

Economic Research Center

**REPORT ON RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON THE SUBJECT OF
“ASSESSMENT OF THE FACTORS IMPACTING EFFICIENCY OF THE
TARGETED SOCIAL ASSISTANCE MECHANISM”**

Baku –May 2008

The first item of the questionnaire describes home economics characteristic, as well as the labor status of the family head. The impact of the family head's labor status on the eligibility of probability of family household's receipt of Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) has been assessed, using the logit model. It is worth noting that while shaping the logit model, the ERC Team used the results of the survey covering 200 families receiving TSA and another 200 families that were refused to receive TSA. The survey results were practicable: for example, the survey sketched that if the family head in the household appealing for TSA is incapable of work, the probability of receipt of the social assistance is very high – 91.4 percent. In addition, the probability of receipt of TSA by unemployed job seekers is 81.7 percent, while that as individuals not seeking work is 72.8 percent. The lowest percentage rates for the TSA receipt were observed among household heads employed by the private sector (0.6 pct) and self-employment activities (1.64 pct).

Table 1. Dependence of the probability of receipt of social assistance by the households making an application for TSA on the labor status of the household head (Logit model)

#	Labor status	Probability of receipt of TSA (%)
1	Piece-worker	0.564
2	Self-employed	0.164
3	Private labor activities	0.006
4	Persons on long-term leaves	0.472
5	Employed pensioners	0.516
6	Unemployed pensioners	0.233
7	Unemployed, but not seeking work	0.728
8	Unemployed, but seeking work	0.817
9	Incapacitated persons	0.914
10	Above active working age	0, .361

As it can be seen from the Table above estimated by the logit model, incapacitated persons, ununemployed, as individuals seeking work have the highest probability of receipt of TSA, while those employed by private labor activities have the lowest probability of receipt.

The survey conducted in Mingechevir Town assessed the awareness of households entitled and refused to receive social assistance. The answers to the survey question "How did you come to know about Targeted Social Assistance first?" were as following:

Table 2. Answers to the survey question “How did you come to know about Targeted Social Assistance first”

Informational channels	Attitude of households refused to receive TSA (%)	Attitude of households entitled to TSA (%)
TV	84.4	87.4
Radio	2.5	0.5
Newspapers and journals	4.5	1.0
Social network (neighbourhood)	6.0	10.1
Centers social protection of the population (Centers for social services)	1.5	1.0

As it can be seen from the Table above, the key source of information is TV.

Since 87.4 % of respondents receiving TSA and 84.4% of those refused to receive TSA said they could get the information from TV channels. The second informational channel is social network, neighborhood in particular. At the same time, 10.1% of the respondents entitled to TSA and 6% of respondents refused to receive TSA did specify the source. The most interesting point in the survey outcomes is associated with the centers for social services: 1 % of the respondents entitled to TSA and 1.5% of those rejected to receive TSA said they first got information from social workers and social centers.

Following are the forms of information the respondents entitled to and rejected to receive TSA get from:

Table 3. The form of information on social assistance households entitled and refused to receive TSA get from

Channels of information	Attitude of households refused to receive TSA (%)	Attitude of households entitled to TSA (%)
Information from person to person	86.1	95.3
Leaflets	2.5	1.6
Posters	1.0	1.6

Social rollers/commercials	32.3	1.0
Notices disseminated to companies or posted up on streets	0.5	0.5

As is seen from the Table, the significant majority of the population, or 95.3 per cent of respondents receiving TSA and 86.1 of respondents refused to receive TSA could get information from person to person in a broad social network - friends, neighbourhood, family, relatives. Besides, posters, stickers and other written materials were very popular. Only 0.5 per cent of both respondents could get information from notices disseminated to companies or posted up on streets.

Regarding the levels of understanding of social assistance issues, the respondents receiving TSA answered as following:

Table 4. Assessment of the level of information beneficiaries have about their eligibility for targeted social assistance and services

	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Dissatisfied	Have difficulty to express a position
It is clear	90.3%	5.1%	3.1%	1.5%
It is full	86.8%	9.1%	3.0%	1.0%
It conforms to reality	86.8%	9.1%	3.0%	1.0%

As is seen from the Table, the significant majority of respondents answered in these ways: "it is clear", "it is full", "it conforms to reality". Since the answer "it is clear" took 90.3 per cent of the survey vote compared to 86.8 per cent going to the questions "it is full", "it conforms to reality". And 5.1 per cent of respondents were somewhat (partly) satisfied with the answer "it is clear", while 9.1 per cent with the questions "it is full", "it conforms to reality". Insignificant portion of respondents were dissatisfied with the three questions.

Regarding the levels of understanding of social assistance issues, the respondents refused to receive TSA answered as following:

Table 5. Assessment of the level of information the respondents refused to receive TSA have about their eligibility for targeted social assistance and services

	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Dissatisfied	I have difficulty to express a position
It is clear	97%	2%	0.5%	0.5%
It is full	70.5%	29%	0%	0.5%
It conforms to reality	94%	4.5%	0.5%	1.0%

The respondents refused to receive TSA also indicated that the information was clear, full and conformed to reality. 97 per cent of respondents were OK with the clarity of information, 70.5 per cent with completeness of information, 94 per cent with conformance to reality. In fact, the item “dissatisfied” was almost skipped by all of the respondents.

