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SURVEY ON ATTITUDES OF THE RESIDENTS OF LIBERATED AND FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE: *VOZNESENSK COMMUNITY OF MYKOLAIV OBLAST*

**is supported by the Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI),
implemented with the support of the
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

Kyiv International Institute of Sociology

January 2024



INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY

Target audience

Adult residents (18+) of Voznesensk community of Mykolaiv oblast

Sample size

405 respondents

Method

Computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI)

Fieldwork

December 14 – 29, 2023

Weighting

Data have been weighted in order to correspond to the gender-age structure of the permanent residents according to the data of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine as of 1 January, 2021

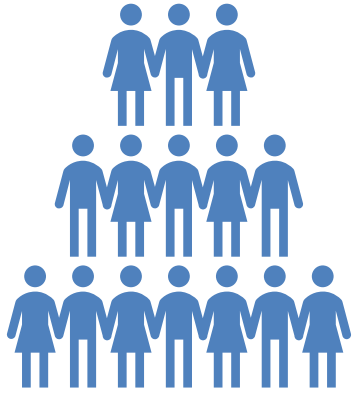
Sample error
(with 0.95
probability and
without design
effect)

5,0% for indicators close to 50%;
4,3% for indicators close to 25 or 75%;
3,0% for indicators close to 10 or 90%;
2,2% for indicators close to 5 or 95%.

IN ADDITION:
4 online focus-
group discussions

youth aged 18-29;
working population aged 30-59;
active population (volunteers, business, activists);
internally displaced persons (IDP).





MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

**BY QUANTITATIVE SURVEY DATA*

Gender:

56% women,
44% men.

Age:

14% – 18-29 years old,
31% – from 30 to 44 years old,
25% – from 45 to 59 years old,
30% – 60 years and older.

Educational level:

31% - have a higher education (bachelor, specialist, master, scientific degree),
33% – special secondary school (technical school, college),
36% – vocational and technical (VET, lyceum), full secondary general or lower.

Статус зайнятості:

50% have jobs
50% do not have jobs

Self-assessment of the family's financial situation :

10% don't have enough money even for food,
36% have enough for food, but they find it difficult to buy clothes,
35% have enough for food, clothes and small savings, but not enough to buy expensive things,
12% – can afford to buy some expensive things or everything they want.

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

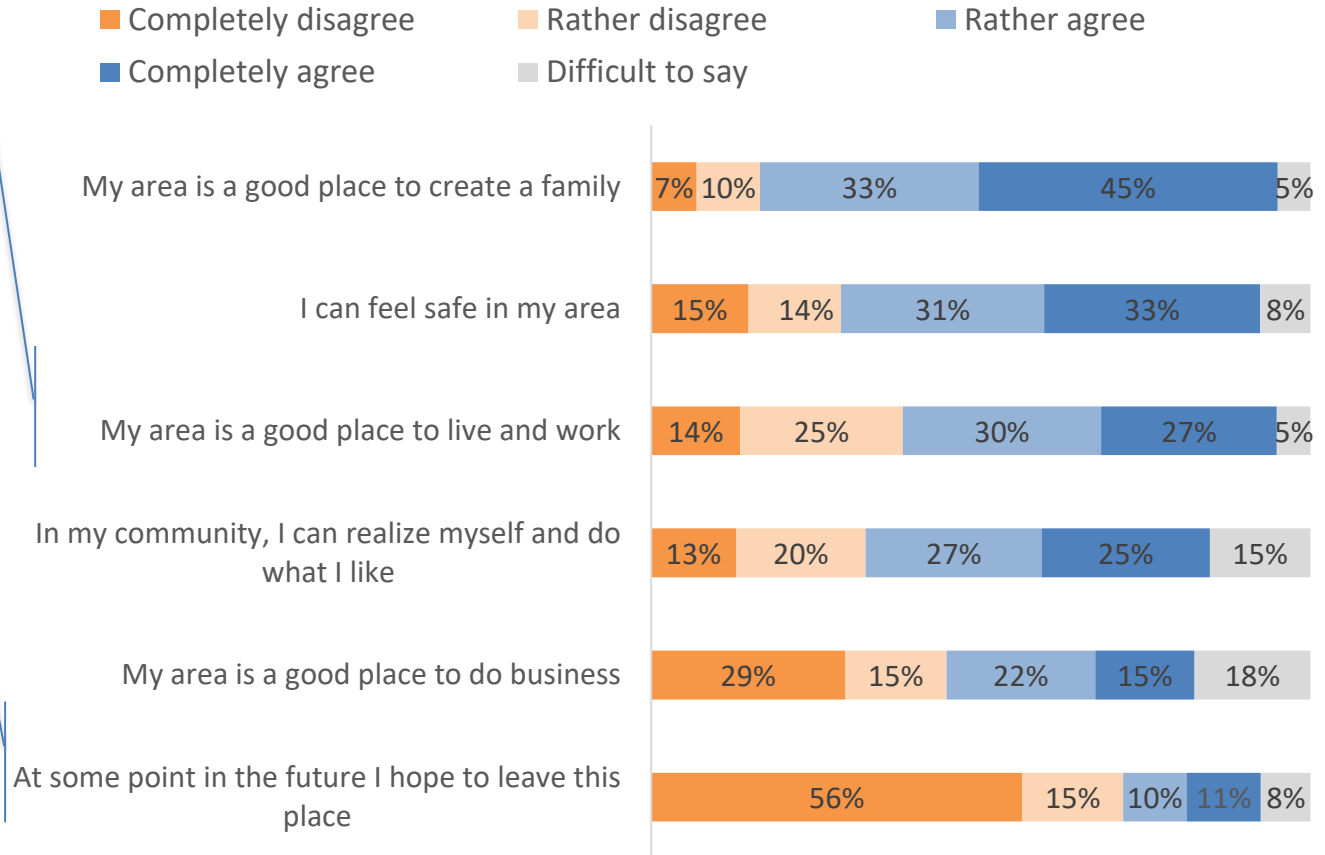


SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

The FGD participants emphasized the following strengths in their community: warm climate, good ecological situation, land fertility, beautiful scenery, presence of the Pivdennyi Buh (Southern Bug) river.

- FGD: factors that keep people in the community at the moment:
- deep attachment to the native place, especially for the elderly;
 - financial restrictions;
 - fear of the unknown;
 - lack of the foreign language knowledge, which can be an obstacle to migration abroad;
 - restrictions for men due to closed borders.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your current place of residence:

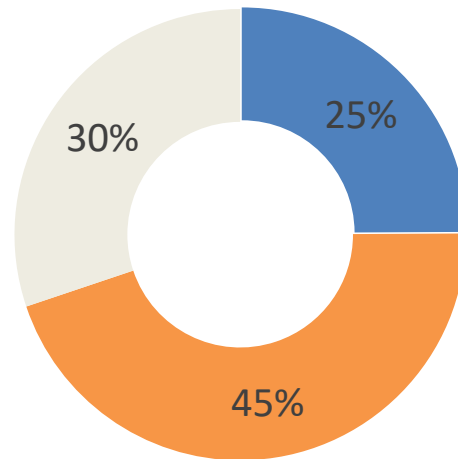


Base: all respondents (n=405)



DIRECTION OF DEVELOPMENT OF AFFAIRS IN THE COMMUNITY

Do you think, in general, things in your community are going in the right or wrong direction?



