



ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES

Report on the results of a sociological survey

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The research was conducted by “The A.D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Centre” NGO within the framework of the "Involving Youth in Local Governance in Armenia" Project (UDF-23-988-ARM) funded by the UN Democracy Fund.

This report includes the results of a sociological survey conducted among the population of the project’s beneficiary communities: Ashotsk, Amasia, Chambarak, Vardenis, Goris and Tatev. The aim of the research was to identify the needs, problems and development opportunities of the community. The data from surveys, expert and in-depth interviews and their primary analyses are presented.

The work is intended for the Government of the Republic of Armenia, relevant state administration departments, local self-government bodies (hereinafter referred to as LSGs), non-governmental organizations, experts interested in community development issues and the general public.

The research is based on a public opinion survey. The opinions and assessments expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the foundation financing the project. Reproduction of any material from this report is permitted only for non-commercial purposes and provided that the source is properly cited.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The research conducted within the framework of the "Involving Youth in Local Governance in Armenia" Project, funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund in Armenia, aimed to identify the main needs and challenges of six communities in three regions of the Republic of Armenia: Ashotsk, Amasia, Gavar, Vardenis, Goris and Tatev, in order to provide evidence-based data necessary for the effective implementation of the project. The survey results allow for a comprehensive assessment of the perceptions, expectations and opportunities of community residents, including youth, as well as their level of participation in community life and decision-making processes. Given the current challenges in Armenia's democratization and the limited involvement of youth in the local self-government system, needs assessment can become an important tool for developing evidence-based strategies and guiding community development initiatives. The research not only presents the context of the socio-economic, educational situation and the potential of youth in the regions of Shirak, Gegharkunik and Syunik, but also reflects the opinions and priorities of community residents in solving community problems. Thus, the presented report, on the one hand, summarizes the collected facts, and on the other hand, serves as a basis for the development of future project activities and recommendations aimed at empowering youth, strengthening their cooperation with local governments and forming inclusive and sustainable models of community development.

1.1. Choice of research methods

To achieve the research goal, quantitative and qualitative methods of sociological research were used. Using a multifactor model of analysis, the awareness, attitudes, and positions of key beneficiaries on the issues under study were identified and assessed.

Table 1. Research methods and tools

Information collection methods	Information collection tools
Quantitative structured (standardized) face-to-face interviews	Structured Questionnaire
In-depth interviews with expert and key informants: independent experts in the field, representatives of interested groups (policy makers, implementers, monitors, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Semi-structured (semi-standardized) Expert Interview Questionnaires• Semi-structured Key Informant Interview Questionnaires

The questionnaire for quantitative direct interviews was constructed in a structured format. The questionnaire included questions related to the assessment of the socio-economic situation of the community, the changes that have occurred in recent years and after the unification of the communities, the main existing problems and development priorities, the provision and quality assessment of the infrastructure of the settlement, the identification of the peculiarities and advantages of the community, as well as the presentation of the unused potential of youth, problems and ways to solve them, proposals for community development and a vision. The interviews were conducted face-to-face by pre-trained and instructed interviewers.

The collected data were pre-checked for completeness and accuracy, then entered and analyzed. During the analysis, the main trends, existing problems and priority needs of the beneficiaries were identified.

In order to provide additional depth and context to the quantitative results, in-depth interviews were used as one of the qualitative research methods. The in-depth interviews were conducted with members of youth initiatives in the beneficiary communities, representatives of community governance, as well as representatives of local government staff and civil society organizations. A total of 36 interviews were conducted, which were aimed at studying the following topics:

- Features and advantages of communities,
- Main obstacles to community development and changes in the socio-economic situation,
- Opportunities for balanced development of settlements and decentralization of services,
- Problems specific to border communities,
- Ways to prevent internal and external migration of youth,
- Priority steps for community development,
- Strategies to increase youth civic activity,
- Untapped opportunities and potential of youth,
- Opportunities for community support for the improvement of social and public spaces.

The interviews were conducted based on a semi-structured questionnaire, recorded with the consent of the respondent, and later studied. The obtained qualitative data were analyzed using the content analysis method, identifying the main thematic directions and fundamental ideas.

All collected data were used in the analysis in an aggregated form.

1.2. Research choice

The research was conducted in three regions of the Republic of Armenia: Shirak, Gegharkunik, and Syunik. Six communities were selected:

- Ashotsk and Amasia from Shirak region,
- Goris and Tatev from Syunik region,
- Chambarak and Vardenis from Gegharkunik region.

The sample was formed based on the fact that the aforementioned communities represent border, mountainous, and settlements with different socio-economic problems and challenges. This approach made it possible to collect comparable data and study the needs of the beneficiary communities, especially their youth, and the dynamics of their participation in community life in different contexts.

Quantitative surveys. A total of 362 surveys were conducted. The sample was formed using a multi-stage quota method: first, the regions were selected, and then the communities, taking into account the type of settlement (urban/rural). In the next stage, the criteria for inclusion in the sample group were gender and age. The distribution was maintained by region, ensuring relatively equal representation (Shirak: 116 surveys, Gegharkunik: 121 surveys, Syunik: 125 surveys). The coverage of different settlements within regions varies, which is determined by the number of residents. The confidence interval of the survey was 95%, and the margin of error was $\pm 5.15\%$.

Table 2. Choice distribution by regions and settlements

Region	Community	Number of respondents	Total
Shirak	Amasia	49	116
	Ashotsk	67	
Gegharkunik	Vardenis	80	121
	Chambarak	41	
Syunik	Goris	93	125
	Tatev	32	

Table 3. Choice description by age groups and gender

Age group	Total	Female (63%)	Male (37%)
15–18 y	57	42	15
19–29 y	125	81	44
30–44 y	111	67	44
45–60 y	43	25	18
61+ y	26	13	13
Total	362	228	134

Chart 1. Choice description by employment

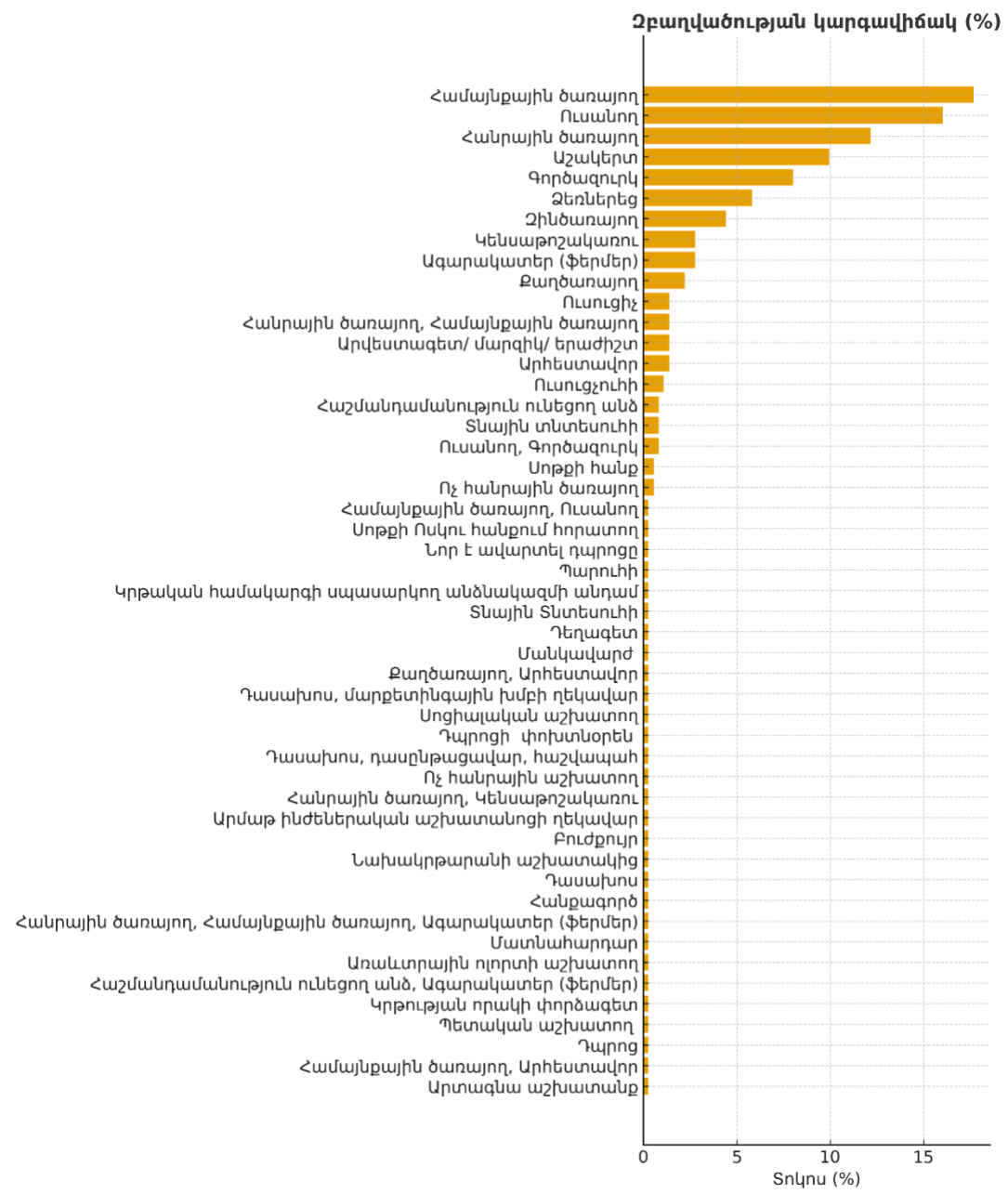


Chart 2. Choice description by employment sector

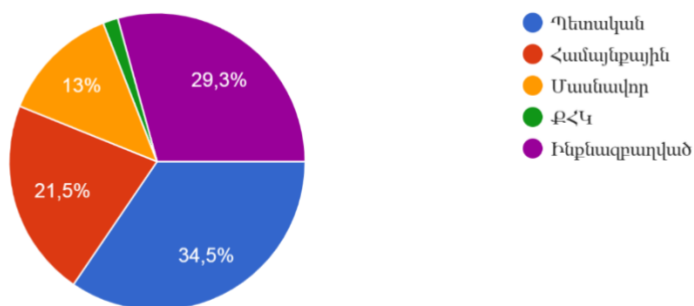


Table 4. Choice description by education and gender distribution

Educational level	Total	Female (63%)	Male (37%)
Basic	9	8	1
Pre-vocational	4	1	3
Secondary	79	48	31
Intermediate vocational	75	47	28
Higher	190	121	69
Postgraduate	5	3	2
Total	362	228 (63%)	134 (37%)

Qualitative in-depth interviews: 28 interviews were conducted (an average of 4–5 interviews per community). Interview participants were selected from the following groups:

- Informal youth leaders,
- Local government representatives (municipality, council of elders),
- Heads of educational and cultural institutions,
- Local government and local governance (LG) experts.

This approach allowed for a combination of quantitative and qualitative data, obtaining a comprehensive picture of community issues, the level of youth involvement, and attitudes towards reforms.

Table 5. Description of the choice by participant group and gender

Participant group	Total	Female	Male
Informal youth leaders	9	7	2

Local government representatives and council members	6	5	1
Heads of educational and cultural institutions	6	3	3
Experts in the field of local government and territorial development	7	2	5
Total	28 interviews	17 (60.7%)	11 (39.3%)

1.3. Phases of conducting research

This research was conducted in the following phases:

Phase I – Preparatory work:

- Development of research methodology and tools,
- Research planning and scheduling,
- Development and testing of questionnaires and in-depth interviews,
- Selection and training of interviewers,
- Organizational arrangements for fieldwork in communities.

Phase II – Fieldwork:

- Implementation of quantitative surveys using a structured questionnaire,
- Conducting qualitative in-depth interviews in beneficiary communities using a semi-structured questionnaire,
- Monitoring the progress of fieldwork and data quality.

Phase III – Data processing:

- Verification of quantitative questionnaire data for completeness and accuracy,
- Entering quantitative data into a statistical software package and cleaning the database,
- Grouping and coding of responses to open-ended questions,
- Transcribing, editing and thematic grouping of qualitative interview recordings.

Phase IV – Analysis and reporting:

- Statistical analysis of quantitative data,
- Content analysis of qualitative data,
- Combining quantitative and qualitative results to obtain a complete picture of community problems and youth needs,

- Developing conclusions and practical recommendations based on the results obtained,
- Preparing a final research report.

2. MAIN RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

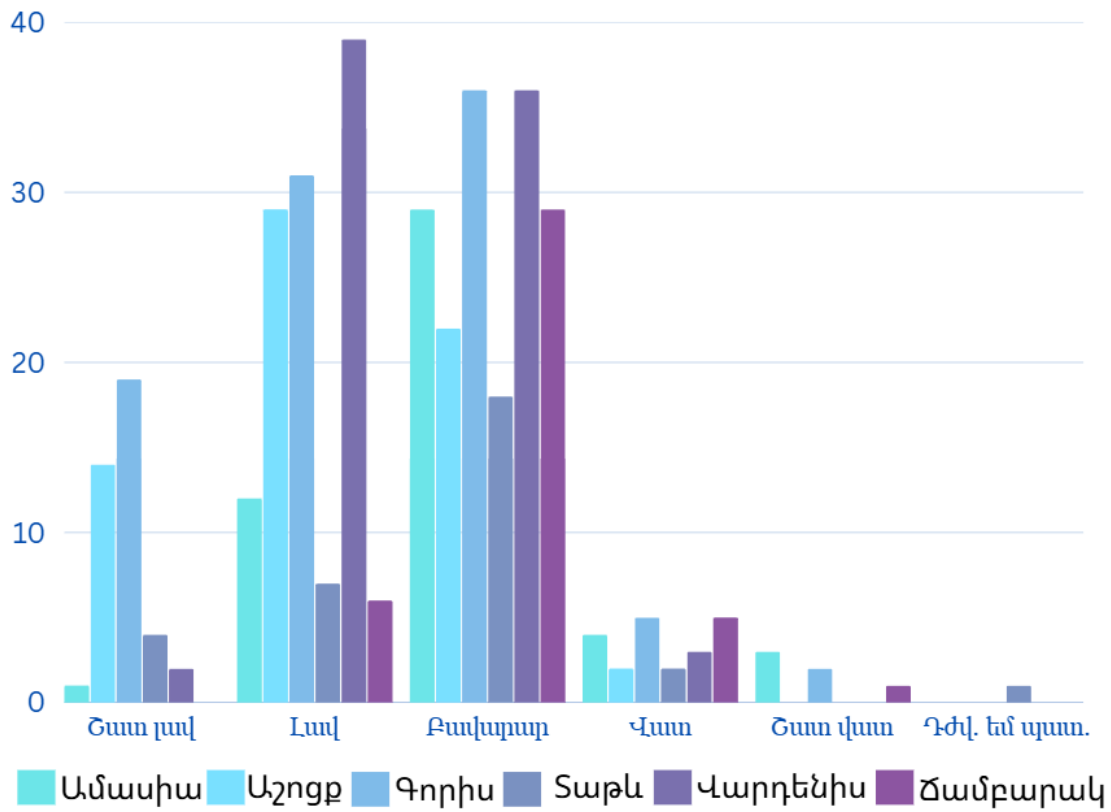
2.1. ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH ISSUES: QUANTITATIVE SURVEYS

2.1.1. General socio-economic picture and changes (current situation and dynamics of recent years)

The purpose of the questions included in the first section of the questionnaire was to identify the perceptions of community residents about the socio-economic situation of the community and the settlement. These questions allowed not only to assess the current situation, but also to track the dynamics of changes both in recent years and after the enlargement of communities. Therefore, the main observations were made in three key areas: assessment of the current socio-economic situation, perception of changes recorded over the past three years, and eliciting ideas about the impact of community enlargement.

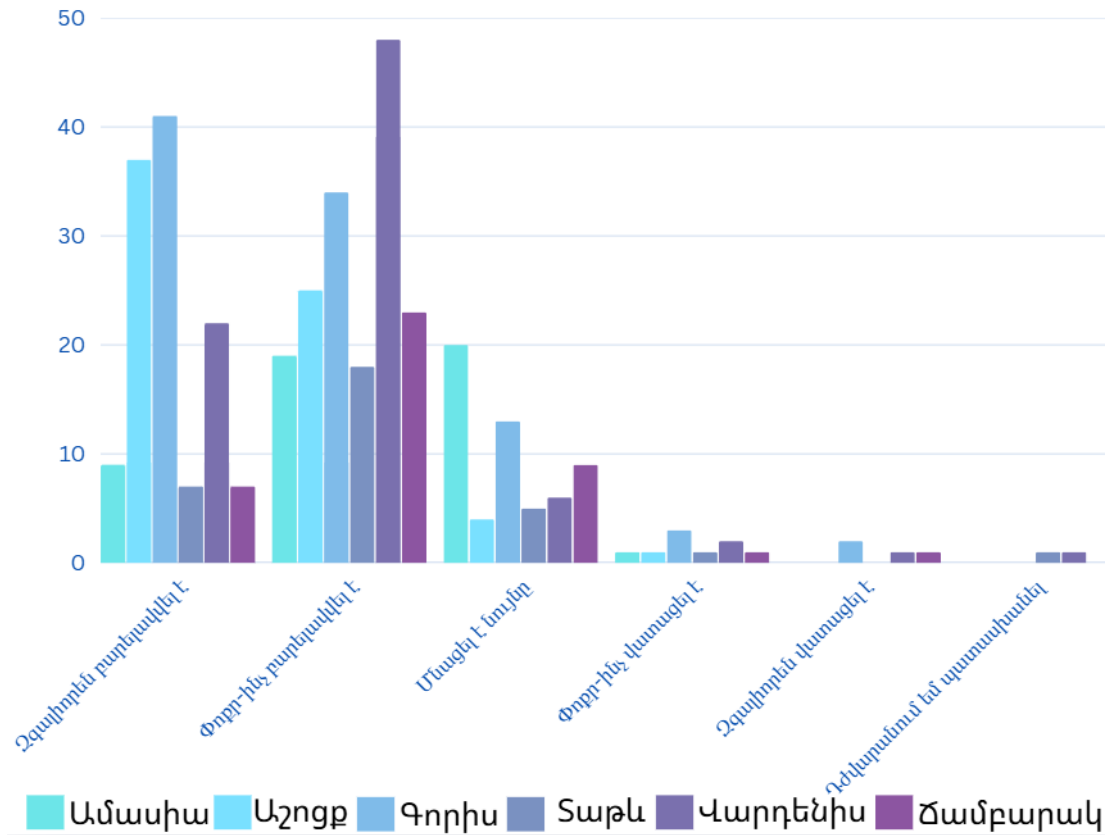
Assessment of the general socio-economic situation. The respondents' answers show that the perception of the socio-economic situation of communities differs significantly from community to community. In Goris, 20.4% assessed the socio-economic situation as “very good”, 33.3% as “good”, and 38.7% as “sufficient”, while negative assessments amounted to only 7.5%. Similarly, positive assessments prevail in Ashotsk. "very good" was rated by 20.9%, "good" by 43.3%, and only 3.0% recorded "bad". In Vardenis, the picture is more balanced: "good" was rated by 48.8%, "sufficient" by 45.0%, and "very good" by only 2.5%. In Amasia, positive assessments are relatively fewer: "very good" was noted by 2.0%, "good" by 24.5%, "sufficient" by 59.2%, and negative assessments reach 14.3%. The most negative picture was recorded in Chambarak, where there is no "very good" assessment, "good" was noted by 14.6%, "sufficient" by 70.7%, and negative responses amounted to 14.6%. In general, the socio-economic situation is perceived by the overwhelming majority as satisfactory or average, with the most positive images being characteristic of Ashotsk and Goris, while dissatisfaction is more noticeable in Amasia and especially Chambarak.

Chart 3. Assessment of the general socio-economic situation by community



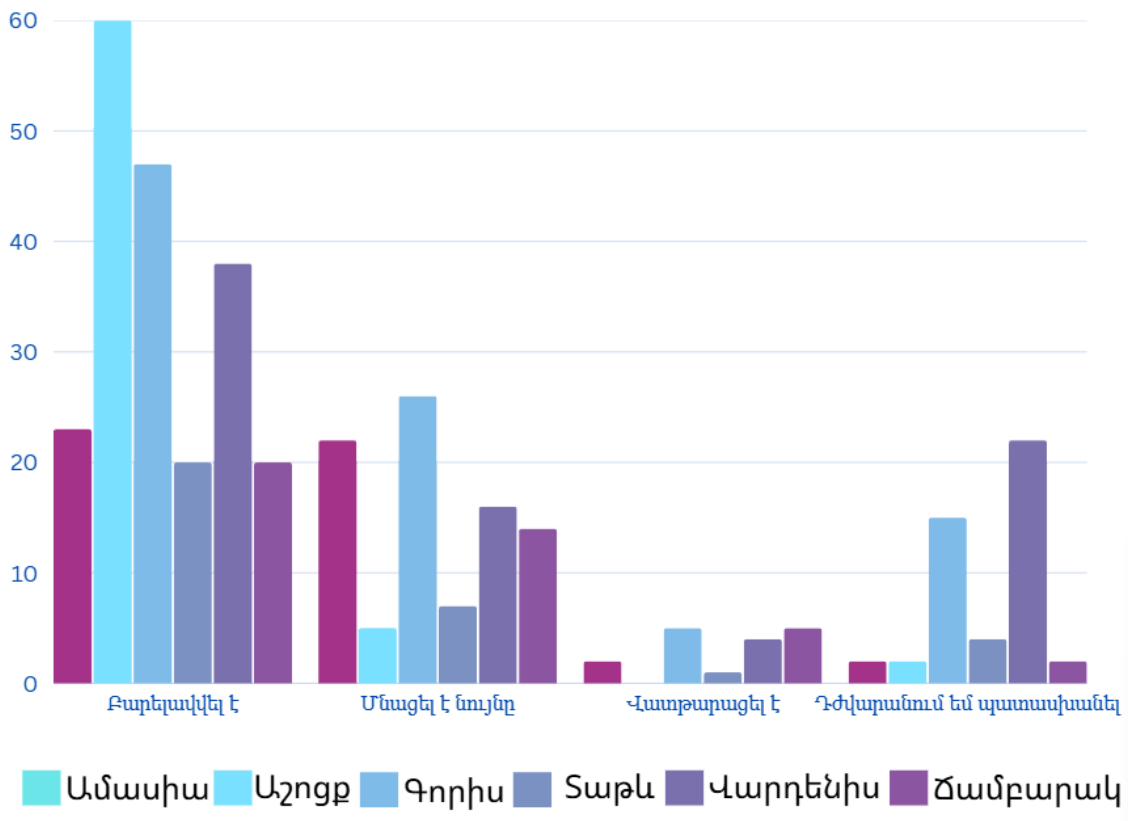
Assessment of changes in the last three years. A significant part of the respondents in different communities recorded an improvement. In Goris, 44% chose the option “significantly improved”, 37% “slightly improved”, and 14% remained neutral. In Ashotsk, the feeling of improvement is also predominant: 55% mentioned the option “significantly improved”, 37% “slightly improved”, and only 6% recorded an unchanged situation. In Vardenis, the feeling of improvement is less: 28% chose “significantly improved”, 60% “slightly improved”, and a negative assessment was received from 4%. In Amasia, the situation is contradictory: 18% mentioned the option “significantly improved”, and 41% “remained the same”. In Chambarak, 73% reported improvement, but 22% noted unchanged conditions. In Tatev, the feeling of improvement is 78%, neutral assessments are 16%. Thus, the most positive dynamics were recorded in Goris and Ashotsk, while in Amasia and Vardenis, the trend of stabilization or limited improvement is more noticeable.