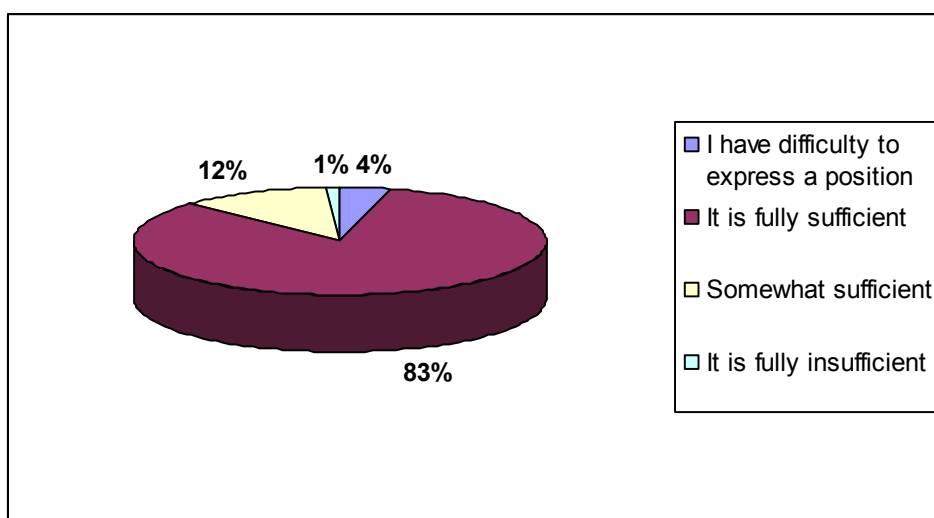
In case respondents entitled and refused to receive TSA are dissatisfied with the level of first information obtained, over half (56.3 per cent) of respondents appeal to the Centers for Social Protection of the Population, 29.2 per cent learn through social contacts (friends, relatives...). The remainder of respondents rely mostly on TVs, newspapers, etc.

The survey analysis revealed that 82.2 per cent of respondents are eager to get additional information mostly about “documents required.”

The split of the question “What about do you want to get information most?” is as following: "the amount of social assistance" – 47.5 per cent, "eligibility conditions" – 8.4 per cent, "rules for income calculation" – 4.5 per cent, "where to submit documents"-1 per cent.

Answers to the question “Do social rollers/commercials broadcasted on TV channels coincide with the rules you have learned from the Centers for Social Protection of the Population?” could be seen in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Answers to the question “Do social rollers/commercials broadcasted on TV channels coincide with the rules you have learned from the Centers for Social Protection of the Population?”



As is seen from the Figure, the predominant part, or 83 per cent of the respondents indicated the social rollers broadcasted on TV channels coincide with the rules against only 12 per cent who answered “partly” and 4 per cent who had difficulty to express a position, while the share of those who answered that the social rollers “fail to meet the rules” is insignificant – 1 per cent.

Mingechevir-born respondents entitled to receive TSA have assessed as following the notice boards placed in the Centers Social Protection of the Population.

Table 6. Assessment of notice boards placed in the Centers Social Protection of the Population

	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very satisfied	I have difficulty to express a position
Clear	3.1%	39.5%	0%	56.9%	0.5%
Placed duly	3.1%	1.0%	30.8%	64.6%	0.5%
Fully reflects the process	42.3%	1.5%	7.2%	48.5%	0.5%

As it can be seen, the predominant part replied to the first two items (“clear” and “placed duly”) “satisfied”, yet the answer to the item “fully reflects the process” was different. Since 48.5 per cent of surveyed people were satisfied with the opinion that the notice boards fully reflect the process against 42.3 per cent of those who answered “dissatisfied”.

The answer to the next question focused on clarity of TSA eligibility process can be logical continuation of the above-mentioned opinion. Answers to the question “Does your family receive Targeted Social Assistance. Do you understand eligibility conditions” are: 47.9 per cent “Fully”, 45.9 per cent “Partly” and 6.2 per cent “Somewhat”.

In response to the question “What else would you like to know about TSA?”, 80.7 per cent of respondents in Mingechevir indicated “assessment of incomes”. The other chapter of the book details why assessment of incomes is so important for respondents. Since survey outcomes showed that some residents of Mingechevir whose income rate exceeded the need criterion were entitled to TSA. We have mentioned this problem as the “error of inclusion” for TSA mechanism, and we will further re-dwell on the issue.

Regarding the second significant issue the respondents are interested in, data indicate that the majority, or 42.6 per cent of the population want to get information about documents, while only 1.5 per cent of those who answered the question were interested in restrictions.

In response to the question "What do you think when social assistance is refused?", 96 per cent of respondents indicated “when the level of incomes is higher than the need criteria“. Next questions are split as following: in case the family own a mobile phone– 0.5 per cent, false and incomplete information and documents about the number of the members in the family composing the same household and their incomes are presented -3 per cent, the family buy an apartment/home or a car or conduct purchase transactions three-fold higher than the monthly income on average, 6 months prior to appealing for social assistance – 5.4 per cent, the family have two apartments/homes 30.7 per cent, the family pay school fee - 2 per cent, the family use a vehicle with 20 years of manufacture on the day of application (excluding vehicle means provided by the State for rehabilitation purposes) - 4 per cent, the family raise a credit regardless of its amount – 5.4 per cent, the family have a land plot - 3 per cent, the family in rural areas are provided with a cow, five sheep per capita, or more (or conditional livestock) – 13.4 per cent. The answers showed that those receiving social assistance know well ‘what to do’ in order not to be deprived of it.

