



**“When your neighbor is a copper and gold mining enterprise – an impact of RICH METALS GROUP
on women's lives in borough Kazreti”**

Bolnisi Municipality (borough Kazreti)

2018

About Information Research

The research organization is/ the researcher.

Organization: Non-Commercial Legal Entity “Kvemo Kartli Media”

Researcher: Manon Bokuchava

The research has been prepared within the project financed by the organization "Women's Fund in Georgia."¹

The goal of the research is: to study the impact of the enterprise RMG activities on women living in borough Kazreti; Identify the problems of women living in borough Kazreti;

Research period: from February 15 to July 20, 2018.

Area of research: borough Kazreti

Research Subject:

The research is aimed at revealing the impact of RMG's (Rich Metals Group) activity on women living in borough Kazreti. The questionnaire includes the following directions:

- Labour of women living in the household in borough;
- Their work in the creation of livelihood;
- Employment;
- We are interested in women working in RMG, with their labour terms, health insurance, an attitude towards them and the payment of women and men;
- What and how has changed by working of RMG in their borough;
- How is the health condition of the locals;
- How do they think about the impact of the enterprise on them;
- According to their assessment, whether the enterprise has a social responsibility towards the population;
- How secure they are, what kind of difficulties they have as a result of an enterprise's work;
- How do they think it is safe to raise the children in the borough;

¹ <https://www.womenfundgeorgia.org/ka/Main>

- What are their major daily problems;
- If they could what they will change about the approaches of RMG (in terms of employment, responsibilities towards the workforce and etc.);
- How they will assess the attitude of the central and local authorities towards their problems.

Methodology: We use the quantitative research method. The questionnaire consists of open and closed questions. Respondents are women: under 18-55 years old.

Number of respondents 100.

Aspects of selection: Age definition; and place of employment [this approach was selected only to get acquainted with the RMG staff assessments in the research. There was not any other way of employment in determining the selection].

Field control: After completion of the field, forms required checking have been selected by the random sampling principle, which amounted to 7% of the total number. The verification was carried out by the visiting at the address indicated in the form.

The assessments of the local civil sector around the issues are also presented in the research, for what purpose the Focus-group took place in Bolnisi. We requested an information from the following state and private offices regarding to the topic of research: Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Bolnisi Board of Management, the Enterprise (Rich Metals Group).

The information provided by relevant offices encloses the research.

Overview of the current situation:

4 340 citizens live in borough Kazreti district of Bolnisi Municipality by the general census of population in 2014. Among them there are 2 119 men and 2 221 women. The gold and copper mine and combine has been functioning in borough Kazreti since 1975, which has been operating by JSC "Madneuli" for years. The owner of the enterprise became the Russian Company Rich Metals Group (RMG) in 2012.

The negative information spreads in the society in two directions, in the past towards Madneuli, now towards RMG. First, an ecological damage to the environment by the enterprise, the second is

the hard working condition and low salaries for the staff. The enterprise workers, only part of which are local residents, go on strike periodically. The largest of these strikes followed by the strike in borough was held in 2014² The shops, schools and kindergarten went on strike in borough. People who were attending the strike or the people who were walking in the streets of borough, they noted that the main problem is difficult working conditions in the enterprise, the carelessness from the government and the social inequality in Kazreti.

Comments of the participants of the strike;

"Trucks loaded with ore are passing by here, also loaded with lime. It brings a terrible dust in the heat.";³

"Who came, brought his/her relative and the local person became oppressed";

"Which child was cursed by the mother, all came in Kazreti";

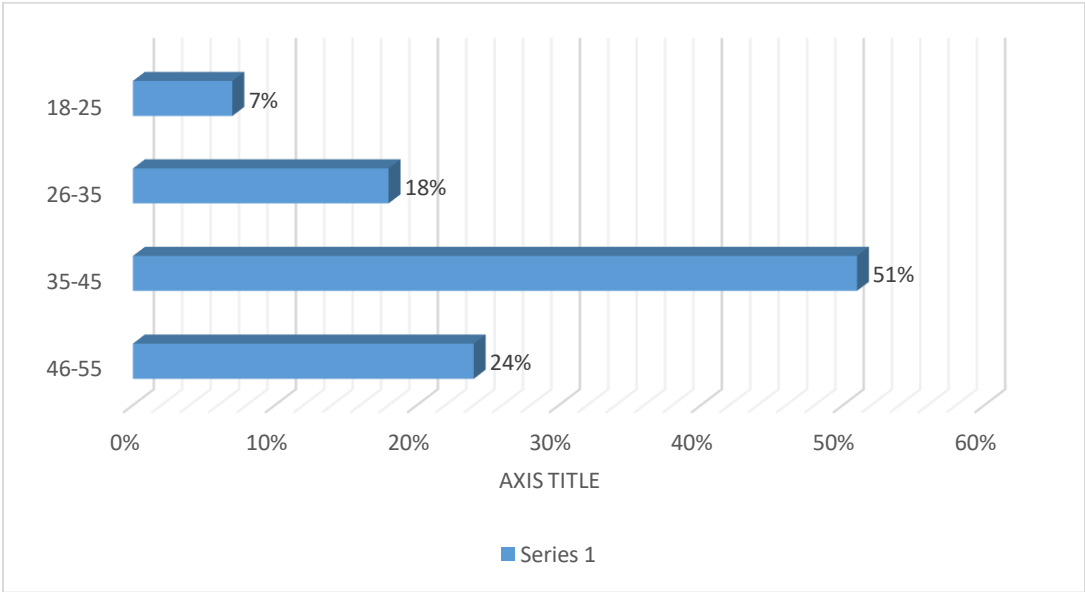
Also, the focus is the impact of RMG's activities on the environment. According to the latest research⁴ of "The Scientific Research Platform of Green Policy", which studies the issue in this regard, we read that there is an increase of toxic metals compared to the maximum permissible concentration in the soil of the village Bolnisi Municipality.