- In the right direction
- In the wrong direction
- Difficult to say

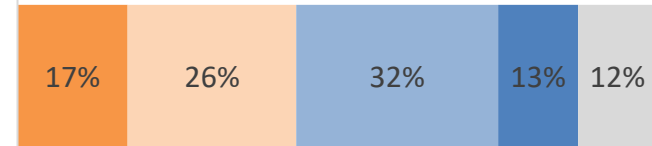


TRUST AND COOPERATION

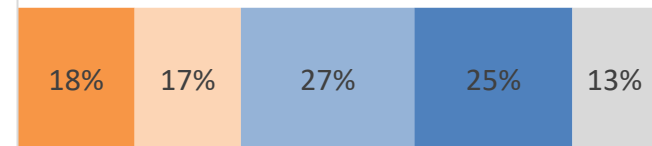
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your community and neighbors:

- Completely disagree
- Rather disagree
- Rather agree
- Completely agree
- Difficult to say

Most people in my community can be trusted



During the last year, people from our community actively solved common problems together (for example, cleaning the territory or planting trees)



FGD: Indicated the following traits of community residents: hardworking nature, domesticity, kindness, friendliness, positivity, hospitality and cohesion.

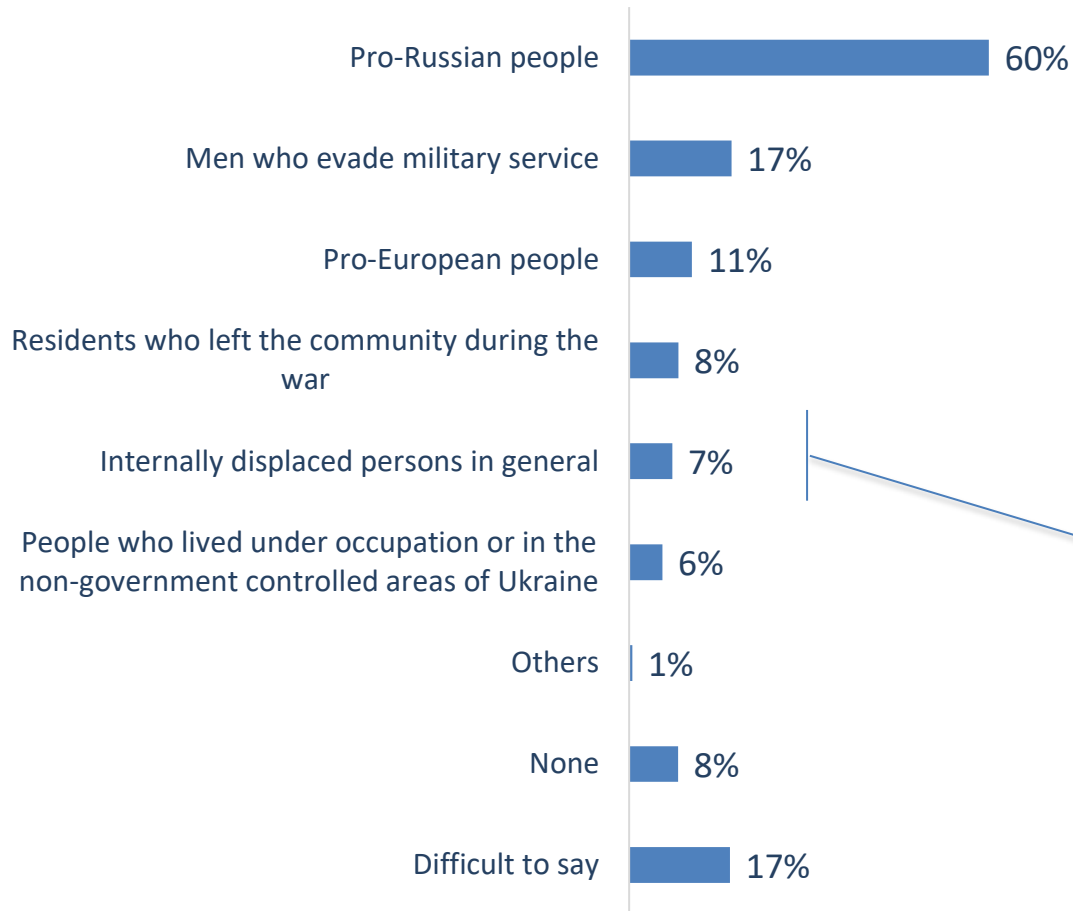
FGD: the war strengthened the unity of the community's residents, and the number of people who express a desire to improve their community has increased

Base: all respondents (n=405)



GROUPS THAT MAY BECOME A SOURCE OF CONFLICT IN THE COMMUNITY

In your opinion, an increase in the number of representatives of which of the groups listed on card 4 could cause conflicts in your community?



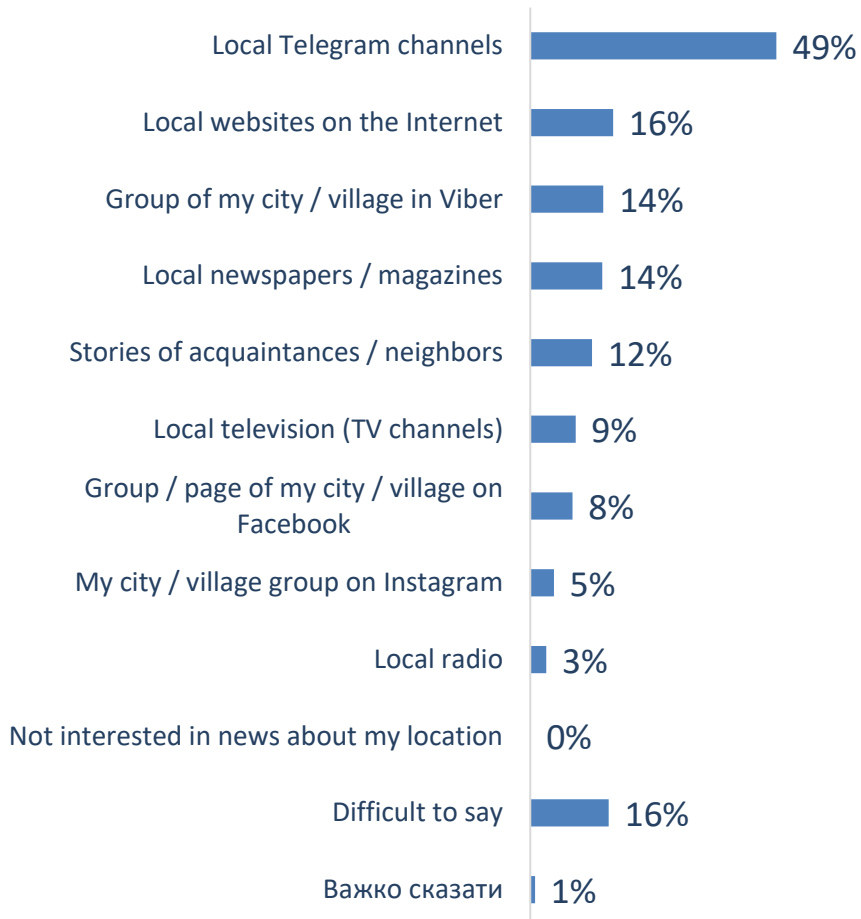
FGD: it was emphasized that there were no cases of conflicts between internally displaced persons (IDP) and the local population. However, some participants pointed to an increase in aggressiveness among people as a result of the war, which can cause certain conflicts.

SOURCES OF LOCAL NEWS



SOURCES OF LOCAL NEWS

What sources do you use to get local news?