In response to the question “What restrictions are applied when determining TSA”, 52.3 per cent said "penalty", 41.1 per cent - "suspension of assistance and repayment of the sum, 0.5 per cent - "loss of rights to entitlement to social assistance within two years", 6.1 per cent - "complete loss of rights to entitlement to social assistance". The exact level of answers speaks of necessity to increase public awareness in this sphere.

In response to the question "Which of the family members must receive TSA?", the predominant part, or 83 per cent of the respondents gave false answers: since 78.2 per cent indicated that the elders can present the household against 21.2 per cent who answered “one working member in the family”. Only 0.5 per cent of respondents showed “any adult member who has employment can represent the household”. In other words, out of 200, only one respondent answered correctly.

In response to the question "Which families are eligible for social assistance?", about half, or 52.5 per cent of respondents answered correctly. Since the present level of need is 40 manats. Another half of those interviewed answered incorrectly: 30.7 per cent said "families where their heads are jobless", 41.6 per cent "families with children", 9.9 per cent -"families with disabled members.

The survey in Mingechevir also assessed the application process and conduct of social officers. In this respect, the cost of the reference to receive TSA has been calculated against time and financial factors. Surevy analysis showed that those receiving TSA collected about 7 documents. The respondents could receive social assistance in case of presenting maximum 16 documents, minimum 1 document.

Table 8. Frequency of documents collected for receipt of TSA

Number of documents collected	Number of persons	Share (%)
1	1	0,5
3	12	6,0
4	4	2,0
5	35	17,6
6	21	10,6
7	50	25,1
8	32	16,1
9	14	7,0
10	12	6,0
11	7	3,5
12	5	2,5
13	2	1,0
14	1	0,5
15	1	0,5
16	2	1,0

So, 25.1 per cent of respondents represented 7 documents, 17.6 per cent 5 documents, 16.2 per cent 8 documents in order to receive social assistance, while 1 per cent said they presented 16 documents. 0.5 per cent said 15 and another 0.5 per cent said 14 documents.

Table 9. Days spent on complete collection of documents

Number of days spent on document collection	How often it occurs	Split of days (%)
1	22	11
2	61	30,5
3	47	23,5
4	9	4,5
5	16	8
6	2	1
7	6	3
8	1	0,5
9	2	1
10	22	11
15	2	1

20	2	1
30	7	3,5
40	1	0,5

It is obvious from processing of the responses given to the question “How many days did you spend for fully collecting of the documents?” that Mingachevir population receiving TSA have spent average 5.1 says to receive this assistance. Of the persons from whom his opinion was asked, 1 person collected the documents for 40 days and 22 persons for 1 day. As seen from the table, 30.5 per cent of the respondents could collect the documents for two days and 23,5 per cent for 3 days. 7 per cent respondents succeeded in collecting the documents for 30 days and 1 per cent for 20 days.

But the persons refused TSA have spent 5.8 days for collecting 6.8 documents average for the purpose to get assistance.

State-linked entities	Per cent
Public utilities office	87.5
Notary's office	2.3
Executive power	1.1
Other	9.1

The persons to whom TSA was assigned have also shown “in which agencies they faced with more problems” most when collecting 7 documents for 5.1 days average: Apartment exploitation area (AEA) had occasion to be “leader”. By the way, this question was answered by only 88 persons of 200 respondents. 77 persons (87.5 per cent) of 88 respondents receiving TSA that expressing their opinion said that they had faced with problem in AEA. 2 respondents (2.3 per cent) spoke about their problem in notary office, and 1 respondent (1.1 per cent) in administrative office when receiving document. But 8 persons of the respondents (9.1 per cent) complained that they met with bureaucratic obstacle in other organizations.

The persons receiving TSA mentioned “the problems with which they mainly faced” when collecting document.

The persons saying “In general, the process is long” was 40 per cent. 3 percent considered as problem “waiting in turns”, 2 per cent “request of extra money other than official due”, 1 per cent “non-competency and non-organizing”, and 0.5 per cent “rudeness, carelessness and irresponsibility of employees”. 6 per cent of TSA receiving persons replied this question “No problem”.

69 of 200 TSA receiving persons whose opinion was asked on the question “Did you pay money when collecting document? If yes, how much, approx?”, in other word, 34 per cent answered “official duty”, even they showed the average amount of “official due” obligations: 1.8 manats. 5 persons (2,5 per cent) paid average 2.2 manats “for copying”, 2 persons (1 per cent) average 2 manats “for gifts to employees”, 14 persons (7 per cent) average 2.5 manats “for covering transport expenses” and 31 persons (15,3 per cent) average 2.2 manats for other expenses.

Table 11. In which agencies you paid extra money to the employees to speed up the process of

issuing documents

State-linked entities	Number of persons	Per cent
Public utilities office	70	82,4
Notary's office	12	14,1
Executive power	1	1,2
Other	2	2,4

85 persons of 202 respondents receiving state assistance did not hide "in which agencies they paid extra money to the employees to speed up the process of issuing documents". Apartment-exploitation areas lead "black list" again (34.7 per cent). 12 persons (5.9 percent) admitted that they had given bribe in notary office and 1 person (0,5 per cent) in executive power.