Chart 4. Assessment of changes in the last three years by community



Assessment of the impact of the unification of communities. In this regard, the responses show significant differences. In Ashotsk, 90% recorded an improvement, and only 8% - an unchanged situation. In Goris, 51% recorded an improvement. In Amasia, the perception of improvement was 47%, and 45% assessed it as unchanged. In Vardenis, 48% recorded an improvement, but 28% noted that it was difficult to answer. In Chambarak, the share of improvement is 49%, but uncertainty is high - 27%. In Tatev, 63% recorded an improvement, and 22% had a neutral assessment. This indicates that the impact of the unification is perceived more positively in Ashotsk and partly in Goris, while in other communities, a significant part of the residents have a neutral or uncertain attitude.

Chart 5. Assessment of the impact of community enlargement



2.1.2. Basic problems and living conditions

The next section of the questionnaire concerned community issues and living conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the problems existing in their community, as well as to assess the availability of a number of infrastructures and services. The recorded picture by community is presented below:

Amasia community: Unemployment (49%) and emigration (49%) were equally mentioned among the primary problems in Amasia. This shows that the main concerns of the community population are interconnected: in conditions of a lack of jobs, emigration becomes practically the only way out, especially for young people and the working-age population. The lack of jobs was mentioned separately by 29%, which proves that the employment problem is multifaceted and includes both those without permanent employment and those with insufficient employment (employed people whose work does not meet their needs).

Transport accessibility issues are also significant: the problem of public transport was mentioned by 20%. This is also confirmed by the infrastructure assessments: intra-community and inter-community transport communication is characterized mainly by “bad” and “very

bad” assessments (especially the quality of public transport connecting the settlement with other settlements was assessed as “very bad” by 63%).

The survey participants also raised issues with housing construction (18%), the difficult social situation (16%), and poverty (16%). This picture indicates that social safety nets are weak and the standard of living is low. The lack of entertainment venues and cultural institutions was also mentioned (16% and 6%, respectively), which is especially important for young people.

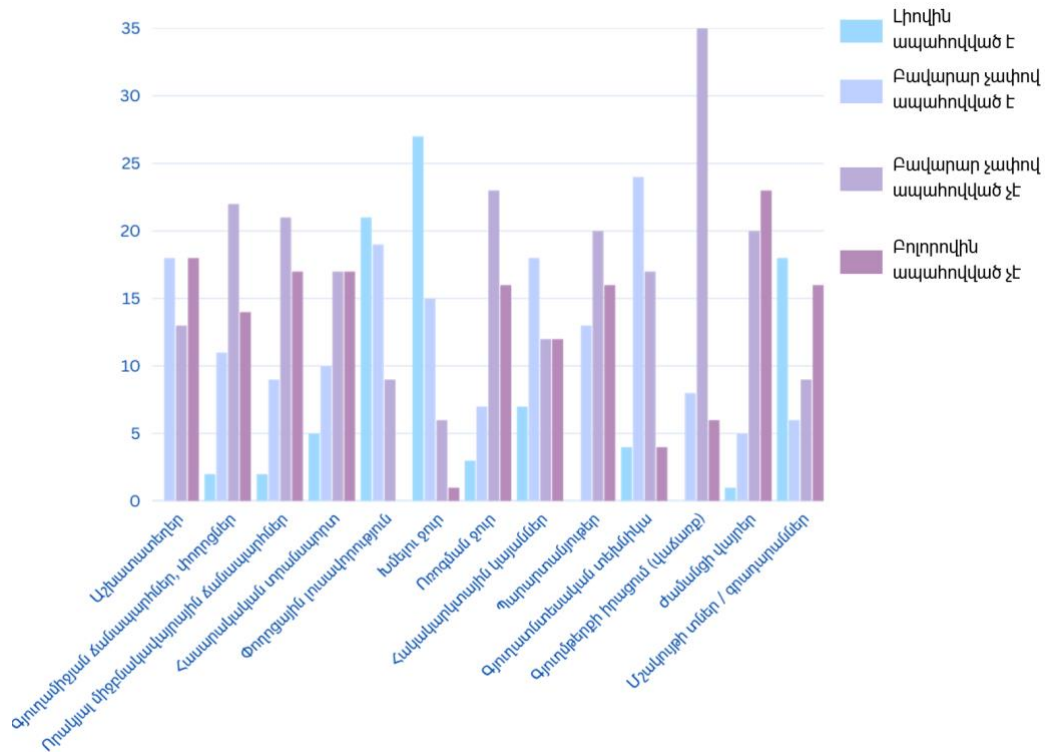
Chart 6. Assessment of the problems of the Amasia community



The main problems in the agricultural sector relate to the limitation of pastures and opportunities for the sale of agricultural products, difficulties in accessing machinery and irrigation water. The results show that the sale of agricultural products in the community is one of the most vulnerable areas: most of the respondents noted its insufficient or absence. This hinders the efficiency of agriculture and the stability of the population's income.

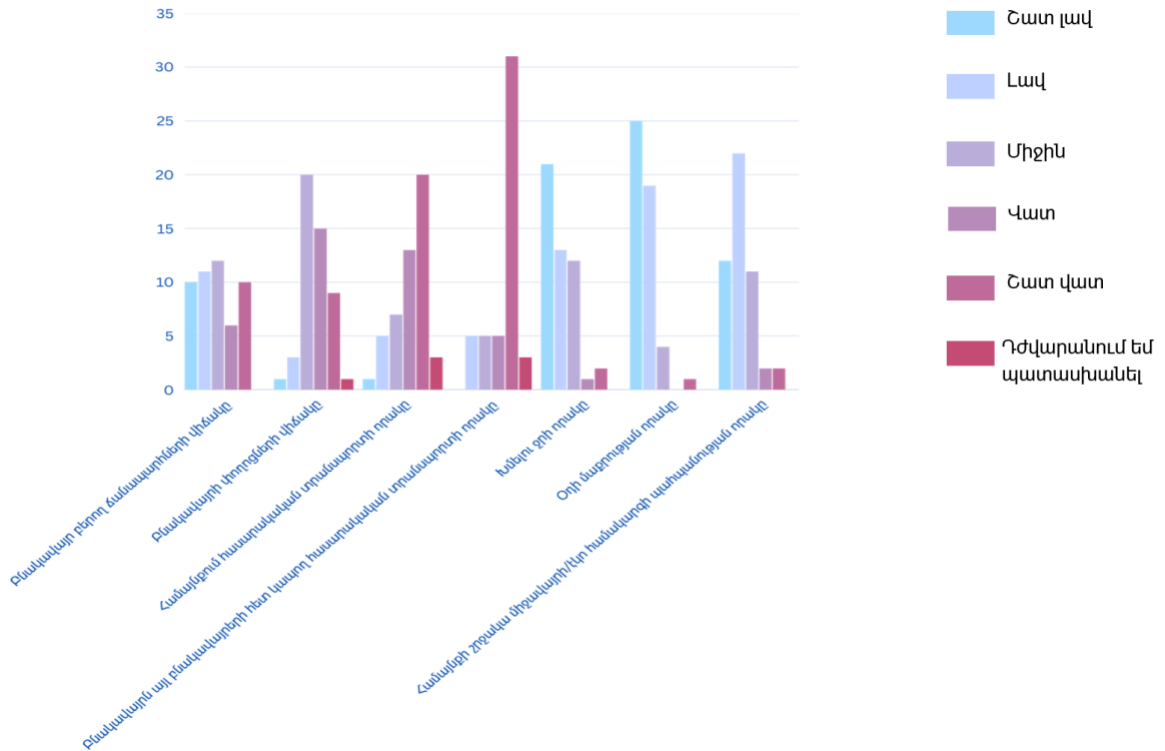
The assessments of the provision of public services are quite contradictory. Among the positive aspects, the availability of drinking water stands out (55% noted "fully provided", another 31% - "sufficiently provided"), as well as street lighting, which is in relatively good condition (43% noted "fully provided", another 39% - "sufficiently provided"). The negative aspects, as mentioned above, relate especially to inter-village and inter-settlement roads, streets, public transport and recreational infrastructure, in the assessment of which the “bad” and “very bad” assessments prevail. The picture regarding the environment is relatively good: the quality of air cleanliness was mostly assessed as “very good” or “good” (90% positive response overall), and the preservation of the community ecosystem was also assessed mainly positively (69% gave a “very good” or “good” response overall).

Chart 7. Assessment of the Amasia community condition



In general, the community image of Amasia is characterized as a community with a difficult socio-economic situation and severely affected by emigration. The main problems are related to the lack of employment and jobs, the lack of steps to improve transport communication routes and the public transport and bus network, as well as passenger service, and the difficult social situation. At the same time, the situation in the areas of drinking water, street lighting and environmental quality is positive. This shows that the community is mainly sufficiently provided with vital infrastructure, but does not have the conditions to ensure sustainable socio-economic development.

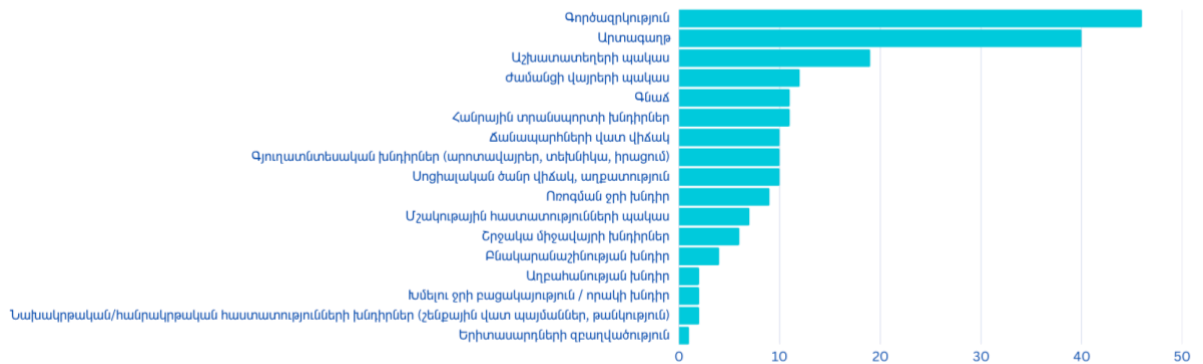
Chart 8. Assessment of the quality of infrastructure and resources of the Amasia community



Ashotsk community: The overall picture of problems in Ashotsk also has a very clear socio-economic emphasis. Unemployment (69%) and emigration (60%) are also the main concerns here, and the indicators are higher than in Amasia. Their direct continuation is the lack of jobs (28%). The combination of these three shows that the community is facing not only an employment crisis, but also a demographic crisis.

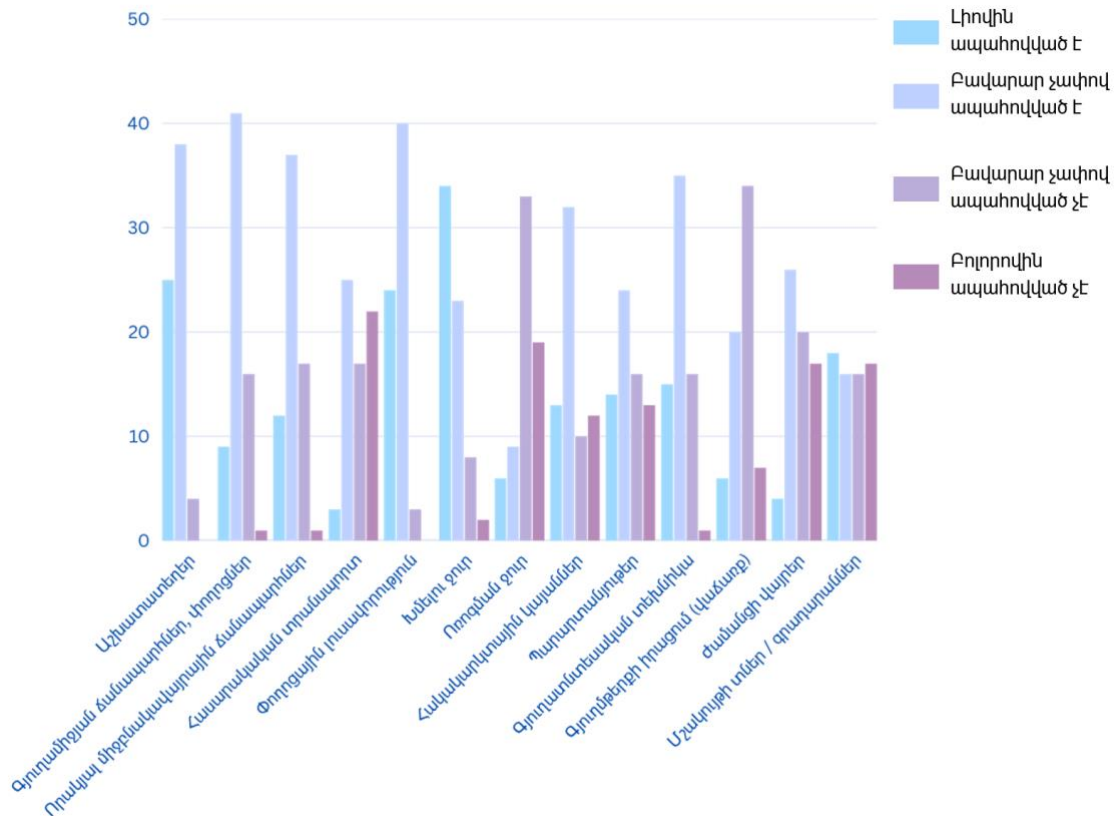
However, the difficulties are not limited to these. Inflation and public transport problems were mentioned by every sixth person (about 16%). The poor condition of roads, agricultural obstacles and the difficult social situation were equally concerned by about 15% of the population. The problem of irrigation water was noted by 13%, and the lack of cultural institutions by 10%. Housing construction, garbage collection and the conditions of educational institutions were considered a problem by few, but they also exist.

Chart 9. Assessment of the problems of the Ashotsk community



The picture regarding public infrastructure is mixed. Assessments of roads leading to the settlement are mostly positive: 69% of respondents considered them “good” or “very good”. The quality of construction and repair work on the settlement’s streets was assessed positively by 55%. However, in the case of public transport, the picture is negative: about two-thirds of residents considered intra-community transportation to be below average, and about 70% considered the quality of transport connecting with other settlements to be “bad” or “very bad”. Street lighting, however, is at a fairly decent level: 95% of residents consider it sufficient or fully provided. Environmental and ecological assessments also show a positive picture: Air quality was rated "good" or "very good" by almost 95% of residents, environmental protection is also positive (67% noted "good" or "very good"). The state of drinking water is also relatively favorable. More than half of the respondents, 51%, considered it fully secured, and another 34% considered it sufficient. Positive responses also prevail in quality assessments.

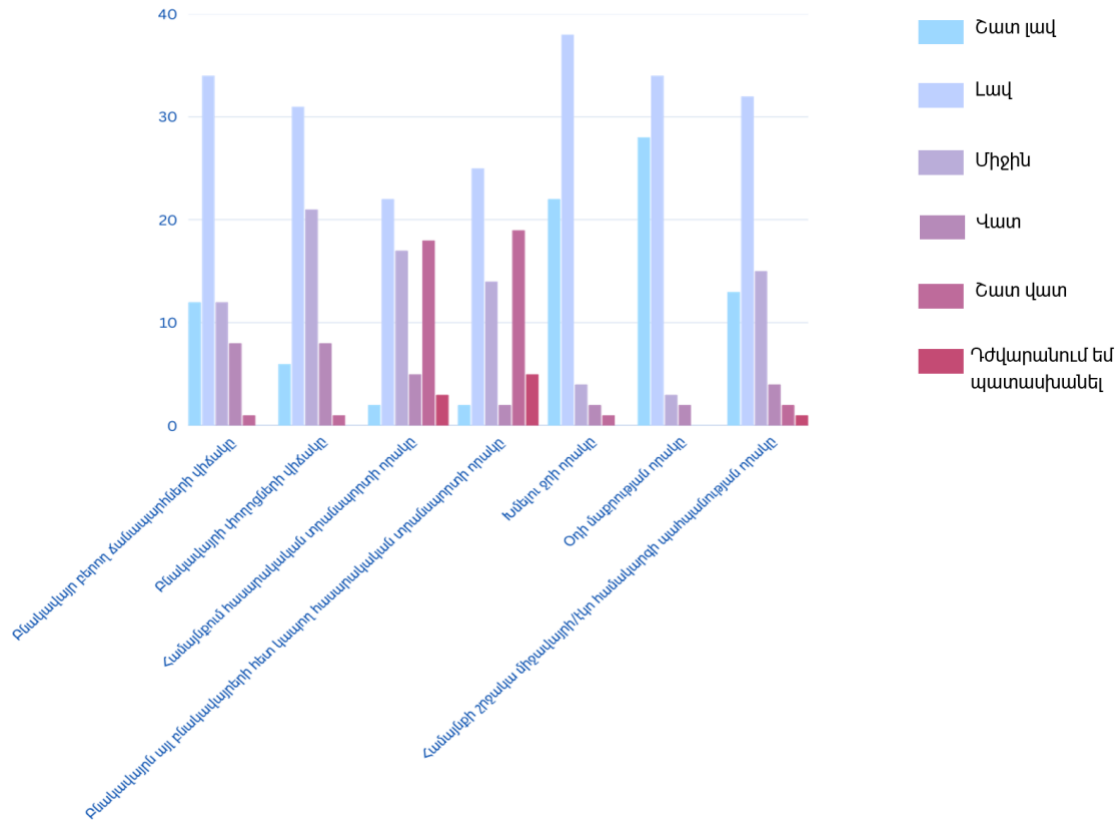
Chart 10. Assessment of the Ashotsk community condition



Agriculture, which is the main occupation in the community, is much more vulnerable. Only 9% considered the supply of irrigation water to be completely sufficient, while the majority assessed it as insufficient. The same trend is observed in the issue of fertilizers, agricultural machinery, and the sale of products: negative assessments prevail. This shows that agriculture is deprived of the necessary support and does not provide the opportunity for stable income.

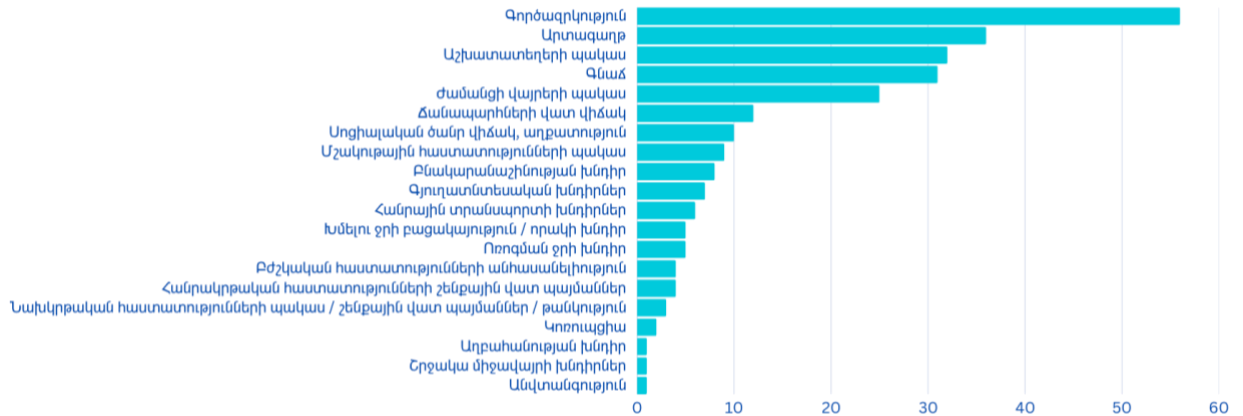
Cultural and social life is also underdeveloped. About a third of the respondents indicated that there is sufficient provision in terms of cultural houses and libraries, while negative assessments exceed half in the case of entertainment venues. This indicates the limited cultural and social life of the community, which again stimulates emigration sentiments.

Chart 11. Assessment of the quality of infrastructure and resources of the Ashotsk community



Goris community: Socio-economic problems are most mentioned in Goris. About 60% of respondents mentioned unemployment as the main challenge. This is closely related to the lack of jobs: only 32% assessed the level of job condition as sufficient, while 68% are dissatisfied. This picture shows that the high level of unemployment is due not only to the mismatch of labor supply, but also to the low level of economic activity in the region and limited opportunities for creating new jobs. The problem of unemployment is also accompanied by a high level of emigration: it was mentioned by 39% of respondents. Inflation was recorded as a problem by 33%, which is also associated with income instability and the weak state of the labor market.

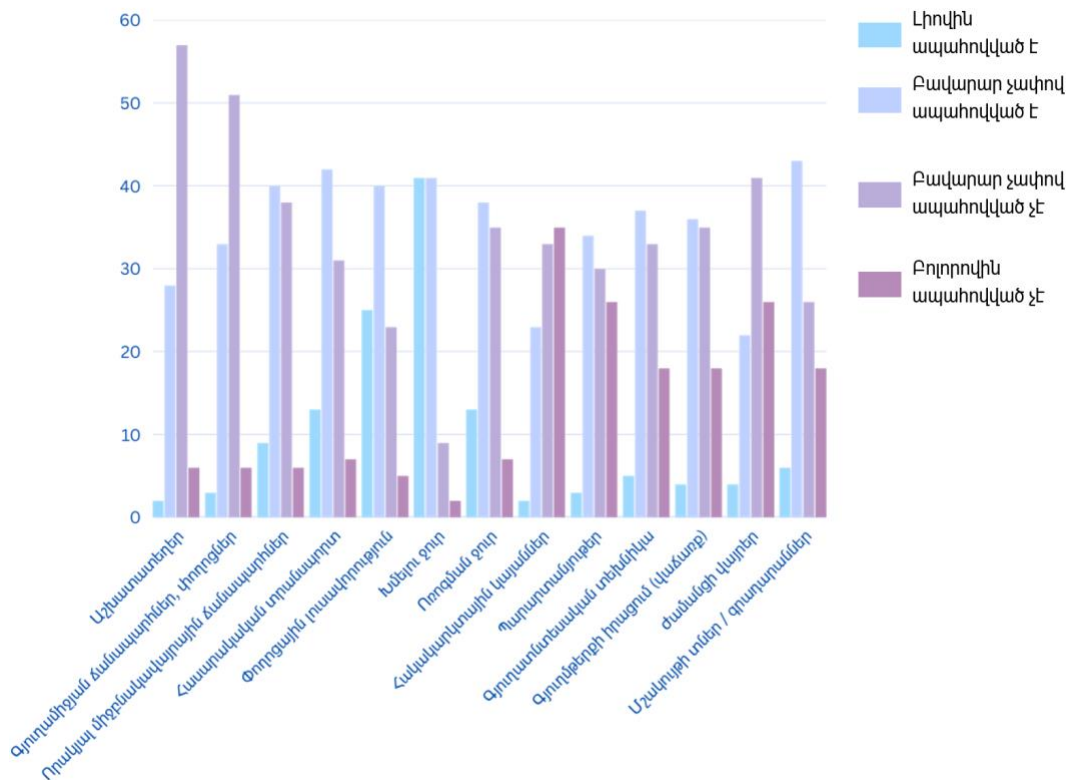
Chart 12. Assessment of the problems of the Goris community



The overall results of the assessment of the provision and quality of living conditions in the community show both positive and worrying aspects. The shortcomings are most pronounced in the area of infrastructure: the roads leading to the settlement and within the settlement were mainly assessed as “average” (55–60%), the same picture is also observed in the case of the quality of public transport (58–62% average score). However, in some areas of public services and infrastructure, the picture is relatively positive: for example, satisfactory assessments prevail in the area of street lighting (26.9% “complete”, 43% “sufficient”). In addition, positive assessments of the quality of drinking water (78%) and air cleanliness (89% “good” or “very good”) are also high, and the quality of environmental protection was also positively assessed by about 70%. However, the picture is more worrying in other important areas: Those dissatisfied with the sale of agricultural products, access to agricultural machinery and fertilizers amounted to 50–60%, and the problem with anti-hail stations is more acute, as about 73% noted that their community is not provided with them at all or to a sufficient extent.

