82.9% of Non-Georgian respondents in Kvemo Kartli and 65.2% of Non-Georgian respondents in Samtskhe-Javakheti identify the need of Georgian language courses. Information on language learning centers is spread wider in Samtskhe-Javakheti (60.4%) than in Kvemo Kartli (43.4%).

The survey investigated respondents' attitude towards amended Law on Education, which ensures simplified terms of national examinations for admission to higher education. 39% of the interviewed persons assess the amendment as efficient. 48.3% of Non-Georgian respondents share mentioned opinion. 27.3% have not heard about this amendment. Above-mentioned changes of the Law is better known to Georgians than to Non-Georgians. 48.3% of Non-Georgian respondents believe that the amendment is helpful. Only 29.5% of Georgian respondents share this opinion. More than half of Georgian respondents are convinced that all citizens of Georgia should be placed on equal terms in relation to the admission examinations for higher education. Only 17% of Non-Georgian respondents are of the same opinion.

85,5% of respondents in Kvemo Kartli say that Non-Georgian children receive their education at Georgian schools, while only 44% of respondents in Samtskhe-Javakheti declare the same. More Non-Georgians emphasize the importance of availability of preschool education than Georgians. Non-Georgian respondents note that the number of people wishing to bring their children to a Georgian kindergarten has increased significantly for the recent years. One specific problem was identified in Kvemo Kartli, namely, children are not able to learn the state language in the kindergarten, as Azerbaijani kids constitute majority in kindergartens and therefore, the Georgian children and the teacher have to talk in Azeri.

Recommendations

- Network of language centers should expand. Criteria of opening the language centers have to be revised to ensure access to the language centers especially for residents of big villages or conglomerate villages;
- To raise awareness of population about the concept and importance of amendments to the Law on Education (clarification of the meaning of positive discrimination);

⁷See footnote №5, page 56

- To expand bilingual teaching at preschool institutions and to train teachers of these institutions;
- To raise awareness of ethnic minorities concerning opportunities, offerings and advantages of Georgian schools (especially in Samtskhe-Javakheti).

Media and access to information

According to the results of the research the population of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti is much better informed on general ongoing events compared to region specific news. In both regions language was identified as major barrier to receive information. In addition the respondents of Samtskhe-Javakheti named lack/absence of local media as a reason for lack of information.

Non-Georgian populations of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli receive information in different languages. Most of them receive information in a foreign language. Almost two-third of Non-Georgian population of Samtskhe-Javakheti receives information in Russian and Armenian languages. More than a quarter of Kvemo Kartli population receives information in Russian language and more than half of the population in Azeri. 53% of Non-Georgian population of Kvemo Kartli receives information in Georgian, this figure is 35% in Samtskhe-Javakheti. As for receiving information in Russian, the percentage is as follows: 54,9% watch Georgian central channels, 69,9% - Russian channels, 35,2% - Armenian channels, 7,7% Azeri channels.

Less than one-third of the population watches local channels. Among those who watch regional channels the share of Non-Georgian population is slightly higher. Language is most frequently nominated by Non-Georgian population as the factor of selection of TV channels. “Reliability of information” and “completeness of information” were least frequently named as a TV channel selection criterion.

News programs are most popular. 56.8% of Non-Georgian population of Kvemo Kartli and 48.4% of Non-Georgian population of Samtskhe-Javakheti watch “Moambe” broadcasted in national languages of ethnic minorities more or less frequently. Less than one-third of Non-Georgian population watches “Moambe” in Russian.

The number of radio listeners is small; around 13% of population listens to the radio. There have been 18 Georgian and 5 Non-Georgian radio channels named by respondents. Georgian respondents read printed media more intensively compared with Non-Georgians.

Only 17.7% of population in the regions of research uses Internet. No big difference was observed among different ethnic minorities in respect with usage of Internet. However there are two times more Internet users in Samtskhe-Javakheti (23,9%) than in Kvemo Kartli (11,3%). Among nominated internet resources the social networks were

most popular: Odnoklassniki (61%) and Facebook (18%). Odnoklassniki is more popular among Non-Georgian population and Facebook is preferred by Georgians.

Recommendations

- To expand coverage area of the Georgian Public Broadcasting (GBP) and to improve the quality of broadcasting;
- GBP should prepare/translate informative/educational programs into the languages of ethnic minorities;
- To promote technical and substantial diversification and professional development of local media;
- To train local journalists on the issues related to ethnic minorities;
- To improve access to Internet;
- To develop Internet media.

