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LNOB Social Mapping Report

Municipality of Patos

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Report on LNOB Social Mapping in Municipality of Patos



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Social Mapping Results Report:

Social mapping for identification of needs for Children with Disabilities in the municipality of PATOS

Municipality of Patos / Gender Alliance for Development Centre
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1. Executive summary

This report examines the situation of children with disabilities in the municipality of Patos through Social Mapping. The main goal of the social mapping is to contribute to the documentation of the needs for social and health services that the children with disabilities have in the municipality of Patos, and which are "left behind (LNOB)". By providing appropriate services, the efforts are aimed at strengthening social cohesion at local level building social inclusion by improving the quality of citizens life.

A new National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (PKVPAK) 2021-2025¹, is guiding the National policies as an inter-sectoral document of the Albanian government that includes policies dedicated to persons with disabilities that will be implemented over the next 5 years. The municipalities, according to the Law 139/2015, on local self – government², have jurisdiction in the field of social and child protection, and they are obliged to undertake measures to provide social protection to vulnerable persons. Municipalities are responsible for creation and administration of social services at local level for persons with disabilities, single mothers, abused women, victims of traffic, the elderly in the manner prescribed by law, construction and administration of social houses, centres, for the provision of local social services, establishment in cooperation with line Ministries responsible for social welfare of the social fund for financing of the services in the manner prescribed by law.

However, municipalities need help to overcome difficulties in realizing a social mapping exercise for a certain target group. The Social Mapping conducted will pave the way of Municipality staff to apply this methodology for other target groups in the future and fulfil the obligations that derives from the 2030 Agenda and its 17 development goals, and especially the overarching “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) principle, which actually enjoys little attention among relevant state authorities and is progressing sluggishly.

Main findings:

- Out of 76 children with disabilities, 31 of them live in rural administrative units, where living is even harder.
- No social care service for children with disabilities exists in the territory of the Municipality. 13 children with disabilities receive services in the centre "Horizont" thanks to the agreement with the Municipality of Fier. The Municipality of Patos enables the transport of children to and from the center.
- Out of 9 middle and high schools in the whole municipality of Patos, only 2 of them provide basic logistics for children with disabilities. And, this logistics has to do only with the construction of ramps.
- The health centre offers in-house service since June 2021, for the chronically or terminally ill. 1 - 2 nurses provide this service. But, the category of children

¹Ministry of Health and Social Protection 2021. *National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025*. Online: <https://konsultimipublik.gov.al/Konsultime/Detaje/333>

²Official Publishing Centre. *Law No. 139/2015 On Local Self-Government*. Online: https://qbz.gov.al/share/KJE20lswSs6DI_qmEC9geA



Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality with disabilities does not benefit from this service, because their

need is special and they do not have the capacity. Also, these centres do not provide speech therapy services, physiotherapy or other similar services, and the family doctor sends them with recommendations to Fier or Tirana.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has physically affected this category. Fear of deteriorating child health, isolation, lack of finances has exacerbated the situation in these families.
- During the COVID-19 they children with disabilities did not receive additional financial assistance from the state but food packages from the municipality.
- There are many cases where families send their children for specialized services in Greece, traveling several times a month,
- 36.4% of parents of children with disabilities are registered in the employment office while the unemployment rate is quite high for these parents.
- According to the official data of the municipality of Patos, in 2021 the total budget for financial assistance for the children with disabilities and their assistant was 11,275,360 ALL. From 76 families, only 23 of them benefit the economic aid for personal assistance
- There is a lack of home services for children with disabilities.
- Red Cross - Patos Branch. They usually provide assistance to families in economic need, hold meetings in kindergartens or schools to teach children about hygiene or the like. But these meetings are organized for all children and not separate for children with disabilities.
- There are 13.6% of parents of children with disabilities who stated that in the last 12 months they have faced several times the lack of finances to buy food for the family.
- Related to incomes: 13.6% of respondents had their income between 82.9EUR – 248.83EUR (10,000-30,000ALL); 22.7% of the respondents had their income between 248.83EUR - 331.75EUR (30,000-40,000ALL); 62.1 % of the respondents had their income between 331.75EUR - 414.73EUR (40,000-50,000ALL).
- During the last 12 months, 31.8% of the respondents have struggled several times to pay the bills.
- There is lack of the patronage services for this target group.
- 95% of the respondents have claimed that their child does not receive personal assistance service.
- Lack of detailed information regarding the services provided in the municipality of Patos.
- According to focus groups with parents of children with disabilities, this category is often discriminated against, in hospitals, on public transport, at school or even in society.
- The Municipality of Patos has drafted the Social Plan 2020 - 2022 but currently it has not been implemented yet, due to lack of budgets
- There are no clubs in the municipality that provide socializing, entertainment and recreation for children with disabilities.
- There is no institution in the municipality of Patos that provides professional care and support for food, clothing and health care if a child does not have the conditions for independent living;



- The Municipality does not have an SOS telephone number.
- Parents with children 0-6 years old cannot take their children to day-care or kindergarten because the law does not provide for a supportive teacher or educator, and for this reason they are obliged to keep them at home.

2. Target group(s) of the Social Mapping

During the preparation of the concept note, Gender Alliance for Development Centre (GADC) has organized several coordinative meetings and interviews with representatives of the municipality of Patos, and has also done a desk research and reviewed the Social Plan 2020³ of this municipality, budget items, issues raised and lack of services. The National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025⁴ was also reviewed and based on the preliminary data and local and national problems it was decided that this social mapping should be performed for children with disabilities in this municipality.

The aim of this Social Mapping is to improve the life and quality of services of children with disabilities in the Patos Municipality, to lead to changes in strategic and practical action towards inclusion. Also, to strengthen services of providers and children with disabilities to receive the necessary support from their family/community environment or/and municipality to attend school regularly (no early drop-outs!). According to preliminary data in the municipality of Patos there are 76 children with disabilities of which 29 girls and 47 boys.

Children with disabilities and their families constantly experience barriers to the enjoyment of their basic human rights and to their inclusion in society. Although 76 children with disabilities in Patos are registered near the Social Service Directory of Patos Municipality, it is not certain if there are other families who have similar problems with this target group. The identified children also face many learning disabilities due to the lack of professional assistant teachers, lack of basic services at the local level, families have low economic incomes and as a result, cannot receive services for children outside the municipality of Patos. There is a lack of infrastructure and health services for this target group are limited.

The Municipality of Patos did not have the financial and human opportunity to carry out this type of study in depth, so this study is a necessity to improve the following issues:

- They encounter learning disabilities as a result of the lack of a support teacher
- Basic services at the local level are missing.
- Lack of finances, low economic income to seek services outside the municipality of Patos.

³Social Plan of the Area - Municipality of Patos 2020-2022

⁴Ministry of Health and Social Protection 2021. *National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2025*.
Online: <https://konsultimipublik.gov.al/Konsultime/Detaje/333>



- There is no specialized service centre for this target group within the territory of Patos municipality.
- Lack of infrastructure for this category.
- Lack of the transport to school, space and the right place to have access to school facilities,
- Lack of tools needed in school for different categories of children with disabilities.
- Discrimination – this target group is faced every day with insults, non-acceptance in common environments, non-involvement in various activities.

2.1 Explanation why the targeted population(s) is LNOB group

According to a national study⁵ it is identified that children and young people with disabilities in the country face discrimination, economic and educational hardship, and a lack of necessary services. The main problems identified from the above-mentioned studies are:

- Dissatisfaction with the infrastructural conditions of the educational institutions and their distance;
- Dissatisfaction with the child's progress in school, the level of adaptation of teaching as well as the level of respect shown by the educational staff;
- Unaffordable necessary expenses that enable children to attend educational institutions, etc.
- High discrimination;
- Widespread underestimation of the abilities and potential of children with disabilities.
- Lack of knowledge of parents/legal guardian on how they can benefit from the social scheme.

The pledge to leave no one behind is a commitment to end extreme poverty in all of its forms and to act explicitly to ensure that those who have been left behind can catch up to those who have experienced greater progress. Children with disabilities and their families are struggling not only because of their disabilities but also for living a life out of poverty, lacking a social life and community support.

LNOB factor geography: Out of 76 children with disabilities, according to preliminary data, 31 of them live in rural administrative units, and 46% of them in villages where the number of inhabitants is 100-500. It is precisely this category that lives in remote areas, which have the most shortages in terms of hospitals or other services.

LNOB factor socio-economic status: While the economic status of the families of this target group is below the average level for a decent living. According to preliminary interviews, most of these families live on social assistance due to the disability of their children and in almost 99% of cases one of the parents does not work because the parent takes care of the child, and usually the caregiver parent is the mother. But what

⁵ World Vision and Save the Children. 2018. *Disability among children in Albania: Prevalence of disability, access to services and quality of services*. Online: https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/PV%20FINAL_ALB.pdf



Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality is emphasized is that out of 76 families who have children with disabilities, only 30% of them receive financial assistance from the state as personal assistant.

LNOB factor Discrimination: According to focus groups with parents of children with disabilities, this category is often discriminated against, in hospitals, on public transport, at school or even in society. As specialized services in hospitals are lacking for different types of disabilities, parents are often confronted with discriminatory behaviour by medical staff who follow them without much explanation. Lack of proper public transport logistics, facing parents with difficulties and discrimination by other passengers or drivers.

LNOB factor Vulnerability to shocks: The COVID-19 pandemic has physically affected this category. Fear of deteriorating child health, isolation, lack of finances has exacerbated the situation in these families. The lack of services makes the work of managing the cases of children with disabilities from the municipality of Patos even more challenging. The sector has managed to provide a fund for emergencies for food packages, but in the aftermath of the emergency there are no other options as services are lacking.

LNOB factor Governance: Parents and guardians of children with disabilities do not meet with each other on a regular basis. There are very few cases when they participate in public hearings organized by the municipality of Patos, even in cases when it comes to the interests of this target group. In many cases, they do not even have information about what is being organized or discussed. They almost never participate in social life at local level and do not support petitions or civil protests.

Rehabilitation and development services for children with disabilities are lacking, not providing opportunities to facilitate and improve their integration into adulthood. 54.5% of them live in the territory of the administrative unit of Patos.

No social care service for people with disabilities exists in the territory of the Municipality. 13 children with disabilities receive services in the centre "Horizont" thanks to the agreement with the Municipality of Fier. The Municipality of Patos enables the transport of children to and from the center.

In the interviews conducted with parents of the children with disabilities, the lack of medical specialists for different diagnoses was underlined.

The municipalities, according to the on local self – government, have jurisdiction in the field of social and child protection, and they are obliged to undertake measures to provide social protection to vulnerable persons, also the municipalities are responsible for the creation and administration of social services at the local level for persons with disabilities, single mothers, abused women, victims of traffic, the elderly in the manner prescribed by law, construction and administration of social houses, centres, for the provision of local social services, establishment in cooperation with line Ministries responsible for social welfare of the social fund for financing of the services in the manner prescribed by law. However, municipalities need help to overcome difficulties in realizing a social mapping exercise for a certain target group. The social mapping that will be conducted during the implementation of this action, will pave the way of Municipality staff to apply this methodology for other target groups in the future and



Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality fulfil the obligations that derives from the 2030 Agenda and its 17 development goals, and especially the overarching "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) principle, which actually enjoys little attention among relevant state authorities and is progressing sluggishly. Social Mapping will help the Municipality of Patos to analyse the situation, for more in-depth social plans with relevant budgets which will consequently lead to better governance for this target group.

2.2 Summary of the consultations with the municipal officials and other stakeholders

GADC has organized several meetings and in-depth interviews with the Municipality of Patos representatives where it was concluded that children with disabilities and their families constantly experience barriers to the enjoyment of their basic human rights and to their inclusion in society.

The Municipality of Patos offers disability assistance set by the Medical Commission for Assignment of Work Ability which is paid for children with disabilities through a conditional fund of the Government of Albania, and the municipality administers its distribution. The payment that these families receive is quite low and often not enough to cover the expenses for medicines or other specialized services that are not provided in Patos.

In the municipality of Patos there is no centre that offers specialized services for children with disabilities. About 13 children receive their services by traveling to the municipality of Fier near The "Horizon" center, which offers teaching in special classes depending on the 9-year school "Liri Gero", with specialized teachers for children with disabilities and individual therapy with specialists in relevant fields. Individual therapies include: Ergotherapy, Psychology, Speech therapy Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy

Meanwhile, there are many cases where families send their children for specialized services in Greece, traveling several times a month,

According to the meetings and focus groups conducted, 36.4% of parents of children with disabilities are registered in the employment office while the unemployment rate is quite high for these parents.

The identified children also face many problems in learning due to the lack of professional assistant teachers, lack of proper transport, lack of basic services at the local level, families have low economic incomes and as a result, most of them cannot receive services for children outside the municipality of Patos. Parents of children have to take care of them on an ongoing basis as patronage services are lacking.

The Municipality of Patos has no other opportunities to identify any problems, and the Social Mapping derived from this study, will guide it to identify problems and set priorities and their social or general plans, accompanying them with relevant budgets.

Children with disabilities are a very sensitive category, vulnerable and needs a lot of attention. This category needs to be supported continuously with psychological counselling services and in kind such as: food, clothes, medicines, logistics etc.



Due to the close collaboration with Patos municipality the following initial assumptions and perceptions were described for this collaboration:

- Representatives of health services will not cooperate or will cooperate but will not have budgets to improve service delivery.
- The education system and schools have few support teaching staff and will not have the opportunity to increase as required.
- Schools can build ramps for children to access the interior but will have no other facilities.
- This target group will be more involved in daily activities in social life, but will have difficulties for children in rural areas.
- No measures will be taken for access to specialized transport for budgetary reasons or procedures.
- Continued good cooperation and interest from Patos Municipality to make significative changes for people with disabilities.
- Parents/guardians of children with disabilities are willing to collaborate and will inform sincerely during the focus groups discussion and during face-to-face interviews.
- Officials assigned to collaborate with GADC will change their mind-set and act after capacity building activities. Which means that they will not respond in time or will not cooperate during the process.

2.3 Summary of the secondary data analysis

According to the official data of the municipality of Patos, in 2021 the total budget for financial assistance for the children with disabilities and their assistant was 93,524 EUR (11,275,360 ALL.) From 76 families, only 23 of them benefit the economic aid for personal assistance.

If we analyse the monthly payment for each of the children, it is an average of 91.24EUR (11000 ALL) per month, an amount which in the case of municipalities which do not have any services for this category, is very low and the need for bigger support whether financial, in kind or with specialized services is quite high.

Parents of children with disabilities are forced to stay at home and offer care for them, as there is a lack of proper day or residential centres, lack of patronage services, etc. For this reason, the monthly economic income in these families is quite low, in the best cases a salary from one parent and in other cases they are families which rely only on the help they receive for the child.

Out of 9 middle and high schools in the whole municipality of Patos, only 2 of them provide basic logistics for children with disabilities. And, this logistics has to do only with the construction of ramps.

According to law 69/2012 amended⁶ "On the Pre-University Education System in the Republic of Albania", the article 64 specifies that:

⁶Ministry of Education and Sports. Law no. 69/2012 "On the Pre-University Education System in the Republic of Albania" updated and Sub-Legal Acts in its Implementation



- The local educational institution, responsible for pre-university education, according to the criteria and procedures determined by a joint instruction of the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health, **provides home education** to students who cannot attend a regular or specialized school of basic education.

But, this is not the case of children with disabilities in the municipality of Patos. According to the analysed data this target group in the school is assisted by supportive teachers during the school hours in the regular schools with all the other children. They usually stay very few hours and the results are quite low in the learning of knowledge by children. In rural areas, further away from the city, these teachers are missing or are irregular. The above law does not provide support teachers for children attending nurseries or kindergartens, and this fact was also emphasized during the interviews or focus groups organized near this municipality.

There is a lack of home services for children with disabilities, especially those who live in remote rural areas (according to the obligations arising from the law issued for home services for vulnerable groups, December 2016)

According to the interviews and fact check in the field, the entire municipality of Patos lacks the proper transport logistics for this category, whether it is public or private transport.

The health centre offers in-house service since June 2021, for the chronically or terminally ill. 1 - 2 nurses provide this service. But, the category of children with disabilities does not benefit from this service, because their need is special and they do not have the capacity. Also, these centres do not provide speech therapy services, physiotherapy or other similar services, and the family doctor sends them with recommendations to Fier or Tirana. While in terms of general health services, only the basic service is provided in Patos, while cases for example for visits to ophthalmologists or other specialties, they are referred to Fier.

Red Cross - Patos Branch. They usually provide assistance to families in economic need, hold meetings in kindergartens or schools to teach children about hygiene or and other similar topics for a healthier lifestyle.. But, these meetings are made for all children and not separate for children with disabilities. The Red Cross does not have their own facilities to provide training for parents or counselling for children with disabilities. In 2021 the Red Cross has enabled the provision of financial assistance to some families in Patos, with a check of 99.53 EUR (12,000 ALL) as well as food packages worth 33.17 EUR (4000 ALL) (distribution 3 times a year). But, even in this case, the distribution is not made specifically for families of children with disabilities, but according to a list of families in need, where 5-7 families of our target group have received this assistance.