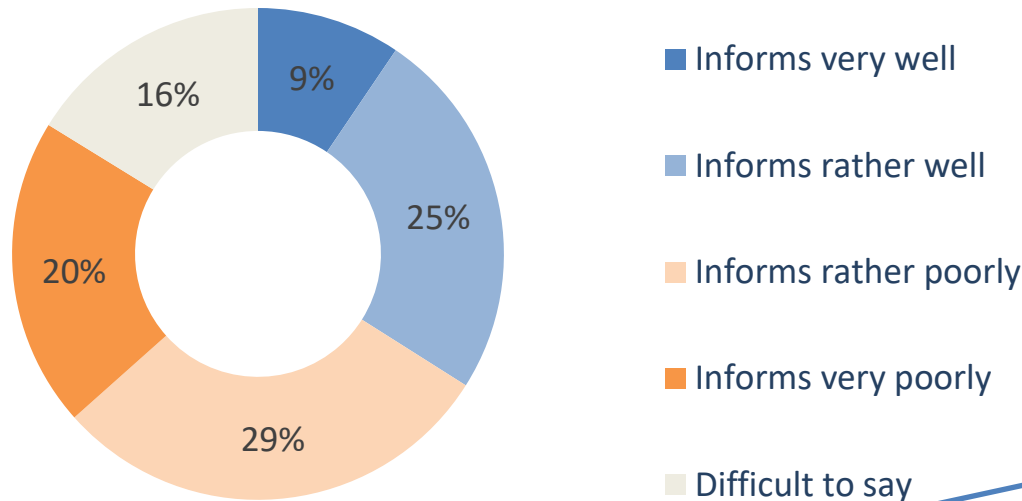


FGD: Telegram-channels are the most effective information channel. The participants also note the prevalence of "word of mouth" as a source of information, exchange of information with acquaintances or neighbors. Official channels of the city government in social networks are an important source of information for residents. According to the observations of the participants, the local newspaper "Den za dnev" ("Day by Day") has lost its popularity and now functions mainly as a bulletin board.

FGD: Participants indicated on the problem with access to information about community. The participants suggested considering the possibility of creating a special platform to combine information about events for convenient tracking and public participation. There is also a need for real-time information about public transport, which is an important element to facilitate the everyday life of the community.

INTERACTION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY

How would you rate how well the local government informs the residents of the community about its activities?



💡 "I believe that the main problem is with communication. This is not the first time I have told my friends about it. I work there and better know the processes, how things happen, but many people talk about the inappropriate use of funds and stuff like that. They don't know the real decision-making and procedure. That's a big disadvantage for us since we do not explain how it happens or describe it in the wrong words. Let's take budgeting. We allocate certain amounts of budget to various expense items but our people don't really understand this whole thing", - (female, 24, youth).

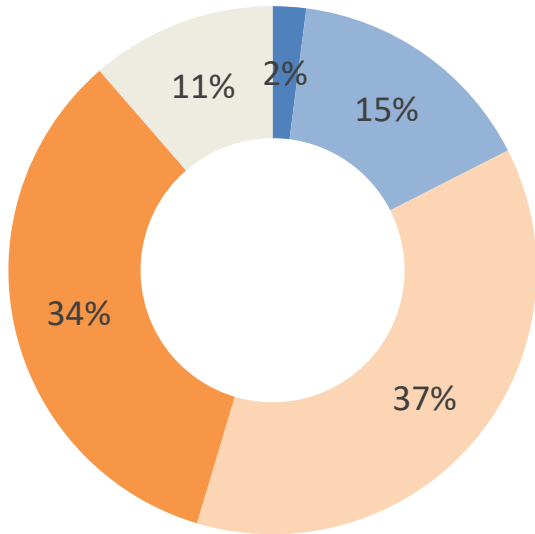
FGD: Lack of communication between the authorities and the community is one of the key problems pointed out by the respondents. So, for example, the local population's lack of understanding of decision-making mechanisms and lack of proper explanation can lead to incorrect perception of the authorities' actions.

The community also wants greater transparency in city spending. However, there are discussions about the appropriate level of transparency of certain information, in particular in the field of military procurement.

Participants emphasized the need to improve information exchange for greater accessibility and participation of residents in decision-making. The need to improve communication strategies to ensure clarity and availability of information was emphasized.

COMMUNITY INFLUENCE ON DECISION-MAKING

In your opinion, to what extent do the residents of your community influence important decisions of the local government?



- Influence very much
- Somewhat influence
- Influence quite little
- Have no influence
- Difficult to say

FGD: Among the positive examples when the local population influenced the decisions of local authorities, the participants recalled the educational reform, where parents and teachers mobilized, advocating for the change of the status of schools to gymnasiums and lyceums. It is also worth noting the case during the election of the headman, where public discussions and meetings allowed the residents to oppose the candidacy imposed by the authorities.

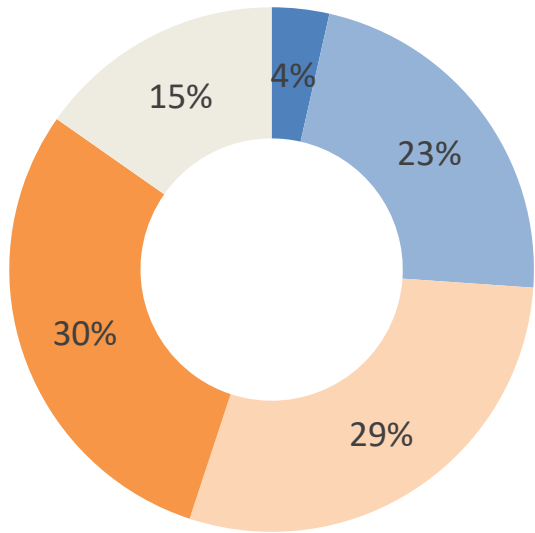
FGD: The responses of focus group participants indicate a low level of interest of some citizens in cooperation and interaction with local authorities. It is also noted that some citizens can be critical, but passive, without taking specific actions for changes and improvements.

💡 "There are those, let's call them "couch experts", who can talk in a loud manner when they are sitting in their kitchen and telling their friends that they would do this and that in all those situations. They'd get the moon on a stick, if they had freedom to do that! But as soon as you give such a person a specific task and explain that in order to achieve something, you need to do this and that. That's where they usually say: "Well, you don't say". And just in several minutes they get back to the same stuff: "These guys can't do everything themselves, but want us to do it all", and so on. Well, what do I say? There is a part of the population that talks a lot, but does little or nothing at all in order to really change something", - (female, 39, active population).



EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY INTERESTS

To what extent do you think the local government expresses or represents the interests and point of view of the residents of the community?