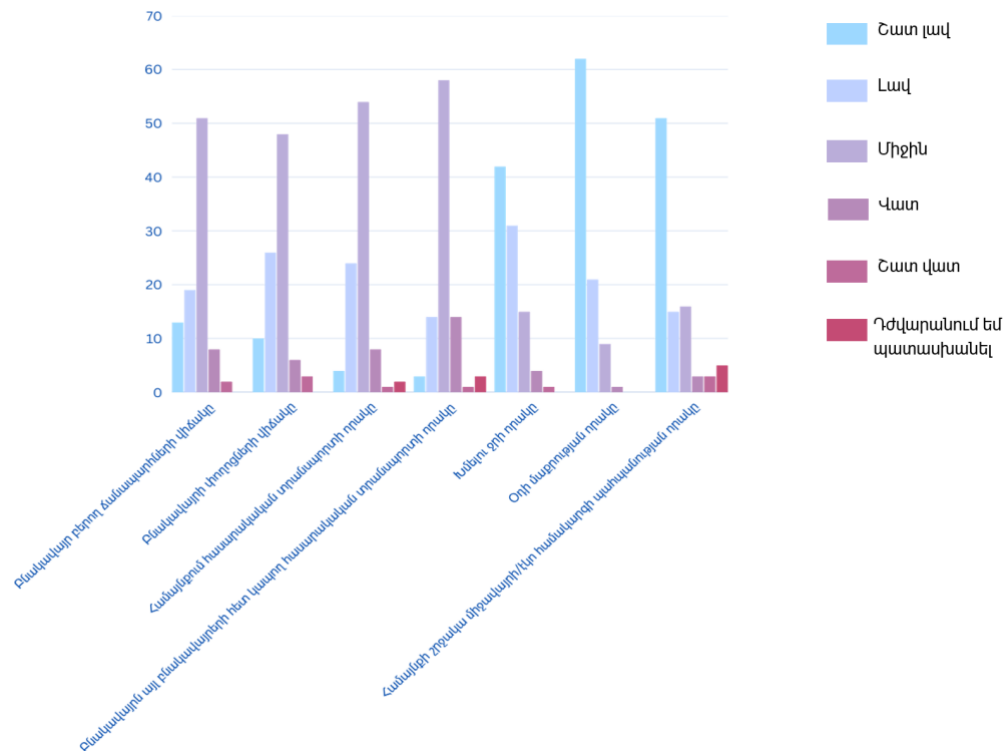
Some problems were also revealed in the social environment: 72% of respondents noted that entertainment venues in the community are not provided with them to a sufficient extent or are completely absent. The picture is relatively good with regard to cultural centers and libraries, but here too about half of the residents, 47%, are dissatisfied with their accessibility.

Chart 13. Assessment of the Goris community condition



Overall, the results indicate that the primary concerns of residents in Goris are related to job creation, preventing emigration, as well as improving roads and infrastructure. At the same time, to increase the quality of life, it is necessary to develop entertainment venues and improve social services, contributing to the strengthening of the living standards of residents and community solidarity in the community.

Chart 14. Assessment of the quality of infrastructure and resources of the Goris community



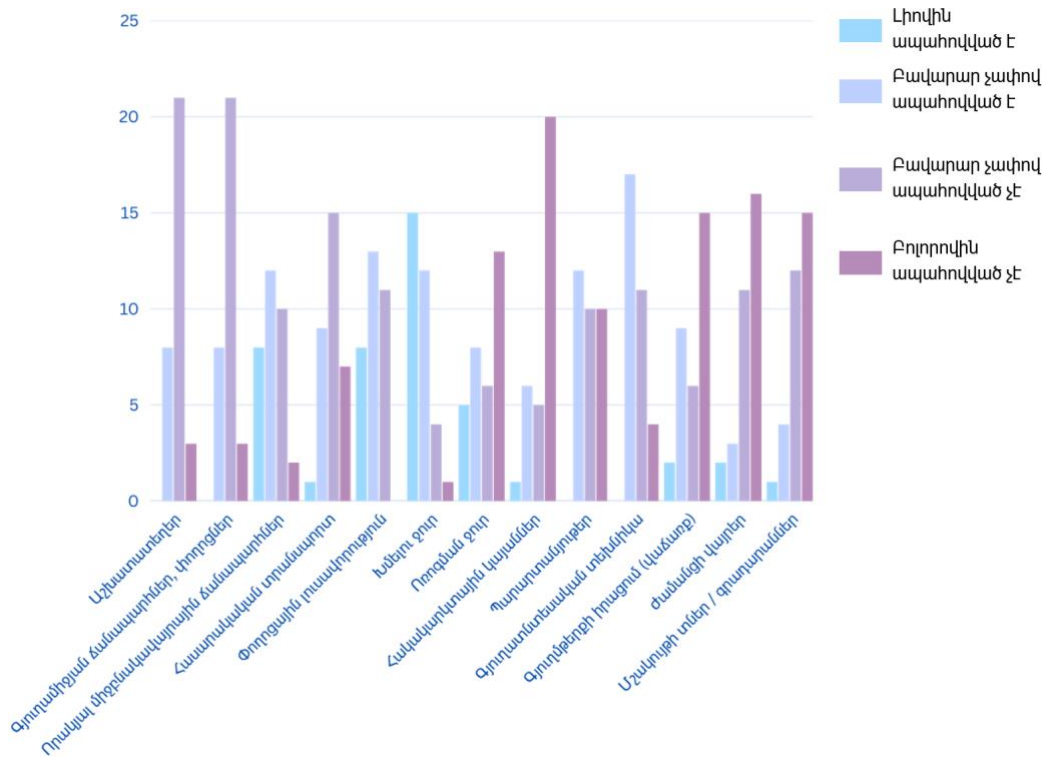
Tatev community: In Tatev, according to the assessment of important problems, the most frequently chosen is unemployment, which was mentioned by 69% of the participants. This is also strongly related to the lack of jobs (34%), which proves that the opportunities for stable employment in the community are limited. The difficult social situation and poverty also have a high index (34%), which emphasizes the social vulnerability of families. Agricultural (31%) and irrigation water problems (28%) indicate structural obstacles in the agricultural sector: limited access to resources and difficulties in selling agricultural products hinder the development of the economy. The mentioned problems are also accompanied by the fact of emigration (22%), which acts as a consequence, conditioned both by economic insecurity and lack of social stability, as well as by military-political instability and obvious threats of war from Azerbaijan. It is noteworthy that the lack of cultural institutions and the absence of entertainment venues were recorded with the same index (41%). This indicates that the community's residents see a problem not only in the limited opportunities in the labor and economic sectors, but also in the social and cultural environment, which is especially important from the perspective of youth activism and ensuring the quality of community life.

Chart 15. Assessment of the problems of the Tatev community



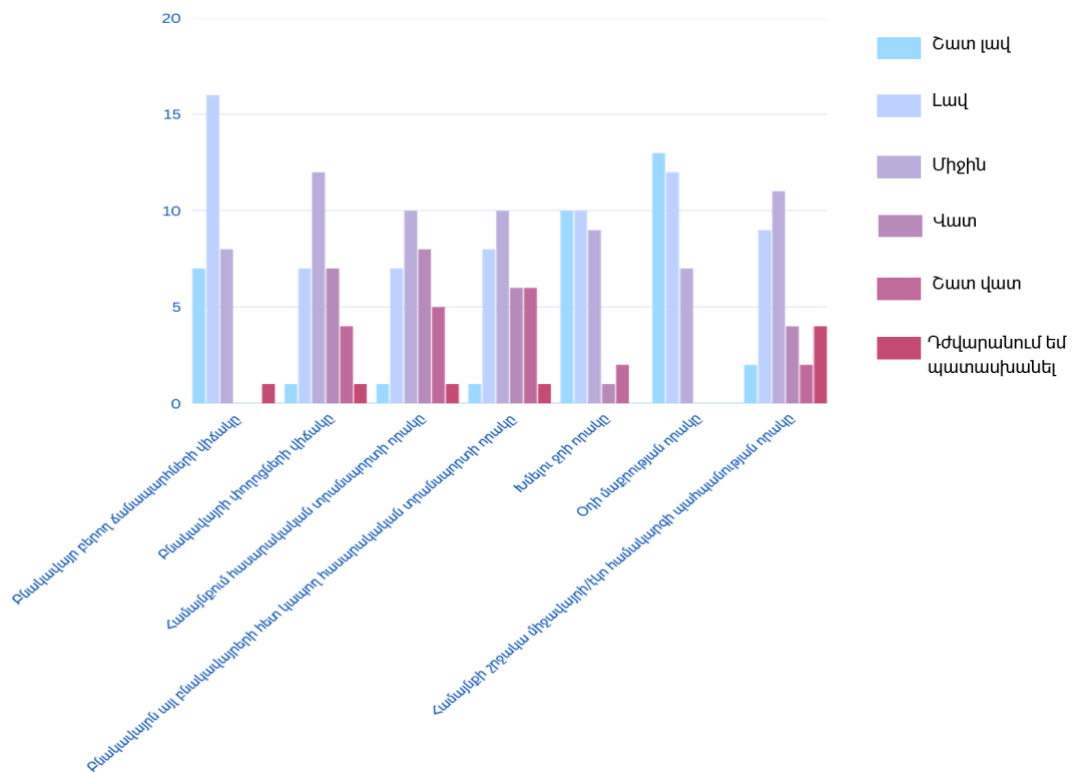
The picture is more diverse in terms of community condition. In terms of jobs, the community is not fully secured: no one mentioned full security, only 25% believe that they are “sufficiently secured”, while 66% believe that security is insufficient or non-existent. This again confirms the high level of unemployment. There is also a problem in terms of roads: inter-village roads were assessed as insufficiently secured by 66%, and inter-settlement roads by 38%. In terms of public transport, 47% noted “not sufficiently secured” or “not secured at all”, which limits the mobility and economic activity of residents. The level of street lighting is relatively good, as about 41% noted sufficient security, and only 9% noted its complete absence. Indicators of access to drinking water are relatively positive: 47% believe that it is fully or sufficiently provided, but the quality of the community's socio-economic infrastructure is more concerning. The picture is worrying in terms of irrigation water: 41% noted that it is not provided at all. There are also serious gaps in other areas related to agriculture: in the case of anti-hail stations, 63% reported a lack, in the case of fertilizers, 31% noted insufficient provision, and in the case of access to agricultural machinery, the absence and insufficient provision account for 47%. The level of provision of cultural institutions and entertainment venues is also very low: about 50% noted that they are not available at all.

Chart 16. Assessment of the Tatev community condition



The qualitative assessments given by residents also confirm the above-mentioned problems. The condition of the roads leading to the settlement was assessed as relatively good: 53% rated it as “good” or “very good”. However, the condition of the streets within the settlement itself is relatively poor: only 25% rated it as good, while 34% rated it as average, and 34% rated it as bad or very bad. Opinions about the quality of public transport are diverse: 28% rated the quality of transport operating in the community as good, and 40% rated it as average or bad. The quality of transport connecting with other settlements is even lower: about 38% rated it as average, 38% rated it as bad or very bad. The quality of drinking water was assessed as relatively good: 31% rated it as “very good”, 31% as “good”, but there is also a group of dissatisfied people (9.4% rated it as bad and very bad). Air cleanliness and environmental protection received more positive assessments: 78% and 66% rated it as good or very good, respectively.

Chart 17. Assessment of the quality of infrastructure and resources of the Tatev community



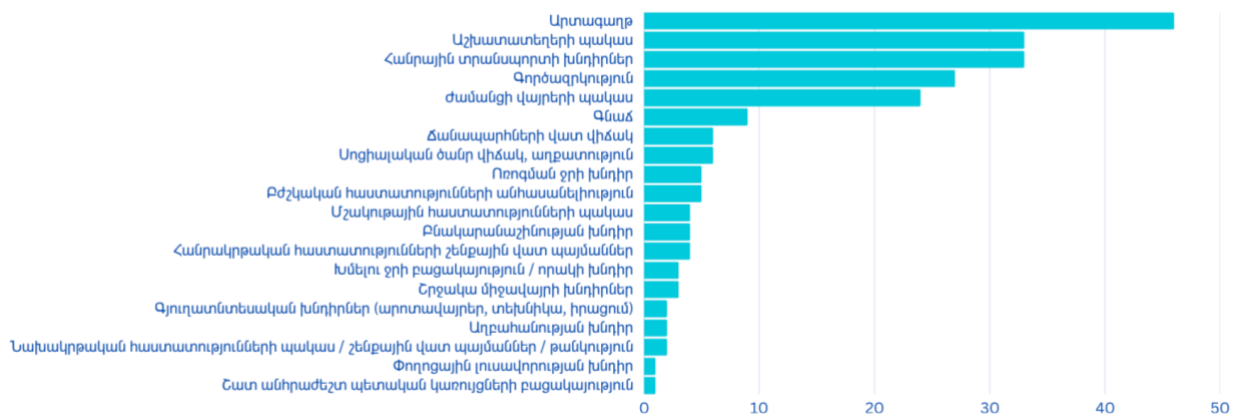
The general conclusion is that the Tatev community is mainly dominated by economic problems: unemployment, lack of jobs, difficult social situation, difficulties in agriculture and access to water. However, in parallel with economic problems, the limited social and cultural environment is also noticeable, which hinders the development of the social life of the community. Among the infrastructural problems, the issues of roads and transport stand out, which have a direct impact on the quality of both economic and social life. On the positive side, the relatively good indicators of drinking water and air purity can be noted. At the same time, cultural and entertainment life is almost absent in the community, which increases the risk of internal or external migration, especially among young people.

Vardenis community: The majority of respondents in Vardenis mentioned emigration as a primary problem (58%). The lack of jobs (41%) and unemployment (34%), which are closely related to the problem of emigration, are at almost the same level. This shows that economic opportunities in the community are limited, which may force people to leave the area. Emigration, however, may also be due to the fact that Vardenis is a border community, and

security uncertainties and tense border situations become a decisive factor in the population's decision to leave the community and move to a safer settlement.

The issue of public transport is at the same level (41%), which indicates that restrictions on movement are a serious obstacle in the life of the community. From the point of view of the social environment, the lack of entertainment venues stands out (30%), which is especially important for youth and documents the insufficient development of cultural and social infrastructure in the community. And the poor condition of roads (8%), agricultural problems (3%), as well as issues of access to medical and educational services (up to 5%) were mentioned relatively rarely. The problems of the environment, garbage collection, drinking water, lighting and accessibility of state institutions were recorded at a very low level (from 1% to 4%).

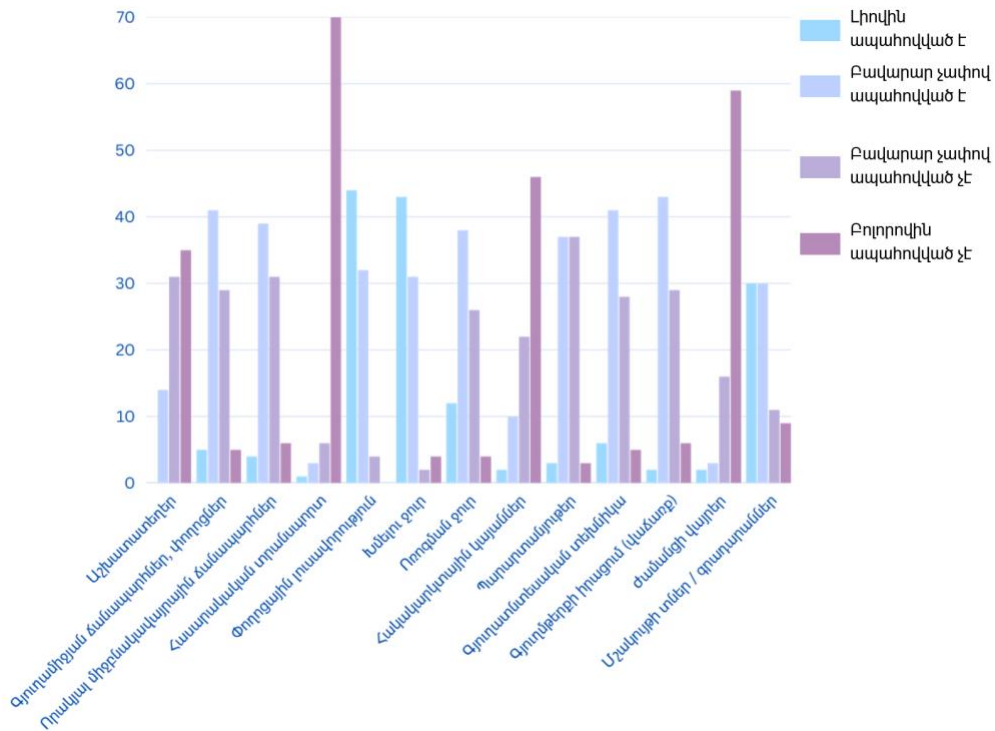
Chart 18. Assessment of the problems of the Vardenis community



Assessments of community condition show a contradictory picture. The situation in terms of jobs is extremely poor: 44% noted that it is “not at all secure”, 39% noted that it is “not sufficiently secure”, and only 18% consider that there is sufficient security. The condition of inter-village roads was assessed as relatively good: 58% noted sufficient security, but 36% considered them to be insufficient. High-quality inter-village roads also have a problem: 49% noted sufficient security, but 46% assessed them as insufficient or absent. Public transport is one of the most painful areas in Vardenis: 88% recorded insufficiency or absence, only 5% considered that there is sufficient condition. The picture is sharply positive in terms of street lighting: 55% indicated “fully provided”, another 40% indicated “sufficiently provided”, and only 5% indicated insufficiency. Access to drinking water was also highly rated. 95% found it to be sufficient or fully provided. And in terms of irrigation water, anti-hail stations and agricultural machinery, the picture is negative: for example, in the case of anti-hail stations, 58% indicated an absence, and in the case of irrigation water, about 38%. There is also a

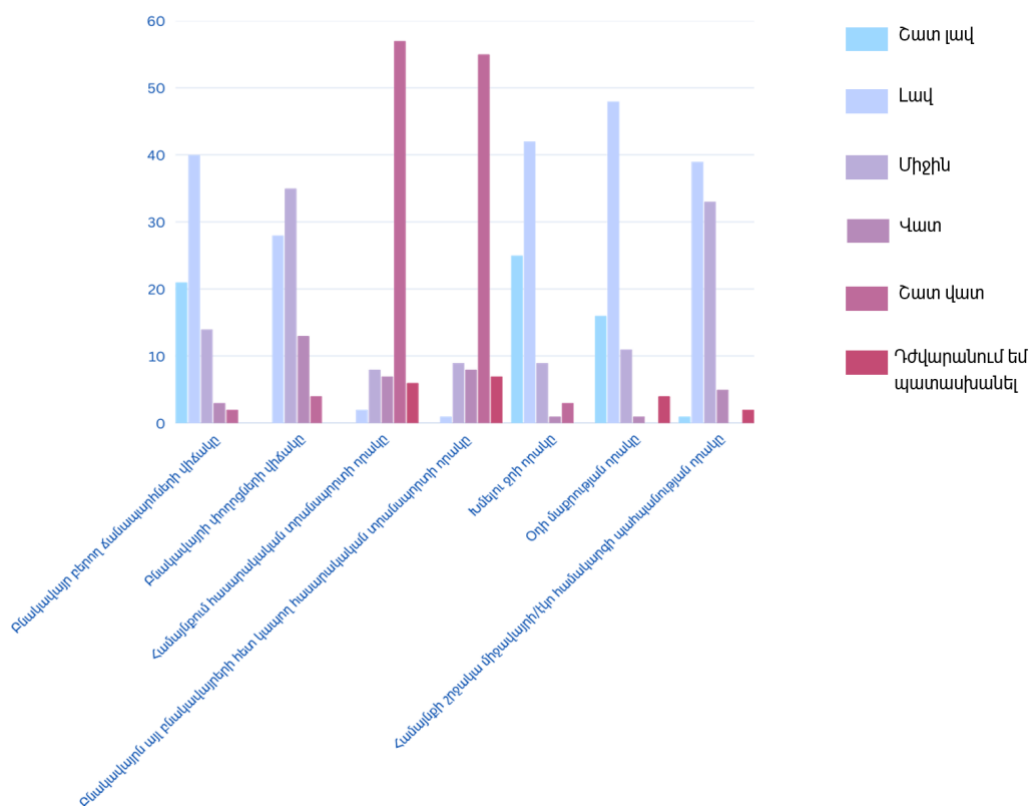
problem with the possibilities for the sale of agricultural products: 44% found it to be insufficient or absent. In terms of social infrastructure, the provision of cultural centers and libraries is low: 73% recorded insufficiency or absence, and in the case of entertainment venues, this indicator reaches 94%.

Chart 19. Assessment of the Vardenis community condition



Residents' qualitative assessments of the quality of infrastructure indicate a highly polarized state. 76% rated the condition of roads leading to the settlement as "good" or "very good", only 6% rated it as "bad" or "very bad". The condition of streets is much weaker: only 35% considered it "good", while 21% rated it as "bad" or "very bad". 71% rated the quality of public transport within the community as "very bad" or "bad", while the quality of transport for external connections received a negative assessment at the same level (about 79%). This confirms the high perception of the transport problem among the respondents. The quality of drinking water was rated relatively high: 83% rated it as "good" or "very good". Assessments of air cleanliness are also positive: 80% rated it as "good" or "very good". 63% rated the quality of environmental protection as "sufficient" or "good", while about 8% rated it as "bad".

Chart 20. Assessment of the quality of infrastructure and resources of Vardenis community



In general, the socio-economic picture of the Vardenis community shows that the main concern of the population is emigration, which is directly caused by unemployment and lack of jobs. The lack or underdevelopment of public transport is also problematic. Meanwhile, in some vital areas, such as access to drinking water and lighting, the situation is relatively positive. The community is dominated by gaps in the development of social and cultural life, especially the lack of entertainment and cultural infrastructure, which exacerbates the risk of youth emigration. Thus, Vardenis has, on the one hand, a certain level of vital security, but on the other hand, very limited economic and social prospects.

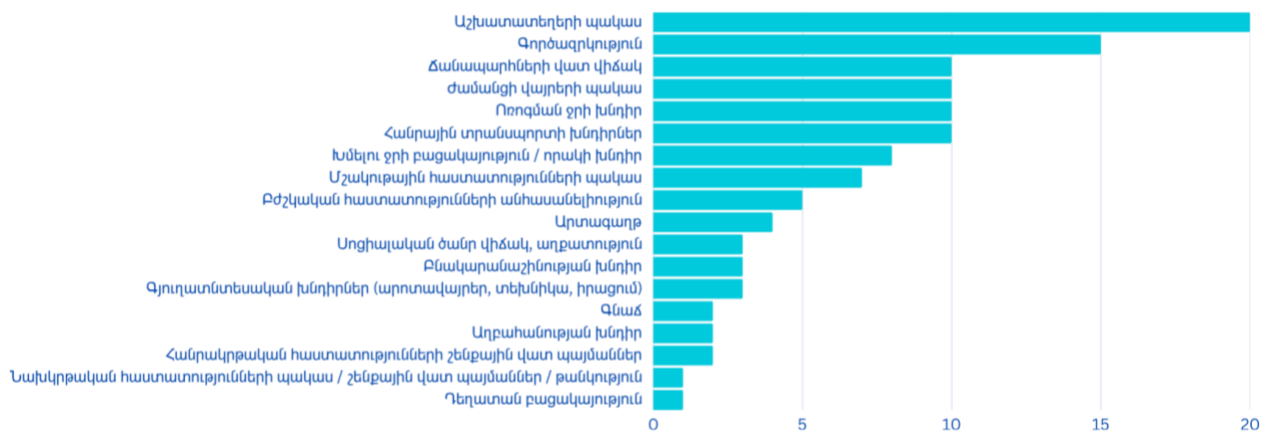
Chambarak community: Surveys conducted in Chambarak show that the main and most emphasized problem here is the lack of jobs. Almost half of the respondents, 49%, identified this issue as a primary problem. Limited job opportunities are closely linked to the high unemployment rate, which is 37% in this community. This picture proves that economic activity is limited, and residents find it difficult to secure a stable income.