Online <https://arsimi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Permbledhje-parauniversitari-8-Tetor-2020.pdf>



3. Brief information about Municipality of Patos and policies at local level

Geographical Area: The new municipality of Patos is bordered on the north and west by the municipality of Fier, on the south by the municipality of Mallakastër and on the east by the municipality of Roskovec. The centre of the Municipality is the city of Patos.

Patos Municipality has a population of 43,135 inhabitants⁷, part of 13,964 families. It is organized in three administrative units, specifically Patos, Ruzhdië and Zharrëz. There is an unequal distribution in the population in the territory of the three administrative units of the Municipality of Patos. Specifically: 72.5% of the population lives in the administrative unit of Patos, 20% live in the administrative unit of Zharrëz and 7.5% of the inhabitants live in the administrative unit of Ruzhdië. Referring to the total population and the number of households, the average number of household members in the Municipality of Patos is 3.08. The natural population growth for 2019 is 0.06%.

The analysis of groups in need of social care services in the territory of the Municipality of Patos identified at least 4,134 individuals, or 9.6% of the population, who need at least some form of social care services.

The highest number of families without income or with insufficient income is found in the administrative unit of Patos, as well as the lowest inclusion in the economic assistance scheme has the families applying in this administrative unit.

Among the main characteristics of beneficiary families of economic assistance are: families with female head of household (20% of beneficiary families), families with more than two minor children (36% of beneficiary families), **families with at least one person with disabilities (10 % of beneficiary families)**. 50-82% of them live in the administrative unit of Patos.

There are 387 children identified in need of protection and care, while the highest percentage among them are children from families receiving economic assistance (66% of cases), **as well as children with disabilities (24% of cases)**.

Given that the economic assistance measure is insufficient to address the needs of the beneficiary families, the Municipality of Patos annually plans a fund of 10,000 ALL for food packages to deal especially with emergencies. The municipality does not currently have specific programs for the economic empowerment of families receiving economic assistance. Every adult of these families goes to the Labor Office in Patos, depending on the National Employment Service. The same situation applies to families of children with disabilities.

The health service is spread throughout the territory. Specifically in the Municipality of Patos there is a Polyclinic and 13 dispensaries and in total the number of medical staff in the health system in the Municipality is 37 employees. But there is specialised medical service for children with disabilities.

⁷Source, General Directorate of Civil Status, October 2019



The law on the assistant teacher is respected in the education system, but in the FGD conducted it was emphasized that they should be specialized for the needs of a child with disabilities. Participants highlighted the lack of access of people with disabilities mainly to public institutions and schools due to barriers in physical infrastructure.

There are many problems encountered for different categories of children with disabilities, among these problems for blind children is underlined the lack of voice signals in public spaces, making it difficult for them to move, attend these spaces, institutions, etc. and consequently, isolating them from society. Also, the main problem for children with tetraplegic abilities is the lack of adequate infrastructure in schools, health centres and public spaces.

The Municipality of Patos has drafted the Social Plan 2020 - 2022 but currently it has not been implemented yet, due to lack of budgets, although the relevant budget is foreseen for this plan. This is also the reason that in most cases the Social Plans are drafted but remain on paper and not implemented precisely due to lack of funds and specification of items in the municipal budget.

4. Objectives of the Social Mapping

The overall objective is to contribute towards social inclusion of children with disabilities in the Municipality of Patos, improving the quality of life as well as fostering social cohesion at the local level by promoting the localization of Agenda 2030 and its objectives, in particular, the Leave no One Behind – LNOB principle at municipality of Patos level.

Outcome: Improve the life and quality of services of children with disabilities in Patos Municipality.

- Social mapping is successful and leads to changes in strategic and practical action towards inclusion.
- Service providers strengthen their pro-poor services.
- Children with disabilities receive the necessary support from their family/community environment, municipality to attend school regularly (no early drop-outs!)

Social Mapping will contribute to the LNOB principles and the directive for the municipality of Patos to the fulfilments of specific SDGs, for: a). Good health and well-being; b). Inclusive and quality education c). Reduction of inequalities; d). Sustainable cities and communities.

The research question:

- **The socio – economic status of children with disabilities and their families?**

Families of children with disabilities have major socio-economic problems as a result of unemployment, disability assistance is used more for food, and not for services for children with disabilities. 53% of the interviewed parents are unemployed and 13.6% of them live on social assistance due to the disability of the child and 30 % of them



enjoy the right to financial assistance from the state as a personal assistant. Medicines (which are not reimbursed) cost a lot and the services that are missing in the municipality of Patos force these families to spend both for transportation and for the service received in another city.

There are 13.6% of parents of children with disabilities who stated that in the last 12 months they have faced several times the lack of finances to buy food for the family.

- **What is the level of incomes of the families of the people with disabilities?**

13.6% of respondents had their income between 82.94 EUR – 248.83 EUR (10,000-30,000ALL)

22.7% of the respondents had their income between 248.83EUR – 331.78 EUR (30,000-40,000ALL)

62.1 % of the respondents had their income between 331.78EUR – 414.73 EUR (40,000-50,000ALL)

- **How are the living conditions of the children with disabilities?**

From the interviewed parents and fact check in the respective apartment, 10.6% of these families did not have a kitchen in the house. 9.1% of them did not have bathroom and shower installed inside the house and 81.8% of the homes did not have proper logistics for wheelchairs.

- **What is the level of risk and danger of children with disabilities?**

The level of risk and danger of children with disabilities is high, that in adapting the home with a suitable logistics for their movement. Having an economic situation below average, the families of these children find it impossible to create a friendly environment for their children. Also, logistics is lacking in various public institutions. Because of the long distance to specialised medical services, the lack of the social centre, parents skip their medical visits, thus leading to deteriorating health. The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the risk of deteriorating health of this target group. Also, the support of psychologists is not at the best levels, especially in terms of frequency. Both children and their parents need such support, but for the latter (parents) it seems that this is the last service they think of themselves.

- **What are the needs for social services of children with disabilities?**
What is the overall condition of the children with disabilities?

Children with disabilities, especially in rural areas, suffer from a lack of social or medical services, due to their distance. Lack of information from parents, as well as financial income, often has consequences for the deterioration of children's health.

- **What conditions and social centres, as well as human resources are offered by the municipality?**

There is no such centre in Patos Municipality. Only 13 children benefit from the specialised services that they receive at the Horizont Centre in Fier municipality.

- **What is the short term and long terms actions that municipality can take to tackle the problems?**



Through social mapping the situation of children with disabilities will be informed and better social protection policies will be planned by Patos municipality.

5. Methodology

Social Mapping in the municipality of Patos was conducted in the period December 2021 - April 2022, targeting the predetermined group of children with disabilities in this municipality using face to face survey mode.

The methods to conduct the social mapping of the children with disabilities in Patos municipality.

- **Field survey:** 66 interviews with parents/guardians of children with disabilities were conducted in 3 administrative units of Patos municipality. The pollsters were trained in one-day training based on the given questionnaire, translated into Albanian language. The questionnaires were completed in real time during the interviews on the LimeSurvey platform
- **Focus groups discussions:** Upon completion of the field survey, 3 Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted, respectively: 2 with parents/guardians of children with disabilities and 1 FGD with stakeholders near this municipality. Focus group discussion were guided by semi structure questionnaire.
- **In-depth interviews:** For the realization of Social Mapping, 5 in-depth interviews were conducted in the municipality of Patos. 1 interview was conducted with the Specialist of Social Services near the municipality; 1 interview with the head of the Social Service sector at the municipality of Patos; 1 with representative of Public Health in Patos; 1 with representatives of Red Cross; 1 interview with Responsibility of the sector that distributes financial assistance to children with disabilities
- **Sample design:** Sampling of children with disabilities in the Municipality of Patos was based on the official of the municipality. In total 76 children with disabilities. We used the targeting sampling method, conducting 66 questionnaires in 3 administrative units.
- **Questionary:** During the Social Mapping in the municipality of Patos we were based on the project questionnaire, in which some changes were made based on national legislation as well as local needs, in total 125 questions.
- **List of indicators:** 1. Socio-economic status – risk factor; 2. Geography – risk factor; 3. Needs assessment for children with disabilities (Needs assessment based on health status; Assessment of home service needs; Assessment of social service needs in the local community; Assessment of education services and facilities) 4. Governance – risk factor; 5. Discrimination – risk factor; 6. Vulnerability to shocks – risk factor – COVID 19.
- **Pilot test.** 5 test interviews were conducted in the municipality of Patos. According to the field monitoring, the average time to complete the interview was 47 minutes. The questionnaire was revised during the training and there were no problems.
- **Response rate:** All 66 parents / guardians of children with disabilities answered 100% of the questions included in the questionnaire.



- Program of processing of the data cleansing and

preparation: LymeSurvey and SPSS

- **Methods of data analysis:** Descriptive statistics
- **Limitations:** None

6. Social Mapping results

This chapter is based on the findings obtained within the research activities conducted on territory of Municipality of Patos. The results are presented for the children with disabilities following the survey structure. Each questionnaire was composed of several chapters aimed to examine the risks and vulnerability in line with the LNOB factors. The questionnaire consisted of 126 questions divided into categories as risk factors as follows:

- Socio-economic status
- Geography
- Needs assessment for children with disabilities
- Governance
- Discrimination
- Vulnerability to shocks

Main findings for each LNOB group are explained in detail with relevant data presented in charts explanation at the **chapter 8.**

6.1 Analysis of geo-tagging of available socio-economic resources

The Municipality of Patos has not yet been able to establish or support services of a residential nature, for any of the categories or groups in need, such as the elderly, children, abused women, etc. This is a very significant shortcoming and the establishment of a residential centre is often underlined as a priority during the evaluation process that preceded the drafting of the social plan. Establishing a residential service for children is considered important especially for children with disabilities.

No social care service for people with disabilities exists in the territory of the Municipality. 13 children with disabilities receive services in the centre "Horizont" thanks to the agreement with the Municipality of Fier. The Municipality of Patos enables the transport of children to and from the centre.

Out of 9 middle and high schools in the whole municipality of Patos, only 2 of them provide basic logistics for children with disabilities. And, this logistics has to do only with the construction of ramps.

Schools with ramps: Meleq Gosnishti; Zhani Ciko.

Schools without ramps: Hekuran Maneku; Muhamet Shehu; Mustafa Matohiti; Sadush Dervishi; Sotir Çapo; Koli Dimo; Sotir Kola



According to the interviews and fact check in the field, the entire municipality of Patos lacks the proper transport logistics for this category, whether it is public or private transport.

The health centre offers in-house service since June 2021, for the chronically or terminally ill. 1 - 2 nurses provide this service. But, the category of children with disabilities does not benefit from this service, because their need is special and they do not have the capacity.

Red Cross - Patos Branch. They usually provide assistance to families in economic need, hold meetings in kindergartens or schools to teach children about hygiene or the like. But, these meetings are made for all children and not separate for children with disabilities. The Red Cross does not have their own facilities to provide training for parents or counselling for children with disabilities.

In Patos municipality there is no civil society organization that offers assistance or services for children with disabilities.

Facilities for access for children with disabilities where there are built ramps or in some cases elevators are: Municipality; Patos Hospital; Polyclinic (Ambulance) and ER.

In Patos there are 12 ambulances and health centres, of which only 4 have built ramps. Three of which in the administrative unit of Patos and one in Zharrez.

The map of services: <https://bit.ly/3x0Pb7u>

7. Geo-tagging of critical points for children and adults with disabilities

In the municipality of Patos, although interventions have been made, there are still problems in adapting the appropriate logistics for access to various institutions for children with disabilities, as for example 5 ambulances or health centres; 7 middle and high schools.

While the Town hall building; City Central Polyclinic; Post Office; The Court and the Hospital have built ramps.

While in the city (Patos) on most of the boulevard there are several special exits for people with disabilities, this does not apply to the roads of rural administrative units.

However, even in the city streets there are segments which are impossible for this target group to cross.



Picture 1. Street on the city of Patos



Picture 2. Administrative Unit Ruzhdie



Picture 3. High School, administrative unit Zharrez



Picture 4. Health Center, administrative unit Ruzhdie



Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality

Other schools without ramps or/and elevator



Picture 5. Middle School "Sadush Dervishi" Picture 6. Middle School "Muhamet Shehu"

8. LNOB group –Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are generally excluded, but especially children and families of children with disabilities in rural areas suffer the most from this exclusion. This, from the lack of medical services at residential centres to discrimination at various institutions.

Insufficient information that these families have; lack of knowledge of the law regarding children with disabilities; distance from urban centres and specialized hospitals are some of the reasons that makes these families to be the furthest behind.

In the part of the analysis of Social Mapping are found in detail the main problems arising from FGD, in depth interviews and survey which highlight the current situation of this target group.

There are 39.4% of respondents to the questionnaire who lived to the villages with up to 500 inhabitants, and 6.1% in isolated areas with less than 100 inhabitants, thus making it more difficult to obtain information as well as from family members. These are areas that provide only basic health care for the whole community.

In the municipality of Patos, children of all age groups have a lack of services, but 24.2% of children with disabilities in the municipality of Patos that are in the age group of 16-18 years, suffers the most.

Only 33.3% of parents of children with disabilities in the entire municipality of Patos are employed.

About 80.3% of families with disabilities do not have a computer at home to help their children integrate into the home.

Around 50% of the homes of the respondents meet the basic living conditions, while 20 % of the respondents' homes does not meet the basic living conditions and 30% of these homes meet these conditions partially.

Lack of logistics in transport; estimated lack of financial income; discrimination are other problems that this target group faces.



Below are presented in charts the main findings of 66 conducted interviews with parents/guardians of children with disabilities in 3 administrative units of Patos municipality (1 urban and 2 rural administrative units). The developed questionnaire was divided into 5 categories as risk factor: Social-economic status; Geography; Governance; Discrimination; Vulnerability to emergency situations.

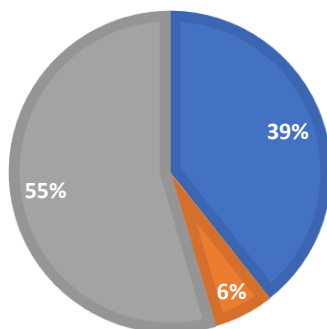
1.1 Social-economic status

8.1.1 Demography employment

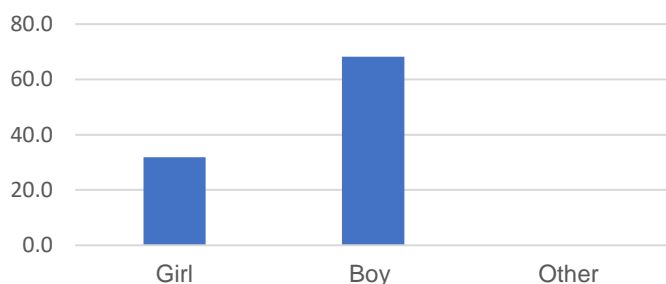
The majority of the people who were part of the survey have claimed to live in urban area. As per graph below, 55% of them live in urban area i.e. settlements with more than 500 inhabitants). 39% of the interviewed live in the villages with a number of up to 500 inhabitants, and 6 % live in settlements with several houses (up to 100 inhabitants.)

Graph 1. Residence of the respondent

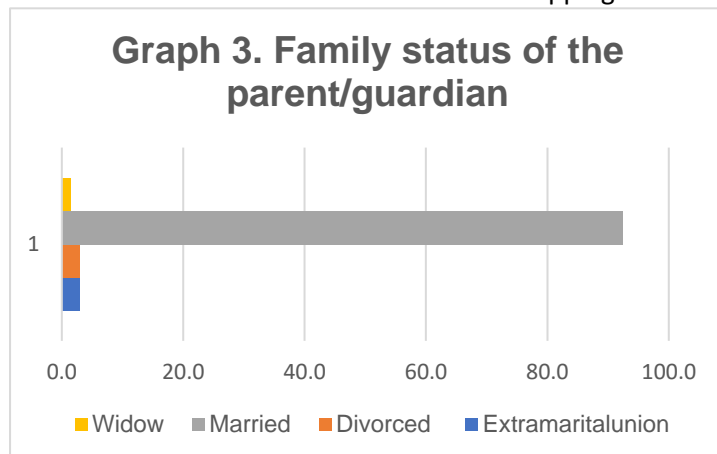
- Village (up to 500 inhabitants)
- Settlement with several houses (upto 100 inhabitants)
- Urban area (settlement with more than 500 inhabitants)



Graph 2. Sex of the child



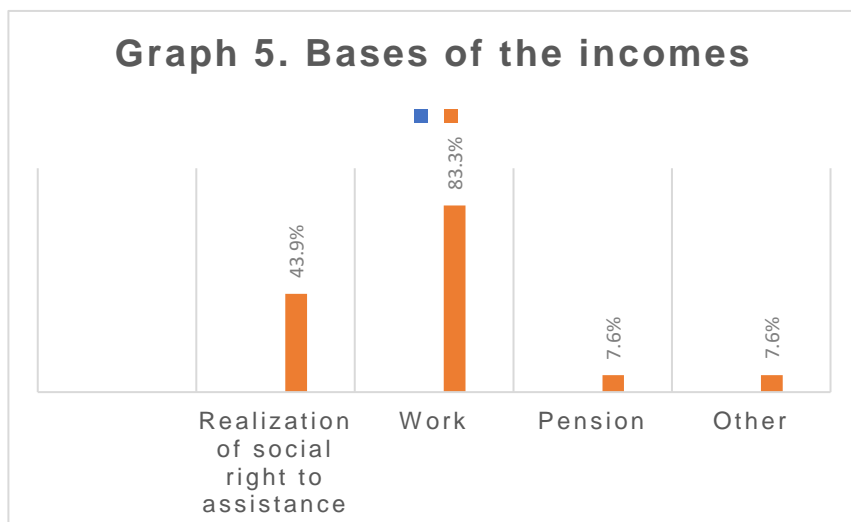
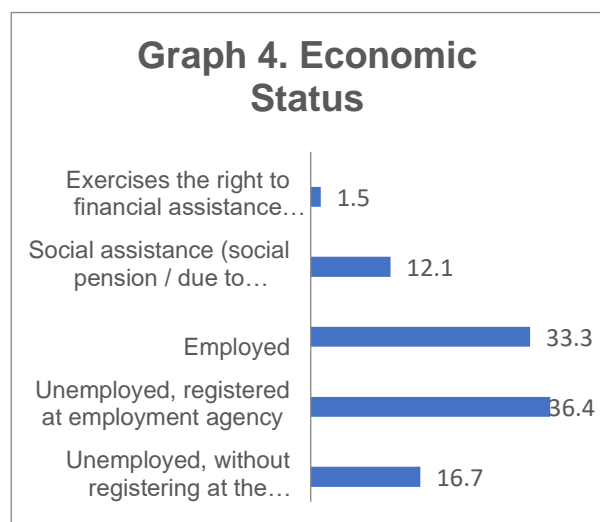
68.2 % of the children with disabilities, whose parents were interviewed were boys and 31.8% of them were girls.