Political integration and civil activity

Survey revealed that population has little information concerning activities of political parties. Furthermore political parties enjoy the least confidence of population among different governmental or public institutions enumerated in the questionnaire. 80% of the respondents say they are informed about elections. It is notable that the rate of participation in elections is high - 87,8%. One of the major reasons for not participation in the elections is being absent from voting precinct during elections. 19.2% of those who did not vote thinks that voting is useless.

Respondents were asked about the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration. Majority of respondents (78.7%) noted that they had not heard about the Concept (although respondents had information concerning certain activities of the action plan, such as infrastructure projects, quotas at higher educational institutions, language centers, etc., they were unable to associate these activities with the Concept). 21.1%of respondents in Samtskhe-Javakheti and 17.1% in Kvemo Kartli noted that they had some information on Concept. Media was named as the major source of information. Most respondents believe that National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration is important, only 17% of them think that the document does not make any difference. According to respondents support of teaching State language and access to preschool, secondary and higher education for ethnic minorities is the most important area among those covered by the Concept.

The survey explored the degree of civil activity of respondents in the process of resolution of existing problems. 16% of local population does not ask for assistance to various institutions for solving their problems. This percentage varies per region and type of settlement. In regard with requesting assistance population of Kvemo

Kartli is less active than the population of Samtskhe-Javakheti. The response “we approach no one” was given by one-fifth of the respondents in Kvemo Kartli and 12.4% of the respondents in Samtskhe-Javakheti.

District Council and government of both regions are equally active in problem resolution. It should be noted that according to the majority of respondents (80%) existing problem is resolved with the assistance of the very institution they initially approached. Involvement of population in resolution of community issues is low. Only 27.7% of interviewed noted that they participated in problem resolution for the last 12 months. The quarter of the respondents fail to name the reasons of their inactivity; around one-fifth of interviewed think that their involvement is not necessary and 13.6% of respondents believe that similar issues have to be handled by state authorities.

The survey investigated the common forms of relations of respondents with foreign countries. These forms turned out to be mainly: employment, relatives, education and trade. Non-Georgian population of Kvemo Kartli has more relatives in other countries.

Respondents were asked to name the countries towards which they were most trustful. Respondents in Samtskhe-Javakheti are most trustful towards Armenia, the USA, Russia and Ukraine, in Kvemo Kartli - towards Azerbaijan, the USA, Russia and Ukraine. 23% of respondents in Kvemo Kartli and 17.3% in Samtskhe-Javakheti do not trust any foreign country. Population of Kvemo Kartli is most trustful towards Azerbaijan (34,2%), the USA (16,2%) and Russia (12,3%). Population of Samtskhe-Javakheti has most confidence towards Armenia (35,7%) and Russia (25,5%). At that far more number of Samtskhe-Javakheti respondents pointed out their confidence towards Russia.

According to the survey of 2009 the index of confidence towards the number of countries varied in regional perspective. For example, Armenia (76%) and Russia (65%) enjoyed higher index of confidence among population of Samtskhe-Javakheti, while population of Kvemo Kartli municipalities had more confidence towards Azerbaijan (76%) and Turkey (48%). Trust towards Russia in Kvemo Kartli was 28%. Index of confidence towards countries the USA (Kvemo Kartli – 31%, Samtskhe-Javakheti – 45%) and Greece (Kvemo Kartli – 40%, Samtskhe-Javakheti – 47%) was almost similar in both regions⁸. Comparison of the two surveys allows us to conclude that the degree of confidence towards foreign countries decreases sharply. Confidence of Samtskhe-Javakheti respondents towards Armenia and Russia diminished by 40%; trust of Kvemo Kartli respondents towards Azerbaijan reduced by 42% and

⁸See footnote №5, page70

towards Russia – by 12%. Confidence towards the USA is decreased by 20% in Samtskhe-Javakheti and 15% in Kvemo Kartli.

The Survey made inquiry about respondents' attitude and feelings towards Georgia. Georgia was named as the motherland for the majority of respondents, a place of residence - for 6.2% of Non-Georgian respondents and the place of birth – for 3%. Only 3.5% of respondents of Kvemo Kartli consider Azerbaijan as their motherland. 28.3% and 3% of Samtskhe-Javakheti respondents consider Armenia and Russia as their motherland respectively.