Along with the lack of jobs, infrastructural problems were mentioned almost as often. The poor condition of roads, limited access to public transport, the absence of entertainment

venues and the scarcity of irrigation water received almost equal importance, each recording around 24%. All these problems hinder both social life and agricultural productivity. Poor roads and limited transport make it difficult for residents to move around, trade relations and the educational and cultural involvement of young people.

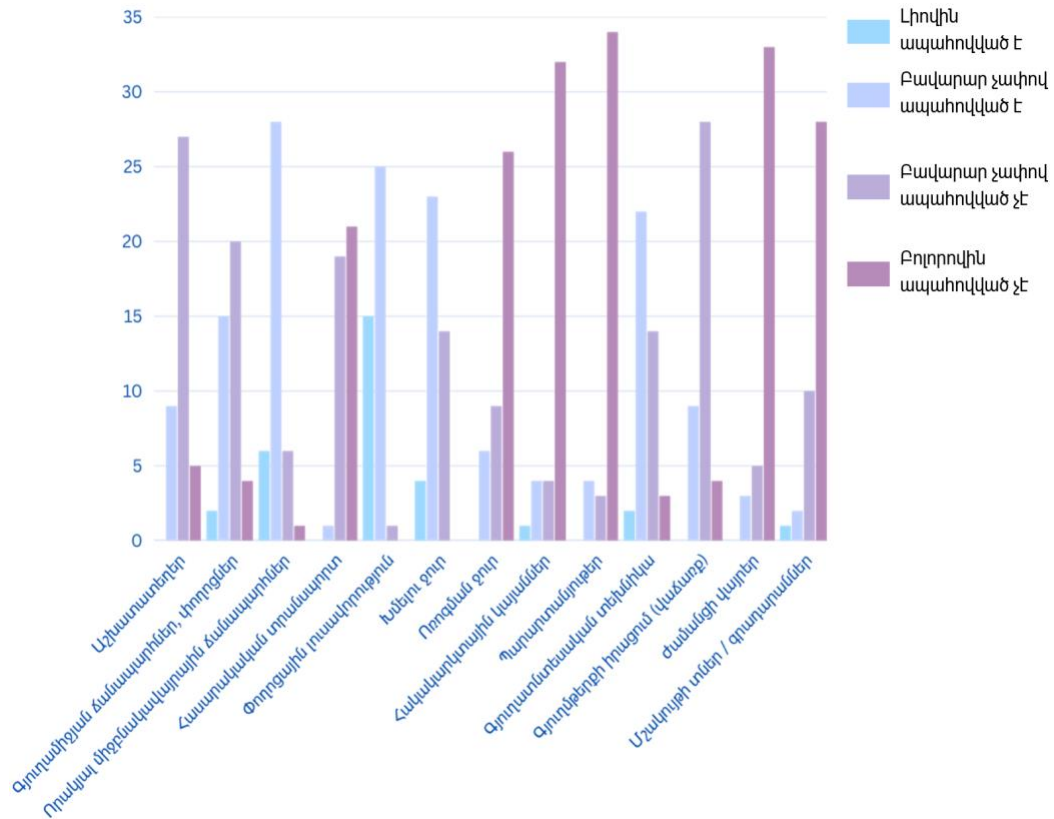
Drinking water quality problems were mentioned relatively less frequently, recorded by 20%. Although this indicator is not among the main problems, it is nevertheless an important signal, taking into account the direct connection of drinking water quality with the health and livelihood of the population. The same logic should also be applied to the limited opportunities of cultural institutions, which were recorded in 17% of cases. Access to healthcare services also concerned some respondents, but it was less emphasized (only 12%). Emigration was relatively secondary, with a response of 10%. Other issues, including educational and housing issues, received lower responses, ranging from 2 to 7%.

Chart 21. Assessment of the problems of the Chambarak community



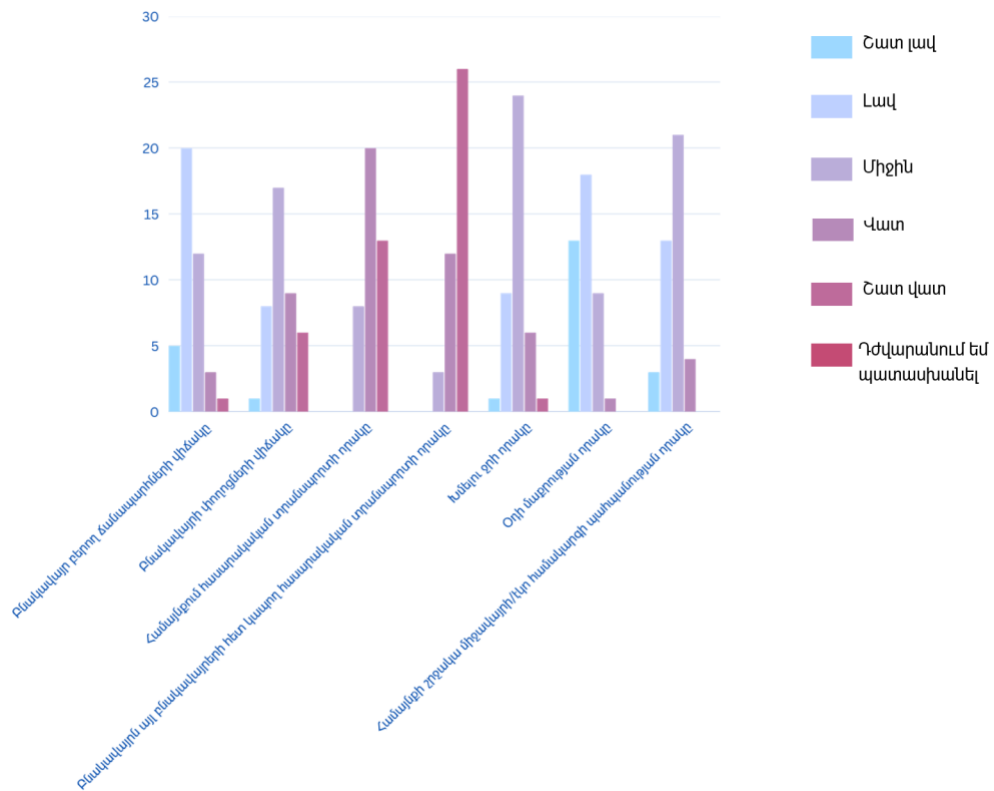
Assessments of the provision of community services indicate a variety of gaps. The majority of respondents described access to jobs as insufficiently provided or completely absent. The same picture was recorded in the case of public transport, where the majority noted that it was insufficient or completely absent. The picture regarding irrigation water and agricultural product sales opportunities is also worrying: almost universal insufficiency was recorded. Access to agricultural machinery and fertilizers was also considered deficient. The most negative assessments were received by anti-hail stations and cultural institutions, the provision of which is almost zero.

Chart 22. Assessment of the Chambarak community condition



The results of the service quality assessment show that residents rated the condition of roads below average. The main roads leading to the settlement are relatively good, but the streets within the community were often described as “bad” or “very bad”. The quality of public transport within the community was assessed mostly negatively, with “bad” and “very bad” responses dominating. The condition of transport routes connecting the settlement with other communities is in the worst condition; most respondents rated them as “very bad”. The quality of drinking water mainly received average and good ratings, although complaints were also recorded. The picture in the assessment of the environment is positive: the cleanliness of the air and the level of ecosystem protection were rated as good or average by a significant portion of respondents.

Chart 23. Assessment of the quality of infrastructure and resources of the Chambarak community



Overall, the picture of the problems of the Chambarak community shows that socio-economic difficulties are closely combined with infrastructural deficiencies. The scarcity of jobs and the high level of unemployment increase the social insecurity of residents, while limited transport opportunities and insufficient agricultural resources hinder local development prospects. At the same time, the relatively positive quality of the natural environment can be seen as the basis for the community's future development potential.

2.1.3. Community characteristics, work done, and future priorities

The questions in this section aimed to identify the positive characteristics of the communities, the work done in recent years, and future directions of development.

Community characteristics by region and community.

According to the respondents, the **Amasia community** is distinguished by its clean environment, security, and the uniqueness of nature. The following characteristics were often emphasized in the residents' responses:

✓ **Nature and climate:** Clean air, clean water, and green spaces are often emphasized. Many responses mention the presence of Lake Arpi as an environmental and ecotourism value. The climate is considered favorable for agriculture and livestock breeding, although sometimes, on the contrary, severe climatic conditions are mentioned. Winters are long and snowy, which creates opportunities for the development of winter tourism.

✓ **Society and human capital:** Residents are characterized as hardworking, united, and educated. Community solidarity, security, and a peaceful environment are mentioned.

✓ **Economic opportunities:** In Amasia, soil fertility and livestock breeding conditions are especially important for grain crops. At the same time, thanks to Lake Arpi and the surrounding areas, the community has a developing potential for ecotourism and rural tourism.

✓ **Infrastructure and conditions:** Respondents mentioned the presence of a kindergarten, lighting, and other social structures. In Jradzor, it was emphasized that the new village being built will have modern infrastructure.

✓ **Culture and historical values:** In various settlements of Amasia, there are ancient sites, chapels, churches, and historical and cultural sites that can serve as a basis for tourism.

The responses of respondents in the **Ashotsk community** show that it is distinguished by its historical and cultural heritage, agricultural potential, and active social life. The following features were often emphasized in the residents' responses:

✓ **Nature and environment:** The attractiveness of Ashotsk is based on high mountains, clean air, beautiful nature, rivers, and springs. Many villages emphasize the healthy climate and ecologically clean food.

✓ **Historical and cultural heritage:** Respondents often mentioned old churches, khachkars, chapels, historical bridges, and the preservation of cultural traditions. The community is a place of ancient culture and folk festivals.

✓ **Society and social capital:** Residents note their hospitality, solidarity, and devotion to traditions. The activity of young people and women, their love for education, as well as the development of local business and handicrafts are often emphasized.

✓ **Economy and opportunities:** Agriculture is considered the main direction. There are fertile lands, pastures, and rich experience in animal husbandry. Ashotsk also plays an important role in water resources, providing Gyumri with drinking water. Many villages mention tourism opportunities due to nature and historical and cultural monuments. The proximity to interstate roads and the proximity to the Georgian border contribute to the development of trade and intercommunity ties. In general, the residents of the Amasia and Ashotsk communities see their settlements as safe, united, and areas with great potential for

development. The combination of nature, historical and cultural heritage, and human potential makes them interesting for both agricultural and tourist development. At the same time, it is necessary to solve the problems arising from infrastructural and climatic conditions so that the communities can fully use their potential.

The **community of Goris** is described by respondents as a clean, beautiful and well-groomed city. The following features were often emphasized in the residents' responses:

✓ **Nature and environment:** Beautiful mountainous nature, valleys and mountains, clean air, rich green areas. Goris is also distinguished by its unique architecture and caves.

✓ **Cultural and historical values:** The city of Goris is considered a cultural center, has a unique combination of ancient and modern heritage, monuments, and a tradition of organizing festivals.

✓ **People and community life:** Hardworking, modest and hospitable people, youth activity and social cohesion. Many noted that cultural initiatives and youth projects are widespread in the community.

✓ **Tourism potential:** High level of tourism, comfort for tourists, hospitable environment and diverse attractions. Goris is considered a regional tourism center.

✓ **Economic opportunities:** Favorable agricultural conditions, ecologically clean food, as well as wide opportunities for tourism development.

The **Tatev community** is distinguished by its tourism and agricultural potential. The following features were often emphasized in the residents' responses:

✓ **Tourist attraction:** Tatev Monastery and the "Tatev" cable car bring the community worldwide recognition. Shinuhayr, Khot, Svarants and other villages are considered tourist zones, rich in historical and cultural monuments and sights.

✓ **Nature and environment:** Clean air, rich forests, beautiful mountainous nature. In Svarants, a favorable environment for livestock breeding was particularly emphasized.

✓ **People and human capital:** Educated and talented young people, whose great potential is still not fully utilized. Residents are considered hospitable and active in community life.

✓ **Infrastructure and social conditions:** Well-maintained streets, night lighting, the presence of a music school, as well as the activities of a community center were noted.

✓ **Economy:** Presence of SMEs: production of ecologically clean agricultural products, sale of herbs and local products in tourist markets.

In general, Goris and Tatev represent the most important cultural and tourist centers of Syunik region. Goris is distinguished by its urban cleanliness, cultural and architectural values,

and Tatev by its unique historical and cultural heritage and internationally recognized tourist infrastructure. In both communities, the potential of human capital and youth is emphasized, which can become the axis of development.

The responses of the respondents in **Vardenis community** show that it is particularly notable for its wealth of natural resources and active social life. The following features were often emphasized in the residents' responses:

✓ **Nature and environment:** Clean air, clean drinking and irrigation water, and the beauty of nature were very often emphasized. Being close to Lake Sevan is seen as an important advantage for both tourism and fishing.

✓ **Economy and resources:** Agriculture and animal husbandry are considered the main directions of the community. The industrial potential, the presence of gold and other mineral resources were also mentioned. Fishing, small entrepreneurship, and local products are seen as development opportunities.

✓ **Society and human capital:** The respondents emphasized the involvement of active and enterprising youth, the harmonious and warm environment, and hospitality. The active cultural life, interest in education, and the preservation of local traditions were often mentioned.

✓ **Culture and heritage:** Vardenis has old churches, historical and cultural monuments, and initiatives that promote cultural life. The border location is also considered an important feature.

According to respondents, **Chambarak** can be described as a peaceful and hospitable community with unique nature, which has great potential for the development of ecotourism and agriculture. The following features were often emphasized in the responses of residents:

✓ **Nature and ecology:** Almost all responses emphasized clean air, beautiful nature, rich vegetation and forests. The proximity and views of Lake Sevan are considered a great advantage for tourism.

✓ **Economic potential:** Agriculture and animal husbandry are considered the main directions. The production of ecologically clean agricultural products was also mentioned. Recreation areas, healing springs of sour water, as well as seasonal coastal activities create special opportunities for tourism.

✓ **Society and human capital:** The residents were described as hospitable, friendly and united. The initiative of the youth and the solidarity of the community were noted. A number of responses also emphasized the effective role of the mayor and the administration.

✓ **Culture and infrastructure:** Cross-stones, churches, cultural events, as well as educational institutions (art school) were mentioned. In some settlements, improved roads, lighting and sports infrastructure were noted.

In general, it can be said that Vardenis and Chambarak together represent areas with great potential for agriculture, industry, fishing and tourism. Both have development opportunities formed by a combination of nature and human capital, which, with the right approach, can make Gegharkunik not only an agricultural, but also an eco-tourism center.

Comparative analysis of community development activities in recent years: According to the respondents, the implementation of projects aimed at the development of infrastructure has been most noticeable in the communities in the last five years. Road construction was mentioned as a major achievement in almost all communities. The highest positive responses were recorded in Goris (96%) and Ashotsk (93%). Tatev also has an almost universally positive picture (97%), while in Amasia the positive responses were 76%. In Vardenis and Chambarak the results are also high, 95% and 81%, respectively. This indicates that road construction is perceived as a primary achievement in almost all regions.

The picture is also universally positive in the issue of street lighting. In Goris, the share of positive responses was 93%, in Ashotsk - 97%, in Vardenis - 98%, in Chambarak - 100%, in Amasia - 92%, and in Tatev - 84%. The highest indicator in this direction was recorded in Chambarak, and the lowest in Tatev, but the picture is mainly positive in all communities.

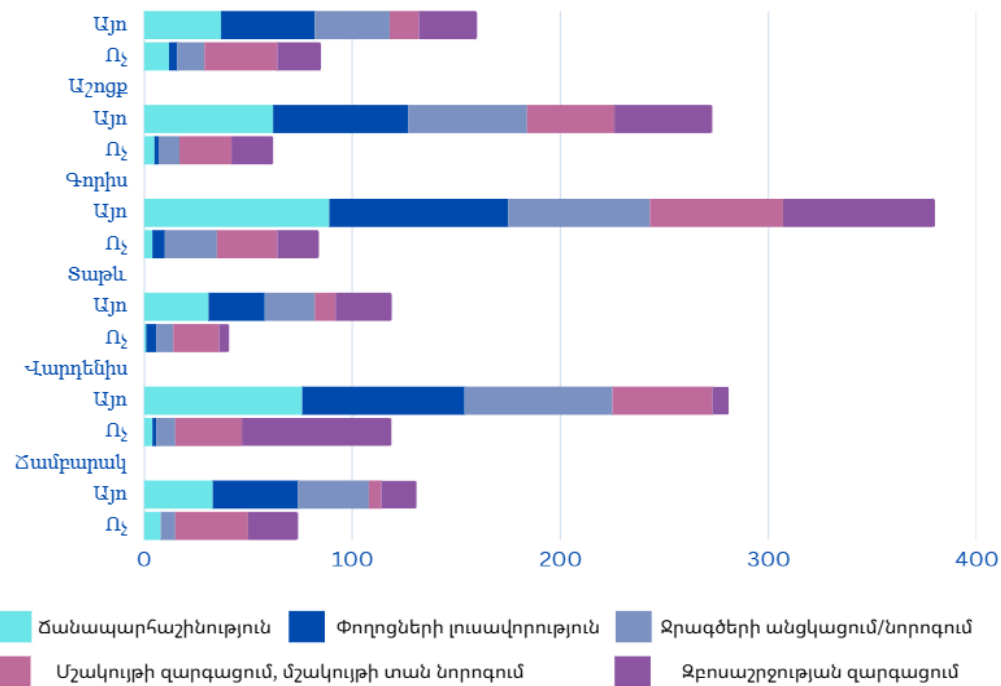
The picture is slightly different in the direction of laying and repairing water pipes. In Vardenis, positive responses were 89%, in Chambarak - 83%, in Goris - 73%, and in Ashotsk - 85%. In Amasia, the indicator is significantly lower - 74%, and in Tatev only 75%. This shows that the problems in the direction of water supply have not been fully resolved, especially in Tatev and Amasia.

The picture is relatively unsatisfactory in terms of cultural development and renovation of cultural houses. In Goris, the share of positive responses is 69%, in Ashotsk - 63%, in Vardenis - 60%, while in Tatev - 31%, in Amasia - 29%, and in Chambarak - 17%. Thus, cultural programs have mainly had a limited scope, especially in Tatev, Chambarak, and Amasia.

Tourism development also has different coverage in different communities. In Goris, the share of positive responses was 79%, in Tatev - 84%, in Ashotsk - 70%. In Amasia, the indicator is lower - 57%, in Chambarak - 41%, and in Vardenis - only 10%. This indicates that the development of tourism potential in the latter two communities has not been proportional. If in the communities of Syunik and Ashotsk it is considered a primary achievement, then in

Vardenis and Chambarak the same cannot be recorded. The overall picture shows that the highest level of development was recorded in Goris, Ashotsk and Tatev, where road construction, lighting and tourism development are generally positive. Vardenis and Chambarak are at an average level, where infrastructure works were highly rated, but cultural and tourist destinations have almost lower indicators. A relatively backward community is Amasia, where some infrastructure work has been recorded, but the indicators in both the cultural and tourism sectors are very low.

Chart 24. Comparative analysis of community development work in the last five years



Priority steps for community development: The summary picture by community shows that although common concerns and overlapping priorities have been recorded in all communities, at the same time, there are also unique emphases that are determined by local characteristics.

In the **communities of Amasia and Ashotsk**, agricultural development is in the first place among the priorities, with 47% and 49%, respectively. Housing construction is also highly rated here: in Amasia, it is 49%, in Ashotsk - 39%. Road construction is particularly significant in Amasia - 41%, while in Ashotsk it has a lower emphasis of 25%. Improving community public transport has attracted significant attention in both places (in Amasia - 35%, in Ashotsk - 36%). The demand for tourism development is also noticeable (39% and 36%, respectively).

Projects aimed at solving youth problems were rated highly (41% in Amasia, 33% in Ashotsk). Promoting entrepreneurship also has a certain place in Ashotsk, with an indicator of 28%, while in Amasia it is limited to 18%. Solving environmental problems received the attention of 19% in Ashotsk, and 10% in Amasia. Other areas, such as preschool education, green economy and social protection, occupy a relatively secondary position in both communities.

Chart 25. Priority areas of development for the Amasia community, according to respondents

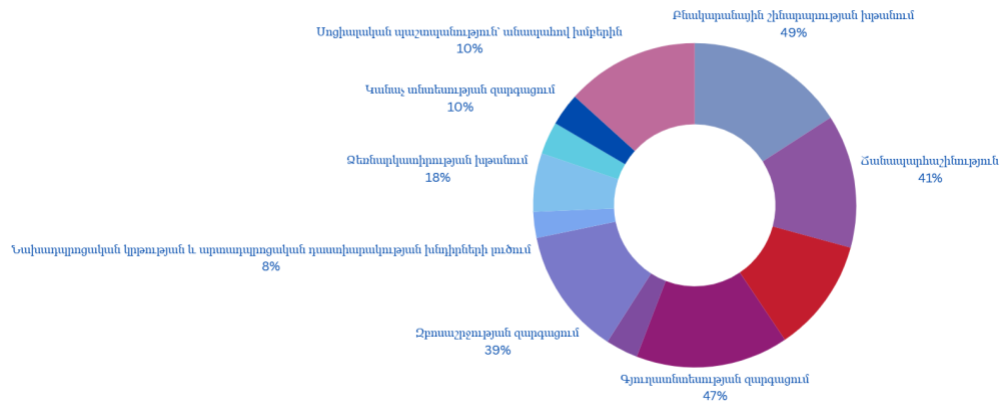
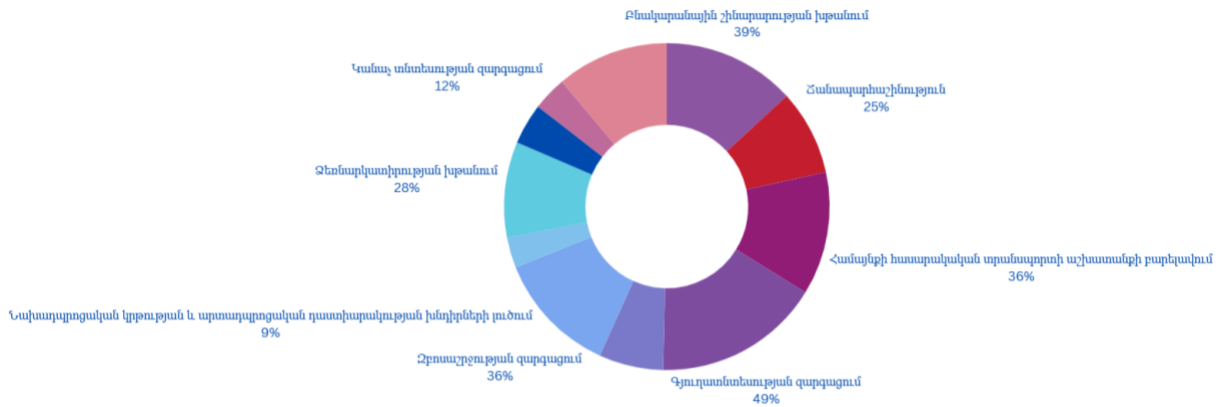


Chart 26. Priority areas for development of the Ashotsk community, according to respondents



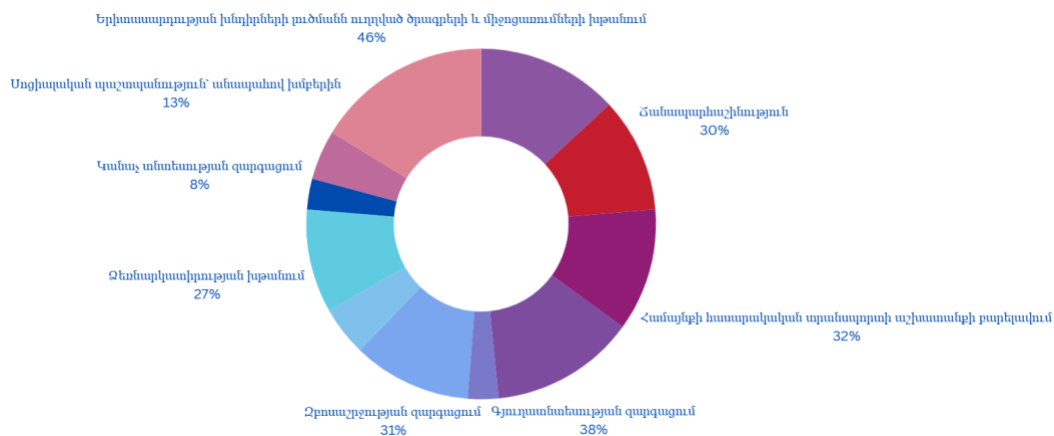
Thus, the general priorities in both communities (agriculture, housing, transport, tourism and youth) coincide, but there are differences in the intensity of emphasis (especially in entrepreneurship and environmental issues).