Out of the total of the interviewed the highest percentage (92.4%) belongs to the group of married couples (parents live together and are married with a big difference to the other category whose parents live in a relationship (Extramarital union) of about 3%. About 1.5% of the respondents have admitted to be widowed and 3% of them were divorced.

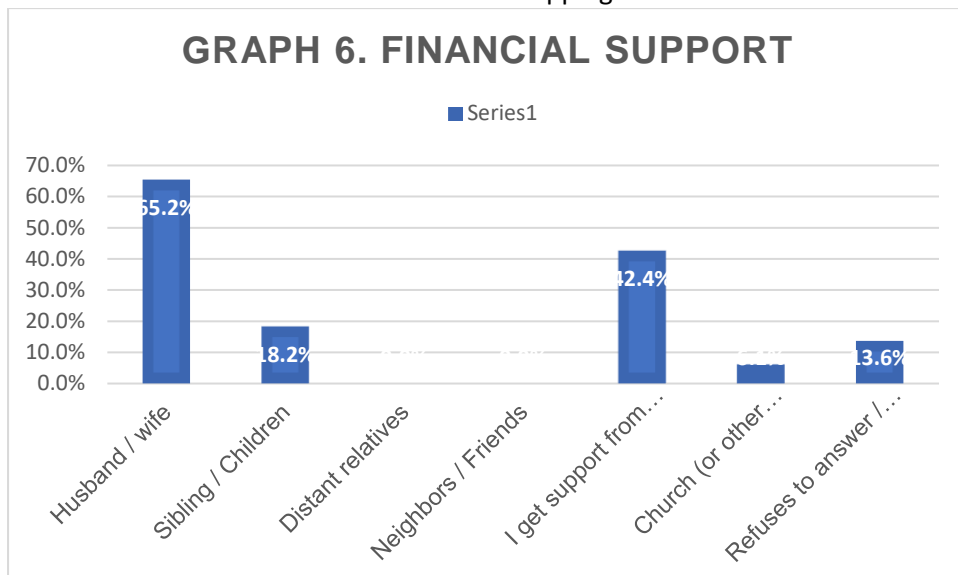
8.1.2 Income

According to the survey, 12.1% of the respondents are beneficiaries of the social security (social pension / due to disability). This data is followed by 33.3% who are employed and 36.4 % of them who are unemployed but are registered at the Employment Agency. There is a percentage of 1.5% who exercise their right to financial assistance from social protection.

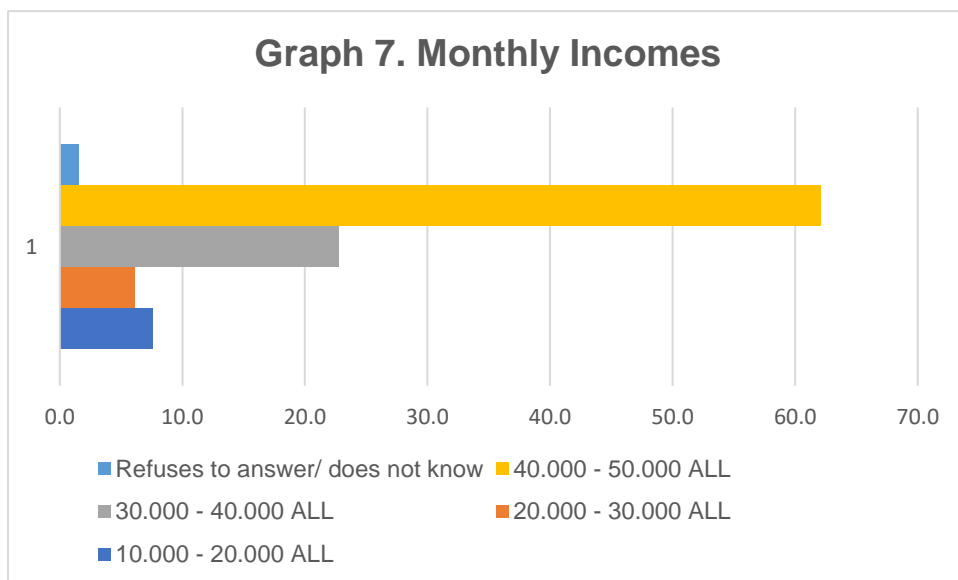


83.3% e of the respondents stated that they benefit from work of one of the parents, almost 40% from the realization of social right to assistance; and 7.6% because of the pension.

Related to the financial support from the others, most of the interviewed have responded negatively to this question in general but when analysed among those who have responded positively, we see that 65.2% received financial support from husband /wife and 42.4% getting support from the state. The figures go lower to other categories such as receiving financial support from siblings or children to about 18.2%. Trusting relatives is negative, and getting from churches (or other religious organization) 6.1% and they have no support from friends and neighbours.



As shown in the graph 62% earn a monthly income of 40.000 – 50.000 ALL. 23% earn 30.000 – 40.000. A smaller percentage, 8%, earns only a little money 10.000 – 20.000 ALL.

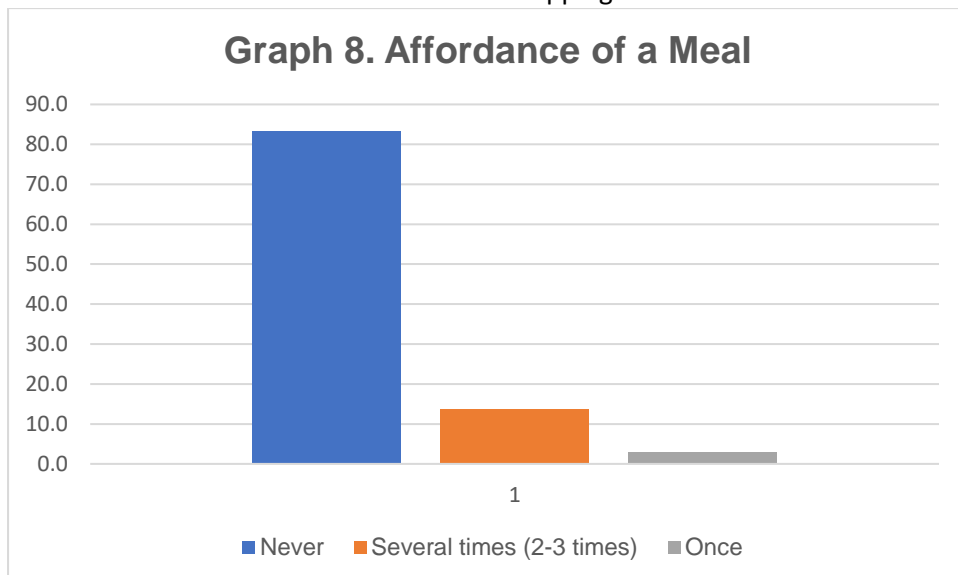


From the answers of the respondents, it is obvious that half of the respondents have stated that their family budget fulfils only the basic needs. 11% of them accept they are able to save some money, 30% say their income is not enough to fulfil even their basic needs and 9% state they do not save money at all, but live comfortably.

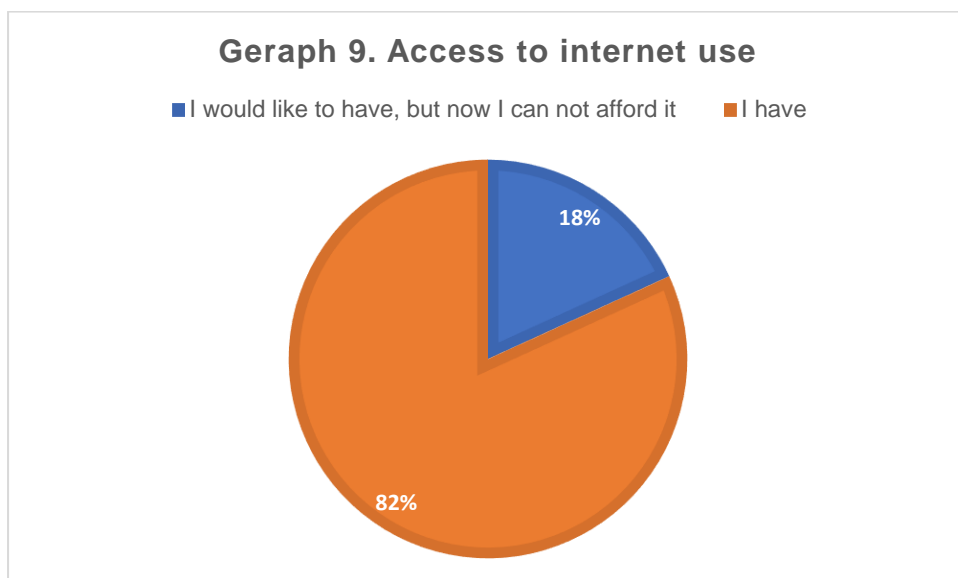
8.1.3 Living Conditions

When asked if they had enough drinking water in their home during the last month all the respondents have confirmed the fact.

Meanwhile, from the graph below it is quite obvious that 83.3% of the targeted respondents always could afford themselves a meal in the last month but 13.6% of respondents were not so lucky suffering hunger several times (2-3 times) and 3% could not afford themselves a meal in the last month only once.



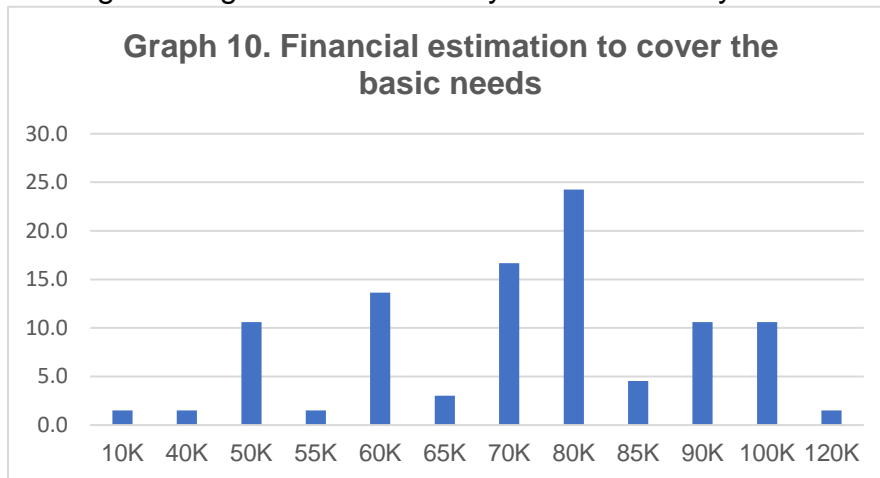
Only 19.7 % of the respondents have confirmed of having a computer or other device in their households such as a laptop or tablet, whereas 80.3 % negated to own any. When we asked about internet access for personal use, we notice a considerable percentage of the respondents that have access to internet use in 81.8% and 18% of the respondents who would like to have it but they cannot afford it.



Meanwhile 84.6% of the respondents affirmed on owning a TV with available channels for their age while on the other hand 1.6% of them said they wished to have one but could not afford it, and 1.5% said they do not have a TV and they do not need one.



The estimation of how much money do these families need per month to cover the basic cost of living, was very interesting for the parents/guardians of children with disabilities because it shows personal perceptions based on the needs. It is easily understood that among the targeted respondents only a small percentage aim high for big amount of money 1.5% said they would need about 120.000 ALL,

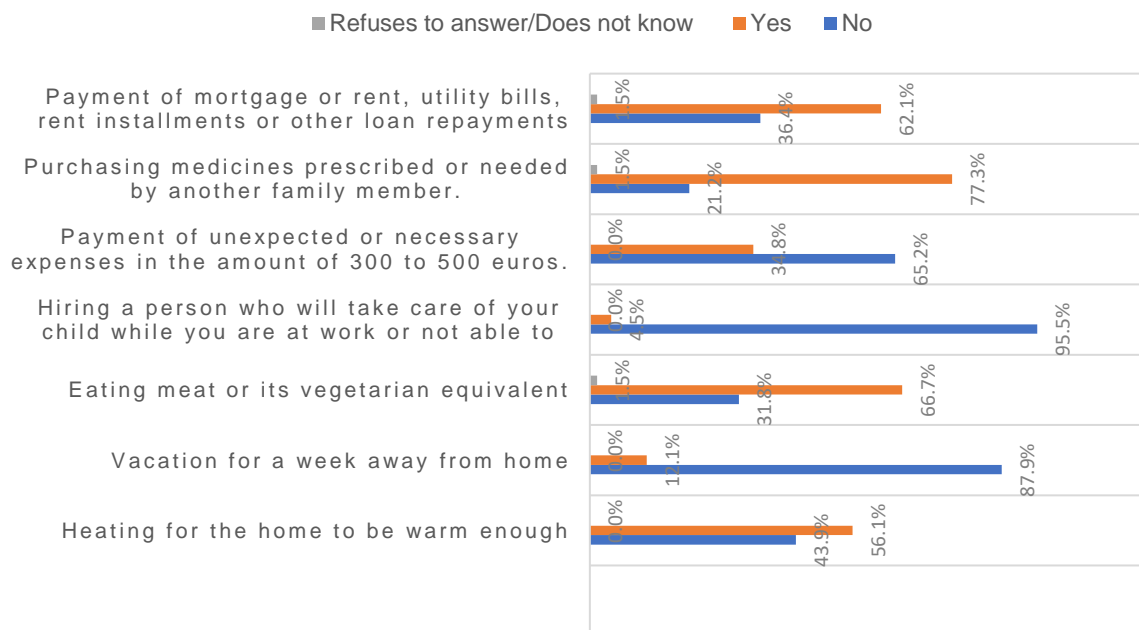


whereas 10.6% said they would need 100.000 ALL and the same who have responded that they need 90,000 ALL as monthly income. The majority of the respondents (16%) estimated 80,000 ALL per month to cover their basic needs.

When asked if they can afford the heating costs 56.1% of the respondents said they do; however asked whether they can afford 1 week long holidays only 12.1% answered positively; only 66.7% of the respondents said they could afford to eat meat, or its vegetarian equivalent; a small percentage of 4.5% can afford to hire someone who would take care of their children; 34.8% are those who can afford to pay for unexpected costs; meanwhile the majority, 77.3% of them can buy their children's medicine; those who can pay their loans, or rents are of a smaller percentage, 62.1%

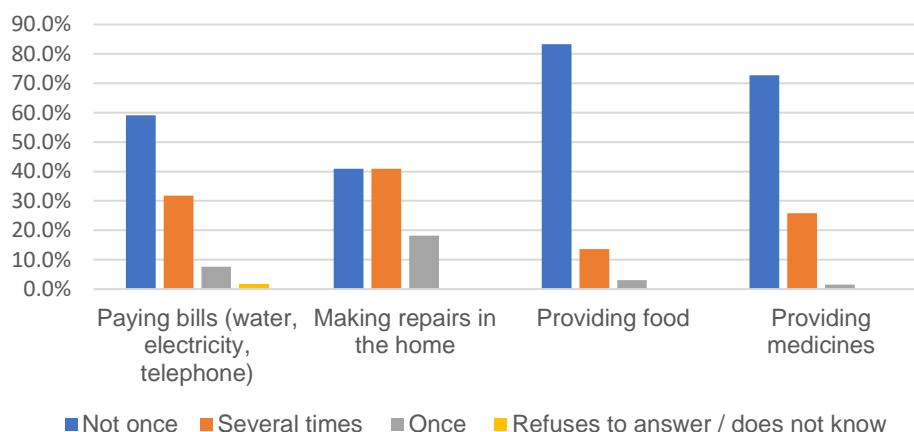
We asked the respondents also about the satisfaction related to the living conditions, only 62.1% have said that they are satisfied, but on the other hand 69.7% of the respondents stated that they do not have decent living conditions to take care for of their children and 54.5 % need specialized help care for the child with disability.