The survey also cleared up how much the application of the social assistance receiving persons costs. According to the results from the answers received to the question "How much money did you spend money for collecting documents approx?", the respondents had expended average 2.4 manats to this direction.

To receive state assistance, 94 persons (49 per cent) of the respondents made efforts to have the documents registered" 1 time, 52 persons (25.7 per cent) 2 times, 38 (18.8 per cent) 3 times, 8 (4 per cent) more times. When submitting the documents finally, the respondents lost average 43 minutes in turns. 25.7 per cent of the respondents did not mention any turn.

To the question "Have you been given notice on acceptance of your documents in Center of People's Social Protection", 77 per cent answered "Yes" and 23 per cent "No".

The TSA receiving persons notified that average 51,6 days passed "from the day they submitted documents up to the declaration of decision o the Commission". 1 person of the respondents waited 150 days the longest period and 1 person 1 day the less period. The most common waiting case was 60 days. 67 persons (33 per cent) of 200 TSA receiving respondents had to wait just for this period.

91.6 per cent of the respondents from Mingachevir to whose address state assistance is sent, evaluated "attitude of the officer receiving the documents" "well" mainly. Behaviors of the commission members were evaluated "well" by 89 per cent. 93.3 per cent of the persons responding the question "How do you evaluate the professional level of the employees of the Center of People's Social Protection", said "they were comprehensive informed", 3.1 per cent "They answered all questions completely and in detail", 3.1 per cent "though they could not answer the questions in many cases, they informed after verifying them".

Table 12. How do you value the attitude of the officer receiving your documents?

Attitude	Number of cases	Per cent
Good	185	91,6
Somewhat satisfied	9	4,5
Bad	1	0,5

I have difficulty to express a position	1	0,5
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As seen from the information in the table, the attitude of the officer receiving the documents was evaluated “well” by 91.6 per cent of the respondents. The attitude of the officer receiving the documents was evaluated “mid” by 4.5 per cent of the respondents and “bad” by 0.5 per cent. 0.5 per cent respondent was in difficult to answer this question.

To the question “What were the main problems you faced with in the Center of People’s Social Protection”, 40.1 per cent answered “waiting in turns”. 5 per cent considers that “Receiving of documents is mixed, it is necessary to prepare a number of documents”. 2 per cent complained “higher amount of the official duties during document collection”.

69.9 per cent of the respondents whose opinion was asked to the question “How can You participate when TSA is assigned?” answered “by forming community based control”, 28.9 per cent “by evaluating needs of the neighbors” and 1.5 per cent “in other form”.

The persons agreeing with the period of TSA assignment were 19.9 per cent of the respondents. 80.1 per cent answered “the period should be extended”.

Totally 20.3 per cent expressed decisive positive opinion on increasing opportunities to receive TSA by raising need level. The persons answering “will partly increase” to this question were 66.5 per cent, the persons saying “Inflation will limit this opportunity” were 7.6 per cent, the persons in the position “it won’t have any impact” were 0.5 per cent. 5.1 per cent answered “don’t know” to this question.

Table 13. “On which level the need criteria to receive TSA should be determined?”

Attitude	Number of cases	Per cent
The present level of 40 manats is acceptable.	35	17.9
The need criteria must be adjusted to subsistence level	92	46.9
The need criteria must be higher than subsistence level	50	25.5
I have difficulty to express a position	19	9.7

It became obvious from the answers of the respondents receiving this assistance to the question “On which level the need level to receive TSA should be determined?” that the most of them support to make this level equal to poverty limit or to determine higher than it. Generally, 72.4 per cent of the respondents are in this conclusion. But 17.9 per cent of the survey participators said that the present level of 40 manats is acceptable. It shows that the TSA receiving persons also live lower than the poverty level.

In the survey, the income level and structure of the families refusing TSA were also evaluated. It became clear that 79.1 per cent of the incomes was formed from employment, 3.3 per cent from pension, 0.8 per cent from allowance (assigned by the President), 5.7 per cent from pension for age, 4.8 per cent from pension for disability (in the important cases, separately noting), 3.5 per cent from sale of domestic items and 2.8 per cent from other sources. Average monthly income of the families refusing TSA was 100.9 manats. Average number of the refused families was 3.8 and average income per capita was 27.4 manats. The statistic analysis indicated that in relation to refusal from TSA assignment, average monthly income of 79 per cent of this type respondents per capita was lower than the criteria of need (40 manats). Just offside in the TSA mechanism should also be sought within this segment.

To the question “Do you know about the people in need but not able to receive TSA?”, 38.2 per cent of the respondents answered “yes”, 61.8 per cent “no”.

Table 14. Intensity of the information of the people in need but not able to receive TSA (in %)

Organization name	Per cent
It became popular	18.9
It happens rarely	81.1

To the question “If you have information of the people in need but not able to receive TSA, how intensive is this case?”, 18.9 per cent of the said respondents said “it became popular”, 81.1 per cent “it happens rarely”.

In the survey, the income level and structure of the respondents receiving TSA was evaluated. Public opinion about this was studied.