- Completely expresses / represents
- Rather expresses / represents
- Rather does not express / represent
- Completely does not express / represent
- Difficult to say / Refused

Base: all respondents (n=405)

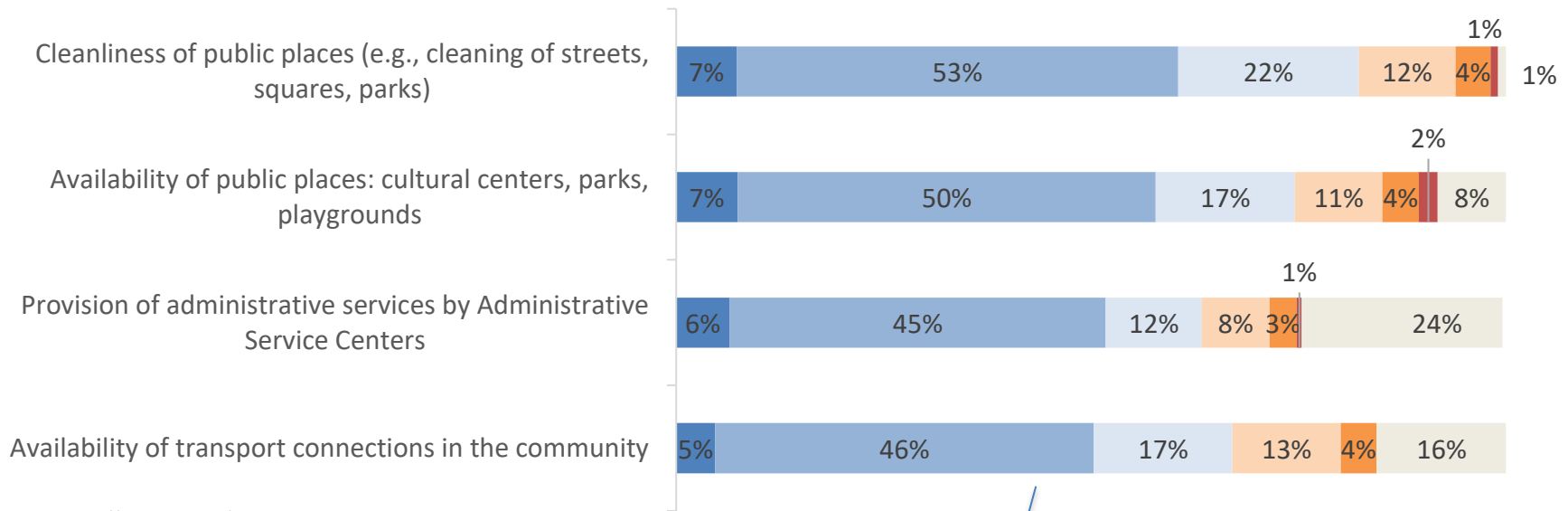
EVALUATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY



EVALUATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Please rate the provision of the following services in your community:

Very good Good Neither good nor bad Bad Very bad No service Difficult to say



Base: all respondents (n=405)

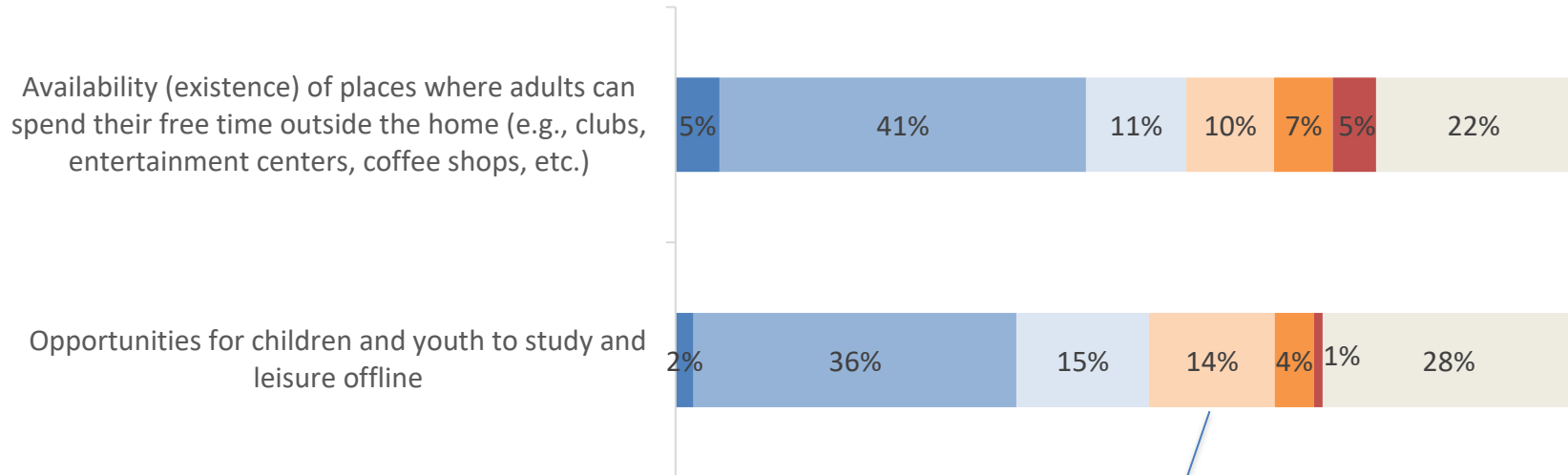
FGD: An important aspect for residents is the availability of regular public transport, which contributes to ease of movement and accessibility of various services in the community.



EVALUATION OF SERVICE DELIVERY (cont.)

Please rate the provision of the following services in your community:

■ Very good ■ Good ■ Neither good nor bad ■ Bad ■ Very bad ■ No service ■ Difficult to say

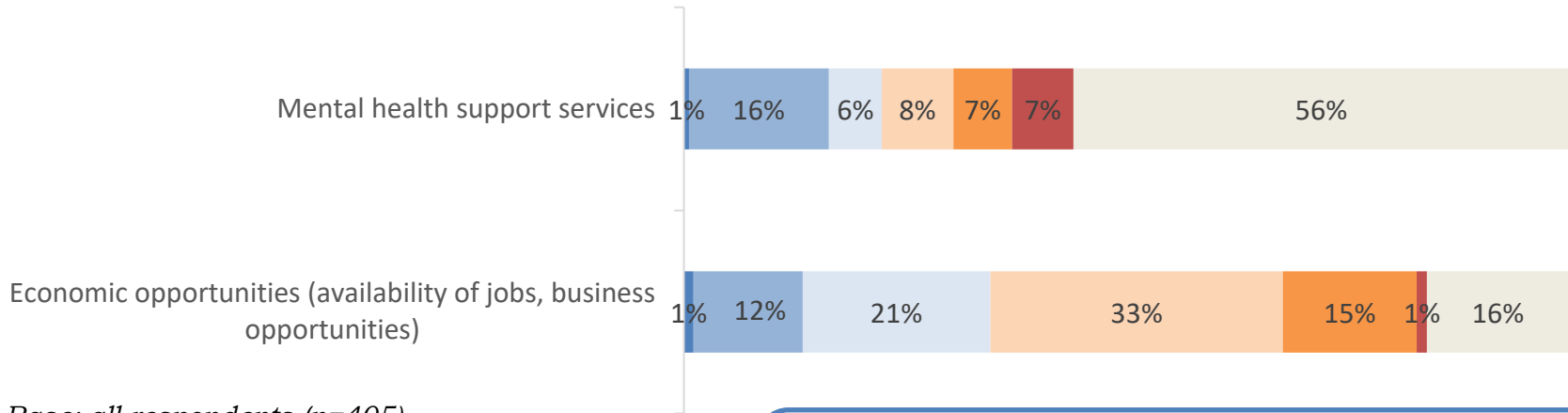


Base: all respondents (n=405)

FGD: The participants pointed to the lack of space for creative development of young people, where they could implement their ideas/projects or find like-minded people, and the insufficient number of entertainment activities, which negatively affects social activity and the general mood of the community's residents.

Please rate the provision of the following services in your community:

■ Very good
 ■ Good
 ■ Neither good nor bad
 ■ Bad
 ■ Very bad
 ■ No service
 ■ Difficult to say



Base: all respondents (n=405)

FGD: participants expressed concern about the lack of opportunities to find decently paid work, lack of employment opportunities in rural areas.

💡 “Well, we have jobs but the main issue is with decent pay. We see jobs available and utility companies post vacancies. The only thing is that the proposed salary might not be enough for everyone, people need more for a living”, - (female, 25, youth).