Graph 11. Expense coverage



When asked about financial challenges, 31.8% of the respondents said that during the last 12 months they have struggled several times to pay the bills; 7.6% have struggled at least once while 59.1% haven't had this problem. Among those who have wanted to make repairs at home 40.9% have had financial difficulties several times. The same percentage hasn't had this problem, while 18.2% have struggled once. Food seems less of an issue. 83.3% haven't suffered at all from the lack of food; 13.6% have struggled several times, while 3% have experienced this problem only once. Also, the majority of them have managed to buy the medicines they need, specifically 72.7%; 25.8% have struggled several times during the year to buy the medicines they needed, whilst 1.5% have experienced this issue only once.

Graph 12. Financial challenges that have made life difficult

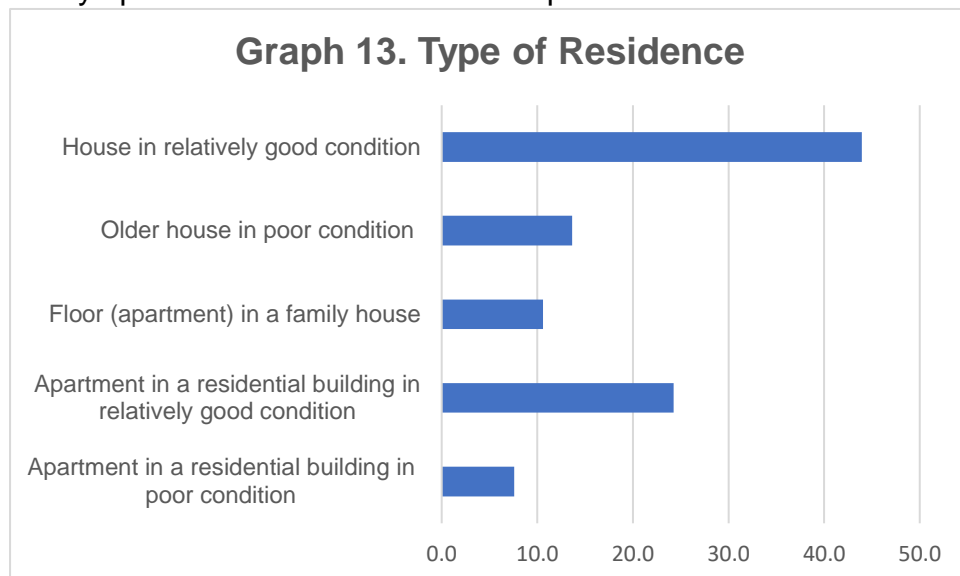




1.2 Geography – risk factor

8.2.1 Danger and risk of isolation due to living conditions

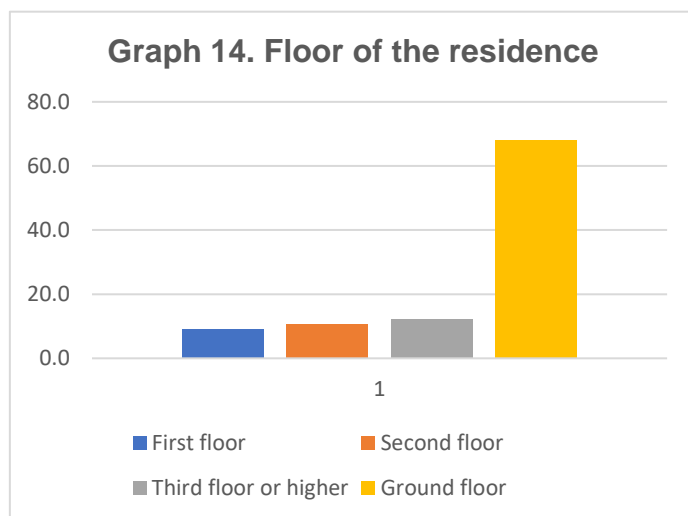
When asked about their type of residence, almost half of the respondents, 43.9% live in a relatively comfortable house; 24.2% live a residential area in a relatively comfortable apartment, 13.6% own an old house in bad conditions; 10.6% own a family apartment and 7.6% live in an apartment in a residential area in bad conditions.

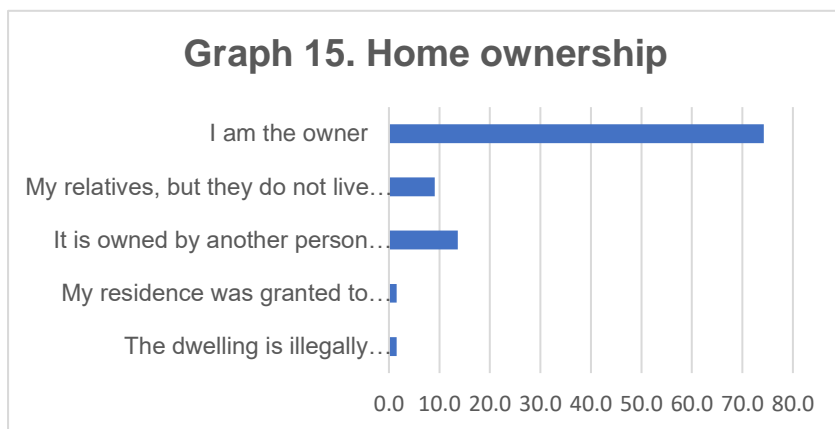


Around 50% of the homes of the respondents meet the basic living conditions, while 20 % of the respondents' homes does not meet the basic living conditions and 30% of these homes meet these conditions partially.

From all the respondents, 68.2% live on the ground floor that makes the movement of children with disabilities easier, 9.1% live on the first floor, 10.6% of them live on the second floor and 12.1% of the respondents said they live on the third floor or higher. A very low percentage of the respondents living on the first floor and above claim to have an elevator.

81.8% of the respondents said that their home lacks adequate access for the children with disabilities, 18.2% affirmed their households provide adequate access for children with disabilities.





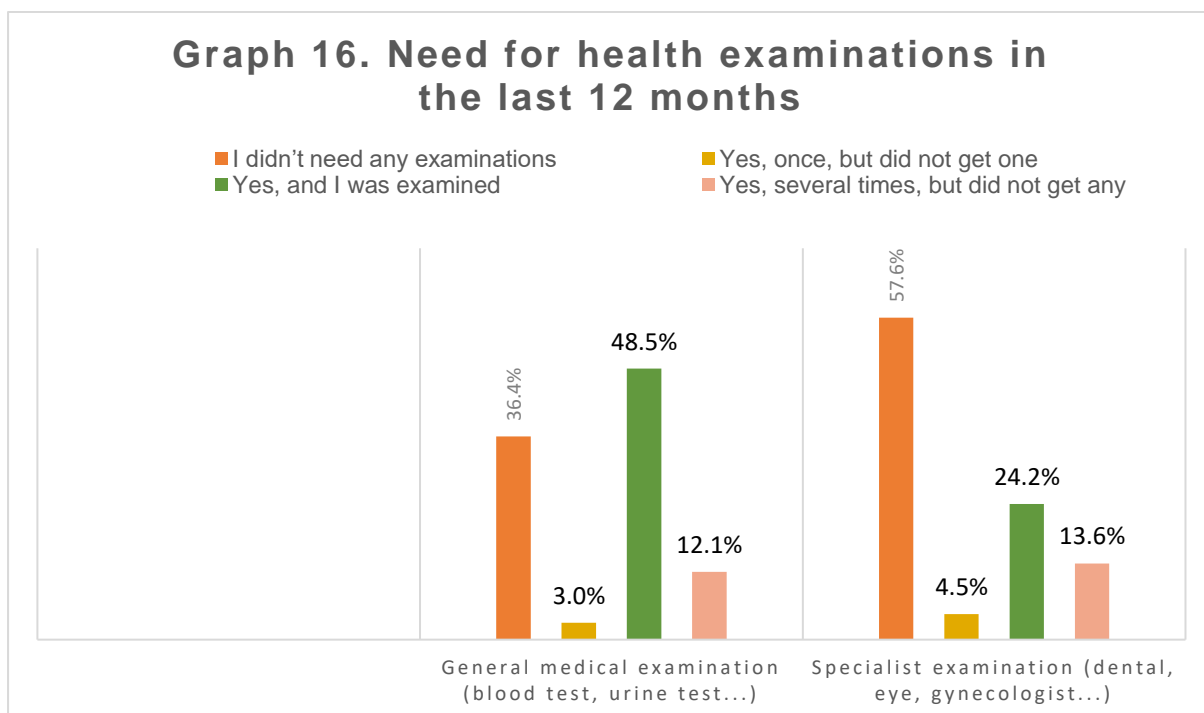
own their houses, whereas we see the lowest figure of 1.5% stated that their dwelling was illegally built, 13.6% live in other people's houses quite unknown to them, 9.1% use the houses of their relatives separately.

As per the survey, the majority of the respondents have admitted to have the necessary living conditions such as a kitchen incorporated in the house structure 89.4%, drinking water and plumbing installations 100%, shower and toilet within the house 90%, and electrical installations 100%.

8.2.2 Needs assessment for children with disabilities

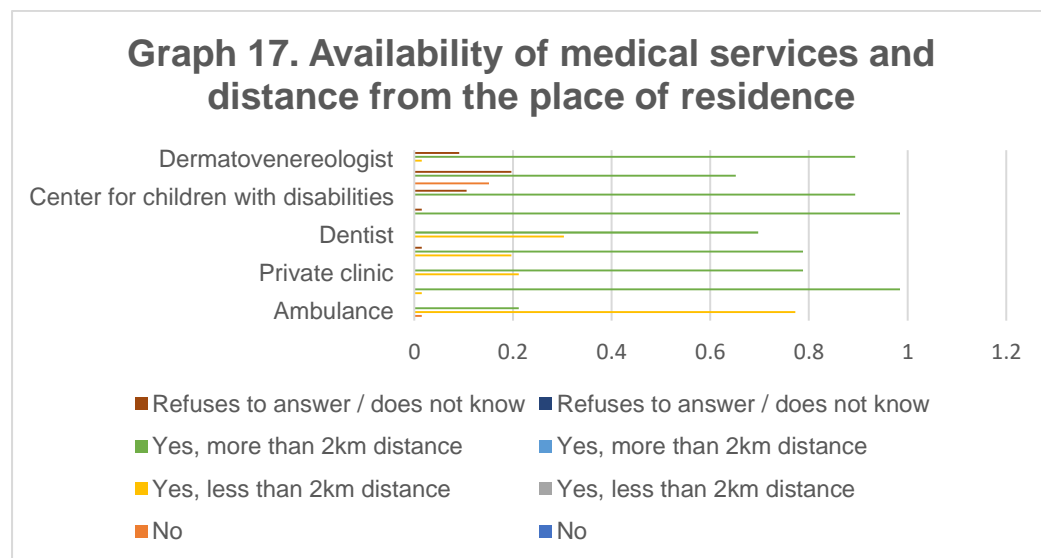
8.2.2.1 Needs assessment based on health status

When asked about need assessment 4.5 % of the respondents declared that during the last 12 months, they have needed specialized examinations once, but have not received it. 3% have needed general examination, but have not received it. 24.2% who needed specialized examination have received it, and also 48.3% who needed general examination have received the service. A smaller percentage, 13.6% have needed specialized treatment several times and didn't receive it. Others, 12.1%, who needed general examination weren't lucky enough to receive it either.

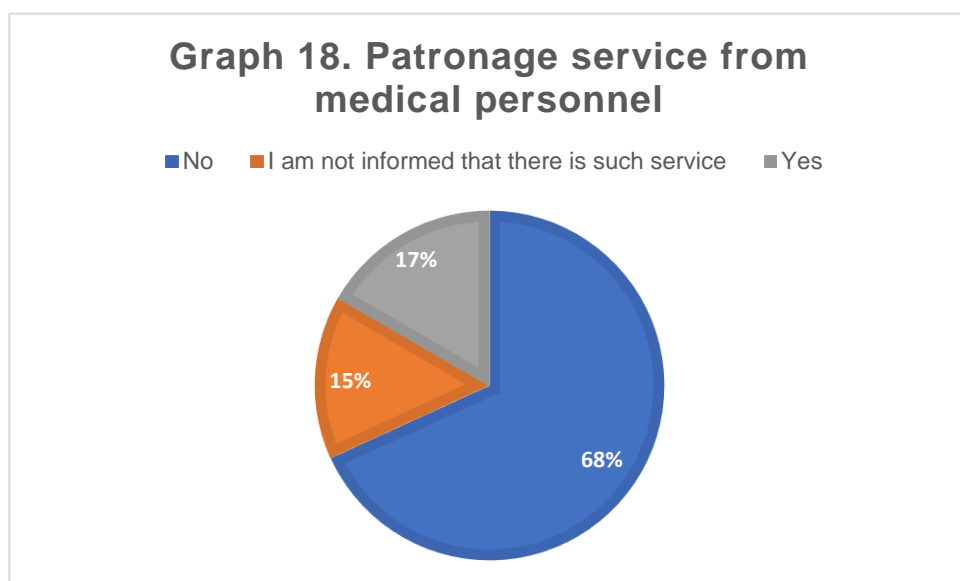


When the above respondents were asked if they had received these services when they needed, 72% of them confirmed this fact whereas 27.3 % admit they did not benefit from these services.

As per the graph no. 17 below, the availability of medical services and distance from the place of residence can be summarized as follow: 77.3% of the respondents stated there is an ambulance in less than 2 km away from their homes; for 21.2% the ambulance is further than 2 km. The hospital is in a distance more than 2 km for 98.5% of the respondents. A vast majority, 78.8% is in a more than 2km distance from a private clinic too, opposite to 21.2% for whom the private clinic is in a less than 2 km distance. 78.8% have to travel more than 2 km to receive physiotherapy services as well. In contrast 19.7% can receive these services in a less than 2 km distance.



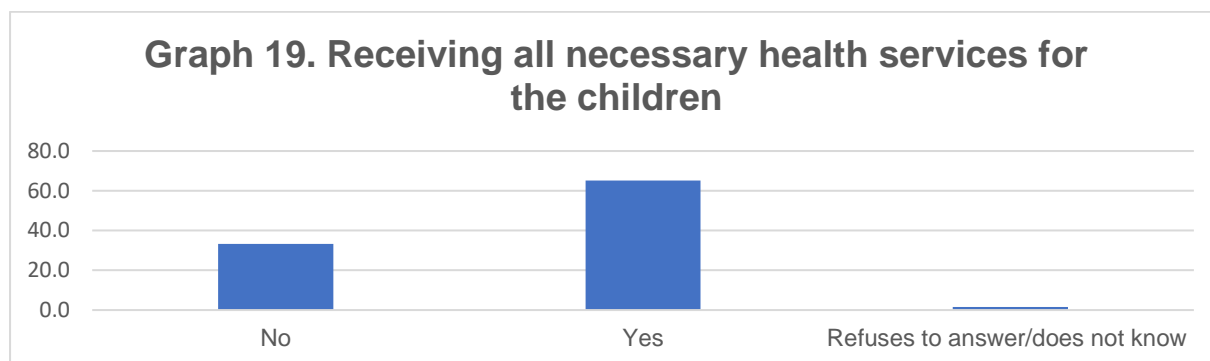
Even that patronage services from the medical personal do not exist in Patos Municipality, 17 % of the interviewed admit they have received patronage service from health providers, Highlighting the lack of information and the division of service categories. 68% deny of having receives such services, and 15%



stated that they have no information that such service exists at all. When asked how satisfied they are with this type of support, only 1.5% of the respondents claimed to be

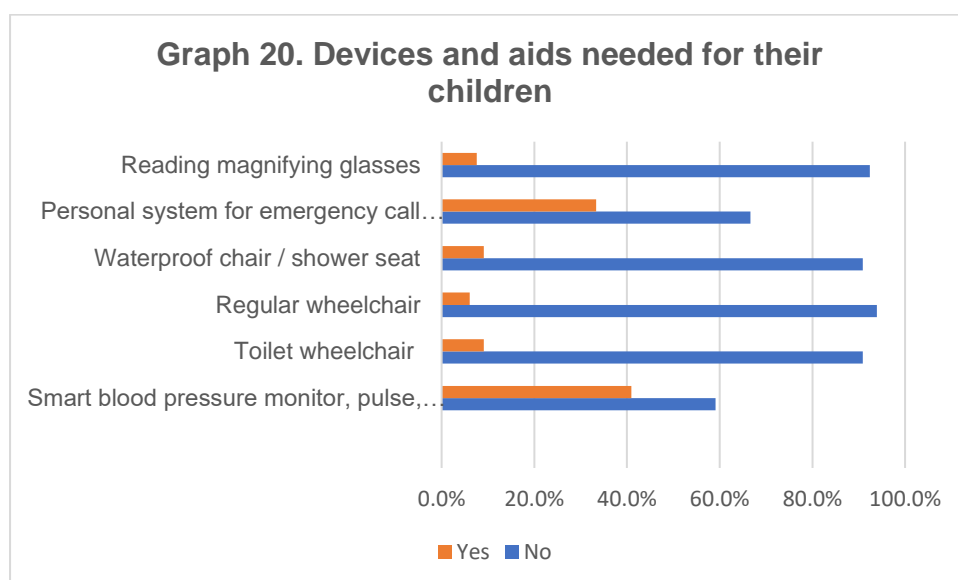


Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality
very satisfied, whereas 3% said they are satisfied and all the other respondents stated they are not satisfied with this kind of support. It is interesting when asked if they needed this service, only 15.2% of the responded positively.