Majority of respondents associate the future of their families after 5 years with Georgia. In Samtskhe-Javakheti 4.8% of respondents associate their future with Russia; 8.6% - with Armenia. In Kvemo Kartli 2.7% of respondents associate their future with Azerbaijan and 2.3% - with Russia. Income of the majority of interviewed is linked with Georgia. In Samtskhe-Javakheti 16.5% of respondents receive their income from Russia, 11.2%- from Armenia. Share of income related to other countries is much smaller in Kvemo Kartli; 4.2% receives income from Azerbaijan and 3.4% - from Russia.

In both regions respondents consider development of infrastructure as the most positive development for the last three years. Population of Samtskhe-Javakheti pointed out building/rehabilitation of roads. Populations of both regions consider 2008 Russia-Georgia as the worst event of last three years. In Samtskhe-Javakheti the number of respondents who deems the August war as the worst event is much bigger than the same number in Kvemo Kartli. An increased price on food products/inflation was named as second most negative events.

Recommendations

- To intensify activities of political parties in the regions;
- To raise public awareness about the National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration;
- To strengthen involvement of local population in the so called “Village Program” and other projects carried out by different NGOs and International Organizations by using community mobilization instruments;
- To raise public awareness about the features and specificities of State institutions;
- To raise public awareness about the foreign policy, strategic projects and partners of the State.

Social, economic and regional integration

The great majority of respondents pointed out that they mostly communicate within the region compared to inter-regional interaction. According to 16% of Non-Georgian respondents Georgian settlements keep contacts with

other Georgian settlements and Non-Georgian settlements with other Non-Georgian settlements. This opinion is shared only by 3,9% of Georgian respondents. It should also be noted that this view of Non-Georgian population mainly belongs to the respondents of Kvemo Kartli - 31,3%. Only 4.9% of Armenian population living in Samtskhe-Javakheti shares this point of view.

25% of Non-Georgian population does not interact with population of other regions, same applies to 9.5% of Georgians. Low income and language barrier have been pointed out as impediments to the interregional relations. Religion is a barrier for the half of the interviewed in Kvemo Kartli and ethnic origin – for one-fourth of them. Around one-fifth of Samtskhe-Javakheti population considers religion as a barrier for relations and the small number of them regards political views and everyday problems as obstacles.

Population of Kvemo Kartli is more self-contained than that of Samtskhe-Javakheti. However, more respondents of Kvemo Kartli consider it acceptable to get a job, get their children married and receive education in other regions than those of Samtskhe-Javakheti. Degree of readiness for interregional migration is low in both regions.

Twice more respondents of Kvemo Kartli have a very close contact with the Capital compared to Samtskhe-Javakheti respondents. In Kvemo Kartli ethnic origin was named as an impeding factor in relation with the Capital while population of Samtskhe-Javakheti thinks that the attitude of the residents of the Capital towards them is a main hindering factor for their relationships.

Almost half of the respondents is confident in stating that there exists no barrier in relation with other ethnic groups. Friendship was nominated as the form of relation with other ethnic groups by respondents of Azerbaijani settlements most often (95.7%). Business partnership among ethnic groups is more common in Samtskhe-Javakheti than in Kvemo Kartli. 59.6% in Samtskhe-Javakheti states that such partnerships exist while only 47.5% in Kvemo Kartli shares the same view. 70,6% of Respondents in Samtskhe-Javakheti believe that ethnic belonging is not crucial for business partnership, common interest and availability of finances are more important. This opinion is shared by 49.1% of respondents in Kvemo Kartli.

The survey investigated the most acute social and economic problems in the regions. Differences in the list of problems were identified in the regional perspective. The top three problems in Kvemo Kartli are: employment (70.3%), drinking water supply (30.7%) and access to healthcare services (30.5%). For Samtskhe-Javakheti the top three problems are: employment (67.8%), access to healthcare services (50.6%) and access to education (25.4%).