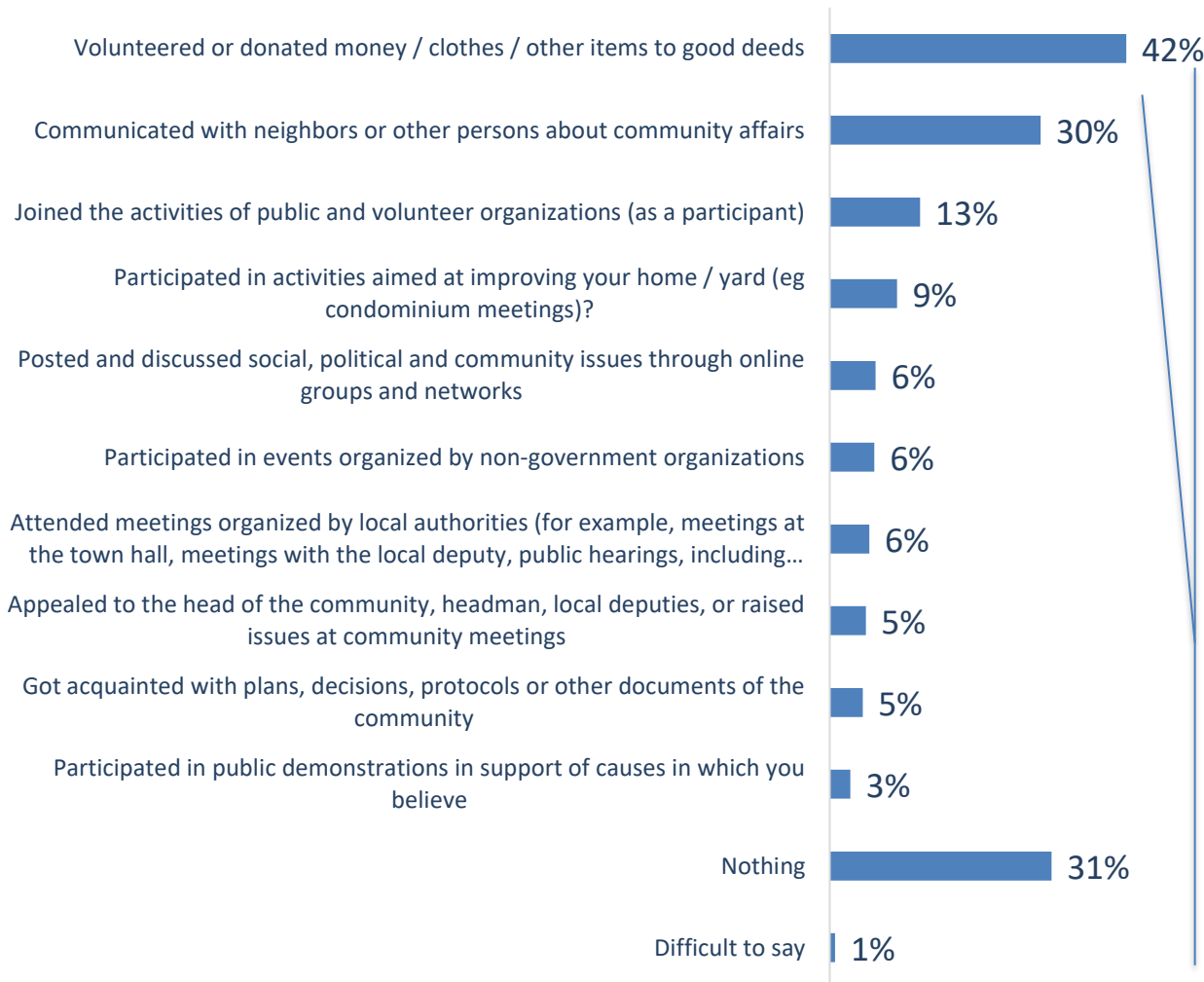
💡 “Well, we would like more changes in this area, so that we have more working enterprises and jobs for people. Because if we take, for example, our villages, Rakove, Novohryhorivka, then in Rakove we have zero infrastructure! Absolutely nothing! People have nowhere to find a job”, - (female, 52, working population).

CIVIC ACTIVITY



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY LIFE

Which of the following have you done in the past 12 months?



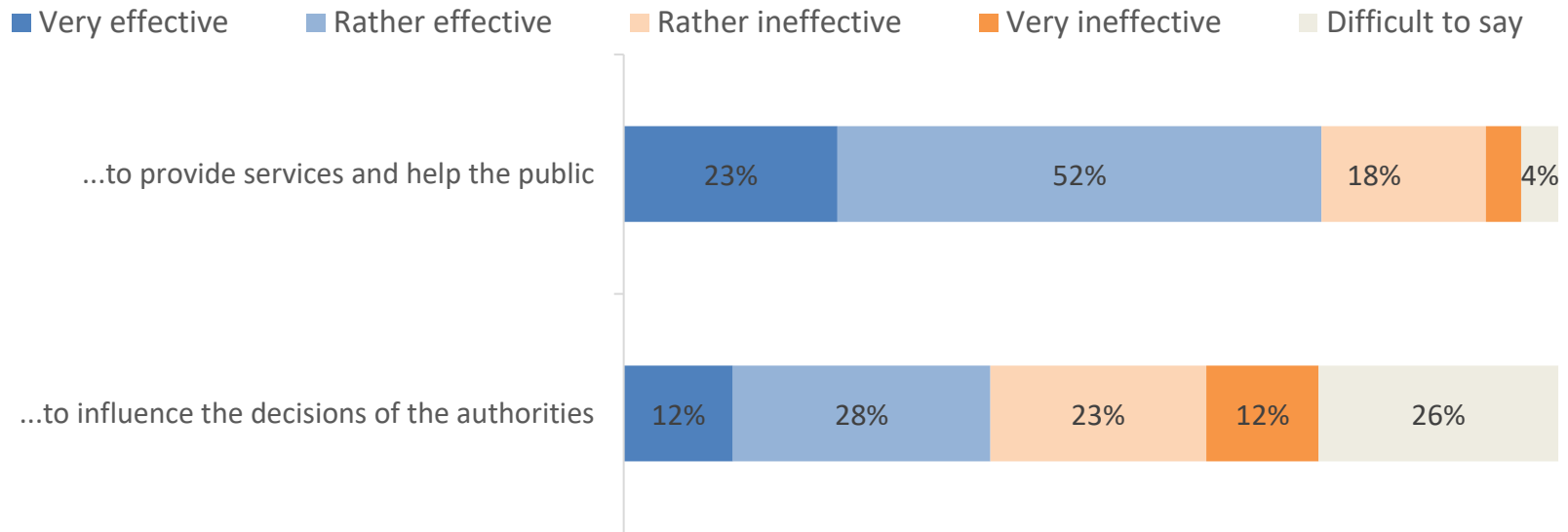
FGD: the population is actively involved in various charitable and volunteer initiatives. They pointed to a variety of ways they show their support, from volunteering and charity events to fundraisers.

Donations, both voluntary and financial support, lie at the heart of initiatives of the population. Local volunteers and organizations hold charity events that not only help the military, but also other categories of people, in particular, displaced persons. There are also initiatives to collect food and clothing to send to the front lines, as well as weaving camouflage nets and making candles.



AWARENESS AND EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

How would you rate the activities of civil society (non-governmental) organizations in your community from the point of view of their ability...



Date: respondents who know about the activities of public organizations and associations in their community (n=67).