The picture recorded in the **communities of Goris and Tatev** shows that the choice of priorities is determined by both socio-economic and territorial factors.

In Goris, the highest indicator is the demand for projects aimed at solving youth problems (46%), which indicates the expectation of residents to provide new opportunities for young people.

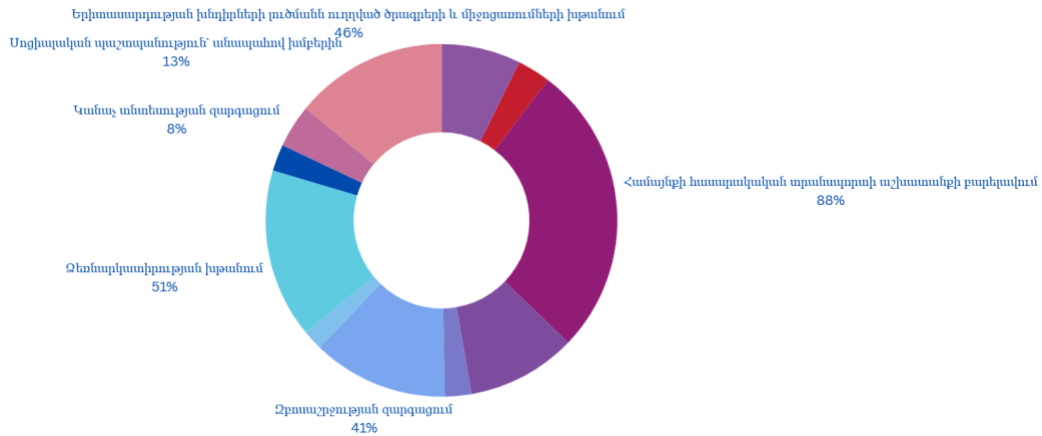
The next important directions are the development of agriculture (38%) and the promotion of housing (37%). Tourism also plays a significant role here (31%), which is typical of the tourism potential of the Goris region. The issue of transportation was rated by 32%, entrepreneurship promotion by 27%, and social protection and preschool education by 13% each. Solving environmental problems and developing a green economy were chosen the least (8%).

Chart 27. Priority areas for the development of the Goris community, according to respondents



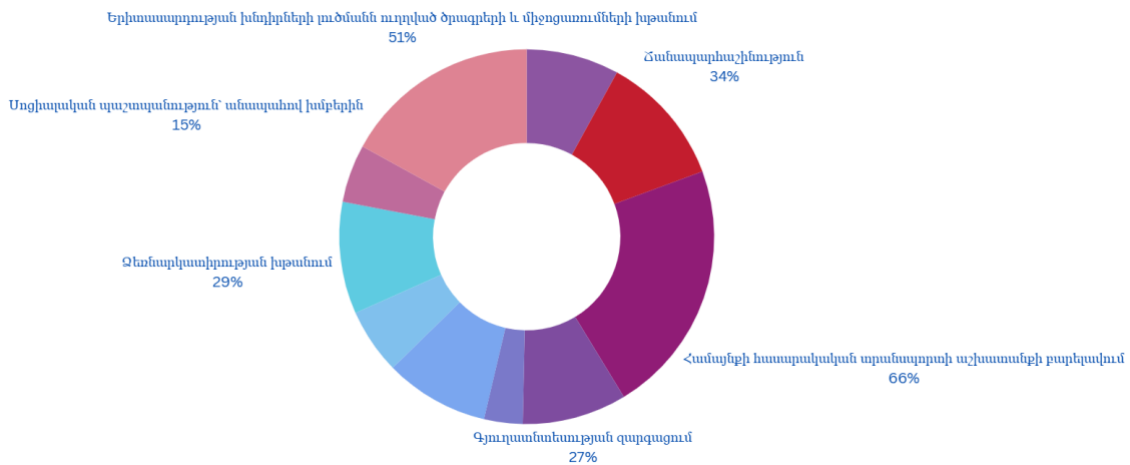
The picture of priorities in Tatev partially coincides with the picture in Goris, but also has its own characteristics. Here, the highest indicator is the demand for solving youth problems (53%), and the second most important direction is the improvement of public transport in the community (50%), which is associated with the geographical features of the territory and problems of interconnection. The development of agriculture was assessed at 41%, housing construction at 38%. Preschool education issues stand out in Tatev with a high indicator of 34%, which significantly exceeds the indicator in Goris (13%). Tourism here has a relatively low emphasis of 19%. Promoting entrepreneurship received 16%, solving environmental problems - 9%, green economy - 13%, and social protection - only 3%.

Chart 28. Priority areas for development of the Tatev community, according to respondents



In **Chambarak**, the issue of public transport is also predominant (66%), as well as projects aimed at solving youth problems (51%). Promoting entrepreneurship is 29%, agricultural development is 27%, tourism is 27%, and road construction is 34%. Housing construction is rated at 24%, preschool education is 17%. The demand for social protection is 15%, environmental issues are 10%, and the development of a green economy is not recorded here at all.

Chart 30. Priority areas for development of the Chambarak community, according to respondents



Thus, the common priorities in both communities are improving public transport and solving youth problems. However, in Vardenis, the emphasis is also placed on promoting entrepreneurship and developing tourism, while in Chambarak, additional emphasis is placed on road construction and preschool education.

Summarizing the general picture of the six communities, it can be said that the most common priorities in all are three: developing agriculture, improving public transport, and

solving youth problems. They coincide with the vital needs of rural communities. However, each region also has its own unique emphases. In Shirak, housing and road problems are prioritized, in Syunik, youth and educational and social infrastructure, and in Gegharkunik, transport and entrepreneurship.

2.1.4. Analysis of community youth problems and potential

The purpose of this section is to identify the untapped potential of the community's youth, clarify existing problems and formulate possible directions for their solution. The collected data will become the basis for developing policies, projects and initiatives in line with the needs of youth.

Untapped opportunities of youth: The responses received from the Amasia community indicate that youth are considered to have potential, but this potential is almost not used. The most frequently recurring problem in the responses of the participants is the lack of jobs. Due to the shortage of jobs, educated and skilled young people do not stay in the community; they are forced to move to other settlements or go abroad for work. This leads to a loss of labor force flow and opportunities for community development. Most of the respondents note that young people are little involved in community development processes, show passivity and do not show the necessary interest. The lack of unity is also noted, as a result of which the ideas and initiatives of young people do not turn into practical results. In addition, the community lacks opportunities for organizing leisure and free time. Talented young people do not have an environment for creative or professional development, and the necessary conditions and support are not created for the implementation of new ideas. It was also noted that the lack of connections with international structures and programs limits the development prospects of the community's youth. At the same time, it was noted that the community has educated and employable young people who are willing to do volunteer work and have innovative ideas. However, this potential is not coordinated and is not directed towards solving the community's problems.

In the **Ashotsk community**, educational and cultural restrictions were mainly emphasized. Young people do not have the opportunity to participate in clubs and creative classes: there are no gyms, sports schools, singing and dancing groups. This hinders the discovery of their talents and the development of creative abilities. There are also significant restrictions in the field of general education. As a result of transport problems and the unification of schools, the educational opportunities of young people are decreasing: the lack of specialists and the inaccessibility of specialized courses deprive them of the opportunity to

develop their knowledge and skills. The lack of professional orientation programs is also noted, which is why young people often do not clearly imagine their future educational or professional path. There is also a psychological barrier among the young people of Ashotsk: a lack of self-confidence and fear of failure have been recorded, which reduces their initiative. At the same time, a lack of cohesion is observed in the community, which prevents young people from jointly implementing ideas and projects. A significant part of the responses emphasize the lack of jobs. Although there are educated and skilled young people in Ashotsk, their professional abilities are not used, as a result of which they either move to other settlements or do not demonstrate their potential. There are interests and opportunities in the fields of agricultural innovations, tourism and social entrepreneurship, but they do not turn into practical initiatives. At the same time, a number of positive aspects have also been recorded: creative and innovative ideas, interest in the IT sector, willingness to engage in social entrepreneurship, environmental initiatives and volunteer work are observed among young people. They also have language and digital skills that can contribute to participation in international projects. However, this potential is not coordinated and does not receive the necessary support.

The main problem identified in the **Goris community** is the lack of jobs. Young people with higher education and diverse skills are unable to apply their abilities locally, as a result of which they often resort to emigration. Even the potential in the tourism, IT and agricultural sectors is not being converted into sustainable employment. There is a lack of awareness among young people. Although there are educational programs, grant opportunities, and free cultural and sports groups, many of them are not used, mainly due to a lack of information or lack of coordinated work. Participants also note that the potential of volunteering and social activism is not being used sufficiently. Although young people are willing to get involved in community projects, sufficient programs are not being developed or platforms are being created for this purpose. It is also noted that the wishes and energy of young people are often ignored, and initiatives do not receive the necessary financial and advisory support. Educational potential is also not being fully utilized. Many young people have knowledge of foreign languages, interest in the IT sector and innovative ideas, but their continuous development is hindered by a lack of systemic support. Young people with higher education are often not involved in community structures or programs. The problem of inefficient use of time and resources has also been noted: young people often do not apply their abilities, there is a lack of cohesion, and the created opportunities are not used sufficiently. At the same time, it has been noted that there are a number of opportunities in Goris: a large number of activities of public

organizations, the prospect of establishing international ties, the potential for recognizing and disseminating local culture and history, as well as tourism projects and entrepreneurial ideas. However, this potential requires a systematic approach, consultation and development of the environment.

In the **Tatev community**, the lack of jobs stands out first of all. Young people with higher education and various skills are unable to use their professional potential in the community, as a result of which they often move to the capital or another country. Even the presence of agricultural resources and the fertile lands of the community do not turn into stable employment, since there are no appropriate procurement points and supporting infrastructure. The second important problem is the lack of youth centers and groups. The data show that young people do not have platforms where they can gather, implement initiatives, receive professional orientation or spend their free time. This not only limits their opportunities for self-expression, but also contributes to passivity. The low level of participation of young people in public and community life is also noted. They are little involved in public hearings, discussions related to community development issues, volunteer work and local events. Often the reason is the lack of motivation and the absence of individuals with a leadership role. According to the participants, young people are mostly intelligent and educated, but often closed, self-absorbed and unable to express themselves. They do not perceive rural life as a promising direction and future. At the same time, it was noted that there are sufficient resources in the community, both human and natural, which, if used effectively, will create new opportunities for development. However, this requires programmatic and financial support, as well as an organized approach to activate and involve young people.

The study of data from the **Vardenis community** shows that, first of all, the unrealized of “talents” and creative abilities stands out here. Many young people possess skills in the fields of art, culture, sports and creativity, but the community lacks infrastructure (cultural centers, clubs, gyms, entertainment venues) that would allow them to develop and apply these abilities. As a result, many talents remain undiscovered or ignored. The limited use of modern and innovative professions is also an important issue. Although some young people are proficient in information technology, social media management, as well as other modern professions, there are no appropriate labor market conditions in the community. This leads to the fact that the knowledge and skills they have acquired are applied in other places or remain unused altogether. The data also shows the consequences of the lack of jobs. Many young people are unable to work in their profession in Vardenis after receiving education, which is why the

level of emigration is increasing. Thus, the community is losing highly qualified specialists. There is also a lack of an environment for self-expression among young people. There are no youth centers, development programs and initiatives that would promote their involvement in community life. This also negatively affects the motivation of young people: they are more observers than initiators. At the same time, it should be emphasized that there is great creative and innovative energy in Vardenis. Young people have ideas, knowledge and a willingness to participate in community development, sometimes even without material gain, if appropriate conditions are created.

In the **Chambarak community**, the unrealized educational and professional potential stands out first of all. Many young people have received a good education, possess knowledge and skills, but the community lacks such conditions and areas where they can practically apply what they have learned. This is especially evident in the case of young people who have a profession but are forced to leave the community in order to find work. Another important area is the unrealized development of talents and creative energy. Young people have innovative ideas, creative thinking, entrepreneurial aspirations, and cultural and technical abilities, but due to the lack of funds, programs, and supporting structures, this potential remains neglected. Many talented young people are unable to develop their abilities or manifest themselves within the community. The data also show the consequences of the lack of jobs and the lack of an environment for self-expression. There is a lack of cultural centers, workshops, libraries, sports and entertainment venues, as well as professional development and volunteer programs. The absence of these conditions not only limits the activity of young people, but also weakens their motivation to become initiators in community development. At the same time, the patriotic and initiative potential of the youth of Chambarak is observed, which can become an important driving force for community development. They are ready to get involved in community work, organizing cultural events and volunteer programs, as well as having an interest in agricultural and innovative approaches.

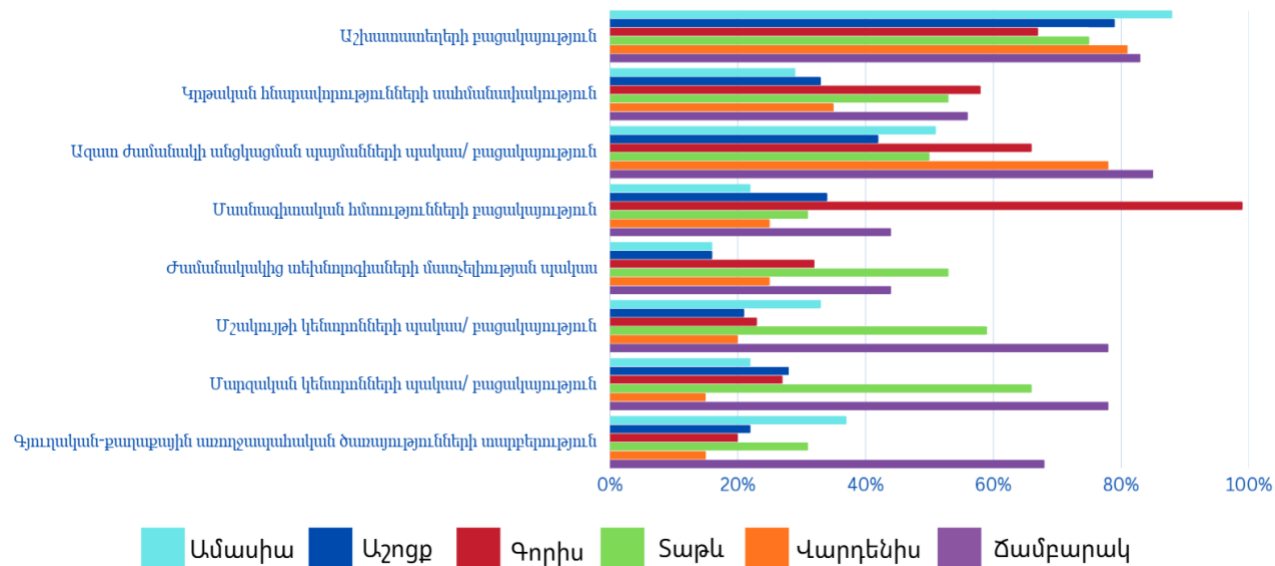
Youth Basic Problems: The survey results show that young people in the six communities largely face the same problems, but their severity vary. The lack of jobs is again universal and is particularly pronounced in Amasia (88%), Chambarak (83%) and Vardenis (81%), which once again confirms the limited opportunities for young people in the labor market. The problem of limited educational opportunities is most acute in Goris (58%), Tatev (53%) and Chambarak (56%), while in Amasia and Ashotsk the indicators are relatively low (29% and 33%). Effective spending of free time is most problematic in Chambarak (85%) and Vardenis

(78%), while in other communities this indicator varies between 42–66%. The lack of professional skills is especially acute in Goris (99%), where almost all the youth surveyed consider it a primary problem. In the remaining communities, this indicator is significantly lower: in Amasia - 22%, in Ashotsk - 34%, in Tatev - 31%, in Vardenis - 25%, in Chambarak - 44%. The lack of access to modern technologies was most indicated in Tatev (53%) and Chambarak (44%), while in Amasia and Ashotsk it is significantly lower (16%).

The absence of cultural centers is especially mentioned in Chambarak (78%) and Tatev (59%), while in Vardenis and Goris it is almost not considered a primary problem (20% and 23%, respectively). A similar picture is also observed in terms of sports centers: in Chambarak (78%) and Tatev (66%), it is a serious problem, while in Vardenis it is only 15%. The disparity in health services between rural and urban communities is particularly noticeable in Chambarak (68%) and Amasia (37%), while in Vardenis and Goris it is hardly considered a problem (15% and 20%).

The overall picture shows that the lack of employment remains the main obstacle in all communities, while the effective use of free time and the development of professional skills are secondary, but no less important issues. Local specificities are most visible in terms of cultural and sports infrastructure, as well as access to healthcare, which indicates the need for complex approaches to fully utilize the potential of youth.

Chart 31. Comparative analysis of youth problems in communities



Proposed solutions: Respondents link the solution to the problem of the lack of jobs in the **Amasia community** with both the promotion of local business and state and investment programs. It is proposed to develop small and medium-sized entrepreneurship, promote the fruit processing and agricultural production sectors, as well as ecotourism. At the same time, it is considered important to create opportunities for high-paying jobs so that young people connect with the community and do not emigrate. In terms of the absence of cultural and entertainment centers in the community, it is proposed to renovate cultural houses, establish youth clubs, and provide sports fields and centers. Such infrastructures are considered not only as a means of entertainment, but also as an important platform for the consolidation and activation of youth. To solve health problems, it is proposed to have a hospital in the community so that residents do not have to travel to urban areas for medical care. Transport issues are also highlighted, and the provision of public transport is considered an important condition for the movement of young people and the viability of the community. The role of state bodies is considered key by respondents. It is noted that increased subsidies, donor involvement, and direct intervention are necessary to create jobs and infrastructure. A number of responses also emphasize the importance of cooperation with international organizations, for example, the continuity of World Vision Armenia programs.

The main direction in the **Ashotsk community**, as in other communities, is job creation. Respondents emphasize the establishment of factories, the promotion of local businesses, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. It is also noted that raising wages, especially in the regions, can prevent emigration and keep young people in the community. In the educational sector, professional training programs, training courses (including IT and

language courses), the creation of scholarship funds, and discounts on student fees are considered priorities. It is also proposed to increase the quality of education and develop distance learning opportunities by involving universities, specialists, and international organizations. The lack of cultural and entertainment infrastructure is also highlighted. Young people emphasize the renovation of cultural houses and the establishment of new ones, the creation of sports halls and clubs, as well as the organization of entertainment centers. Such initiatives are considered a means of unifying and activating young people. In terms of healthcare infrastructure, the need for professional and technical re-equipment of the hospital is highlighted. At the same time, it is pointed out that the government should provide privileges to border and highland settlements, ensuring equal conditions. Special attention is paid to the civic and social activation of young people. It is proposed to organize regular public discussions, create a youth advisory body, promote volunteerism and mentoring programs. Innovative ideas are also presented: online platforms for financing youth projects, business incubators, youth loan programs and social housing projects.

The proposals of the respondents from the **Goris community** are mainly focused on education, employment and active involvement of young people. Many emphasize the creation of an environment where young people will stay in the community, will be able to learn, develop and implement their ideas. This requires a high-quality educational system, which will be supplemented with new professions and modern technologies. Also proposed are access to free online courses, quality courses on site and opportunities for practical experience after school or university, without the need to move to the capital. Educational proposals are accompanied by the need to develop relevant skills for the labor market. Young people value courses that will be focused on the IT sector, languages, entrepreneurship, as well as business management. Internship and experience programs, promotion of startups through grants and mentoring support, as well as the involvement of local successful young people as role models are proposed. The issue of employment is repeatedly emphasized through the creation of new jobs, promotion of entrepreneurship, as well as the provision of opportunities corresponding to modern professions. Young people emphasize that the community and the state work together on solutions that meet the demands of the labor market. In terms of cultural and sports infrastructure, the ideas of creating entertainment venues, sports centers, and a youth council are highlighted. Such structures are seen as an important condition for youth consolidation and promotion of engagement. The transport issue is of particular importance in Goris. Residents of Shurnukh point out that the poor state of public transport hinders young people's participation in community life. This issue is seen as a priority issue, as

it affects both education and work and activity. Young people also emphasize the importance of ensuring a safe environment, close cooperation with local governments and NGOs, and organizing regular meetings and discussions. It is noted that it is necessary to implement incentive programs that will maintain the connection of young people with the community and promote their participation in development processes.

The proposals of the youth of the **Tatev community** are diverse, but they are united around several key areas: job creation, providing opportunities for education and professional development, improving infrastructure, and active involvement of young people in community life. Priority is given to the issue of employment. Young people emphasize the creation of new jobs through the establishment of agricultural product sales factories, canning factories, tourism centers, and small and medium-sized enterprises. The need to restart factories operating during the Soviet years is also mentioned. An alternative solution to the employment issue is considered to be equipping young people with the skills necessary for freelance work. In the education sector, emphasis is placed on the creation of modern technology centers, vocational educational institutions, and educational camps. One of the frequently repeated proposals is the opening of a TUMO center in Tatev, which will contribute to the development of innovative skills. In addition, the need to attract qualified specialists to schools, as well as the implementation of business courses, is highlighted. Young people attach great importance to the development of cultural and entertainment infrastructure. It is proposed to renovate or build cultural centers, libraries, lofts, and create entertainment and sports centers. Such places are seen not only as a means of effectively spending free time, but also as a platform for unifying young people, revitalizing community life, and discovering creative potential. Special emphasis is placed on the modernization of healthcare infrastructure. Young people attach importance to the renovation of health centers, the acquisition of modern equipment, and the presence of a nurse. The problem of transportation is also emphasized, especially in the case of moving to Goris for education. This is seen as a serious obstacle to professional development and not emigrating from the community. The problem of youth passivity towards volunteering is also mentioned. As a solution, it is proposed to cooperate more closely with local governments and NGOs, implement youth projects and competitions with neighboring communities, as well as create youth centers under local governments.