When asked if they get all the necessary health services for their child, graph above, 65.2% of the respondents who are parents or guardians, admitted they do in contrast with 33.3% who stated that they do not receive such service for their child which is a considerable number of children out of this care. There is a 1.5% who do not know the answer to this question or refused to answer. Specialists, ophthalmologists, social centers, and specialized services were some of the services that parents of children with disabilities listed as absent in the municipality of Patos.

Parents or guardians of children with disabilities were also asked about devices and aids that they thought would make their lives easier for their children. A monitor would be a facilitating tool for 40.9% of the respondents; toilets for people in a wheel chair would be helpful for 9.1% of the respondents; the wheelchair itself is necessary for 6.1%; 9.1% find it necessary to have a chair against water; 33.3% would feel helped and assisted if they had a personal system for emergency calls for health services; 7.6 need glasses to read and lastly 53% of the respondents have expressed other unspecified needs as well.



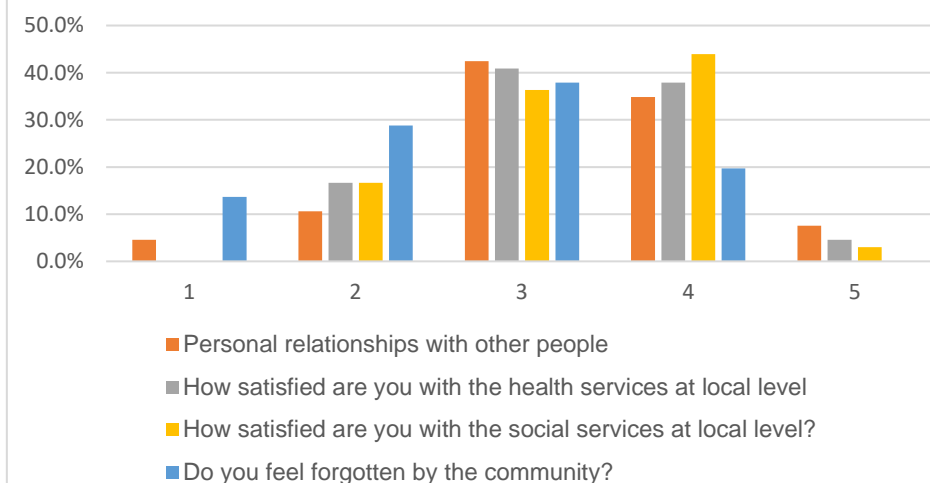
When asked if they would you like to be able to call someone to help with certain activities, strong affirmation of about 75.8% of the respondents who would like to have



call someone to help them with some of the activities with their children whereas about 24.2% refuse the idea.

The graph no. 21 below shows personal perceptions, on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest score. 4.5% said they were pleased with their interpersonal relationships; 13.6% felt abandoned by the community. Whereas only 10.6% felt pleased with the interpersonal relationships with others; 16.7% felt pleased with the local health services; another 16.7% felt pleased with the social services of their municipality and 28.8% felt abandoned by the community. 42.4% were pleased with their interpersonal relationships; 40.9 felt pleased with the local health services;

Graph 21. Interpersonal Relations



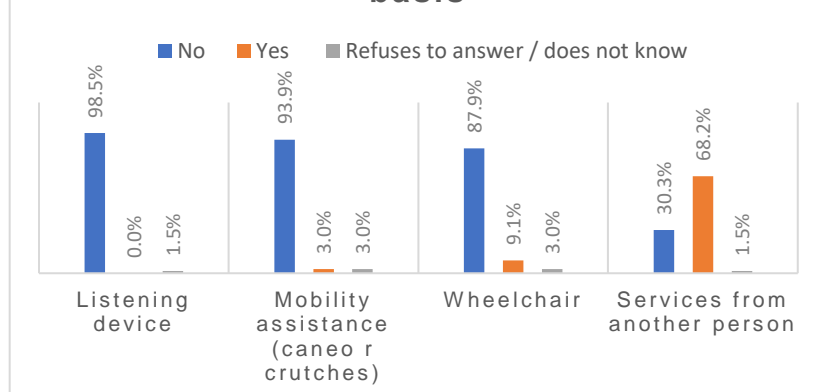
36.4% felt pleased with the social services of their municipality and 37.9% felt abandoned by the community. 34.8% were pleased with their interpersonal relationships; 37.9% felt pleased with the local health services; 43.9% felt pleased with the social services of

their municipality and 19.7% felt abandoned by the community. 7.6% were pleased with their interpersonal relationships; 4.5% felt pleased with the local health services; and 3% felt pleased with the social services of their municipality.

8.2.2.2 Assessment of home service needs

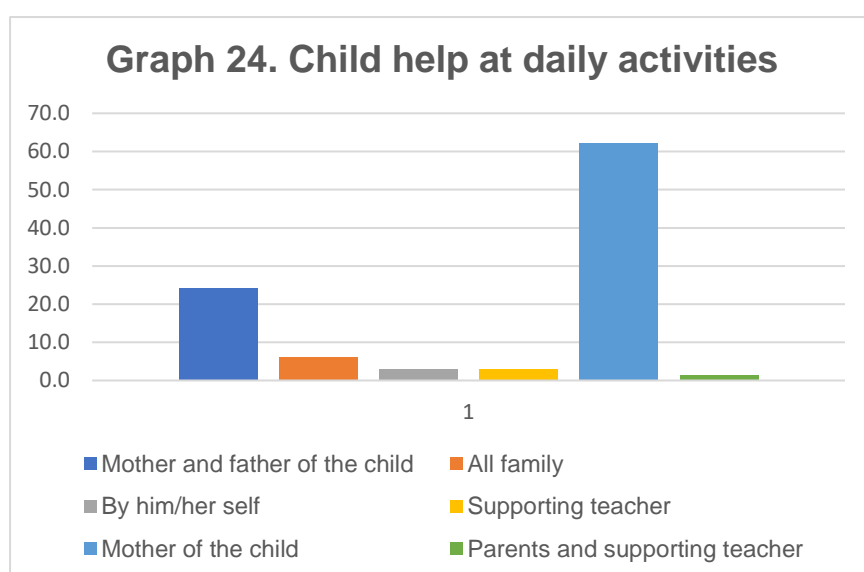
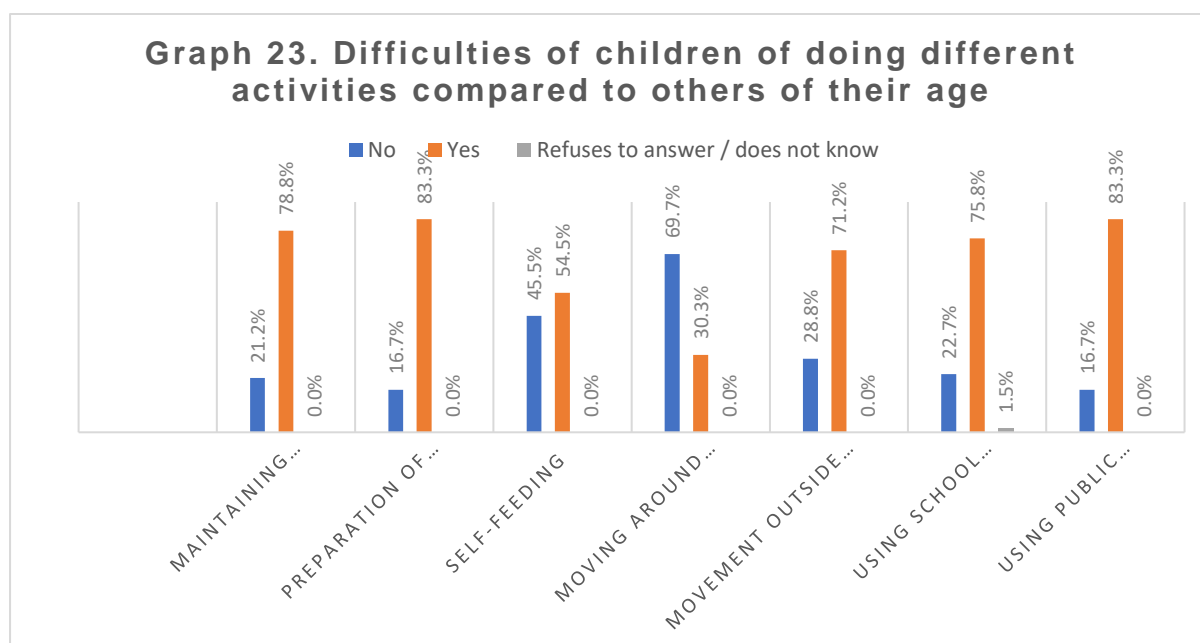
Respondents were asked few questions related to the daily needs and activities that they have and perform, i.e., whether they need help with some of them.

Graph 22. The need of child to use some following devices on daily basis



98.5% declared their children do not need hearing aid; 93.9% said they do not need movement assistance; 87.9% declared they didn't need a wheel chair and 30.3 didn't need assistance from other people.

Expected answers that show no surprises at all come from the graph below. According to the respondents their children encounter greater difficulties than other children performing various acts like personal hygiene, meal preparation, eating, movement in and out house, use of school environments and the public transportations. 78.8% of the respondents declared their children need additional help to keep their hygiene; 83.3% declared their children need additional help to prepare their meals, while 54.5% have additional need to eat by themselves; 30.3% have difficulty moving inside their homes; the need of help to move outside their homes is far too big: 71.2% feel this need. 75.8% feel difficulty using school spaces and lastly 83.3% have difficulty using the public transportation.



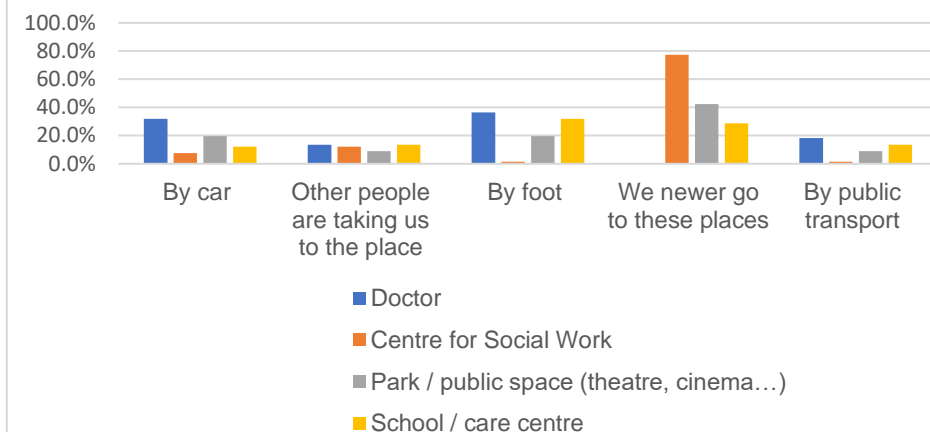
When asked who helps the child with the daily activities, as the graph below shows the prevalence is taken by the mother of the child with 62.1% whereas 24.2% of the respondents stated that mother and father together help with the daily activities of their child and when the whole family is engaged this is

confirmed by 6.1% of the responses. The presence of the dedicated teaching assistant

Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality is confirmed in these activities only by 3% of the respondents and 1.5% of them stated that parents together with dedicated teaching assistants help the children with their daily activities. There are only 3% of the respondents that admits that the children can take care of themselves.

The respondents were also asked about the way and time needed to go to several different destinations. 31.8% drive their own cars, 18.2 % use public transport and 13.6% are driven by other people to the doctor's. Public transportation is used by a

Graph 24. Means to go to different destinations



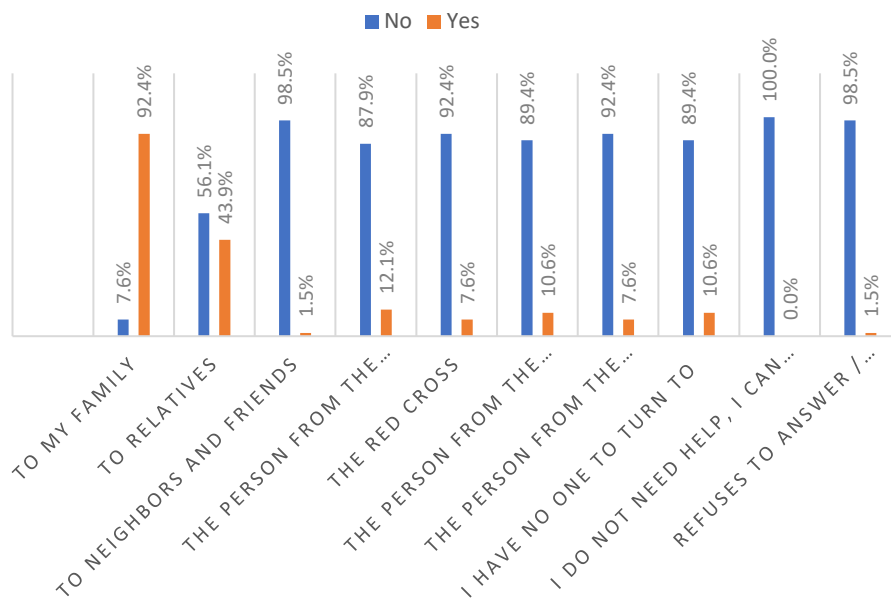
big number of the respondents to reach the doctor and school with 13.6% of the respondents. A striking percentage declares that they do not frequent social centers 77.3%. Very few respondents admitted there are other people who accompaniesthem to these places using their own cars (9.1% to 13.6%).

When asked how much time do, they need to reach different institutions, 20% of the respondents claimed that they need 60 minutes to reach the doctor, 30% of them needed the same time to reach the hospital.

The respondents were also asked about the use of various services during the last 12 months, services such as: Social workers' services; Help in the home (daily activities); Personal assistance for your child (outside home); Emotional support or counselling or other social benefits.

During the last 12 months 78.8% of the respondents did not received social workers' services, also the percentage of those who have accessed other services is quite low. It varies from 9.1% for personal assistance outside home to 15.2% for emotional support and/or counselling. There are 92.4% of the respondents who did not receive any help at home for daily activities.

Graph 25. Ask for help in cases when they can not take care of the child



a fragile health and cannot take care of their children to whom they will ask for help and support, the most noticeable result is the very high percentage of respondents (92.4%) who claim in case of need there are their families who would offer them help. That is a very high rate, especially when compared

to only 12.1% who admit they would rely on the help of someone from the social centre; 7.6% who would call a civil society organization and 7.6% who admitted they would be assisted from the Red Cross. Although only 10.6% said they have no one to rely on the fact that the ultimate majority rely on their families and relatives as per 43.9% of the respondents as the most trusted it is noticeable and needs immediate address.

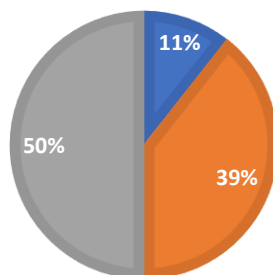
Even when they were asked if they have anyone to talk to about personal problems, similarly, the answers show that family members continue to be the most reliable source of comfort, 92.4% confirm this and 53% of them rely to the relatives. Talking to persons from Social Centers, Red Cross or/and other it varies from 1.5% to 4.5% of the respondents that will choose to be consulted with them. There are 7.6% of the respondents who have no one to turn to talk about personal problems.

The respondents were asked also if the people who usually help them are not available, would they like another person to assist when they might need help. 72.7% of the respondents stated they would like to have someone to turn to for help. Only 6.1% said they could do everything by themselves. An interesting number of the interviewed about 21.2% said that they would wait for these people to be available, because they did not want other people to help them.

10.6% of the respondents are assisted by their relatives for the needs their children have at home and do need any additional help; 39.4% of the respondents do not need this help at all; 50% would like to have someone they could ask for help.

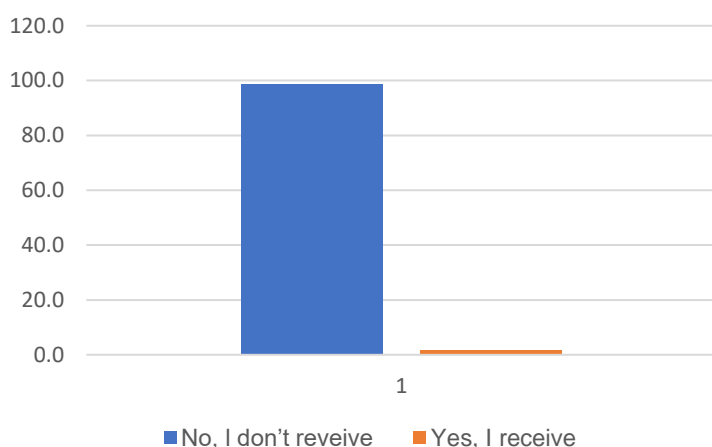
Graph 26. Need for homecare and visits

- My relatives help me, I do not need additional help
- I do not have such a need
- Yes, I would like to have someone to turn to



When asked if they have available rooms, would they share the residence with a person who would assist with the child in carrying out the daily activities, 74.2% of the respondents answered no, only 9.1% would agree to such a thing and 16.7% of the respondents claimed that they do not need daily help, except special cases.