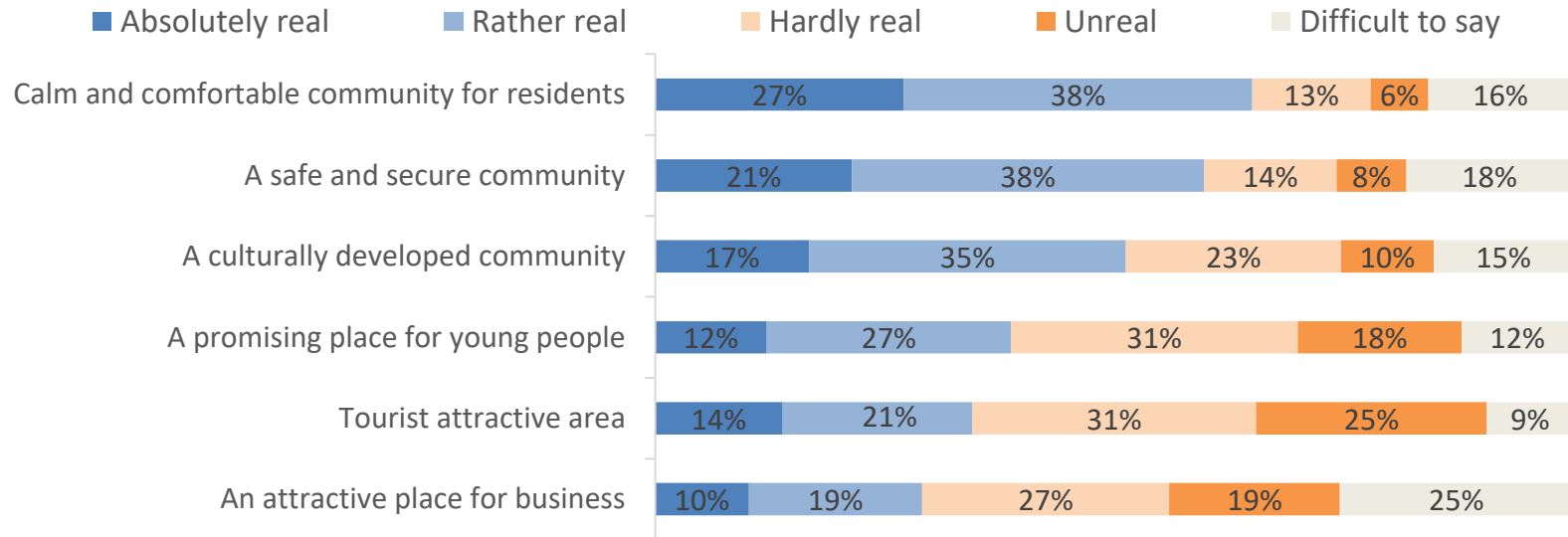
FGD: Various institutions and organizations that stimulate the public activity of the population function within the community. There are also organizations and charitable foundations that help people.

PROSPECTS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



PROSPECTS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How real do you think the following prospects for the development of your community are:



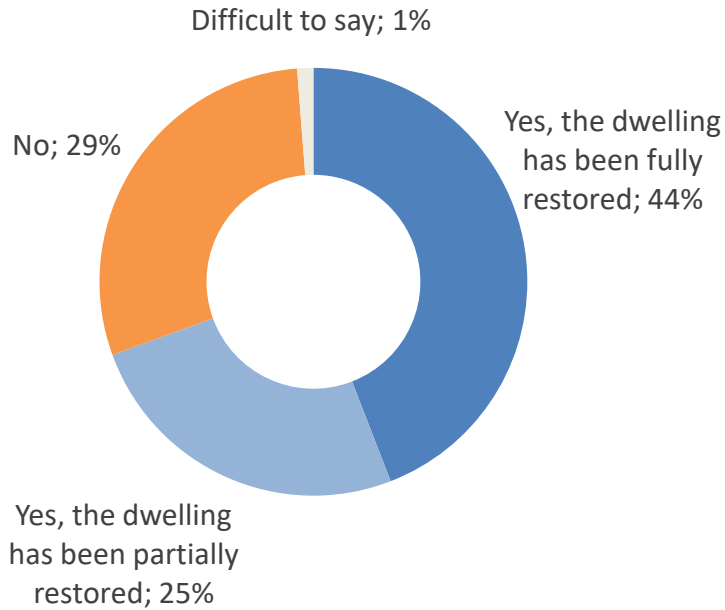
Base: all respondents (n=405)

FGD: Key areas of development for their community:

- industry and small business;
- educational sector;
- health care;
- infrastructure of villages;
- opportunities for leisure and sports.

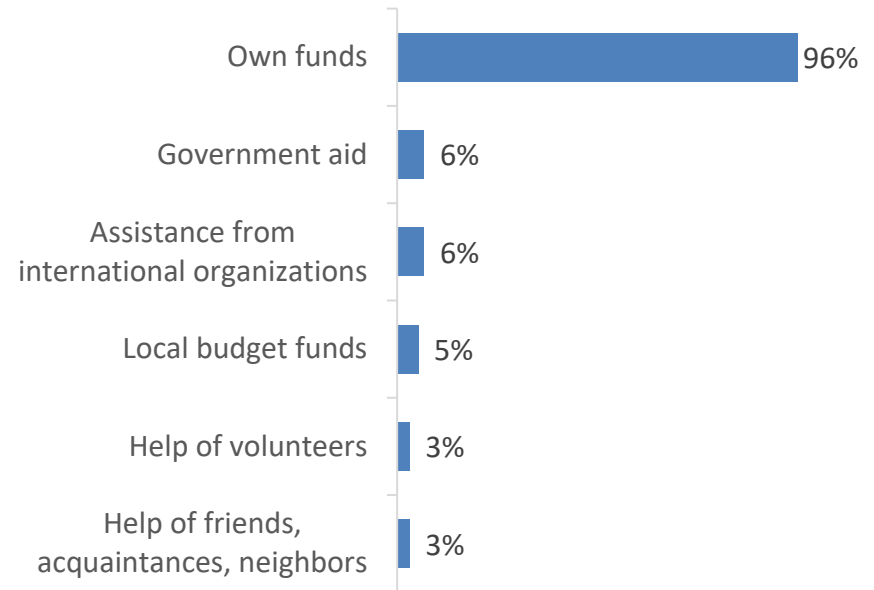
RECOVERY

Has your dwelling been restored?



Base: respondents whose homes were damaged as a result of war (n = 58).

At whose expense were these restoration works carried out?



Base: respondents whose dwellings were fully or partially restored (n=40).



SOURCES OF HOPE FOR RECOVERY

Which of the following gives you hope that the recovery of your community is possible?