The Public Defender talks about the existence of ecological situation in Bolnisi Municipality, in the parliamentary report dated 2017 is noted that thorough epidemiological researches must be conducted in Bolnisi Municipality, to identify the specific risk factors and to ascertain the effects of impact on their health.

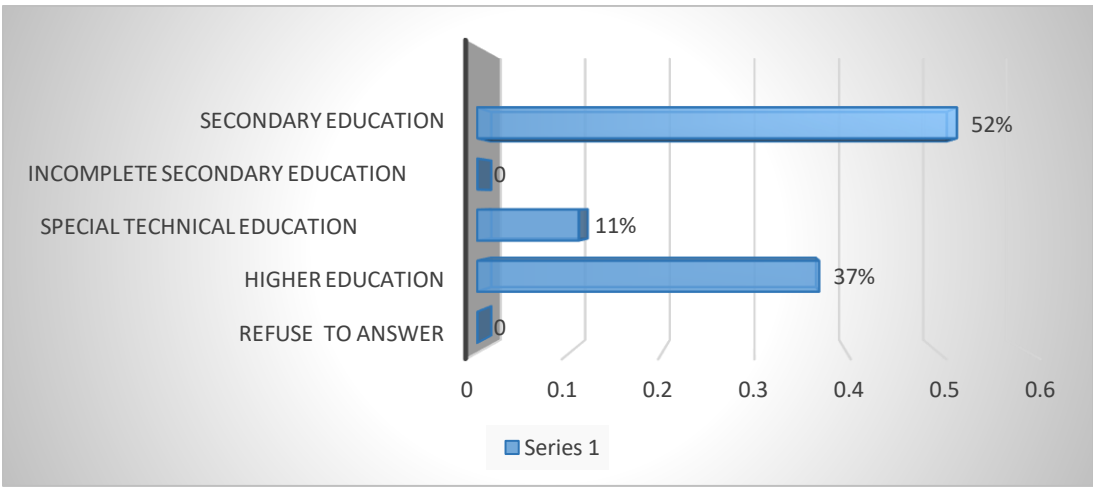
² Kazretirich with gold on the brink of an economic crisis [photo/video] <http://netgazeti.ge/news/29784/>