The proposals of the respondents from the **Vardenis community** show that the main expectations are focused on three key areas: job creation, improvement of education and

professional development, as well as the development of cultural and entertainment infrastructure. The issue of employment is at the forefront. Almost all responses emphasize the need for jobs. Young people suggest promoting the development of small businesses, creating workshops, using unused areas for industrial enterprises, and supporting entrepreneurship. The development of remote work opportunities is also seen as a solution, which can mitigate the negative consequences of being on the border. In the educational direction, it is proposed to organize professional training courses, foreign language and computer programs, as well as access to online education. The need for continuing education, short-term courses, and skills development seminars is often emphasized. Young people also attach importance to the development of cultural and entertainment infrastructure. It is proposed to build youth clubs, sports and cultural centers, green public spaces, organize concerts, theater performances, and film screenings. Such places are seen not only as a means of effective organization of free time, but also as a means of strengthening social ties in the community. Considerable attention is paid to the issue of youth emigration in border areas. It is clearly emphasized that it is necessary to create conditions that will retain young people in the community through jobs, educational opportunities and cultural life. In addition to money, separate proposals highlight the development of ecotourism and environmental programs. This can be seen as a new opportunity based on local characteristics, while ensuring both employment and overall development of the community.

The respondents emphasize three areas for solving the problems of the **Chambarak community**: job creation, development of educational and professional opportunities, as well as improvement of cultural and healthcare infrastructure. The most frequently mentioned is the demand for job openings. Young people emphasize that entrepreneurship should be developed in the community, investments should be encouraged, and conditions should be created to make it possible to apply their knowledge and skills. Tax incentives and financial support for starting a business, as well as opening enterprises on site, are especially recommended. In the educational direction, the establishment of professional institutions, the re-launch of vocational schools, and the organization of courses in the community are considered important. It is proposed to create online learning platforms, organize training and mentoring programs, as well as educational visits and professional orientation events. These steps are seen as a means of preventing emigration, as they will provide an opportunity to study and specialize locally. Cultural and entertainment life is also an important direction. Young people note the need to open cultural centers, sports and entertainment centers. It is also proposed to give young people the opportunity to independently initiate the creation of clubs

according to their interests, which will contribute to increasing activity and community cohesion. In the healthcare sector, the importance of improving health centers and medical facilities, equipping them with modern equipment, and attracting qualified specialists is emphasized. At the same time, observations are also made regarding governance and community participation. It is proposed that the community administration resolve the issue of access to transportation, ensure more effective local governance, and draw the government's attention to the problems of Chambarak.

2.1.5. Recommendations and vision

This last section of the survey summarizes the suggestions submitted by the respondents and their perceptions of community development. The suggestions are addressed to both the municipality and the government and reflect the priorities, perceptions of problems and expectations of the residents. In addition, it presents how the respondents imagine their community in five years, highlighting the desired changes and development directions. A separate focus is also placed on the residents' demand for courses and training, which is an important basis for community programs and state support initiatives. The section also includes other thoughts and suggestions that the respondents considered important in the context of the future development of the community.

Recommendations to the community municipalities and the government: The responses received from the **Amasia community** reaffirm that the main concerns of the residents are related to socio-economic conditions, infrastructure and policies promoting population retention. The need for job creation is most often emphasized. Residents have repeatedly noted that steps aimed at overcoming unemployment are important not only for preventing emigration, but also for keeping the community's youth in place. In this context, it has been proposed that both the community municipality and the government create new jobs, promote the establishment of small workshops and factories, as well as provide professional development opportunities for young people. Housing issues are also considered a priority. In various formulations, it has been proposed to increase and improve the housing stock, ensure the housing needs of young families, and promote housing construction. In the context of ensuring the social stability of the community, increasing salaries and providing social packages for community workers have also been emphasized. The data shows that residents attach great importance to solving road and transport problems. This refers to the repair of both intra-community and inter-community roads, asphaltting, and the operation of public transport. Special emphasis was placed on the need to improve the road leading to Lake Arpi,

which is also important from the point of view of tourism development. Tourism was presented as a powerful direction for community development. It was proposed to green and beautify the community, improve the parks, create entertainment and recreation areas, as well as develop ecotourism. In addition, some respondents emphasized the importance of revitalizing cultural life, creating sports and entertainment centers, which, on the one hand, will improve the quality of life of the population, and on the other hand, will contribute to the attractiveness of the community. Some of the proposals are aimed at the needs of youth. The need to create youth centers, increase their involvement in community programs, and solve problems through a systematic assessment of needs was noted. At the same time, residents highlighted the importance of expanding educational opportunities, from the opening of educational centers to the reimbursement of fees for high-achieving students. Residents also highlighted health and social issues. The need to reopen the hospital and maternity hospital, the provision of public toilets, as well as various social supports, such as gas and electricity subsidies, and land rent benefits, was frequently mentioned.

The **Ashotsk** residents' ideas about community development are aimed at strengthening social protection, diversified economic development, and youth empowerment. Many responses emphasize the urgency of job creation. Reducing unemployment is seen as a key measure to prevent emigration and ensure the social stability of the community. In this context, important proposals included the establishment of manufacturing enterprises, the promotion of local business, and support for youth entrepreneurship. Transport and road issues are also an important direction. Residents demand the repair of inter-village and inter-community roads, improvement of transport, and the launch of new routes. The need to provide drinking water and repair irrigation networks was especially emphasized, which is of vital importance for those engaged in agriculture. The development of tourism and cultural life also occupies a special place in the proposals. Many responses indicate the formation of tourism infrastructure, the organization of local festivals, and the opening of cultural centers and art schools. This is seen not only as a means of revitalizing community life, but also as an important path to economic development. Youth-related issues have been widely emphasized. It has been proposed to create youth centers, educational and training programs, as well as ensure the involvement of young people in community decision-making processes. Ashotsk residents also attach importance to psychological support and improvement of health services, especially for young people and socially vulnerable groups. Among the proposals addressed to the government, the expansion of state support programs, the provision of tax privileges in rural communities, the increase in agricultural subsidies, and the improvement of the quality

of education and healthcare stand out. Special attention is paid to the fact that Ashotsk is one of the coldest places in Armenia, and its socio-economic characteristics require special privileges and state care.

The proposals of the residents of the **Goris community** mainly concern both the socio-economic, as well as educational, healthcare and cultural spheres. The great attention paid to youth is especially noticeable: almost all proposals emphasize the need for their employment, education and active involvement in community life. Many residents consider the creation of jobs as a priority. Reducing unemployment is seen as the main condition for the development of the community. The need to promote small and medium-sized businesses, finance entrepreneurial programs and provide grants to young people was often mentioned. This issue is directly related to the prevention of emigration. Improving the educational sector also stands out as an important requirement. The addition of new specialties in universities, improving the technical equipment of schools and educational centers, providing scholarships and developing student programs were proposed. At the same time, the emphasis is on equalizing the quality of education with the level of the capital. In the healthcare sector, residents emphasized the presence of medical centers equipped with modern equipment and the involvement of qualified specialists. It was proposed to improve health services in rural areas, ensuring minimal conditions for residents. Social and cultural life is also considered a key factor in community development. Residents have regularly noted the problem of the lack of entertainment centers and the need to create them for children, youth and the elderly. The need for sports halls, football fields and organizing cultural events was especially emphasized. The development of tourism was also often mentioned as a source of income and activity for the community. Issues of improving transport and infrastructure also occupy a significant place. Residents attach importance to the repair of roads, the availability and quality of public transport, as well as the organization of garbage collection and the development of green spaces. The proposals addressed to the government mainly concern the promotion of investments in the regions, the development of education and healthcare systems, programs aimed at agriculture and tax privileges. At the same time, the urgency of solving the specific problems of border communities, which require both security and socio-economic support, was emphasized.

The responses of the residents of the **Tatev community** demonstrate that the local development agenda combines several main directions: youth development, revitalization of cultural life, improvement of infrastructure, improvement of healthcare and education quality.

In addition, as a border community, Tatev has special expectations from state support. First of all, the issue of youth is emphasized. Residents have repeatedly noted that it is necessary to equip young people with modern skills, create youth centers and ensure their involvement in community decision-making processes. It is proposed to organize business courses, promote entrepreneurship and create new jobs for young people. At the same time, it is considered important to improve the quality of their education and implement innovative educational programs. Cultural and sports infrastructure are also a priority issue. Most residents emphasized the need to renovate the Shinuhayr Culture House, one part of which can be turned into a gym, and the other part into a centralized cultural center. It has often been proposed to open clubs, entertainment and sports centers in the community, as well as to provide free transportation for children to ensure access to cultural and sports groups. The issue of access to irrigation water is particularly urgent for the residents of Tatev. It has been noted that many villages in the community are deprived of this opportunity, which hinders the development of agriculture. It is proposed to lay pipelines, modernize water lines, and provide access to irrigation water in all settlements. In addition, residents also demand the completion of the gasification process and improvement of energy conditions. The issue of transport is also important: the scarcity and inaccessibility of inter-community public transport is noted. It is proposed to connect the community and neighboring settlements with regular routes, as well as improve the lighting of roads and streets. In the healthcare sector, the issue of the lack of quality and rapid response centers has been raised. It has been proposed to reactivate the large hospital in the community, create centers equipped with modern medical equipment, and make healthcare services more accessible. The proposals addressed to the government are diverse. Residents demand that the community's key issues be prioritized in subsidy programs: the renovation of the cultural center, the creation of irrigation systems, the development of agriculture and entrepreneurship. It is proposed to restart the Shinuhayr shoe factory, encourage small and medium-sized businesses with tax benefits, as well as create procurement points and processing plants.

The perceptions of the residents of **Vardenis community** show that the future of the community is connected with economic activation, improvement of infrastructure and creation of new opportunities for young people. A significant part of the residents consider the issue of opening jobs and activating economic activity as a priority. Many note that the main reason for emigration is the lack of work. The reopening of factories or the establishment of new production facilities, the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses with tax incentives, as well as technical and financial support for agriculture and livestock breeding are

proposed. Youth issues are also very often brought up. Residents attach importance to the creation of youth centers, sports and cultural clubs, and non-formal educational programs. It is proposed to organize community festivals, competitions and courses more often, and to give young people the opportunity to be involved in the community decision-making process. In addition, the need to promote digital skills, entrepreneurial and innovative programs is emphasized. Community infrastructure issues have also been repeatedly raised. First of all, residents point out the scarcity and inadequacy of public transport, the poor condition of inter-settlement roads, and vulnerable drinking and irrigation water supply systems. It is proposed to repair and improve roads, introduce regular public transport routes, ensure water supply, and develop the construction of apartment buildings. In the healthcare sector, proposals relate to solving the lack of pharmacies, increasing the quality and accessibility of medical services, as well as strengthening medical facilities in border villages. The proposals addressed to the government mainly emphasize the need for investments in the regions. Residents expect financial support for agriculture, small businesses, and local products, as well as the expansion of educational and health services. Many also attach importance to the development of tourism, based on the historical, cultural, and environmental potential of Vardenis.

Combining the responses of the residents of the **Chambarak community**, several key areas can be identified: job creation and economic activation, infrastructure improvement, promotion of education and youth development, as well as solving healthcare and social security issues. First of all, the majority of residents emphasize the need to open jobs. Many proposals relate to the establishment of factories (for example, wool processing, meat processing, sewing workshops), as well as the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. It is noted that the lack of jobs is one of the main reasons for youth emigration, and its solution can significantly contribute to the vitality of the community. Education and youth employment are also key topics. Residents emphasize the need for new educational programs and vocational schools, the creation of various clubs, art and sports centers. A proposal is often made to involve young people in community decision-making processes and provide them with opportunities for informal education. At the same time, cultural life is emphasized, from the reopening of the cinema to the organization of festivals, exhibitions and workshops. Infrastructure issues have been repeatedly raised. They mainly concern issues of drinking and irrigation water, gasification, roads and transport. Residents demand to improve inter-settlement communication, ensure regular public transport, solve the problems of garbage collection and street lighting. In the healthcare sector, the lack of qualified specialists and limited access to medical services are emphasized. It is proposed to open a pharmacy,

medical centers in the community and provide free or affordable medical care for socially vulnerable groups. Most of the proposals addressed to the government relate to supporting agriculture. Residents note that it is necessary to provide equipment, subsidies, create procurement points and processing plants. In addition, it is important to develop border communities proportionately by providing tax benefits, increasing salaries and pensions, and supporting young families.

Visions of community development: The majority of respondents in **Amasia** see the community as developed and improved, with jobs, progress in the education and healthcare sectors, and a clean and beautiful environment. Many emphasize the potential of tourism, especially winter recreation and the use of Lake Arpi. The need for the introduction of modern technologies, the development of eco-tourism, and increasing the efficiency of agriculture is also noted. At the same time, cautious and even pessimistic forecasts are sounded. Many answers point to the danger of emigration: if educational institutions are closed or jobs are not created, the community may empty, remaining mainly with an elderly population. Some clearly state that without state support, a reduction in the population and a deepening of social problems are possible. There are also moderately optimistic opinions: if the current pace of development is maintained, the community will improve somewhat, although residents would like faster and deeper changes. Some also note that the future of the community is determined by state support and local initiatives.

Positive perceptions prevail in the **Ashotsk community**. Many responses describe Ashotsk as a developed and well-organized community with new infrastructure, paved streets, a clean environment, and the use of tourism potential. Many note that if the current pace of reforms is maintained, the community will become richer and more vibrant, with population growth and improved social conditions. Special emphasis is placed on preventing emigration. Residents want to live in a community where young people do not leave, but stay, work, and invest. The creation of new jobs, the establishment of educational centers and vocational schools, as well as the revitalization of cultural and youth life are mentioned as conditions. The vision of tourism development is also frequently voiced. Residents imagine Ashotsk as a popular tourist destination, where visitors get acquainted with the local culture, and the infrastructure contributes to the comfort of guests. Along with tourism, the development of agriculture is important, including the use of innovative methods. Some responses also emphasize the need to improve healthcare, education, and social life. Ashotsk is presented as a community with quality medical facilities, a permanent calendar of cultural events, sports

centers, and youth entrepreneurial initiatives. At the same time, there are some pessimistic predictions: if the problems are not resolved, the community may become empty or aging due to the emigration of residents. Some even note that without the maintenance of schools, emigration will become inevitable.

The perceptions of the residents of **Goris** regarding the future of their community are unequivocally positive and are based on development expectations. In their opinion, Goris should be a city equipped with modern infrastructure, green, clean and attractive to tourists in five years. Many emphasize the role of education, expecting a high-quality educational system, a more educated society and constant involvement of young people. Special attention is also paid to the development of the labor market: people expect the creation of quality and competitive jobs, which will help prevent emigration and keep young people in the community. Goris is described as a community with an active social and cultural life, where traditions are preserved, but at the same time innovative ideas are encouraged. New technological and ecological solutions also occupy an important position: the city is imagined as an innovative and “green” environment full of startups. Some responses also emphasize the belief that Goris is already in a good state, and if the same course is maintained, there will be no need for major changes. At the same time, some concerns are also voiced, which are related to external challenges and the regional situation. However, even in these conditions, the main expectation remains the same: Goris should become an attractive center for young people, tourists, and creative people, a community that is united, hospitable, and rich in cultural diversity.

The vision of **Tatev** residents regarding the future of the community is mainly focused on social and infrastructural reforms. They expect that in five years, Tatev should have completely improved streets, lighting, modernized communications, and green areas. Great importance is given to the creation of playgrounds, gyms, and cultural centers in settlements, which is especially due to the need to involve young people and activate the community. One of the important directions in the vision is again the creation of jobs. Residents imagine Tatev as a more entrepreneurial and economically vibrant community, where unemployment has decreased and there is no problem of emigration. The development of tourism also has a priority. Tatev is seen as an attractive tourist destination, which will not only bring an influx of visitors, but also provide new jobs. Special emphasis is placed on the development of education. The future of the community is imagined as one distinguished by an educational system equipped with modern teaching methods. The creation of new schools, extracurricular

institutions and educational programs is seen as a condition for the social and economic progress of the community. In addition, housing construction projects are seen as an important factor: the attraction of new residents, the increase in the number of children and the population density of the community are seen as a favorable prospect. At the same time, there is also concern about emigration and unemployment, which indicates that the ideas about the future of the community are highly conditional and depend on the level of investments and state support. In general, the future of Tatev is presented as a youth-centered, green and economically vibrant community, where residents not only solve their daily problems, but also contribute to the development of the homeland.

The responses of **Vardenis** residents also show a general optimistic mood regarding the future of the community. Many imagine the community as a more well-organized, developed and socially secure place, where existing problems have been solved. There is a great expectation for the role of young people: it is noted that in the coming years, educated and equipped with new professions, young people will return and contribute to the economic and social development of the community. A particularly important place is given to the creation of new jobs and small businesses, which will help prevent emigration and make Vardenis an attractive place for young people. Expectations for improving infrastructure and activating public life also stand out among the perceptions: people expect better roads, green spaces, cultural and public centers. The development of tourism and agriculture are also seen as important directions for the future. At the same time, some residents find it difficult to form a clear picture or note that changes may be few. These concerns are mainly related to the preservation of current problems and the uncertain prospect of solving them. Overall, Vardenis is envisioned in five years as a more prosperous, safe, and vibrant community, where educated youth, innovative ideas, and collaborative work will enable economic growth, social development, and community cohesion.

The responses of the residents of the **Chambarak community** about the future are equally marked by both optimistic expectations and deep concerns. Many imagine the community as a developed, well-organized and secure place, where new jobs will be created, infrastructure will be improved and cultural and social life will be promoted. The role of young people in particular stands out in the vision. The community is imagined to be full of vibrant and educated young people who will return and contribute to local development with their profession. In this context, an important place is given to the creation of schools, playgrounds, stadiums and entertainment centers, as well as the modernization of education, for example,

the opening of robotics rooms and groups. The development of tourism is also seen as an important direction for the future of the community. Chambarak is presented as a recognized and active tourist center. In addition, residents emphasize the need to improve roads, water lines, gasification and general infrastructure. At the same time, pessimistic assessments are also expressed: some people note that if the problems are not solved, then after five years the community may regress, emigration and decline in agriculture are possible.

Thus, in all six communities, it is obvious that residents imagine their future in a developed and improved environment. The visions often repeat the ideas of creating jobs, improving the quality of education and healthcare, as well as fully utilizing the tourism and agricultural potential. The communities are seen as places full of youth activity, socially secure and rich in cultural life. At the same time, it is emphasized that without state support, investments and activation of local initiatives, there is a risk of emigration and emptying of communities. Thus, perceptions of the future range from a hopeful vision of development to the concern that unresolved problems may hinder this progress.

Thematic areas of training: Based on the responses of the respondents in the communities under study, thematic areas of training have been developed that reflect local needs and interests. They mainly relate to the areas of business and entrepreneurship, IT and new technologies, agriculture, tourism and community development, language learning, soft and social skills, as well as health and vocational skills. The recorded proposals are presented below, by community.

Table 6. Map of training needs by community

AMASIA	
1. Business and entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business courses, business development, business fundamentals • Business skills • Social entrepreneurship • Grant writing, presentation and winning
2. IT and new technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in new technologies • Application of new technologies in agriculture • Innovative agriculture • Greenhouse technologies • Social media marketing
3. Agriculture and ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural training

- New crops, increasing energy efficiency
 - Environmentally responsible approaches
4. Tourism and community development
 - Tourism Development Courses
 - Community Development (Projects, Media Literacy, Socio-Economic Orientation)
 - Youth Projects
 5. Professional and educational courses
 - Professional training, exchange of experience between organizations
 - Pedagogical professional courses
 - Educational courses
 - Public relations courses
 6. Soft and social skills
 - Soft skills development
 - Public behavior, safe and correct communication on the Internet
 - Tolerance, avoidance of gambling
 7. Languages and human rights
 - English language courses
 - Human rights courses
 8. Professional skills
 - Hairdressing, manicure
 - Cooking classes
 9. Other areas
 - Diplomatic courses
 - Personal development, new modern professions

ASHOTSK

1. Business and Entrepreneurship
 - Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship, Business Development in Communities
 - Business Plan Preparation Courses
 - Social Entrepreneurship
 - Business Modeling, Business Project Preparation
 - Creation and Management of Small Manufacturing Plants
 - Startup Basics and Innovations
2. Financial Literacy and Management Skills
 - Financial Literacy, Personal Budget Management
 - Accounting and Financial Skills
 - Finance Management
 - Project Management, Risk Analysis
 - Organization and Community Management Courses
3. IT and New Technologies

- Computer Skills (MS Office, Excel, Internet)
 - Programming, Advanced Programming
 - IT Technologies
 - Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
 - Digital Marketing, Social Media, Graphic Design, Video Editing
 - Mastery of IT and Innovative Tools
4. Agriculture and Agrarian Sector
- Innovative Agriculture, New Farming Technologies
 - Agrarian and livestock training
 - Agricultural marketing and agricultural education
 - Eco-agriculture
5. Tourism and culture
- Tourism organization, tourism business
 - Guide training
 - Cultural and community development courses
 - Art, music
6. Languages and education
- English (general and business English)
 - Language training
 - Educational courses (general)
7. Soft and personal skills
- Leadership, guidance, teamwork
 - Public speaking, debate, negotiation skills
 - Organizational and communication skills
 - Time management, stress management
 - Personal development
8. Social and civic education
- Civic education, human rights
 - Social activities, youth leadership
 - Management of non-governmental organizations
 - Community program awareness
9. Health and psychology
- First aid, emergencies
 - Basics of psychology, psychological support
10. Other Areas
- Cooking, sewing and handicrafts
 - Environmental education
 - Youth projects

1. Business and Entrepreneurship
 - Business Fundamentals, Entrepreneurship and Business Planning
 - Business Idea Development, Modeling and Management
 - Business-Related Programs
 - Entrepreneurial Skills and Business Idea Generation
2. Financial Literacy and Practical Skills
 - Financial Literacy, Budget and Finance Management
 - Skills Ensuring Competitiveness in the Labor Market (CV Writing, Excel, Canva)
3. IT, New Technologies and Media
 - Programming, Web Development, IT, Artificial Intelligence
 - Media Creation, Video Production, Editing, Blogging, Digital Storytelling
 - Social Media Marketing (SMM)
 - Marketing, Graphic Design
4. Languages and Education
 - English (Conversational, Advanced, Business English)
 - Other Foreign Languages (There Was Even an Offer to Learn the Language of the “Enemy Neighbors”)
 - Preparation of Applications for Educational Programs
5. Soft and Personal Skills
 - Soft Skills development
 - Leadership skills
 - Critical thinking
 - Psychological and motivational courses
6. Culture, art and handicrafts
 - Handicrafts, carpet weaving
 - Music discussions
 - Crafts training
7. Tourism and hospitality
 - Tourism and tour guiding
 - Hospitality and service sector
8. Agriculture and environment
 - Agricultural courses
 - Environmental and healthy lifestyle projects
9. Health and safety skills
 - Health-related courses
 - First aid
10. Community and public projects
 - Community project development
 - Discussions on Armenia's domestic and foreign policy