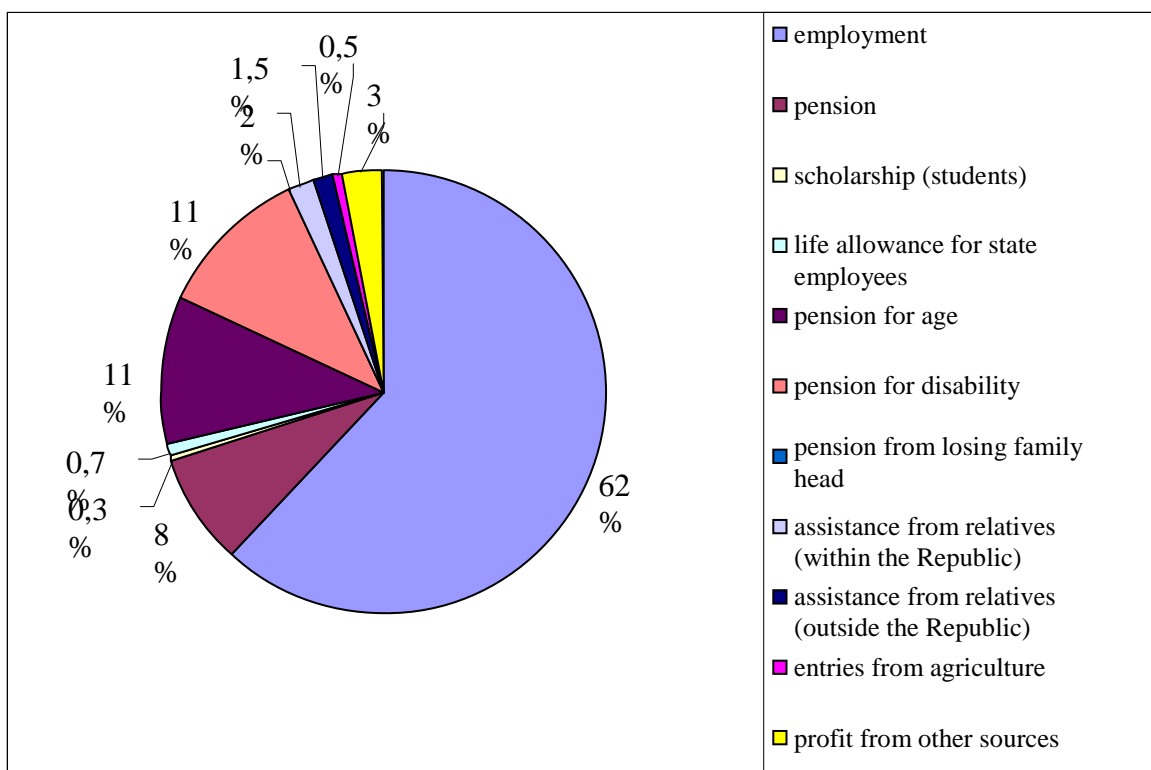


Figure 2. Structure of the incomes of the respondents receiving TSA (in %)

It became clear that 62.4 per cent of the incomes are provided from employment. In formation of incomes, pension for age was 10.7 per cent, pension for disability 10.7 per cent, pension 8.6 per cent, assistance from relatives (within the Republic) 1.6 per cent, assistance from relatives (outside the Republic) 1.3 per cent, life allowance for state employees 0.7 per cent, scholarship (students) 0.3 per cent, entries from agriculture 0.3 per cent, profit from other sources 3.4 per cent.

Average income of domestic farms receiving TSA and involved to the survey was 75.3 manats. Taking into account that average number of domestic farms that participate in the survey is equal to 3.6 persons, then the income per capita in the families receiving TSA will be 21 manats. For comparison, note that the income per capita in the families receiving social assistance is 2 times lower than the need criteria – 40 manats to assign TSA, adopted in 2007. However, it became clear in the process of the survey that all of

the persons receiving TSA do not get income less than 40 manats per capita monthly at all. Special weight of the persons whose income per capita is higher than 40 manats in domestic farms from whom asked their opinion and to whom TSA was assigned was 12.9 per cent. To receive TSA with income per capita more than the need criteria may be characterized as entry mistake.

The next question to the population of Mingachevir receiving TSA was as follows: “Do You have any information of the people not in need but receiving TSA?”. 46.4 per cent said “yes”, 53.6 per cent “no”.

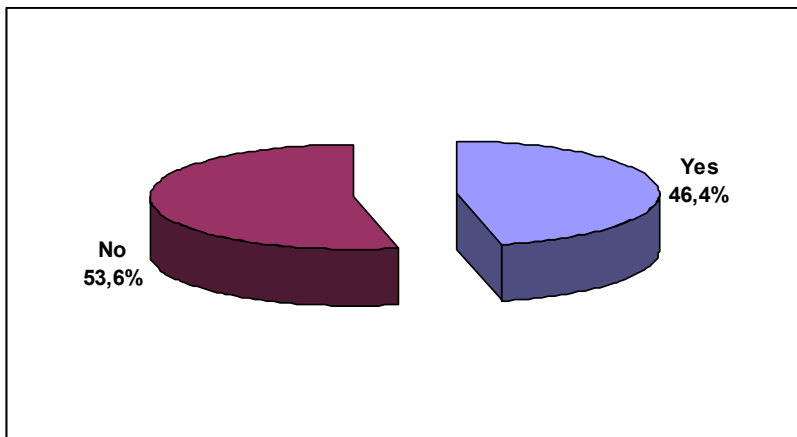


Figure 3. Structure of the answers given to the question “Do You have any information of the people not in need but receiving TSA?” (in %)

According to 78.5 per cent of the said respondents, TSA receiving of the persons not in need occurs in rare cases, according to 21.5 per cent, “it has become popular case”.