Graph 27. Care services at home

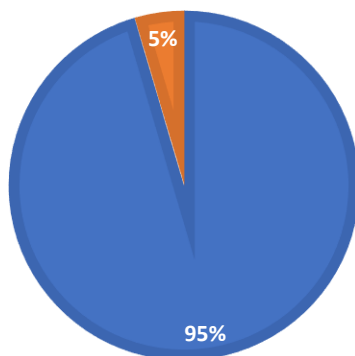


Very impressive answers to the care services at home which speaks of the lack of such services as residential service. When asked if the parents or guardians receive help and care services at home as social services, 98.5% responded negatively whereas 1.5% answered positively, and claim that they receive these services privately.

As per the chart below, it is obvious that the majority of the interviewed have claimed that their child either does not receive personal assistance service (about 95%) Only 5% stated that their child gets such service.

Graph 28. Personal assistance service to child

■ No, I don't receive ■ Yes, I receive



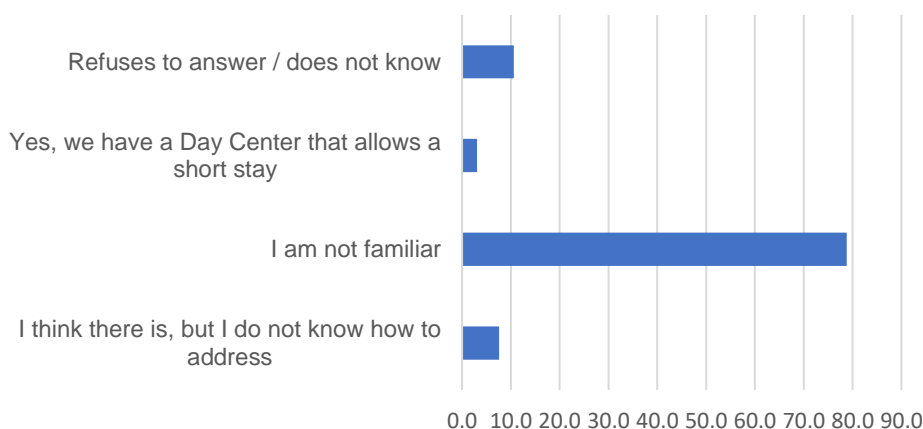
Respondents who responded positively to the above were also asked how satisfied they were with this kind of support. The answers for this question start with 1st as the least satisfied to the 5th as the most satisfied 97% of the interviewed stated they are the least satisfied with this kind of service and 3% find a middle way to cope with the service.

But if personal assistance is available, will they use it? The majority of the respondents have affirmed their answers with 54.8% thus showing a great need for the personal assistance services for this targeted community. Although 34.8% of the respondents stated that they would use this service rarely because they do some of the activities themselves. A negative response for the service comes from 10.6% of the respondents.

8.2.2.3 Assessment of social service needs in the local community

When asked if their children can visit a place in the municipality for a short-term stay in a daily centre, 78.8% of the respondents do not have any idea if the municipality has any special places their children can visit for a short period of time daily. 3% admit that indeed there is such a centre; 7.6% believe there is such a centre, but they do not know how to address the issue and 10.6% refuse to answer.

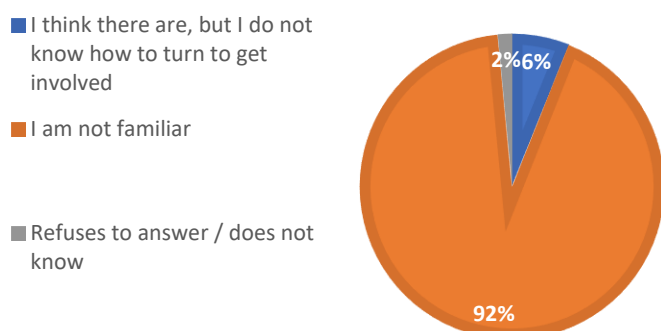
Graph 29. A place in the municipality for a short-term stay in a daycenter





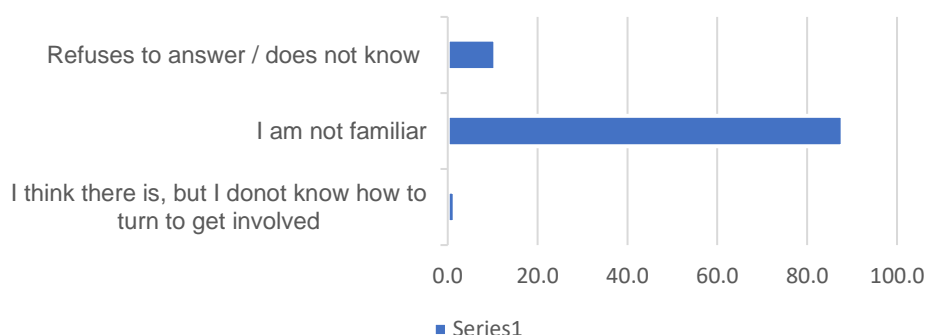
When asked about using the services of a daily care centre, maybe outside of the Patos municipality, 78.8% said they did not or have not used such service, 3.6% are positive in having used this service whereas. But 92% of respondents admitted that if these services existed, they would use them for their children.

Graph 30. Existence of clubs in the municipality that provide socializing, entertainment and recreation for children with disabilities.



Another interesting question shown at the graph no. 30, was the existence of clubs in the municipality that provide socializing, entertainment and recreation for children with disabilities. The majority of the respondents 92% have stated that they have no idea that such facilities exist in their municipality, 6% think there are such facilities but they do not know how to get involved and 2% of the respondents refused to answer. The same answers are highlighted also with the participants of the Focus Groups Discussions. When parents / guardians of children with disabilities were asked if they would use these socializing clubs if they existed, 99.9% of them admitted that they would be helpful to them.

Graph 31. Existence of soup kitchen in the municipality where food is served and brought to vulnerable categories of citizens



Respondents were also asked about the existence of soup kitchen in the municipality where food is served and brought to vulnerable categories of citizens. 87.9% of the respondents do not know about the existence of this service. 1.5% of the respondents think maybe there is but

they do not know how to get involved and benefit from such service whereas 10.6% of them refused to answer.



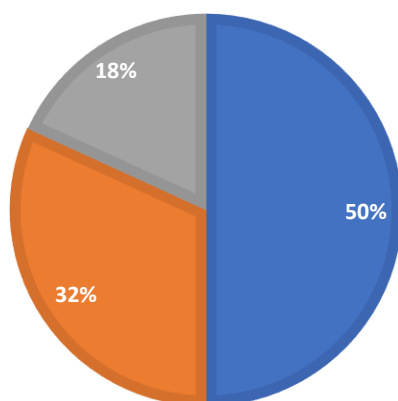
While, 15.2% of the respondents has admitted that they would use the service of municipal soup kitchen if available but not too often, whereas 18.2% said they would use it pretty often. A significant figure of 53% would not use such service whereas 1.5% refuse to answer the question. When asked why they would not use these soup kitchen services if it were possible, the respondents did not have confidence in the quality of the food.

Respondents who would use this service were asked how they would like this service to be available to them, 65.2% would like to receive the service at home, while 34.8% would like to the soup kitchen where the food is served.

Regarding the organized transport to the ambulance, care centres or clubs / associations for the elderly or other community centres in the municipality 50% of the interviewed said they do not have such service. 32% of them have no information on such service and 18% of the respondents admitted to have such service but only 4% of the respondents use them.

Graph 32. Organized transport

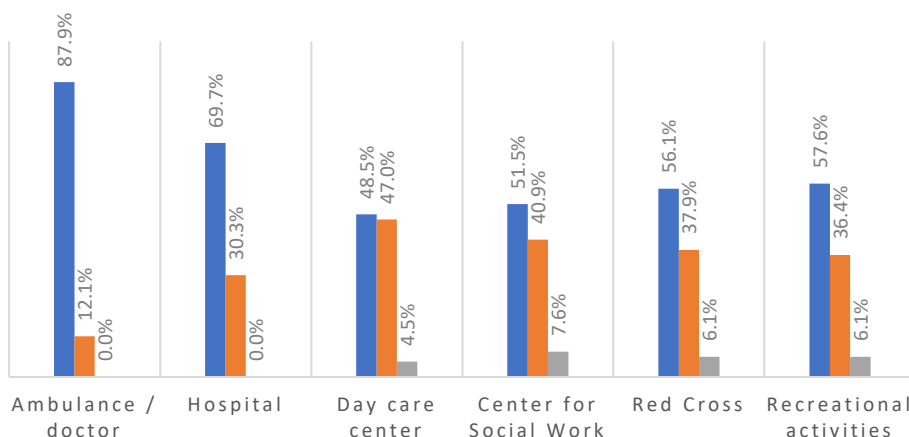
■ No, we don't ■ I am not informed about such thing ■ Yes, we have

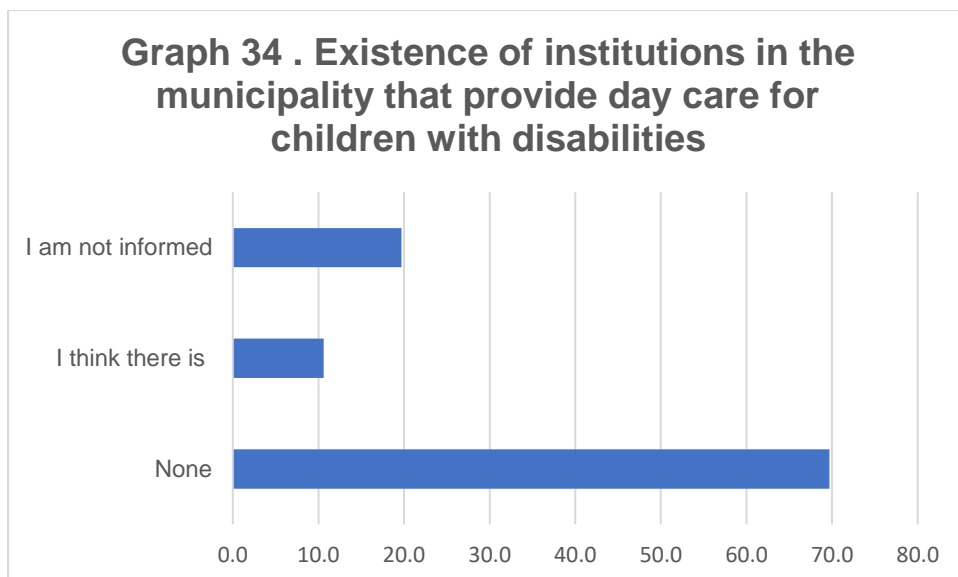


When asked if they needed an organized transport to go several places the answers showed that in every case less than 50% affirmed this. However, it should be clarified that the affirmative percentage is not small either. Actually, it varies from 12.1% to 47% being the highest one. According to most respondents, the organized transport they need is the one that can help them get them to Day Centers or/and

Graph 33. Need for organized transport to go to

■ No ■ Yes ■ Refuses to answer / does not know

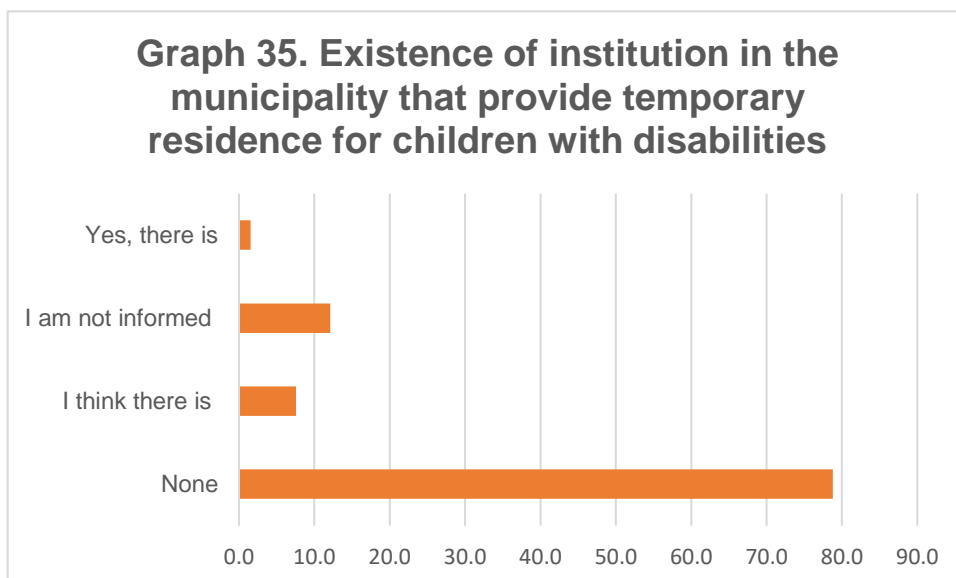




69.7% of the respondents affirm for sure that there are no institutions in the municipality that provide daily care for children with disabilities at the municipality, while 19.7% are not aware of their existence and 10.6% of them think that there are such institutions but they do not have any detailed information.

When asked about the official name of the institution only 1.5% name Social Services, and all the other respondents don't know the names.

If available, 62.1% confirmed on the use of such services, 16.7% of the respondents said they would use them but only if they needed help, whereas another 10.6% refused to use these services.



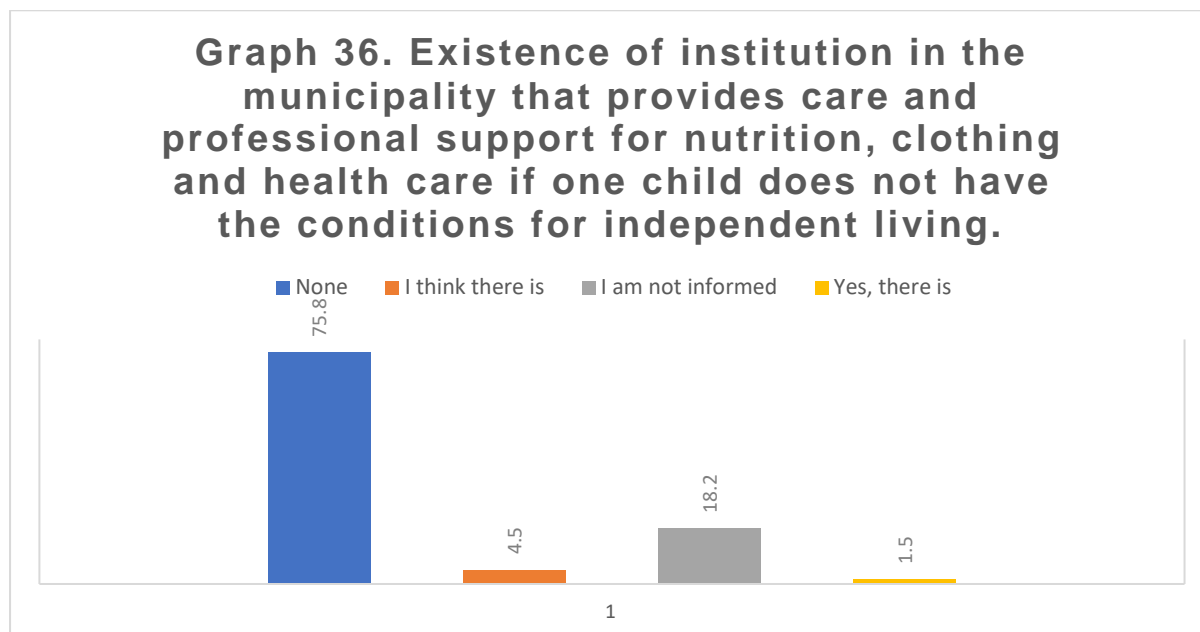
Related to the institution in the municipality that provides temporary residence for children with disabilities, 78.8% of the respondents negate to have such information, 1.5% admit there is such an institution in their municipality, whereas 7.6% of them think there is such institution but are not quite sure of it and 12.1% of the

respondents are not informed. When asked about the official name of the institution none of them can name any institution except 3% of the respondents which have name the Municipality of Patos for this service. But, will they use this kind of social services if available? The majority, 34.8% confirmed they would, 30.3% stated they would do

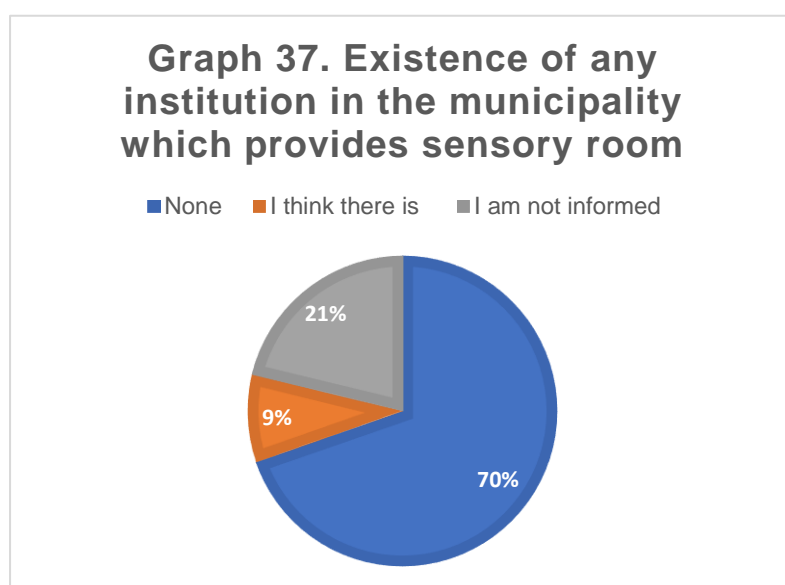


so just in case of need, while around 6% refused to answer and almost 29% declared that they will not use these services.