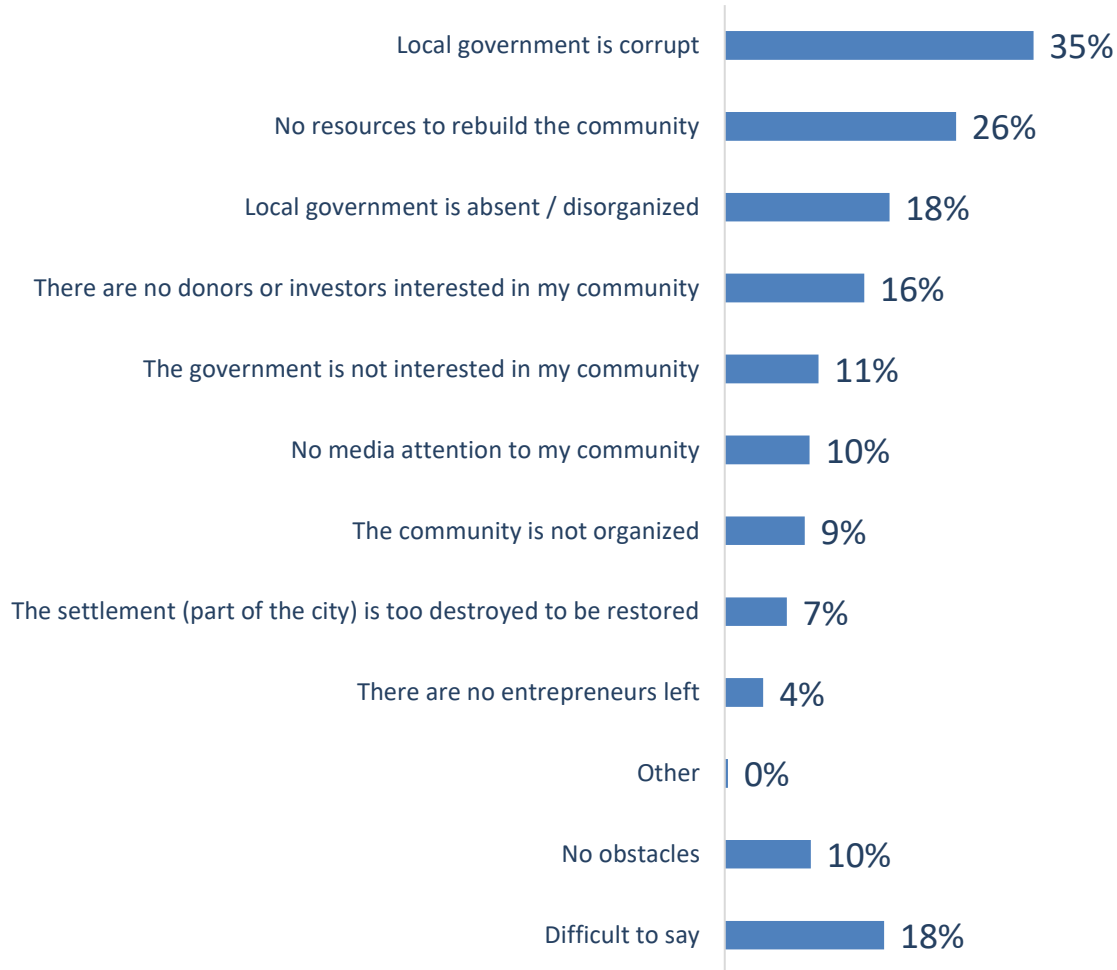
FGD: It is important to attract outside investments to restore the community because it won't be able to do restoration using its own funds. At the same time, some respondents noted that it is necessary not only to put hopes in foreign aid, but also to actively participate in this process, fighting corruption and restoring one's own economy, creating jobs with normal wages to increase the community population.

Base: all respondents (n=405)



BARRIERS FOR RECOVERY

What obstacles to recovery in your community do you see?



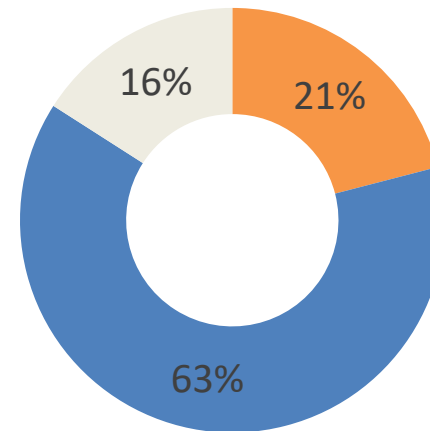
Base: all respondents (n=405)

POSITION ON RESTORATION OF DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE

Which of the following points of view on the restoration of damaged infrastructure is closer to you:

FGD: The majority preferred a longer and better recovery, which involved not only restoration to pre-war levels, but also the development of new areas, such as tourism, the sports and recreation sector, and recreation areas.

On the other hand, the respondents who chose a quick recovery with lower quality appealed to the need to make normal conditions for people as soon as possible, to create jobs so that people can return to the community.



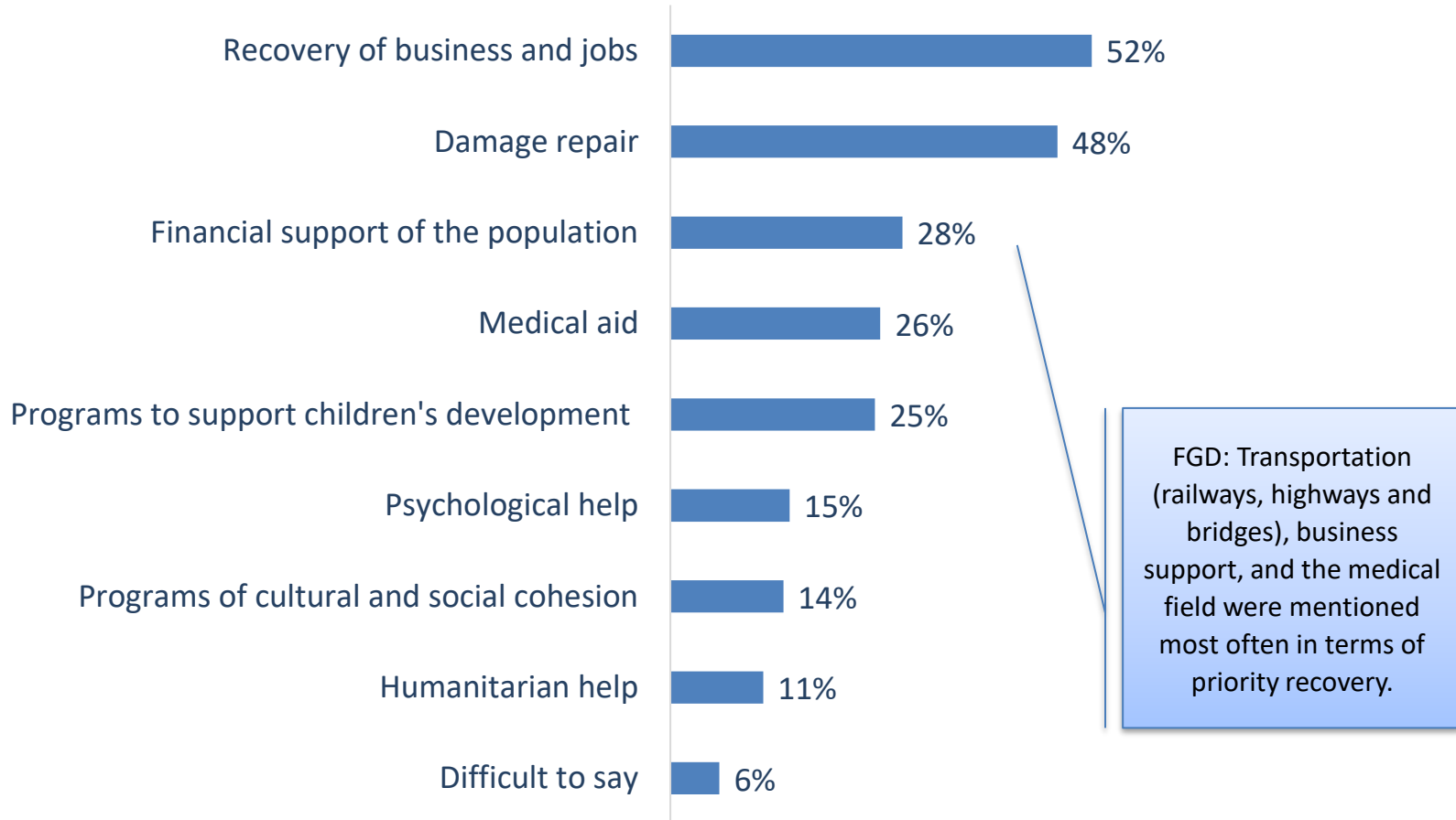
- Restoration of the community should take place quickly and be aimed at restoring the level that existed before the start of the war
- Restoration may take longer, but should include the implementation of green, energy-saving technologies and modernization
- Other / Difficult to say

Base: all respondents (n=405)



PRIORITY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Which of the listed programs should be implemented in your community as a priority?