The answers to the question “Which one of the followings plays greater role when assigning TSA?” were as follows: “The process is carried within law” – 78.4 per cent, “Relationship and familiarity” – 17.5 per cent, “Illegal payments” – 3.1 per cent, “Illegal payments” – 3.1 per cent.

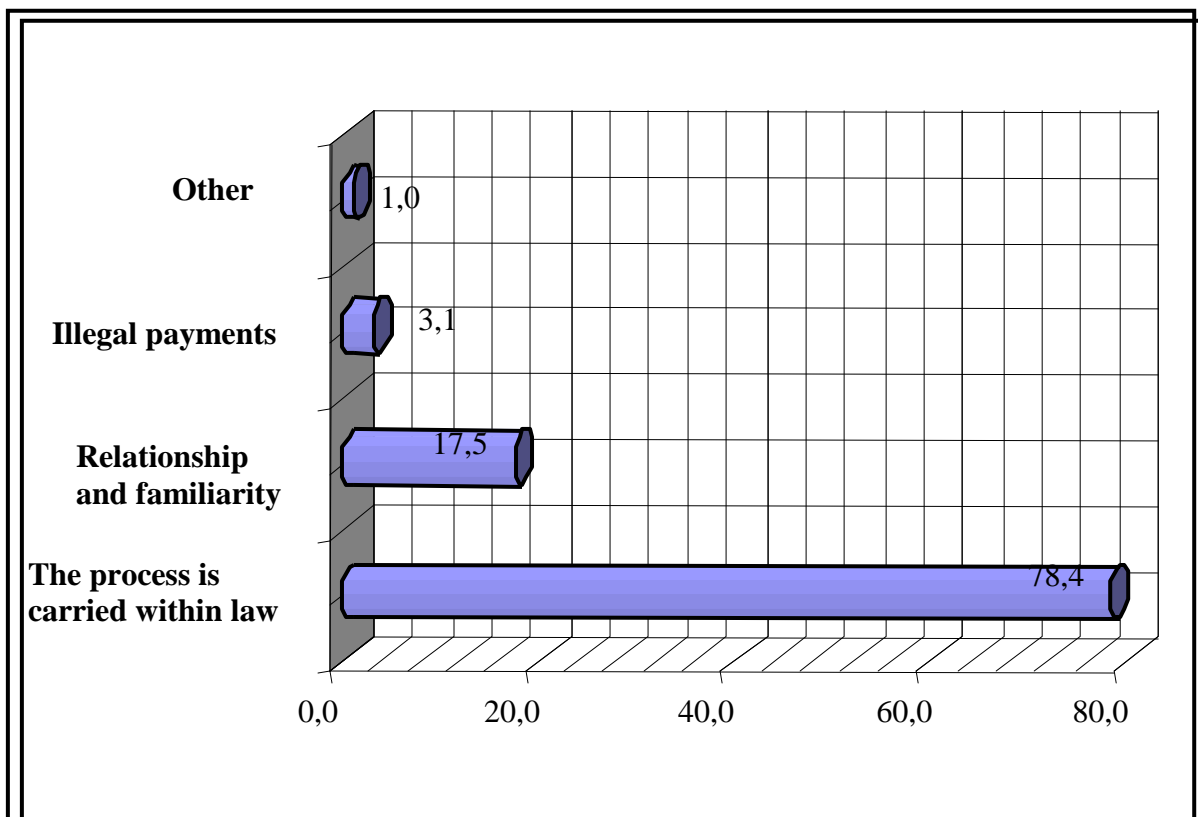


Figure 4. The reasons playing more role in assigning TSA (in %)

Coming to “The reasons of assigning TSA to the persons not in need”, 71.3 per cent of the persons receiving social assistance that notified their opinion took “Hiding of TSA receiving person his/her information” argument as base, 13.8 per cent “Non-objectivity of the official persons that assign TSA”, 3.4 per cent “Non-professionalism of the official persons that assign TSA”, and 11.5 per cent “other” arguments.