As per the graph below 75.8% believe there are no offices in the municipality that offer professional care and support for children with special needs regarding food, clothing; medical care etc; 4.5 believe the opposite; 18.2% have no information; 1.5% are sure such an office exists.



When respondents who answered positively to the above question, were also asked about the names of these institutions there is a confusion in the answer. All what they mention is the help that Patos municipality has offered, several times with food package. Asked if these services would exist properly, whether they would use them for their children, 39.4% were completely positive in using these services. While 30.3% of the respondents would use them only if they need help, and 24.2% would not use them.



The majority of the respondents (70%) stated that there is no institution in the municipality that provide a sensory room in which students with disabilities will be able to spend a certain period of the day, in case they have difficulty in following the teaching process. 9% claimed the existence of such rooms, although they are not sure where these institutions may be. 9% of the

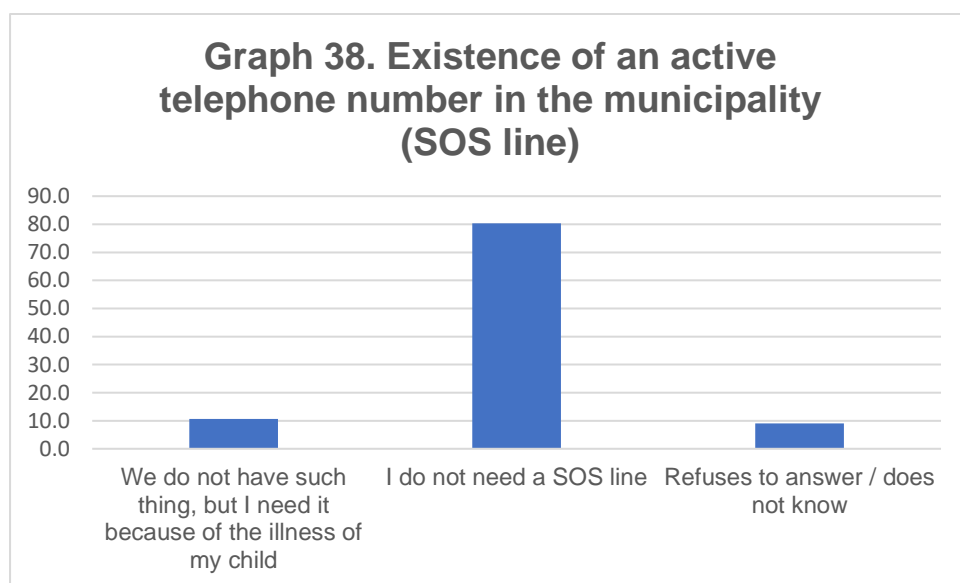
respondents were not informed regarding the matter. Respondents were also asked if they would use these institutions if they existed. 16.7% of them denied their possible



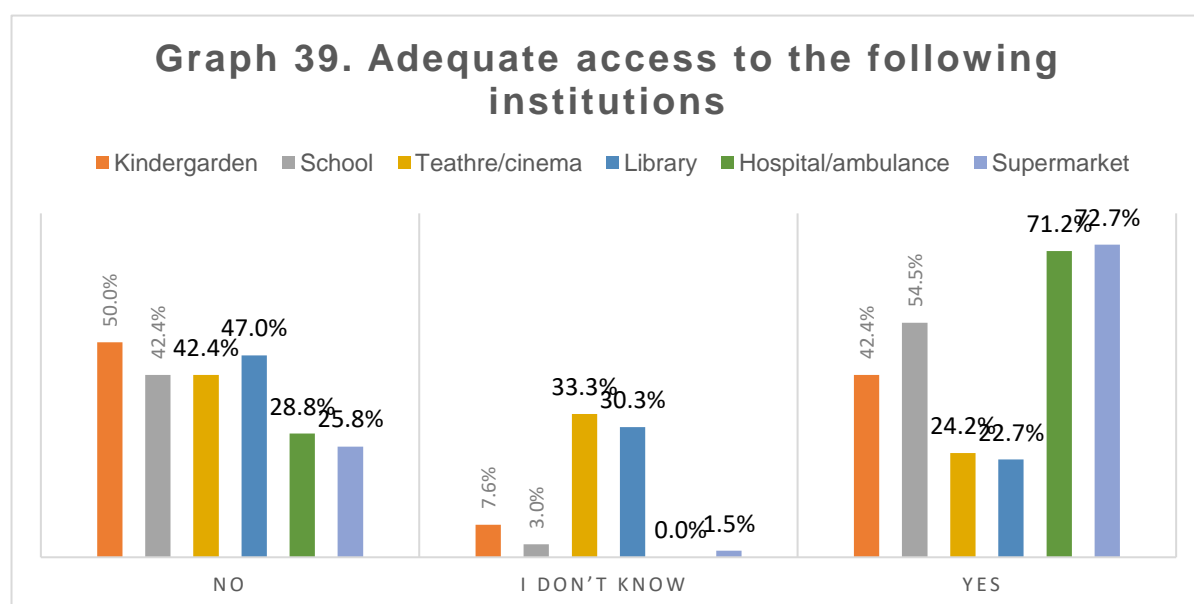
Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality use; 43.9% would use them without hesitation; 30.3% would use them just in case of need.

When asked whether anyone had ever asked from them compensation for the services provided in the care institutions for children with special needs, in Patos or outside the municipality: 30.3% stated that no one had ever asked them money and 69.7% stated they had never used these services.

In regards of an active telephone number in the municipality (SOS line) where they can call if something happens, none of the respondents could answer whether or not there was such a line. 80% answered they don't need such a number; 10.6% of the respondents claimed that there is no active SOS line but they need it because of the illness of the child and 10% refused to answer. Fact is that there is no such SOS line in Patos Municipality.



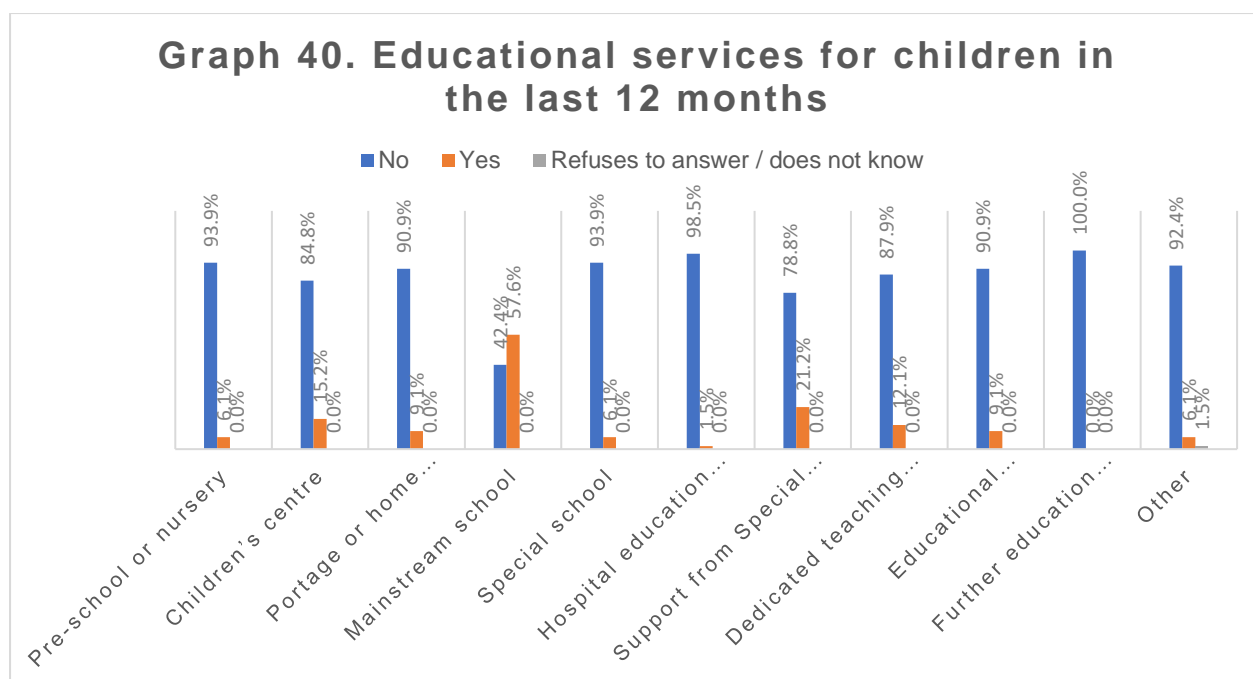
When asked if there was an adequate access to the several institutions for the children with disabilities, independently or with parent's support, 71.2% of the respondents



confirmed that there is proper access to hospital and ambulance and 54.5% claim the same for schools. It is interesting that almost 50% of the respondents say that such proper access is missing at kindergartens. More data are shown at the graph no. 42 below.

8.3 Assessment of education services and facilities

Parents or guardians of the children with disabilities were asked also in relation with educational services for their children, During the last 12 months most of the children have frequented common schools with other children who do not display their needs (57.6%). Among children who have been given any forms of education 21.2% have been assisted by a teacher for children's special needs (supporting teacher). It can be noticed that only 6.1% of respondents' children have frequented preschool institutions, and only 15.2% of them go to a centre for children. It is quite surprising that only 9.1% of these children are assisted by an educational psychologist, even that this service should be provided by law.



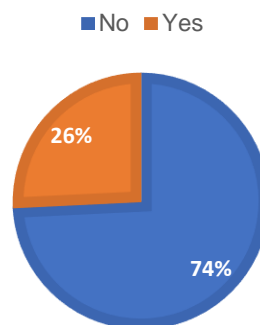
42.4% of the respondents stated that in the last 12 months their children have been provided most of the educational needs they need; 21.2% claimed that they have provide all the educational needs, this is in contrast to the previous question, where the percentage of services received in educational institutions is quite low. 19.7% of the respondents claim that they did not receive any service at all related to the matter.

According to 90.9% of the respondents there are no special classes / department within schools for children with special needs; while 9.1% don't know or refuse to answer. But, based on the focus groups organized with both parents and stakeholders, but also based on in-depth interviews, such classes do not exist in the schools of Patos municipality.

We have asked the respondents to list the educational support services their children need on local level. The answers are varied, with more emphasis on: Home education; Specialized classrooms; specific treatments and centres where children can learn more; Specialized teachers for these children, speech therapists, etc. In addition to the

When asked if they receive any special allowance as parent / guardian of a child with a disability 74.2% of the respondents have claimed that they do not receive any special compensations as the parent/guardian of a child with special needs and 25.8% stated they do so. The vast majority of the respondents, 97% admit they have never been asked any payments for the educational services their child receives and 3% admit the contrary, but when asked from whom and why, that do not know how to explain.

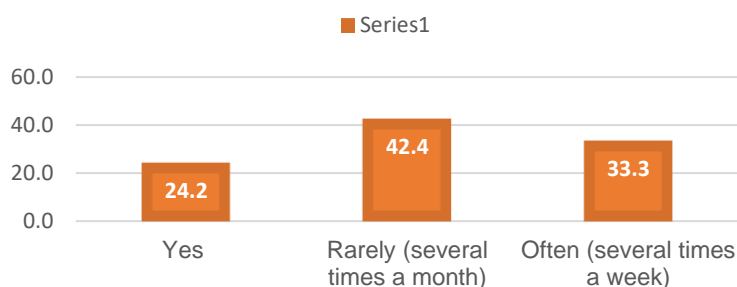
Graph 41. Special allowance as parent / guardian of a child with a disability



2. Governance – Risk Factor

9.1 Assessment of the views and needs of people with disabilities

Graph 42. Following the daily politics

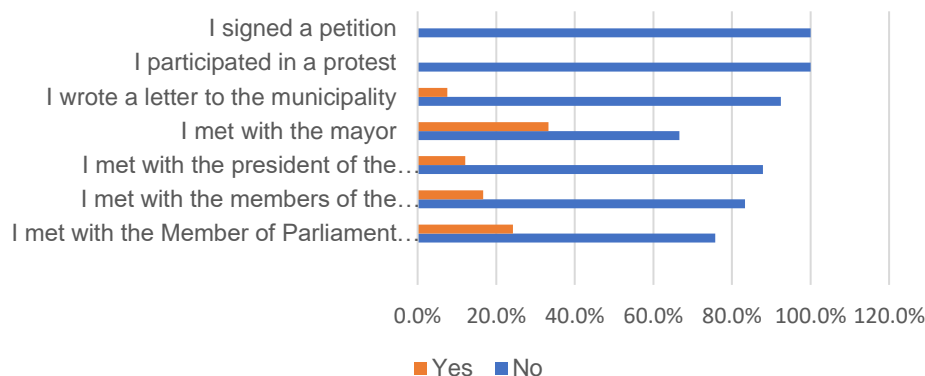


Related to governance as risk factor, we have asked the parents/guardians of children with disabilities several questions. One of the questions was in regards of the daily politics. 24.2% follow the latest developments in the country, while almost 43% rarely follow these developments and 33% of the respondents follow the daily politics at least several times a week.

In regards of any policies adopted at the local level in the last 3 years, policies that are of interest to parent/guardian of child with disability, around 38% of the respondents do not know whether in the last 3 years' policies in the local level that favour them as have been adopted, almost 41% are sure such policies are not adopted while 21% believe that such policies are adopted.

As per the graph no. 43 below, none of the respondents have participated in any protest or signed any petition related to the advocacy for their children's interest. 24% of them have met members of Parliament from their city and 33.3% of the respondents claim to have met the mayor. When asked, what was the income of these meetings, no specific answer was given.

Graph 43. Actions undertaken by parents/guardians of children with disabilities to advocate their interests



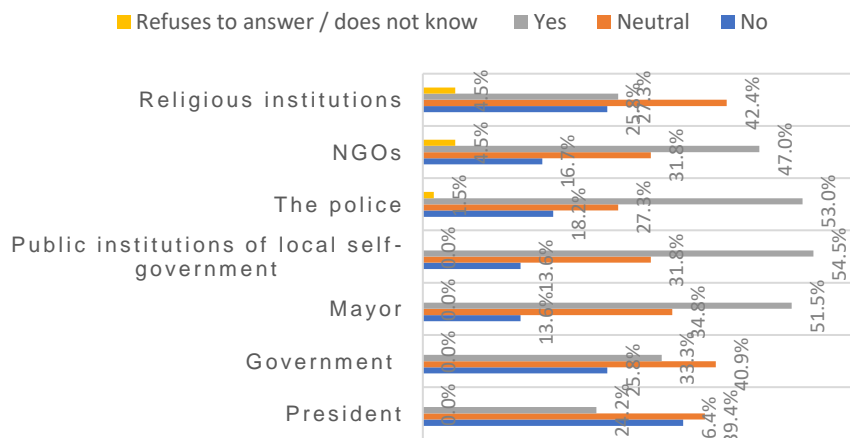
Related to the trust towards the institutions, 24.2% of the respondents has a positive attitude to the trust toward President, and 33.3% of them trust the government. Even there are lacks of the services, 51.5% have trust toward Mayor and 54.5% of them trust the public institutions of local self-government.

The trust to police varies around 53%, toward NGOs 47% and related to the religious institutions, 27.3% of the respondents trust them. It is interesting the percentage of the parents/guardians of the children with disabilities which have chosen neutral to answer for this question.

It is interesting the fact that this target group has chosen the poor as one of the priorities that the municipality of Patos should have, at 90.9%. Following with the support that this municipality should give to people with disabilities in the amount of 78.8%, the supply of drinking water in the amount of 60.6%; health protection to the extent of 59%; road infrastructure to the extent of 54.5%; housing at 48.5% and education at 39.4%

The interesting fact is that according to 97% of the respondents there are no gatherings, no unity between parents / guardians of children with special needs and only 3% claim that there are such groupings. Also, according to the parents/guardians of children with disabilities, 92.4% of the respondents do not know and are in no

Graph 44. Trust towards the institutions





Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality
contact with any organizations that helps people with special needs and their parents/ guardians, only 7.6% have such a knowledge.

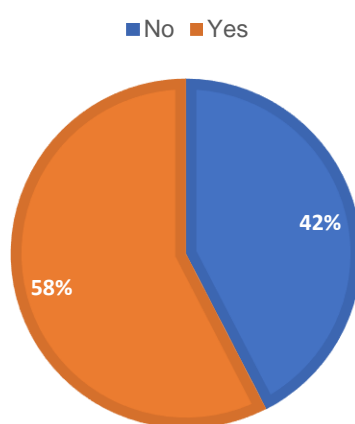
3. Discrimination – Risk Factor

9.1 Assessment of facing discrimination

We have asked the parents/guardians of children with disabilities if they think that the rights of people with disabilities are respected in the country. 72.7% of the respondents think that the rights of people with special needs are not respected in the country and only 25.8% are happy with the way people with special needs are treated.

Following, 57.6% of the respondents stated that together both children and them have felt discriminated during the last 12 months.