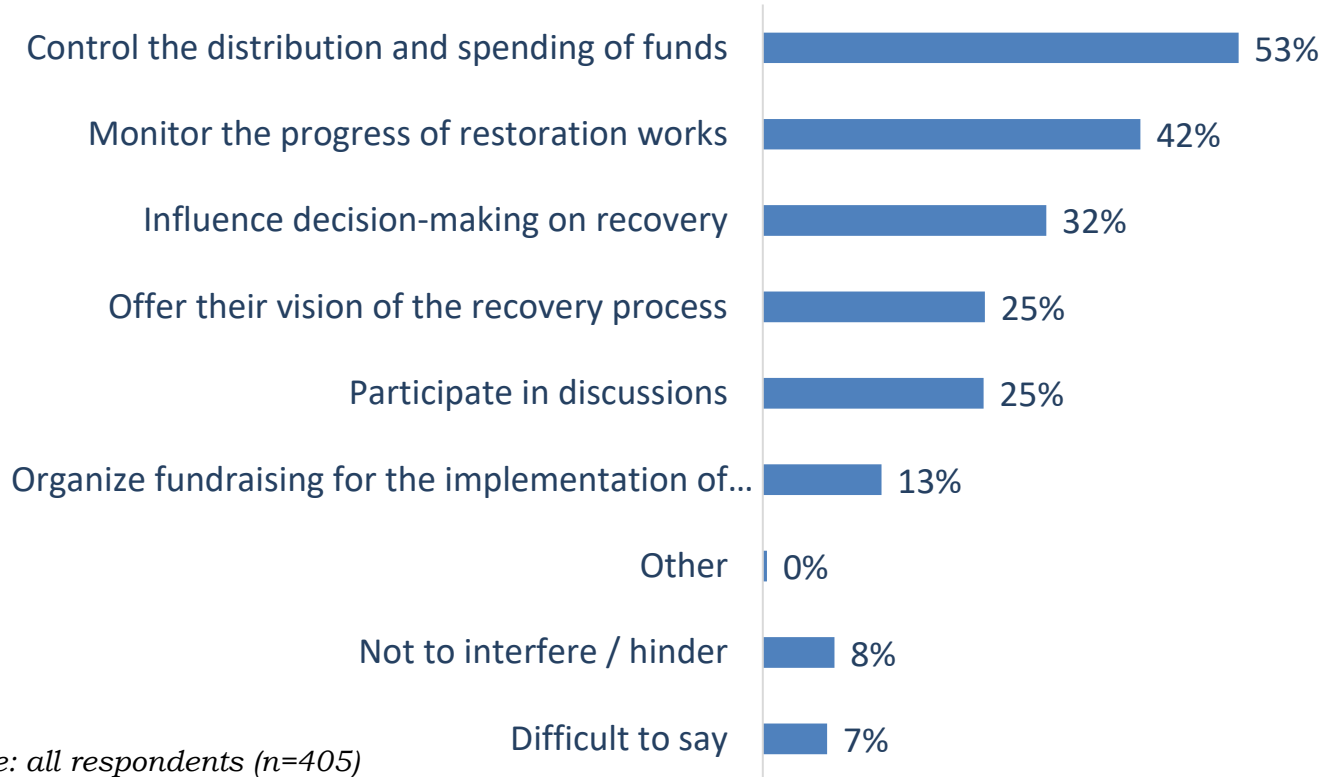


Base: all respondents (n=405)



THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS

What should ordinary residents of the community do in the process of recovery?



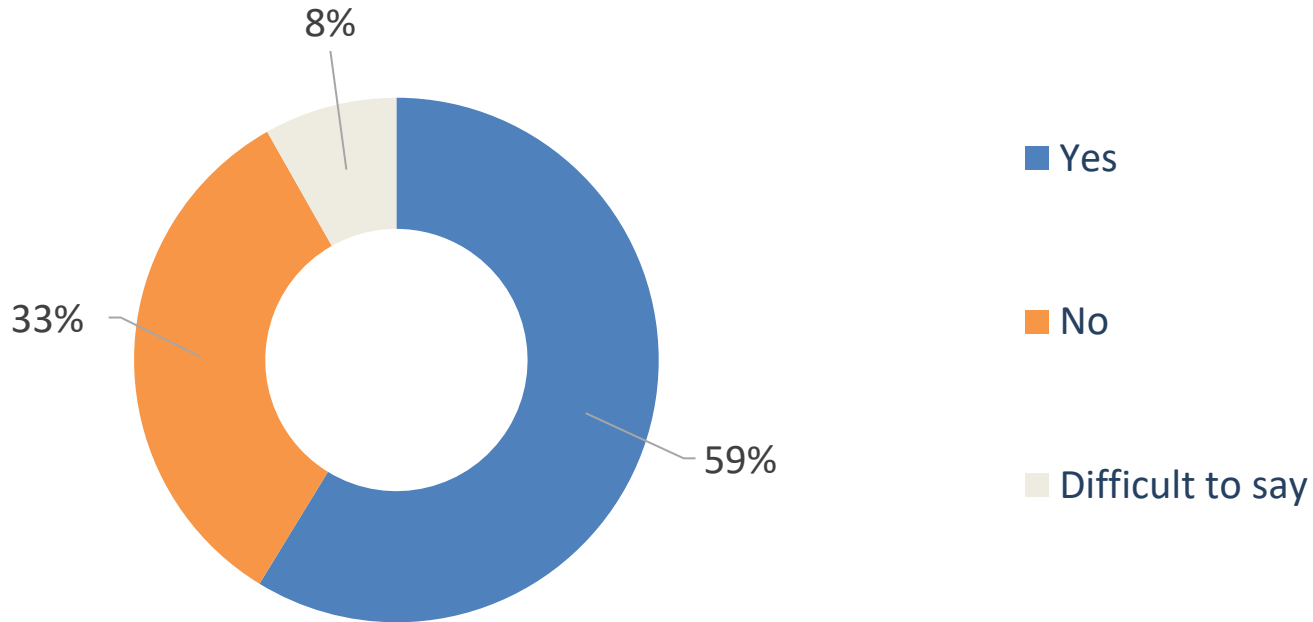
Base: all respondents (n=405)

FGD: the respondents emphasized the importance of interaction with the population through surveys and consultations in social networks, in order to take into account their opinion and wishes when making decisions about the community development. Besides, everyone agreed that community should be involved in monitoring projects and controlling community finances. Some respondents indicated the possibility of holding local initiatives and contests with further implementation of contestants' ideas. In general, the focus groups participants came to the conclusion that the active participation of the community is an important element of restoration and development, which contributes to producing detailed ideas, determining priorities, and ensuring successful implementation of projects.



READINESS TO JOIN RECOVERY INITIATIVES

Are you ready to personally join recovery initiatives?



Base: all respondents (n=405)