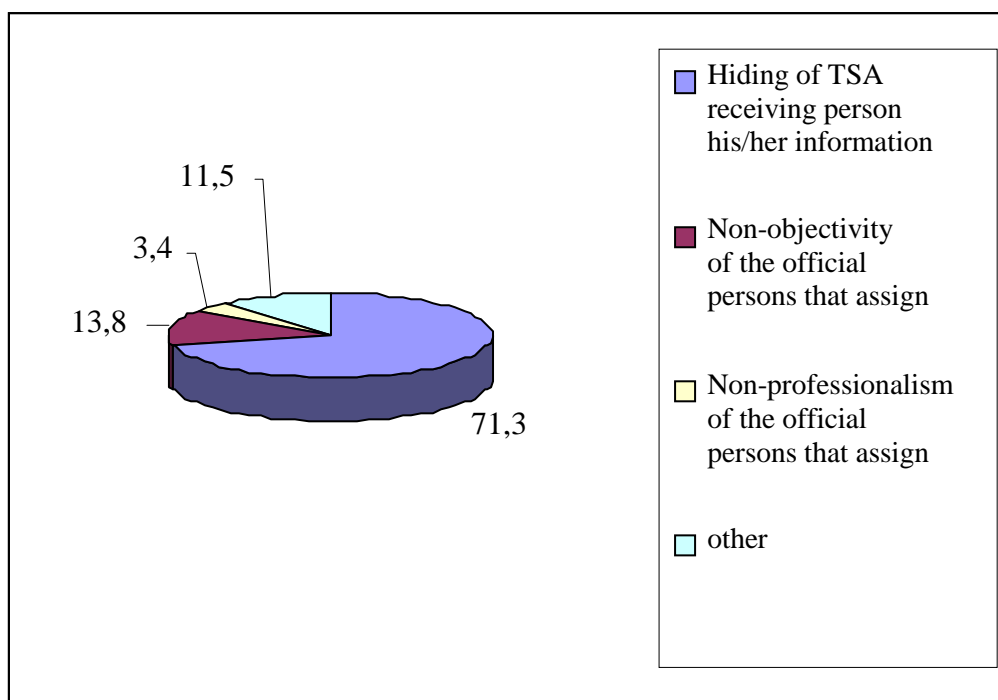


Figure 5. Reasons of assigning TSA to the persons not in need (in %)

Most of the respondents (90.8 per cent) receiving social assistance connected “the reasons of not assigning TSA to the persons in need” with “unawareness”. 1 per cent respondent saw the reason in “non-objectivity of the agencies assigning TSA”, 2.6 per cent in “non-professionalism of the agencies assigning TSA”, 1.5 per cent in “no confidence of the people feeling need to TSA to the Center of People’s Social Protection” and 4.1 per cent in other issues.

The persons refused TSA grounded the reason of refusal by the following arguments: Refusal from job offered by employment – 81.4 per cent; higher level of incomes than need criteria – 14.2 per cent; mis-indication of incomes or members of family members – 3.8 per cent; other – 0.5 per cent. However, refusal from employment may not be considered just as the main reason for not granting TSA. Because refusal from employment is mainly related to objective factors: 63.5 per cent refused from employment just because of non-conformity of the offered job to the specialty, but 34.6 per cent did not work because of less salary amount. So, taking refusal from the officially offered employment as base, not assigning TSA violates social justice. The survey held in Mingachevir showed that incomes per capita of 79 per cent of the families to whom TSA was refused to assign are lower than the need criteria.

0.6 per cent of the households receiving TSA is able to save timely, 14.7 per cent is able to save now and then and 84.6 per cent is not able to save at all.

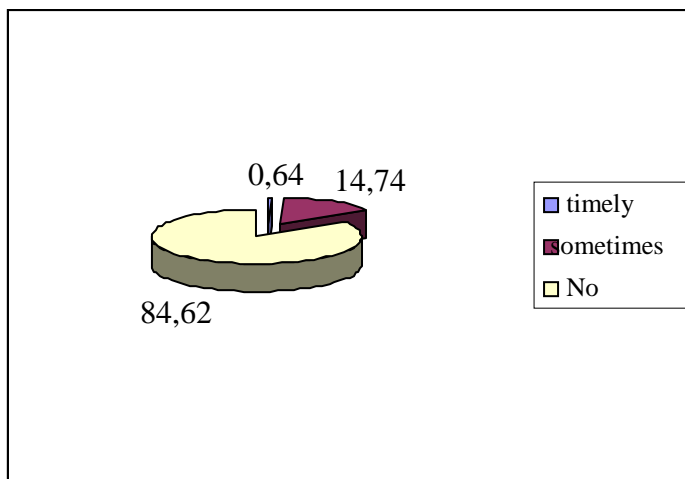


Figure 6. Savings by families (in %)

Monthly expenditures of the families receiving TSA were also evaluated. Interestingly, while average income of the families receiving social assistance is 75.3 manats, they showed their average monthly expenses 103.1 manats. So, monthly “budget deficit” of the domestic farms was recorded 27.8 manats. Average monthly expense per capita in the families to whom social assistance is assigned is 28.6

manats. Notably, expenses of 26.7 per cent of the families receiving TSA was higher than the need criteria.

As can be seen from the Figure, the main expenses of the families receiving TSA are associated with food. Since 80.4 per cent of respondents indicated food expenditures as main costs. 7 per cent of respondents noted bills for electricity, 4.7 per cent medical treatment and medicines, and 2.7 per cent payment of natural gas fee. The less costs are related to alcohol, tobacco, communication and apartment expenses.

Besides these expenditures, 45 per cent of the persons receiving TSA whose opinion were learnt had unexpected expenses in the last 3 months, too (burial, treatment, etc). The answers to the questions "How did you cover these expenses?" was as follows: borrowed familiar persons and relatives – 95 per cent, sold property – 1 per cent, left property as deposit – 1 per cent, will pay later on – 1 per cent, other – 2 per cent.

The answers to the question "Did your family face with limitation in buying bread, potato, vegetable, fruit other similar products in the last month?" was as follows: No – 11.6 per cent, limitation for resource deficit – 84.7 per cent, limitation for other reasons – 4.3 per cent.