1. Agriculture and agricultural innovations
 - Agriculture-related courses
 - Crop cultivation
 - Application of new technologies in agriculture
 - Agriculture and tourism
2. New technologies and IT
 - Courses on the application of the latest technologies
 - Specialized courses on high-tech production
 - Computer courses
3. Business, entrepreneurship and finance
 - Business courses
 - Business management and entrepreneurship
 - SME construction and support courses
 - Accounting courses
 - Grant project registration and participation
4. Community development and management skills
 - Community development-oriented courses
 - Community service training
 - Development projects development courses
5. Rights and civic education
 - Human rights and general laws
 - Women's rights
 - Legal courses
 - Human rights protection
6. Education and social sphere
 - Education sector courses
 - Pedagogy
 - Capacity building of social workers
7. Tourism and Culture
 - Tourism Courses
 - Hospitality
 - Cultural Heritage Preservation
8. Health and Healthy Lifestyle
 - Health and Healthy Lifestyle Courses
9. Other areas
 - Waste Management Courses
 - Leadership
 - Professional and Consulting Courses

VARDENIS

1. Business and Finance

- Business Planning, Entrepreneurship
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship Management
- Financial Literacy and Financial Management for Business
- Marketing and Sales Promotion
- Economic Knowledge

2. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

- New Agricultural Methods and Technologies
- Animal Care, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine
- Trainings for Agricultural Development
- Application of New Farm Technologies

3. Public Service, Community Development

- Community Development Trainings
- Local Government and Political Education
- Community Servant Training
- Human Resource Management
- Organizational and Leadership Skills

4. Health and Safety

- First Aid and Health Skills
- Emergency Management
- Public Health and Epidemic Prevention
- Occupational Safety and Health Protection
- Sports and Healthy Lifestyle courses

5. Technologies and digital skills

- IT skills and programming
- Digital literacy
- Cybersecurity
- Proficiency in the latest technologies
- Renewable energy technologies

6. Media, communication and personal development

- Media literacy and communication skills
- Personal development projects
- Leadership and team management
- Professional orientation

7. Youth and education

- Youth educational programs
- Courses that motivate young people and strengthen community ties
- New methods of education quality and pedagogy
- Parenting and parental support programs

8. Culture, tourism and creativity

- Tourism organization
- Cultural events
- Handicraft, design, hairdressing, cosmetology
- Cooking and confectionery
- Art and creative development

9. Languages and international skills

- English and French languages
- Advanced foreign language courses

10. Force and Defense Orientation

- Military Training
- Technical Equipment and Military Equipment Training
- Physical Training and Tactics
- Military Law

CHAMBARAK

1. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

- Agriculture (agricultural machinery, mushroom production, greenhouse technologies)
- Animal husbandry
- Beekeeping
- Non-traditional agriculture

2. Business and Finance

- Business fundamentals and small business management
- Entrepreneurship and grant projects
- Financial management
- Marketing and digital marketing

3. Technologies and digital skills

- IT and programming
- Computer skills
- Digital educational technologies
- Graphic design

4. Languages and international relations

- English and Russian languages
- Foreign language groups
- Exchange of experience (in the tourism sector and international cooperation)

5. Tourism and community development

- Organization of tourism and exchange of experience in neighboring countries
- Community development-oriented courses
- Women empowerment in the community
- Human relations and communication

6. Health and social sphere

- First aid
- Massage
- Psychological courses
- Human rights

7. Professional

- Hairdressing, make-up, manicure
- Sewing and fashion, floristry
- Pastry and pastry design
- Auto mechanics, auto equipment

8. Education and professional orientation

- Courses on teaching and pedagogy
- Professional orientation
- Advanced knowledge in a narrow field

2.2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH EXPERT PERSPECTIVES

2.2.1. Amasia community

General observations: Amasia community is one of the unique settlements of Shirak region, with a border location, severe climatic conditions and strong livestock breeding traditions. Expert interviews show that the community has both great potential and worrying issues due to management, infrastructure, financial and demographic problems. The community has not yet been able to fully transform its natural and human resources into a factor of sustainable development: it has an economic dependence on agriculture and a decreasing labor force due to emigration. According to experts, the future of the community can be built only if targeted projects are implemented aimed at developing local production, infrastructure and youth potential.

Characteristics and advantages of the community: Amasia is characterized as a community with rich environmental resources. High-altitude meadows and pastures provide exceptional conditions for the development of livestock breeding. The area is famous for the production of high-quality dairy products (cheese, oil, butter, yogurt). In addition, the community has great opportunities for the development of intensive agriculture. Experts point out the possibility of growing greenhouses, fruit orchards and high-value crops (for example, lentils, fennel, sunflowers). Lake Arpi and the national park are located in the territory of Amasia, which can become an important destination for ecotourism and environmental education. The uniqueness of nature and clean air also provide an opportunity for the development of health and recreational tourism. Amasia also has valuable historical and cultural monuments that can be included in tourist routes. The community is distinguished by a socially harmonious environment and a hardworking population. The high participation of women and the elderly in local social initiatives is also characteristic. At the same time, however, according to experts, geographical isolation and distance from highways and markets hinder the activation of economic ties and the attraction of investments.

Main obstacles and their impact: Experts agree that the main obstacles to the socio-economic development of Amasia are the lack of financial resources and limited capabilities of the community budget (about 500 million drams per year), underdevelopment of infrastructure (not fully asphalted roads, lack of irrigation network, low level of gasification), lack of large production facilities and low profitability of agriculture, lack of jobs and emigration (leading to a decrease in the working-age population).

The border location of the territory increases not only security, but also investment risks. Many residents avoid long-term investments due to uncertainty.

Experts also note governance problems: community decision-making is often centralized, and population participation is low. Most rural settlements are deprived of local autonomy and influence on program decisions.

In the social sphere, the lack of kindergartens, cultural centers and entertainment infrastructure stands out, which has a particularly negative impact on the development of children and youth.

Youth potential, emigration and civic activism. Youth outflow is one of the biggest challenges of Amasia. The lack of jobs, limited educational and entertainment opportunities lead to the fact that young people leave mainly to Gyumri, Yerevan or abroad. Experts unanimously emphasize the need to form an active community youth environment: a) through youth centers and clubs, b) through non-formal educational programs (entrepreneurship, digital skills, community management), c) by organizing cultural and sports events. The involvement of young women in community management and business initiatives requires special attention. In this direction, systematic work on legal awareness and skills development is important. The untapped potential of youth is great in educational, creative and entrepreneurial terms. Their activation can become the driving force for community regeneration.

Priorities and development opportunities. Combining the observations of experts, three main directions of development of Amasia can be distinguished:

1. **economic restructuring and promotion of local production** (development of livestock and wool processing, creation of intensive agriculture and processing enterprises, formation and marketing of local brands),
2. **improvement of infrastructure and services** (modernization of roads, gasification and irrigation systems, decentralization of social and health services with mobile models, introduction of participatory mechanisms for local budget planning),
3. **involvement of youth and promotion of civic activism** (formation of a youth council under the municipality, small grant projects for youth initiatives, formation of a community volunteer movement).

2.2.2. Ashotsk community

General observations: Ashotsk community is one of the northern and highest communities in Shirak region, bordering Georgia. Expert observations show that the

community is distinguished by its mountainous nature, clean environment and harmonious population. At the same time, it faces serious governance, infrastructural and economic challenges. According to interviews, the socio-economic situation of the community has not improved significantly in recent years, despite the process of unification of communities and state subsidy programs. Many experts note that in some cases the situation has even worsened (in terms of employment, income and population activity). The success of Ashotsk development depends not only on external investments, but also on new approaches to management, involving the population and strengthening community participation.

Characteristics and advantages of the community: Ashotsk is an exceptional community distinguished by its nature and resources. The high-altitude mountain zone provides clean air, a fresh climate and a healthy environment, which makes it possible to develop both agriculture and tourism. From an agricultural point of view, the community is suitable for cattle breeding, beekeeping, dairy production and potato cultivation. According to experts, with proper management, Ashotsk can become a regional center for dairy processing. In terms of tourism, the long winter season, beautiful landscapes and proximity to the Georgian border give the community a unique position for the development of winter sports, eco- and rural tourism. Experts emphasize that the restoration of winter sports infrastructure and the construction of guest houses can turn Ashotsk into a regional recreation center. In addition to natural resources, Ashotsk is also distinguished by its human capital: community solidarity, friendly ties and a culture of helping each other have been preserved here. "Ashotsk is the very area where human connections, friendly relations, and community solidarity still have real value. Development based on these values is the most sustainable: the one that does not come from outside, but grows from within," one of the respondents mentioned in his speech.

Main obstacles and their impact. Despite its potential, Ashotsk faces a number of problems, which are:

1. **Severe climatic conditions** – In winter, roads are often closed, the snow depth sometimes reaches 1.5–2 meters, which isolates villages and hinders economic activity.
2. **Insufficient development of infrastructure** – There is no gas supply in many settlements, water supply systems are worn out, and the condition of roads is poor. This affects the circulation of goods and access to services.
3. **Economic and production constraints** – Agriculture remains the main employment sector, but it is dependent on weather conditions and is almost devoid of technological innovations. The absence of processing enterprises leads to the export of raw materials without creating added value.

4. **Lack of financial resources** – The community budget is small, and the current law on financial equalization, according to experts, does not sufficiently support highland and poor communities. It is noted that a change in the law is necessary to increase the “per capita budget”.
5. **Centralization of governance and lack of participation** – Residents of border villages are often deprived of real participation in local governance processes. Many note that decisions are made centrally, without the opinion of the settlements.
6. **Emigration and demographic decline** – A significant part of the population emigrates in search of work, which leads to a shortage of labor. The outflow of youth also continues, mainly due to the lack of employment and educational opportunities. This leads to an aging population and a decrease in the dynamics of community life.

Youth potential, emigration and civic activism. Youth is considered the main development resource of Ashotsk, but it is currently not fully utilized. Most of the youth do not see sufficient opportunities in the community and migrate for study or work. According to experts, there are educational, entrepreneurial and creative abilities among young people, which remain undeveloped due to the lack of appropriate platforms. Their main problems are the lack of opportunities for non-formal educational and vocational training, the absence of financial incentives for jobs and business, and the scarcity of cultural and entertainment infrastructure. At the same time, there is a great interest among young people in community initiatives, if they are given a real opportunity for influence and participation. Experts suggest the following steps: a) create youth councils attached to community structures, organize pilot programs of participatory budgeting, b) promote educational and cultural volunteer initiatives, c) form social entrepreneurial models around local products and services. The involvement of women in community processes is also important: gender stereotypes still limit their active participation, so legal awareness and leadership training are needed. In general, it is noted that cooperation between civil society and youth groups can become a real impetus for development if it is based on tangible results: “If young people see that their proposals are accepted and respected not only by their peers, but also by local government members and are implemented, they will become more confident and will continue to be involved and work for the community.”

Priorities and development opportunities. According to experts, the sustainable development strategy of Ashotsk should be built in the following directions:

1. **Infrastructure modernization and decentralization of services** (improvement of roads, water supply, gasification and transport system, introduction of mobile and digital services for healthcare, education and documentation issues, proportional distribution of the community budget among settlements),
2. **Economic development** (promotion of agricultural production and processing sector, development of dairy, potato and beekeeping sectors, creation of small processing enterprises, formation of local brands and production and sale of branded products),
3. **Tourism development** (creation of winter tourism infrastructure and formation of tourist routes, development of rural tourism, implementation of cross-border cooperation programs with Georgia, involvement of civil society in the implementation of tourism programs),
4. **Development of youth and civic activism** (creation of youth centers and educational programs, introduction of participatory management tools, implementation of civic empowerment programs for women and girls)

2.2.3. Goris community

General observations: Goris community is one of the cultural, economic and tourist centers of Syunik region. Based on the interviews with experts, it can be concluded that the community is in the process of active socio-economic transformation: it seeks to regain its role as a regional center, combining its traditional characteristics with modern developments. The main advantage of Goris is its geographical location, rich in nature, historical and cultural heritage and tourist attraction. According to experts, the key to the successful development of the community may be the effective use of local resources, in cooperation with the private and public sectors.

Characteristics and advantages of the community: Goris is distinguished by its ancient cultural environment, historical heritage and tourist attraction. The community is considered a tourist hub for the entire Syunik region. A certain basis for the hotel and service sector has already been formed in Goris, but according to experts, it is necessary to transition to innovative and environmentally responsible models. Of particular interest is the development of open-air hotels, tent-type recreation areas and forms of hospitality in harmony with nature. These ideas are aimed at tourists who want to fully experience the harmony of Goris nature and mountains. In addition to tourism, local production and the IT (digital technologies) sector are also prospects for the development of the community. The educational and professional potential available in Goris can become the basis for the formation of IT infrastructure and innovative businesses. The development of local production, whether in the field of

agricultural products, textiles or crafts, can contribute to the self-sufficiency of the community and the creation of jobs.

Main obstacles and their impact: During the interviews, a number of problems were identified that hinder the development of Goris. The first of them is the lack of jobs and economic diversity. Unemployment remains high, and the labor market is limited to a few sectors. Many young people do not see opportunities for professional development in the region. Infrastructural problems are also noted. Although Goris is considered a regional center, there are still gaps in road, transport and utility infrastructure in a number of settlements. Governance and participation issues are also relevant. According to experts, the community management system is often centralized, and residents' participation in the decision-making process is limited. This reduces the population's involvement and trust in local authorities. Emigration and youth outflow, as a problem, lead to a decrease in human capital. Many young people leave in search of higher education and work, not returning to the community. The last problem is related to border security issues. After the last Artsakh war, the border location of a number of settlements in the Goris community creates an atmosphere of uncertainty. According to residents, the uncertainty of security and the tense atmosphere at the border have not only a physical but also a psychological impact on the community: “The lack of a sense of security keeps people under constant pressure,” they note. This situation becomes a crossroads of socio-psychological and economic problems: border tension and limited investment opportunities together lead to a decrease in economic activity and an increase in population emigration. Goris, like other border communities, is characterized by uncertainty of security and the psychological tension of the population, a lack of investments and a cautious attitude of business, a lack of work and stable income, as a result of which young people often leave, preferring to live in safer and more central settlements. As one of the interviewees mentioned, “the lack of a sense of security has as profound consequences as economic difficulties.”

Youth potential, civic activism and opportunities for cooperation. The youth of Goris is the most active and promising segment of the community, but its potential is still not fully utilized. According to civil society representatives, many non-governmental organizations work with the same small circle of young people, as a result of which the wider layers of the community are excluded from active participation. Meanwhile, the creative, organizational and technological potential of youth is very large: they master digital tools, have innovative ideas and can play an important role in community development processes, if they have the necessary support and opportunity to bring them to life.

Cooperation between civil society and youth groups can be especially effective in the fields of education, tourism and environmental protection. Educational initiatives, professional training and the development of entrepreneurial skills can contribute to the professional growth of young people. Their participation in the tourism and ecotourism sector in the form of volunteer programs, cultural events and organizing tourist routes can have a direct economic and community impact. And the initiatives implemented in the environmental direction (creation of green zones, improvement of the urban environment and nature conservation) will enable young people to bring about visible changes in the community with their own efforts. As one of the interviewees noted, “In Goris, young people can become a driving force for development if their initiatives are given space and trust.”

The problem of preventing youth emigration remains one of the most acute challenges in the community. According to experts, to solve it, it is necessary to simultaneously create jobs and promote the development of local businesses, provide financial support for youth enterprises and startups, implement professional training and digital educational programs. In addition, it is necessary to improve community infrastructure, create entertainment and self-development platforms, as well as ensure the participation of young people in the community decision-making process. One participant formulated this idea as follows: “When a young person sees that his/her idea can become a reality right in his/her own city, he/she will not look for something better outside.”

To increase civic activism, it is important to create opportunities where young people will be able not only to express their ideas, but also to participate in their implementation. For this purpose, it is necessary to form youth clubs and forums, organize educational programs on the topics of law, community management and participatory planning, as well as introduce incentive and award mechanisms to promote youth initiatives. Cooperation between civil society organizations and the community administration can become an important platform for the implementation of these ideas. These approaches are aimed not only at involving youth, but also at forming a culture of demandingness and responsibility, which is a necessary prerequisite for the sustainable development of the community.

Priorities and development opportunities. According to experts, the strategic directions of community development in Goris should be the following:

1. **Tourism development** (improving tourism infrastructure, creating open-air hotels, ecotourism and cultural routes, integrating local products and crafts into the tourism market),

2. **Economic diversification and development of the IT sector** (encouraging innovative businesses, establishing an IT center and implementing technological educational programs, modernizing agriculture and localizing production),
3. **Strengthening youth and civic participation** (financing youth projects, introducing participatory management tools, supporting community initiatives through CSOs).

2.2.4. Tatev community

General observations: The development picture of the Tatev community is formed on the basis of a rich historical and cultural heritage and a unique geographical location, which can become driving forces for comprehensive development, provided that appropriate management and infrastructure conditions are in place. The observations of the respondents indicate that the community has great potential, especially in the fields of tourism and agriculture, but this potential often remains unrealized due to the lack of economic initiatives, centralized management, and youth emigration. There is a pronounced local self-awareness and pride in historical heritage among the residents. It is often noted that Tatev is recognizable beyond the borders of Armenia as a cultural calling card, but the community itself does not take advantage of this recognition much. The main obstacles to Tatev's development are transportation difficulties, underdeveloped infrastructure, and limited opportunities for securing a stable income.

Characteristics and advantages of the community: Tatev is famous for its natural, historical, cultural, and spiritual monuments. Tatev Monastery, Vorotan Gorge, the Tatev Cable Car and the surrounding landscapes give the community exceptional tourism value. According to experts, if roads are improved, information flows develop and the quality of service is improved, Tatev can become a recognized international tourism destination. The development of tourism, in turn, will stimulate local production: crafts, agricultural products, hospitality services.

In addition, Tatev has a young and creative population, some of which are already involved in cultural and environmental initiatives. Experts note that young people have creative and innovative thinking, knowledge of local culture and history, as well as volunteer potential, but these resources remain largely unused. The community lacks youth and child employment centers, which could become a platform for self-expression and community activation.

Tatev also faces the problems of geographical isolation and deterioration of infrastructure. The poor condition of the road network hinders tourism and economic activity, and the lack of communication and transportation affects the social mobility of residents.

Main obstacles and their impact. Experts unanimously note that the main obstacles to the development of the Tatev community are the lack of jobs and financial resources, the worn-out state of infrastructure, and the emigration of youth. According to experts, the main reason for economic passivity is the uncertainty arising from the border status, as well as the lack of investments. Many projects are not implemented due to financial or logistical constraints. Emigration, especially among young people, is not only a demographic problem, but also a loss of community development potential. The low level of civic activity is also considered an obstacle. Despite the initiative ideas of young people, they often do not have the tools for participation or financial support. “The youth of Tatev are active and creative, but their ideas often remain on paper,” note the interviewees. Experts emphasize that as a result of the unification of communities, it is necessary to form a more equitable distribution of services between settlements. Currently, some services are only available in urban areas, as a result of which remote settlements remain marginalized.

Youth potential, emigration and civic activism. The Tatev community has significant youth potential: most of them are proficient in art, craft, and sports, but do not have sufficient opportunities for employment and self-expression. The main reasons for emigration are the lack of work, entertainment, and educational platforms. Experts suggest a number of directions for involving and activating young people: a) establish youth councils alongside community structures, b) create youth centers and civic clubs where it will be possible to discuss community problems and ideas, c) conduct courses on civic education, community governance, and human rights, d) encourage volunteerism and youth participation in tourism development programs. These steps, according to experts, will help form a young generation that will feel its role in community life and will remain to live and create in Tatev.

Priorities and Development Opportunities: The development priorities of the Tatev community can be grouped into three main areas:

1. **Creation of economic and social opportunities** (promoting small business, agriculture and tourism by creating new jobs, supporting entrepreneurial initiatives and encouraging investments),
2. **Youth involvement and education** (developing education, training and creative programs, encouraging their participation in community decisions and providing financial and organizational support for the implementation of new ideas),
3. **Balanced development and infrastructure improvement** (improving roads and communication systems, developing social and cultural infrastructure in all settlements, ensuring decentralization of services through digital, mobile and local offices).

Experts also emphasize the role of the community administration as a supporting structure, providing financial, material and advisory support to local initiatives, accelerating the issuance of permits and encouraging the participation of residents. One expert summarizes the general idea: "If Tatev is viewed not only as a historical and cultural zone, but as a modern community driven by youth creativity and tourism potential, it can become an example of the economic and cultural revival of the south."

2.2.5. Vardenis community

General observations: Vardenis community is one of the largest and most strategically located border communities in Gegharkunik region. It is distinguished by its natural diversity, mountainous terrain, rich water resources and agricultural traditions. At the same time, Vardenis faces a number of serious challenges, which are conditioned by both its border status and the socio-economic problems that arose after the war. Expert observations show that after the war in 2020, the socio-economic situation of the community has become significantly more complicated: trade and tourism volumes have decreased, unemployment and poverty levels have increased. However, the community continues to have great development potential, especially in the fields of agriculture, tourism and local production. The peculiarity of Vardenis is that it unites many small settlements, the socio-economic opportunities and infrastructure of which are significantly different. This circumstance complicates the balanced development of the community and requires new approaches to governance through decentralization and strengthening local participation.

Community characteristics and advantages: Vardenis is located between mountains and rivers, where the plateau landscape is combined with mountain views. This area is rich in vegetation and water resources, which creates favorable conditions for agriculture. Dairy production is developed in the community, various types of fruits, vegetables and grapes are grown. The diversity of nature and proximity to Lake Sevan make Vardenis an attractive area from a tourist point of view. Before the war, it was considered one of the active tourist and commercial centers. In addition, the Sotk gold mine is considered one of the most important economic centers of the region, providing some employment and financial flows. According to experts, the community's advantages include the hard work of the population and the preserved tradition of agricultural culture. However, they note that for the development of the community, it is necessary to transform these traditions through innovative approaches and technologies, creating value-added products.

Main obstacles and their impact: The main obstacles to the development of Vardenis are related to border status, infrastructure problems and limited economic opportunities. After the

war in 2020, the community found itself in an uncertain security zone, as a result of which tourism flows decreased, investment flows almost stopped, and economic activity weakened significantly. This led to a decline in trade, job losses, and a decrease in the population's income. Most families in Vardenis depend on migrant labor income and agricultural production, which makes the community vulnerable to climate and market changes. The process of community enlargement has to some extent enabled small settlements to participate in state and subsidy programs, especially in the field of construction and infrastructure development. However, these projects have mainly provided seasonal employment and have not led to sustainable economic growth. Although a number of works have been carried out in recent years to improve roads, repair administrative buildings and schools, and build water supply and lighting systems, these initiatives are still not enough for balanced development. Experts note that the isolation of small settlements and the lack of public transport hinder access to education, work, and services, deepening socio-economic inequalities.

Ensuring balanced development requires not only greater financial resources, but also a new quality of management based on programmatic approaches, effective use of funding sources, and improved community communication. In this regard, it is important to develop the professional capabilities of municipal employees so that they can not only implement projects, but also form a long-term development strategy, creating equal opportunities for all settlements.

Youth potential, emigration and civic activism. Youth is one of the key resources for the development of Vardenis, but their emigration and passive participation in community life have become a serious challenge. According to experts, young people often do not see prospects for growth and development in the community, which is why they move to Yerevan or abroad. Not only the creation of jobs is important for the involvement of young people, but also increasing their interest in community life. For this purpose, it is proposed to create youth centers where they can develop their skills, participate in the implementation of community projects and form their own small business initiatives. Experts also emphasize the importance of promoting self-employment and entrepreneurial thinking by teaching young people to create their own jobs. This approach will contribute to reducing emigration and increasing economic activity in the community. Interviewees note that programs are being implemented in Vardenis that are aimed at promoting civic participation, in particular, the reorganization of the women's and youth councils under the community head. This process is seen as an opportunity to involve young people in local governance and decision-making processes. Cooperation between civil society and youth groups can be effective in the areas of education, environmental protection and community initiatives. In particular, young people can be

involved in the improvement of community areas, the organization of cultural and environmental events. “Young people should not only be encouraged, but also given the opportunity to bring their ideas to life in the community itself,” notes one of the interviewees.