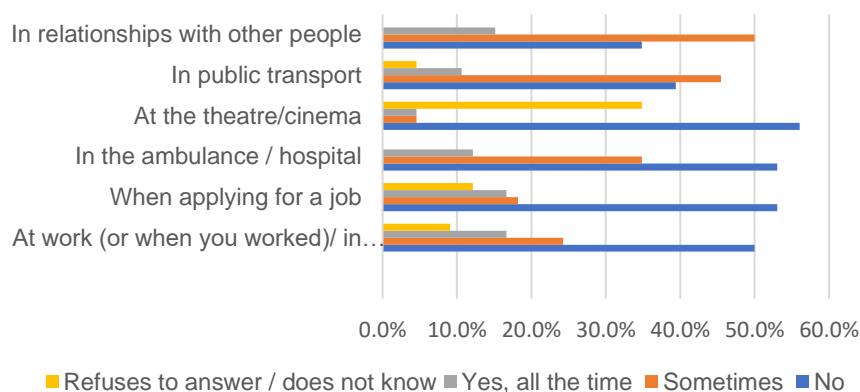
Graph 45. Feeling discriminated against



We have asked the respondents where they have felt discriminated and there are several institutions or situation which they have quoted. 40.9% of the respondents claimed that they have felt discriminated all the times or sometimes at work and children and school.

34.8% of these parents are felt discriminated when they were applying for job and 47% of them are discriminated at hospital or/and ambulances. There are 56% of the respondents that have felt discrimination at the public transport and

Graph 46. Felt discriminated in the everyday situations

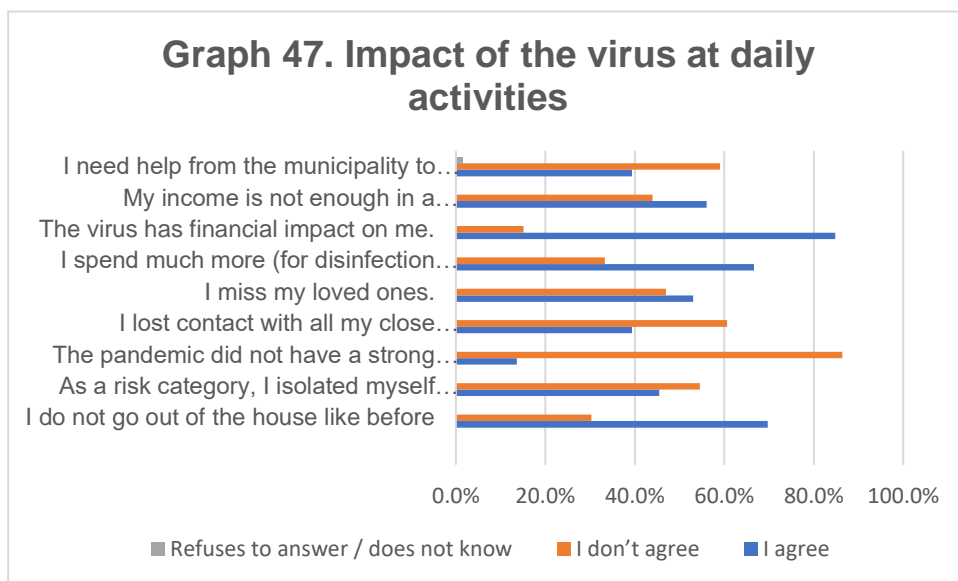


65.2 % in relation with other people. 97% of the respondents has ever reported an act of discrimination and 3% of them refused to answer.



4. Vulnerability to shocks – risk factor – COVID 19

The pandemic weighed heavily on the respondents' finances. 69.7% of respondents did not leave home as they did before the pandemic. 45.5% of them were isolated out of fear having children at a high risk category. Only 13.6% of the parents of these children admitted that the pandemic had a high impact on their mental health. While 39.4% of them lost contact with their close relatives and friends and 53% of them feel the absence of their loved ones. 66.7% of respondents admitted that they now spend more especially on disinfection gels, gloves and masks. Unanimously, 84.5% of families of children with disabilities admit that the virus has had a severe financial impact on them. 56.1% of them admit that incomes were not enough during the pandemic. While asked if they need help from the municipality for means of protection such as masks, gels, etc. 39.4% of them stressed this need.

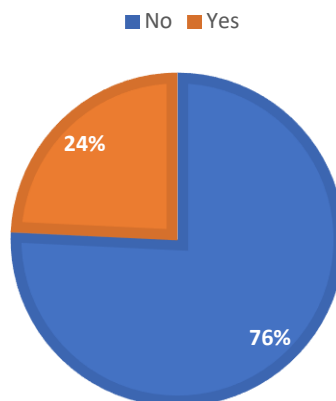


66.7% of respondents admitted that they now spend more especially on disinfection gels, gloves and masks. Unanimously, 84.5% of families of children with disabilities admit that the virus has had a severe financial impact on them. 56.1% of them admit that incomes were not enough during the pandemic. While asked if they need help from the municipality for means of protection such as masks, gels, etc. 39.4% of them stressed this need.

When asked related to the measures that was taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and how these measures affected them, contradictory answers were given by the respondents. The vast majority of the respondents have stated their physical activity and that of their children did not suffer any changes despite the limitations (71.2%); 65% of them felt lonely. 87.9% of the respondents were fearful they would get infected. From the respondents, 27.3% expresses that worsened the health of their children. Despite their optimistic attitude, only 16.7% of the respondents believe there will be a successful resolution to the situation.

Meanwhile related to savings, 75.8% of the respondents admitted they do not have savings they can use to resolve problems and issues caused by the coronavirus pandemic. 28.2% of the respondents admitted they have taken on debt to withstand the situation caused the pandemics.

Graph 48. Savings that can be used to alleviate the problems caused by the coronavirus situation



66.7% denied to have received financial assistance to deal with the coronavirus. The rest have received financial assistance but not from institutions but from family members

When asked what they need most and what the municipality should cover, 62.1% acknowledged the need for psychological support, 86.4% stressed the need for financial support, and 40.9% the need for additional medications and vitamins needed.

In additional, 83.3% of the respondents think that people with higher incomes and professions with higher status have a better chance of being protected because they have connections in public hospitals for faster treatment. Same, 83.3% of the respondents doesn't agree that very citizen of our country has the same opportunity to receive the necessary treatment. 48.5% of the parents/guardians of children with disabilities agree that they are marginalized but, despite this 47% of the respondents claim that the state has not forgotten them, and the local government cares about us as citizens

Following the analysis, below are presented in detail the main findings of the FGD, accompanied by: Conclusion and Recommendations as well as Recommendations in line with SDGs.

9. Focus group analysis – Children with disabilities

In the municipality of Patos were organized 3 focus groups with parents / guardians of children with disabilities. In general, in both organized focus groups, the findings and problems of parents / guardians of children with disabilities are the same.

These focus groups were intended to obtain information from parents of children with disabilities that it was not possible to interview by discussing with them all the risk factors included in this report.

Findings from Focus group 1:



The Focus Group was organised on March 31st, 2022 at 9:00 near the City Hall of Patos Municipality, with the participation of 8 parents of children with disabilities.

- This FGD was attended by parents from the city but also from rural administrative units.
- All the participating parents suffer from economic problems and the child's illness has made the situation more difficult;
- All the participants were unemployed and unregistered at the employment office, because they do not find jobs that suits to them both in terms of hours and pay. Opportunities are very limited within the municipality of Patos.;
- 100% of the parents received financial assistance from the state for the child but did not receive financial assistance as a Personal Assistant;
- Lack of proper logistics in transport makes it difficult to move with children;
- When they have to travel to Fier or Tirana, the costs increases more and families cannot afford it;
- During the COVID-19 period they did not receive additional financial assistance from the state but food packages from the municipality;
- The Municipality of Patos provides organized transport for 13 children to receive services in Fier, but none of the participants were beneficiaries of this service.
- The lack of a Centre for disabled children makes their lives very difficult.
- Supporting teachers in schools are not very functional, parents were not satisfied.
- School psychologists are absent or even when they (psychologists) cover some schools;

Findings from Focus group 2:

The Focus Group was organised on March 31st, 2022 at 11:00 near the City Hall of Patos Municipality, with the participation of 9 parents of children with disabilities.

- This FGD was attended by parents from the city and one from rural administrative unit.
- Most of the participating parents suffer from economic problems and the child's illness has made the situation more difficult;
- 60% of participants were unemployed and unregistered at the employment office;
- 90% of the parents received financial assistance from the state for the child but did not receive financial assistance as a Personal Assistant;
- Lack of proper logistics in transport makes it difficult to move with children;
- When they have to travel to Fier or Tirana, the costs increases more and families cannot afford it;
- Parents demand at least a refund from the municipality for transport with 5000 ALL per month;
- During the COVID-19 period they all drastically reduced their movements, had children's health crises. During this period, they did not receive additional financial assistance from the state but food packages from the municipality.



Social Mapping for Children with Disabilities in Patos Municipality During this period they have performed all medical visits of their

children in Tirana.

- The need for a daily centre was a must raised by parents.
- Parents are not satisfied with the supporting teachers in schools.
- Parents with children 0-6 years old cannot take their children to day-care or kindergarten because the law does not provide for a supportive teacher or educator, and for this reason they are obliged to keep them at home.
- The procedures for preparing the dossier for child support assistance are very lengthy and the required documentation is often impossible to collect;
- Parents request a change in the procedure for approving financial assistance for caregivers (Personal Assistant) for all families with children with disabilities.

As part of the information gathering, GADC also organized 1 focus group discussion with stakeholders. This FGD was attended by representatives of the Social Service, Social Centre for Children with Disabilities; Representatives from Education, Health, and Civil Society Organizations.

Main findings:

- The only centre that offers services for children with disabilities is the "Horizont" Centre in the municipality of Fier. This centre offers services thanks to a cooperation agreement with the municipality of Patos. Parents do not pay for these services and transportation is covered by the municipality. Only 13 children have benefited from this service.
- The infrastructure of educational institutions for people with disabilities is lacking in the municipality of Patos, highlighting here the existing buildings;
- No personal social assistance services are provided for children with disabilities;
- Each school has support teachers for this target group, but the service shows problems and although there are support teachers, there are no special classes for children with disabilities in Patos schools.
- There is a total lack of services for children with disabilities offered by municipality.
- There is no residential centre;
- There is no organized transport within the municipality, this is because the children of this target group are divided into different areas and it is impossible to coordinate means of transport;
- There is no institution in the municipality of Patos that provides professional care and support for food, clothing and health care if a child does not have the conditions for independent living;
- The Municipality does not have an SOS telephone number.
- In the municipality of Patos there are no clubs that offer socialization, entertainment or recreation for this target group;
- The number of psychologists in schools is low, having 1 psychologist per 700 students.
- There is 1 psychologist in the kindergartens, who attends once a week each kindergarten in the three administrative units of the municipality.



- Families of children with disabilities were not offered financial assistance by the municipality to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, but only food packages.
- In the territory of the municipality of Patos there are no associations representing persons with disabilities, to participate in decision-making processes, planning or monitoring the implementation of policies for this target group.

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

During the drafting of this Social Mapping, we managed to once again highlight the needs that this target group has. Families of children with disabilities have major financial problems, which often affect receiving medical visits or specialized services for children. This is especially true for children with disabilities in rural areas. In most families who have a child with these needs, one of the parents is always unemployed and forced to stay home to take care of the child. Social services, although present in this municipality, still do not meet all the daily needs of this target group or offer residential services. Young people with disabilities aged 16-18, cannot receive services in the Social Centre for this target group.

Specialized medical care is lacking, thus not only increasing the risk of children deteriorating but also increasing the cost of traveling to other municipalities to receive the service. None of the means of transport, public or private, has the minimum necessary conditions for children with disabilities. The financial assistance that this target group receives from the state in many cases does not even cover the basic needs of children, thus leading to significant shortcomings.

The quality of assistance provided by support teachers is not in all cases at the right level. As well as this help is often lacking especially in urban administrative units, as the number of teaching assistants is lower than the need of children and their number.

Main Recommendation:

- The municipality in cooperation with the Regional Directorate of Education should identify the number of support teachers and ensure that every child with disabilities receives daily assistance and according to the educational program.
- Establishment of a service centre in the territory of Patos municipality.
- The Municipality of Patos should provide a budget which will cover the organized transport of children who should receive specialized services outside their residential centres.
- As soon as possible and urgently, ramps should be built in those schools and health centres where they are missing.
- The municipality should control and oblige the public transport operators that their vehicles meet the logistical conditions for this category.
- Review of the law and recognition of years of service (of parents) for children for all categories of disability. Also, determination of working hours.
- Review the law and provide financial assistance to any parent who has children with disabilities and stays at home to care for them.



- Revision of the law on the appointment of assistant educators for children who must attend kindergarten.
- Providing home education for all children who cannot attend school.
- Reimbursement of all medicines for children with disabilities, and the inclusion in the reimbursement scheme of vitamins.
- Consider the possibility of setting up a soup kitchen within the territory of the municipality which offers at least one meal for children with disabilities suffering from extreme poverty.
- Providing psychological assistance to parents of rural administrative units who suffer from the burden of disability of children.
- Informing the general public and this category in particular about all services offered by the municipality to help children with disabilities.
- Establishment of active telephone number in the municipality (SOS line) where parents of children with disabilities can call for different needs.
- Providing patronage service for children with disabilities.

11. Recommendations in line with SDGs

Problem identification	SDG ⁸	Effect (Medium; Low; High)	Target	Indicator	Key institutions
Mos of targeted children with disabilities in addition to the disability that accompanies them all their lives, they also have other health problems that come as a result. The lack of specialized medical services for their disability near residential centres aggravates the situation even more. (Presented in% or descriptive in the Report)	SGD 3: Good Health and Well-Being	High	Target 3.8: By 2030 achieve universal health coverage including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specialized medical services for which children with disabilities. • Number of services added according as per above. • Number of children with disabilities who have benefited from specialized medical services near residential centers or within the municipality of Patos. • Number of children who benefits from Social Centers 	Ministry of Health and Social Protection; Municipality of Patos; Ministry of Finance and Economy.
	Recommendation 1: Providing specialized medical services				

⁸Here please specify which SDG is priority. Include 3 to 5 priority SDGs which point out to the respective policy areas where recommendations are provided and as per LNOB group.



	near residential centers.				
	Recommendation 2: Cost recovery in cases when these services must be obtained outside the municipality of Patos.				
	Recommendation 3: Setting up a Day Care Centre for children with disabilities as well as the establishment of a residential centre for children of this target group suffering from extreme poverty.				
Children with disabilities suffer the lack of proper logistics to access schools or kindergartens. Also the lack of a sufficient number of assistant teachers makes their progress in school difficult and they often interrupt the learning. Children with disabilities in the schools of rural administrative units remain problematic.	SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning	High	Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate identification of the number of support teachers; • Number of support and specialized teachers for children with disabilities. • The number of beneficiaries who 	Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Finance and Economy; Regional Education Directorate; All schools of Patos municipality and



			<p>effective learning outcomes</p> <p>Target 4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.</p>	<p>receive this service in a proper and uninterrupted manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of schools that meet the logistical criteria for children with disabilities. 	Municipality of Patos
	<p>Recommendation 1:Equipping with proper logistics for access to school for children with disabilities. Construction of ramps in all schools that lack this facility.</p>				
	<p>Recommendation 2: Review of the support curriculum for this target group and make available support</p>				



	teachers for each child with disabilities				
	Recommendation 3: Revision of the law on the appointment of assistant educators for children who must attend kindergarten				
Families of children with disabilities have large shortages of financial income. As many services for children are missing, in most of the cases one of the parents is forced to stay at home as unemployed. The financial assistance received by the state for children is quite low and does not meet basic needs. Also the number of parents who receive additional financial assistance as guardians is very low. After all, even in cases where parents receive financial assistance from the state, the years of service are not recognized as years of work for all categories of this target group. Thus missing the payment of basic health and social contributions.	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	High	<p>Target 10.1: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average</p> <p>Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of parents in the target group who will receive financial assistance from the state for child care. Changes in the legislation regarding the monthly fee that this target group benefits due to disability. Review of the law and recognition of years of service (of parents) for children for all categories of disability. 	Medical Commission for Assignment of Ability; Ministry of Health and Social Services; Ministry of Finance and Economy; Albanian Government.



			religion or economic or other status.		
	Recommendation 1: Review the law and provide financial assistance to any parent who has children with disabilities and stays at home to care for them.				
	Recommendation 2: Review the amount of financial assistance for this target group.				
	Recommendation 3: Review of the law and recognition of years of service (of parents) for children for all categories of disability. Also determination of working hours.				



Lack of logistics in means of transport is a major obstacle for children with disabilities. The lack of services near residential centers forces the families of this target group to undertake trips, often daily. But, both public and private transport do not provide the necessary conditions for these children. Also, the municipality of Patos does not provide organized transport for this target group for movements to receive services for all the children, thus increasing the costs of families of children with disabilities.	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. .	High	Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of public transport line operators that meet the necessary conditions for children with disabilities. • Budget item for transport organized by the municipality. • Number of children benefiting from the transport organized by the municipality 	Municipality of Patos; Public Transport operators.
	Recommendation 1: Obligation by the municipality for every public transport operator to meet the necessary conditions for children with disabilities.				
	Recommendation 2: Provision in the annual budget of the municipality of				



	Patos of a fund to cover transport for this target group, or the creation of organized transport according to administrative units.				
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