Table 15. Split of the answers to the question "Which of the opinions below coincides with the condition of your family?" by 400 respondents in Mingechevir

Organizations	Split of answers (%)
We can hardly buy food	39.0
We can only buy food, but cannot purchase clothes, medicines for our children	32.0
We can buy food, clothes and meet their basic needs	25.1
Sometimes we can spend money for leisure, buy home appliances	1.3
We have enough funds to live in a normal way	2.6

69.2 per cent of respondents receiving social assistance indicated that they could hardly buy food. Next are 18.3 per cent, who stated they can only buy food, but cannot purchase clothes, medicines for their children. 11.4 per cent of those who answered the question said they could buy food, clothes and meet their basic needs, while 1.1 per cent said sometimes they could use them for leisure, buy home appliances.

In general, the survey showed that only 2.6 per cent of respondents had enough money to live in a normal way. The rest answers were splitted as following: we can hardly buy food - 39 per cent; we can only buy food, but cannot purchase clothes, medicines for our children – 32.1 per cent; we can buy food, clothes and meet our basic needs -25.1 per cent; sometimes we can spend money for leisure, buy home appliances – 1.3 per cent.

The results show that social grouping in Mingechevir is in the form of a pyramid. Only just 2.6 per cent is at the top. In general, the grouping on the basis of self-assessment of poverty shapes the Azerbaijan society as a pyramid, with only minor proportion at the top, i.e. “rich”, 58.4 per cent in the middle (who can only buy food, but cannot purchase clothes, medicines for their children – 32 per cent; who can buy food, clothes and meet their basic needs -25.1 per cent; who sometimes can spend money for leisure, buy home appliances – 1.3 per cent), and finally, 39 per cent of people towards and close to the bottom.

It should be noted that although the figure of middle section is higher, it is more tended in poverty on one hand. Indifference of rich families to such surveys has somewhat impacted survey results and outcomes in fact.

Respondents receiving TSA indicated that they need about AZN 283 to meet their average living standards. Nevertheless, the monthly salary paid to them is AZN 75.3 on an average. Survey analysis in Mingechevir revealed that average TSA paid to recipients is AZN 49 per family. The minimal and maximum rates of TSA are AZN 9 and AZN 160, respectively.

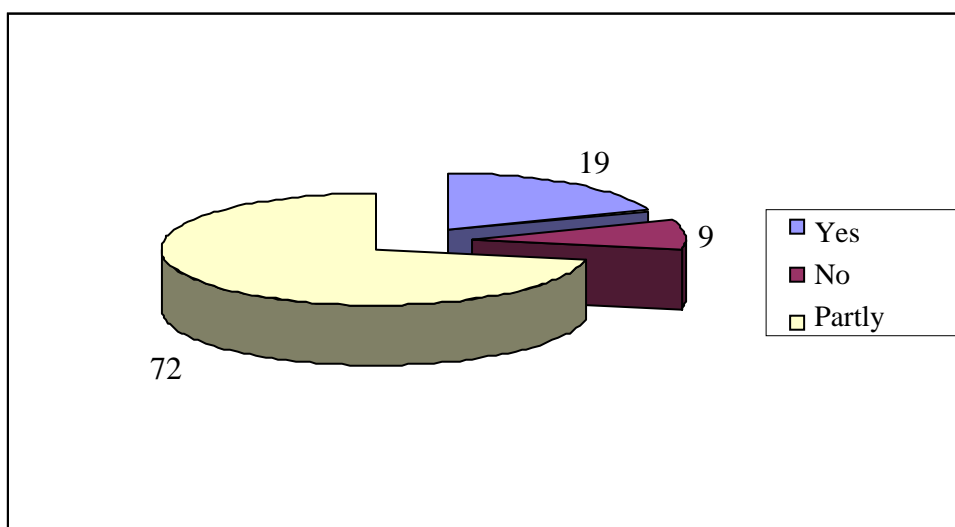


Figure 7. TSA impact on family budget (in percentage terms).

About 19 per cent of the respondents said TSA had a significant impact on their family budget. The majority, or 72 per cent of respondents assessed TSA “partly”. And 9 per cent indicated social assistance had no impact on family budget. The survey answers are clearly explained by the minimum of social assistance they desire as well as fourfold the difference in the average income for each household.

In response to the question "What would you buy first if you receive social assistance?", about one third (32.5 per cent) of respondents receiving TSA stated they could spend them for medical treatment and medicines for family members, 5.2 per cent pay rental fees, 15.7 per cent bills for electricity, water and other household expenses. 22 per cent of those who answered the question will use such social assistance to buy only bread, sugar, tea, 8.9 per cent will afford buying some meat, in addition to bread, sugar and tea, 15.7 per cent pay bills for household expenses, in addition to bread, sugar and tea.

Figure 8. Distribution of the answers to the question "If you are not satisfied with the amount of TSA, then how much per capita TSA would be enough to satisfy your daily needs?" (%).

As is seen from the Figure, AZN 70 took 59.4 per cent of the survey vote compared to 17.8 per cent going to AZN 60, 18.3 per cent to AZN 50. Similarly, 4.1 and 0.5 per cent of the respondents, respectively, said the current AZN 40 and AZN 45 were enough to satisfy their needs.