Comparison of the priorities with the data of 2009 is rather interesting. According to 2009 research employment was number one priority in both regions⁹ (Kvemo Kartli 71%, Samtskhe-Javakheti 78%); water supply was the second priority (Kvemo Kartli 39% and Samtskhe-Javakheti 45%); the third priority varied in the regional perspective, namely, it was supply of natural gas for Kvemo Kartli (39%) and “bad roads” – for Samtskhe-Javakheti (44%). According to these two researches employment remains to be number one problem again. Actualization of healthcare problem is noticeable in both regions. Supply of natural gas in Kvemo Kartli has moved to the group of lesser priorities. Same happened with water supply and road infrastructure in Samtskhe-Javakheti.

According to the outcome of the survey 69,4% of interviewed respondents are employed. Significant number of them (19, 7%) are self-employed. Share of self-employed citizens among Non-Georgian population is 24.6%; this percentage among Georgian population is 14.8. Region of Kvemo Kartli takes a lead in respect with self-employment with 27,7%. Difference was observed in regard with the share of employees in governmental sector in the ethnic perspective. 20.2% of ethnic Georgians and only 13% of Non-Georgian population is employed in the governmental sector. Number of employees in the State sector is much smaller in the Azeri settlement than the number of such employees in the Armenian settlement.

78.2% of Kvemo Kartli population has access to the market where they can obtain farming tools. This percentage equals 44.6 in Samtskhe-Javakheti. Similar misbalance has been noticed in the sectors of realization and processing of the produced agricultural product: Kvemo Kartli 31.9% and Samtskhe-Javakheti 15, 9%. Access to farming machinery is also much easier in Kvemo Kartli than in Samtskhe-Javakheti.

In general 46,1% of interviewed respondents declare that their income is average and it meets the basic household requirements. It has been noted that more representatives of Armenian and mixed settlements say that they receive an average income (55%) than representatives of Azerbaijani (39, 9%) and Georgian (41, 2%) settlements. One-third of the population feels optimistic about their financial future. Specifically, 44% of Samtskhe-Javakheti residents think that the financial situation of their families will improve; this figure corresponds 29% in Kvemo Kartli. In 2009, 41% of Kvemo Kartli and 45% of Samtskhe-Javakheti population had expectation of advancement of living standards in future¹⁰.

The survey aimed at identification of gender sensitivity. Consequently, the number of questions covered gender aspect. According to the two-third of respondents in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti man and woman are

⁹Sea Scholium №5, page 60

¹⁰Sea Scholium №5, page 58

equally involved in family management. The picture is different in respect with household management and income related issues: 12,5% says that expenditure planning is a woman's job, while 23,3% believe that this is man's prerogative.

The survey also tried to explore gender aspects related to education. According to 85% of respondents education is equally important for girls and boys; 11,2% think it is more important for boys and 2,1% believes education is more important for girls. 94,2% of ethnic Georgian respondents declare that receiving education is equally important for both. 71,6% of Azerbaijani respondents agree with this opinion and 23,2% of them think that education is more important for boys. 80% of ethnic Armenian respondents believe that education is equally important for both genders, 15,9% of them considers education more important for boys. Only 4,3% of Georgian respondents think that education is more important for boys than for girls.

According to one-fifth of Non-Georgians - employment is more crucial for men than for women. Despite that, about 70% of respondents consider that a household should be run by the man and the woman equally. 44% of respondents believe that men are responsible for material welfare of the family.

To assess gender sensitivity there was a question in the questionnaire asking who has a right to answer questions of a representative of the State entity, social service, research organization or a political party. According to the answers 68,9% of respondents consider that both man and woman have the equal right to give answers in such case. Statistically reliable difference was observed in ethnic perspective. 83,6% of Georgians declares that the woman and the man have the equal right to disseminate information. This figure was 54 among Non-Georgian respondents. One-third of Non-Georgian population claims that this is the right of men only.

Recommendations

- To promote the values of tolerance among Georgian population (particularly in the Capital);
- To improve information sharing, experience and cultural dialogue among different regions of Georgia;
- To implement employment projects in regions;
- To improve healthcare services and to enhance access to healthcare;
- To continue and to expand water supply projects in Kvemo Kartli.
- To continue and to expand infrastructure development projects in Kvemo Kartli.
- To improve access to the market of food processing in Samtskhe-Javakheti;
- To improve access to farming technologies in Samtskhe-Javakheti;

- To finalize the process of natural gas supply in both regions;
- To raise awareness of population on business management and the legal framework regulating economic activities; To implement projects focused on enhancement of women's potential in education, employment and participation in the decision making process (especially in Kvemo Kartli).