Priorities and development opportunities. The development prospects of Vardenis can be summarized in several main directions. First of all, it is necessary to make the community a center of tourist attraction by developing ecotourism, cultural tourism and rural recreation opportunities. In addition, the improvement of the community transport system, which will ensure communication between settlements and access to services, is a priority. In economic terms, it is important to encourage the intensive exploitation of unused land and support small agricultural processing enterprises. The municipality should become a mediator in ensuring access to state and international support projects so that every resident can take advantage of the opportunities provided. As experts note, the real basis for Vardenis' development will be when the community is able to combine its agricultural, environmental, and human resources, turning them into sustainable economic and social results.

2.2.6. Chambarak community

General observations: Experts' observations on the socio-economic and cultural development of the Chambarak community demonstrate that the community has high environmental and human potential, but also faces systemic management, infrastructural and economic obstacles. Interviews show that the community has not yet been able to turn its potential into a resource for sustainable development due to centralized management, lack of investment and population inactivity.

Characteristics and advantages of the community: All experts unanimously emphasize that Chambarak is a community rich in nature and resources. The area is characterized by alpine landscapes, a temperate climate, fertile soils, pastures and water resources. In their opinion, these features provide an opportunity to develop both agriculture and ecotourism, provided that the available resources are managed with a strategic approach.

A number of experts also emphasize the unique rural-urban character of Chambarak, which combines both rural and urban elements. This dual structure, according to them, can become a unique model of development if local self-government tools are used correctly. Another observation is that the community has warm, trusting relations between people and a hospitable culture, which can serve as a basis for strengthening social ties and attracting tourists.

At the same time, it is noted that geographical isolation and distance from the capital and main roads limit ties and investment attractiveness.

Key obstacles and their impact. Almost all of the experts' responses mention the lack of jobs, insufficient development of infrastructure, lack of investments, inactivity of the population and limited local initiatives, and uncertainty arising from the border status as key obstacles. Experts point out that arable land and pastures are often not used, and the livestock sector has a declining trend due to low market prices. A number of comments emphasize that the problem is also psychological in nature: a culture of inactivity and satisfaction has formed among the community population, which hinders proactive thinking: "Many here are content with what they have, do not want to struggle to achieve more, and endlessly complain and blame everyone else for their "unfulfilled" lives. There is no initiative, no desire for change. This prevents the community from developing from within," notes one expert.

Experts agree that infrastructural inequality hinders balanced community development. Problems with access to water supply, roads, and transportation limit economic activity and hinder the availability of services.

The problem of centralization of management is also mentioned. The location of health and administrative services in the regional center or in the urban settlement of Chambarak increases social inequality, especially for residents of rural areas, as a result of which they have to travel long distances even to solve everyday problems. "... a poor villager who does not have a job has to find money for a taxi every time to go and solve any of his problems," notes one expert. Another expert confirms the same thing: "Rural residents often refuse medical care, both due to the poor condition of the roads and financial problems." To solve the problem, it is proposed to introduce mobile and digital service models so that people can use community services without traveling to the center. At the same time, the importance of the infrastructure allocation policy is emphasized to ensure a balanced distribution of budget funds between settlements. Some note that although certain positive changes are observed in the community as a result of the unification, the lack of investment remains a key obstacle. The unification of communities, on the one hand, has made it possible to implement larger projects and centralize resources, but on the other hand, it has increased bureaucracy and reduced the level of autonomy of rural settlements, especially due to the lack of local budgets.

The problem of lack of investment is also exacerbated by the border location of Chambarak, which often repels potential investors and forms a cautious attitude of the population even towards their own property. As experts note, "many do not even renovate their homes because they are not sure whether they will continue to live here." The border situation not only limits economic initiatives, but also contributes to the growth of emigration, which is perceived as a major demographic problem.

In addition, experts highlight the issues of civil protection, noting that the lack of shelters and the lack of security training increase the population's sense of insecurity. As another expert emphasizes, "the border community must not only be protected, but also be psychologically prepared to live in such conditions."

Youth potential, emigration and civic activism. All experts agree that the key problem of the development of Chambarak is the outflow of youth. The lack of jobs and the scarcity of entertainment and cultural environments are emphasized. "The young person here has neither an occupation nor a platform for development. He simply does not see a future in the community," one of the interviews states. Experts emphasize the creation of youth centers, the development of after-school education and creative programs. In their opinion, the potential of young people - creative, technological and volunteer - remains unused.

Specific proposals have also been presented for the involvement of young people:

- create youth councils alongside community structures,
- ensure participation in budget discussions,
- form electronic platforms for the presentation and discussion of ideas.

Priorities and development opportunities. Combining the opinions of experts, it can be concluded that the community's priority steps should be directed towards three main directions:

1. promoting economic activity through support for local production, small and medium-sized enterprises and investments,
2. improving infrastructure, decentralizing services and developing security systems,
3. involving youth and promoting civic participation.

These three areas are considered not only as socio-economic, but also as key components of strengthening community stability and border security. As one interviewee noted: "If Chambarak is viewed not as a border risk zone, but as a strategic area rich in human and natural resources, it can become a key pillar of the development of the entire region."

3. CONCLUSIONS

1. The comparison of qualitative and quantitative results of the survey conducted in the **Amasia community** shows that the community is at a relatively below-average stage of socio-economic development, with the main problems related to employment, emigration, transport accessibility and limited opportunities for youth.

Quantitative data show that a significant part of the population assesses the socio-economic situation of the community as "sufficient" (59.2%) and records small improvements over the last three years. The same trend was expressed in qualitative interviews: participants

emphasized unemployment, emigration and the underdevelopment of community infrastructure, considering them as interrelated problems.

The results of both methods recorded some positive aspects: sufficient provision of drinking water and street lighting, environmental cleanliness and a harmonious atmosphere in the community. These facts indicate that the community is sufficiently provided with vital infrastructure, but does not have the necessary opportunities for economic growth and youth involvement.

In terms of youth, both quantitative and qualitative data confirm the same trend: the main potential of young people remains unrealized. The lack of jobs is considered the main obstacle, and passivity towards community life is its consequence. In addition, both methods recorded a lack of cultural and entertainment infrastructure, which limits the active participation of youth in community initiatives.

The comparative analysis also shows some contradictions: for example, in quantitative data, the impact of the unification of communities was assessed by 47% of respondents as an improvement, while in qualitative data it was often emphasized that the unification did not lead to real changes in the daily life of the population. This indicates that the perception of improvement is still more related to infrastructural changes than to real socio-economic improvement.

In general, the combination of both methods indicates that the community development of Amasia requires a comprehensive approach: It is necessary to create job opportunities, promote local entrepreneurship, develop transport and cultural infrastructure, as well as implement special projects to engage youth. Only then will it be possible to turn the existing potential of the community into a resource for sustainable development.

2. The quantitative and qualitative results of the survey conducted in the **Ashotsk community** largely coincide: both methods recorded the overall improved state of the community, especially in the field of infrastructure (roads, lighting, water supply), as well as the positive attitude of the population towards the process of community enlargement.

At the same time, both sources testify to the continuity of the problems of employment and emigration. In the quantitative data, unemployment was noted as the main problem (about two-thirds of the respondents), and in the qualitative interviews it was presented as a key link in the cause-and-effect chain related to the outflow of the population and youth inactivity.

The results also coincide with regard to youth: both the survey and interview data indicate relatively sufficient educational opportunities, but limited working and cultural

environments. This observation confirms that the potential of youth remains unused, despite their readiness for professional and social activity.

The only noticeable difference concerns the perception of community changes: in the quantitative data, 90% assessed the enlargement positively, while in the qualitative interviews, as in the case of Amasia, it was emphasized that they did not lead to a significant socio-economic impact. Thus, the combined analysis of the two methods shows that Ashotsk is in a stabilization phase, has positive development in the areas of infrastructure and community governance, but continues to face the problems of employment, youth involvement and promotion of economic activity.

3. The combined analysis of the results of the **Goris community** survey indicates that both quantitative data and qualitative observations generally present a positive picture. The quantitative surveys recorded that the socio-economic situation of the community is assessed by the majority of the population as “sufficient” or “good”. Positive assessments together account for about 54%, which significantly exceeds the share of negative responses. This is also confirmed by qualitative observations, according to which Goris is considered a relatively developed community with a well-groomed environment, tourist activity and continuous infrastructure improvements.

At the same time, the results of both methods also coincide in the fact that the main socio-economic challenge of the community remains unemployment. According to quantitative data, it was indicated by about 60% of respondents, and in qualitative interviews it was considered the main reason for emigration, income instability and youth displacement.

A similar coincidence was also recorded in the quality of infrastructure and services. Both quantitative and qualitative observations show a positive trend in Goris in the areas of roads, lighting and water supply, but problems persist in the areas of agricultural product sales, access to agricultural machinery and lack of entertainment venues. More than 70% of residents are dissatisfied with the opportunities for leisure and cultural activity, which was similarly highlighted in the qualitative section as an inhibiting factor for the dynamic development of community life.

The results of the two methods also complement each other in terms of youth issues. Quantitative surveys have shown that the lack of professional skills (99%) and limited job opportunities are the main problems of young people in Goris, and qualitative data explain the reasons for this picture: the lack of a systematic connection between educational programs and local initiatives, the lack of information and the centralization of urban infrastructure hinder the full participation of young people.

However, the combination of data from both sources also indicates the presence of potential. Both the surveyed residents and the experts who participated in the interviews emphasize the tourism, educational and entrepreneurial opportunities of Goris. The development of tourism is seen as the main driving force of the community in terms of both employment and economic activity.

A contradictory picture is observed only in some secondary directions. According to the quantitative results, about half of the residents assess the quality of the community's water supply as satisfactory, while qualitative observations indicate that in some settlements there is still a problem of uneven distribution. Similar small differences are also observed in the assessment of public transport; statistically, the average scores do not reflect the complaints that are voiced especially by residents of Shurnukh and remote rural settlements.

In general, the combined analysis of the two methods shows that the Goris community is distinguished by positive socio-economic dynamics and tourism potential, but continues to face the problems of youth employment, balanced development of infrastructure and revitalization of cultural life. The main prerequisite for sustainable community development is the implementation of unified and coordinated approaches in the areas of education, employment, and entrepreneurship, utilizing local human and environmental potential.

4. A combined analysis of the research results of the **Tatev community** shows that the quantitative and qualitative data largely coincide here as well. According to the quantitative data, economic problems prevail in Tatev: unemployment (69%), lack of jobs (34%), and the difficult social situation (34%) were assessed as primary challenges. This picture is fully confirmed by qualitative assessments, in which the community residents and young people repeatedly emphasize the limited opportunities of the labor market, the lack of professional employment, and the growing trend of emigration.

The results of both methods emphasize that the agricultural potential is not fully utilized due to problems with irrigation, machinery, and procurement. According to the quantitative data, insufficient irrigation water supply was mentioned by 41%, and the limited agricultural resources by 31%. The same concern is also voiced in the qualitative analyses as a structural obstacle to the rural economy, which hinders the formation of sustainable incomes.

The data on social infrastructure from both sources mostly coincide with some minor differences. According to the survey results, the community is relatively adequately provided with drinking water and street lighting (about 40–47%), which is also confirmed by qualitative data as a “relatively positive” area. At the same time, however, the quality of roads and transport was assessed negatively: according to quantitative data, the inadequacy of inter-

village roads was noted by 66%, while qualitative data show that inter-community communication is particularly problematic, which hinders economic and social activity.

There is also complete agreement on issues related to cultural life: about 50% of respondents noted that there are no cultural institutions and entertainment venues in the community, and in qualitative assessments this is seen as the main reason for the isolation and lack of involvement of young people.

In the tourism sector, there is an agreement with a favorable connotation. Both quantitative and qualitative data indicate that Tatev has significant tourism potential and has recorded positive developments in recent years (84% positive rating), especially due to road construction and infrastructure improvements. However, qualitative assessments also show a contradiction: the growth of tourism has not led to a serious socio-economic impact, as it has been limited to certain zones and has not spread to the entire community.

The data also complement each other in terms of youth issues. According to quantitative data, the main problems of Tatev's youth are limited educational opportunities (53%), insufficient access to modern technologies (53%), and the absence of cultural centers (59%). These figures are fully reflected in the qualitative data, where participants speak about the lack of self-expression, professional development, and community activity of young people. Both methods record that young people are educated and have potential, but effective mechanisms for organizing community life and involving them are still lacking.

A contradictory trend is observed only in the perception of community development programs. According to quantitative data, road construction and lighting received high marks (97% and 84%), but in qualitative data, some specialists note that these programs were often concentrated in the community-centered settlement, and in others their impact is small.

Thus, the picture recorded in the Tatev community is as follows: on the one hand, the community has powerful tourist and natural resources, improving infrastructure, an educated and active population, and on the other hand, the problems of employment, social environment, and unrealized youth potential continue to deepen.

5. The analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data obtained on the **Vardenis community** shows that the community is at an average level of socio-economic development: here, at the same time, there are trends for some improvement of vital infrastructure and preservation of socio-economic problems. According to quantitative surveys, the majority of the community residents (about 49%) assess the general socio-economic situation as “good”, but the share of “sufficient” assessments is almost as high (45%). In other words, some stability is observed in Vardenis, but insufficient economic growth. At the same time, the impact of

community enlargement was positively assessed by 48% of residents, which indicates that the impact of the new administrative-territorial structure is still not unambiguously perceived. The analysis of the main problems confirms the prevailing circumstance of emigration as the main socio-economic threat (58%). Here it is closely related to unemployment and lack of jobs, which together cause the population to leave the community. These results fully coincide with the qualitative data. Respondents mainly emphasized the limited opportunities for youth employment and self-expression.

Assessments of accessibility and living conditions are highly polarized: the provision of drinking water (95%) and street lighting (95%) was rated as high, while public transport (88% insufficient) and cultural infrastructure (up to 94% insufficient) were seen as serious gaps. This difference indicates the asymmetry of community development: vital services are mainly provided, while socio-cultural and mobility infrastructure is underdeveloped.

Qualitative analysis complements this picture, showing that Vardenis has significant untapped human and creative resources. There is educational and cultural potential among young people, but there are insufficient conditions for its application. Interest in art, sports and entrepreneurial initiatives does not translate into practical action due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure.

The progress recorded over the past five years mainly concerns the improvement of infrastructure: road construction and lighting projects received high marks (95–98%), but the indicators in the tourism and culture sectors are very low (10% and 60%, respectively).

In terms of youth issues, the lack of employment (81%) is seen as a primary obstacle, and the effective use of free time (78%) is a secondary, but deep social problem. The same was recorded in the qualitative analysis, which emphasized the lack of self-expression and involvement of young people in community life.

Comparing the results of the two methods, it can be concluded that the socio-economic situation in the Vardenis community is characterized by the stable development of vital infrastructure, but also the preservation of economic and socio-cultural barriers. Quantitative data show a gradual trend of improvement, while the qualitative analysis emphasizes the uneven spatial and sectoral distribution of this improvement.

Thus, the Vardenis community can be characterized as a community rich in nature and resources, but limited in economic opportunities, passive in social life, and not fully realizing the potential of its youth. For its sustainable development, the implementation of a continuous and targeted policy aimed at creating jobs, improving transport and cultural infrastructure, as well as promoting youth initiatives is a priority.

6. The combination of quantitative and qualitative data obtained from the **Chambarak community** shows that the community is characterized by relatively low socio-economic indicators, but has significant environmental and human potential.

The quantitative data indicate that the general socio-economic situation of the community is perceived by the majority of the population as satisfactory or average (70.7%), while the share of negative assessments (14.6%) is relatively high. This is consistent with the results of the qualitative analysis, where the main emphasis was placed on the lack of jobs and the high level of unemployment. Both methods confirm that the local economy is not very diversified, and the labor market is limited.

Both quantitative and qualitative data indicate serious gaps in the provision of infrastructure and services. The majority of respondents consider the availability of public transport, roads, irrigation systems, and cultural centers to be insufficient. This is again confirmed by qualitative data, which highlighted the poor condition of the community's intra-community streets, limited transport accessibility, and lack of recreational facilities.

The data from both methods also indicate certain positive trends: around 73% noted improvements recorded in the last three years. This positive perception is mainly related to infrastructure projects (especially road construction and lighting improvements).

In terms of assessing the impact of community consolidation, a relatively cautious attitude was recorded in Chambarak: although 49% noted improvements, 27% found it difficult to answer. This is consistent with the qualitative observation, according to which residents associate the effectiveness of the merger more with administrative management than with real socio-economic improvements.

In terms of youth issues, quantitative data show that the lack of employment (83%), effective spending of free time (85%), and the lack of cultural and sports centers (78%) are the primary concerns for the youth of Chambarak. The same picture is in the qualitative analysis: it is emphasized that the community does not provide conditions for the realization of the educational and professional potential of young people. According to the respondents, young people have innovative ideas and creative potential, but there are no structures, projects and financial support for their realization.

The above allows us to conclude that socio-economic difficulties and infrastructural deficiencies in Chambarak are closely interconnected. The high level of unemployment recorded by quantitative data is manifested at the qualitative level as a reason for emigration from the community, a decline in initiative and professional passivity. However, both methods emphasize the potential for community development from the point of view of nature, ecotourism opportunities and youth resources.

Thus, the quantitative and qualitative analyses together indicate that the axis of community development should be placed on job creation, professional realization of youth and effective use of ecotourism resources.

ANNEX 1. NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES

(quantitative survey questionnaire)

This questionnaire is designed to identify the needs, problems and development opportunities of the community. Your answers are very important to understand what priority steps need to be taken to improve the socio-economic conditions of the community, develop the potential of youth and raise the standard of living of the population.

Thank you for your time and honest opinion.

The survey is being conducted by "The A.D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Centre" NGO within the framework of the "Involving Youth in Local Governance in Armenia" Project, funded by the UN Democracy Fund.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Community, place of residence of the person participating in the survey*

1.2. Name and surname of the person participating in the survey (optional)

1.3. Phone number(s) of the person participating in the survey (optional)

1.4. Interviewer's name, surname*

2. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

2.1. Gender of the person participating in the survey*

- Male
- Female

2.2. Age of the person participating in the survey*

- 15-18
- 19-29
- 30-44
- 45-60
- 61+

2.3. Number of family members*

- 1
- 2-4
- 5-7
- 8 and more

2.4. Educational level*

- Basic
- Pre-vocational
- Secondary
- Secondary vocational
- Higher
- Postgraduate
- Other _____

2.5. Employment/status*

- Public servant
- Civil servant
- Community servant
- Military service member
- Craftsman
- Entrepreneur
- Artist/ athlete/ musician
- Apprentice
- Student
- Pensioner
- Person with a disability
- Unemployed
- Farmer
- Other _____

2.6. Employment sector*

- State
- Community
- Private
- CSO

- Self-employed

3. ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

3.1. How do you assess the socio-economic situation of your community and in particular your residence?*

- Very good
- Good
- Satisfactory
- Bad
- Very bad
- Difficult to answer

3.2. How has the socio-economic situation of your community/settlement changed over the last three years?*

- Significantly improved
- Slightly improved
- Remained the same
- Slightly worsened
- Significantly worsened
- Difficult to answer

3.3. In your opinion, how has the socio-economic situation of the community/settlement changed after the unification of the communities?*

- Improved
- Remained the same
- Worsened
- Difficult to answer

3.4. Please indicate the most important issues that exist in your community.

Please select maximum 3 options.*

- Unemployment
- Social bad situation, poverty
- Emigration
- Poor road conditions
- Housing construction issues
- Inflation
- Lack of drinking water/quality issues
- Irrigation water issues
- Lack of jobs
- Agricultural issues (e.g., pastures, machinery, agricultural product sales issues)
- Public transport issues
- Corruption
- Environmental issues
- Garbage disposal issues
- Street lighting issues
- Poor building conditions of general education institutions
- Lack of pre-education institutions/poor building conditions/expensiveness
- Lack of cultural institutions
- Lack of entertainment venues
- Inaccessibility of medical institutions
- Other _____

3.5. To what extent is your community/settlement provided with the following:
Mark 1 answer for each option:

	Fully secured	Sufficiently secured	Not sufficiently secured	Not secure at all
Jobs				
Inter-village roads, streets				
Quality inter-village roads				
Public transport				
Street lighting				
Drinking water				
Irrigation water				

Anti-hail stations				
Fertilizers				
Agricultural machinery				
Sales of agricultural products				
Entertainment venues				
Cultural houses / libraries				
Other				

3.6. Please rate the following items by marking 1 answer for each option.

	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Bad	Very Bad	Difficult to answer
Condition of roads leading to the settlement						
Condition of streets in the settlement						
Quality of public transport in the community						
Quality of public transport connecting the settlement with other settlements						
Quality of drinking water						
Quality of air quality						
Quality of environmental/ecosystem protection in the community						
Other						

3.7. What are the characteristics and advantages of your community?
*Interviewer, indicate up to 3 answers that the person participating in the survey will mention.**

3.8. What work has been done to develop the community/settlement over the last five years?

	Yes	No
Road construction		
Street lighting		
Water supply/repair		
Cultural development, renovation of the cultural center		
Tourism development		
Other		

3.9. In your opinion, what three priority steps should the municipality take towards community development?

*Interviewer, write down up to 3 answers.**

- Promotion of housing construction
- Road construction
- Improvement of public transport in the community
- Development of agriculture
- Solving environmental problems
- Development of tourism
- Solving problems of preschool education and out-of-school upbringing
- Promotion of entrepreneurship
- Development of green economy
- Social protection for vulnerable groups
- Promotion of projects and events aimed at solving youth problems
- Other _____

4. YOUTH PROBLEMS

4.1. What are the untapped opportunities and potential of the community youth?

4.2. What do you think are the main issues facing the community youth?*

- Lack of jobs
- Limited educational opportunities

- Lack/absence of leisure time conditions
- Lack of professional skills
- Lack of access to modern technologies
- Lack/absence of cultural centers
- Lack/absence of sports centers
- Difference in rural-urban health services
- Other_____

4.3. What solutions do you propose for the above problems?

5. PROPOSALS AND VISION

5.1. If you had the opportunity to make a change in your community, what would you do?

5.2. Submit your 3 suggestions to the municipality.

5.3. Present your 3 recommendations to the Government.

5.4. What do you imagine your community to be like in 5 years?

5.5. If possible, what kind of courses or training would you like to attend?

Interviewer, indicate up to 3 answers that the person participating in the survey will mention.

5.6. Other thoughts, suggestions?

Thank you for answering our questions.

ANNEX 2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES (questionnaire for industry experts)

This questionnaire is designed to identify the needs, problems, and development opportunities of the community. Your answers are very important to understand what priority steps need to be taken to improve the socio-economic conditions of the community, develop the potential of the youth, and raise the standard of living of the population.

Thank you for your time and honest opinion.

The survey is being conducted by "The A.D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Centre" NGO within the framework of the "Involving Youth in Local Governance in Armenia" Project, funded by the UN Democracy Fund.

1. What are the characteristics and advantages of the community?
2. What are the main obstacles to community development? In your opinion, how has the socio-economic situation of the community changed after the unification of the communities?
3. How to ensure the balanced development of community settlements, how to decentralize the services provided to residents of a multi-residential community?
4. What are the problems typical of border communities?
5. What should be done to prevent internal and external migration of youth from rural settlements?
6. In your opinion, what are the three priority steps that community municipalities should take towards community development?
7. What strategies do you propose to increase civic activity among youth?
8. What are the unused opportunities and potential of the community's youth?
9. What kind of support can the community municipality provide for the implementation of projects to create attractive and safe social spaces?
10. Other thoughts and suggestions?

Thank you for answering our questions.