Social-Demographic Characteristics

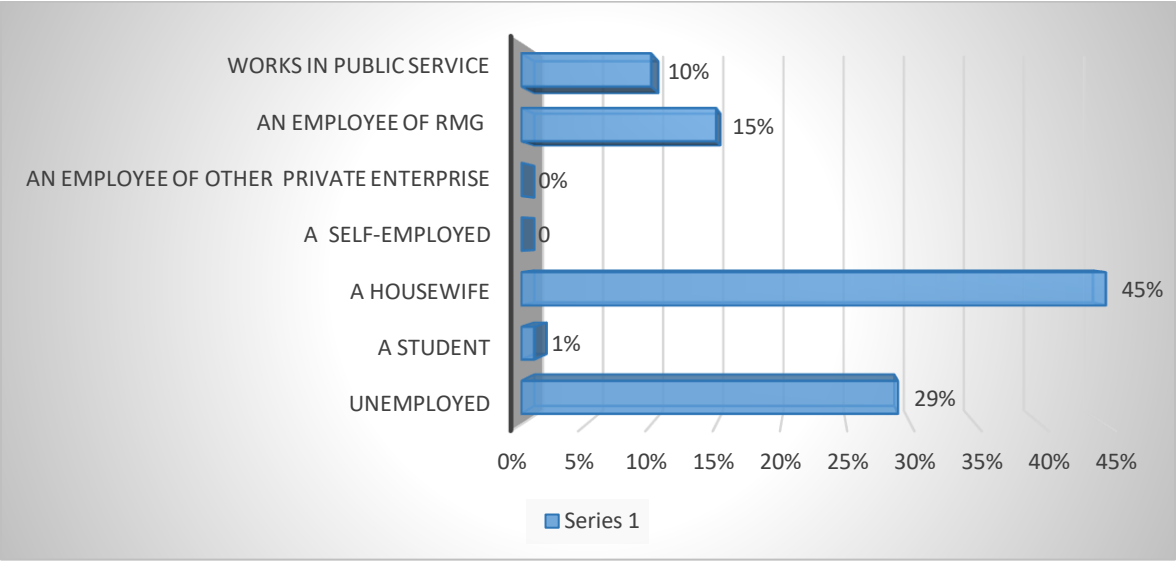
Age group of respondents



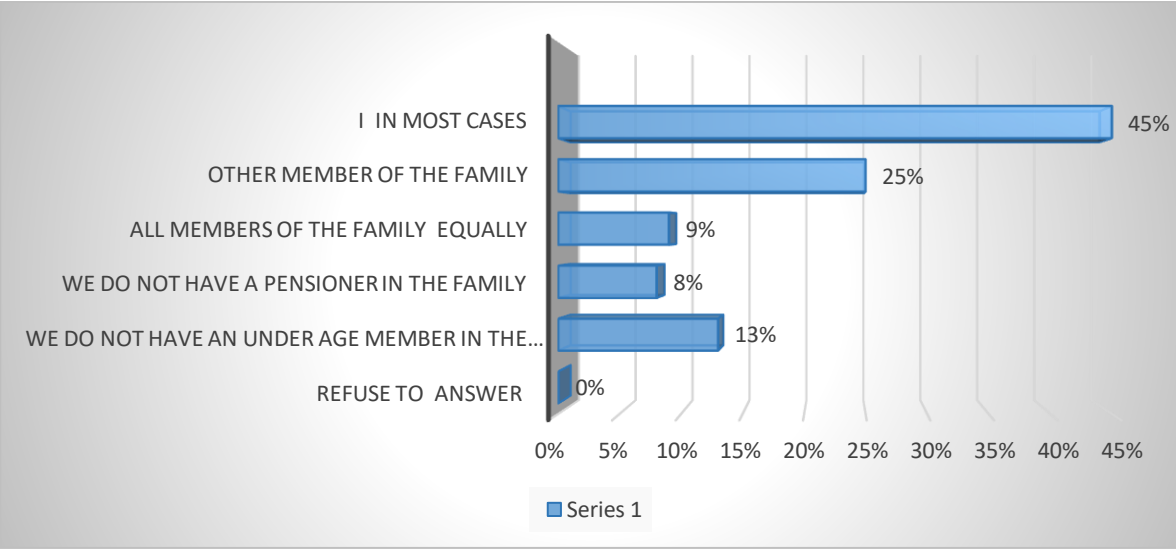
Education



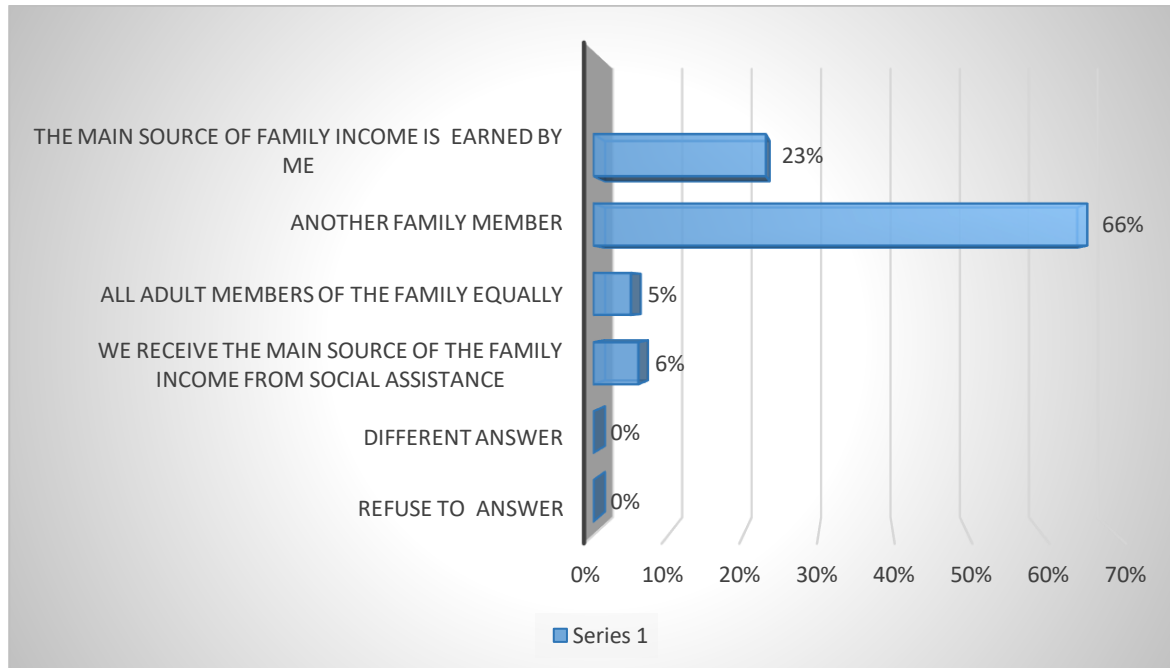
Field of activities



Who cares after pensioners and under age member/ members of a family?

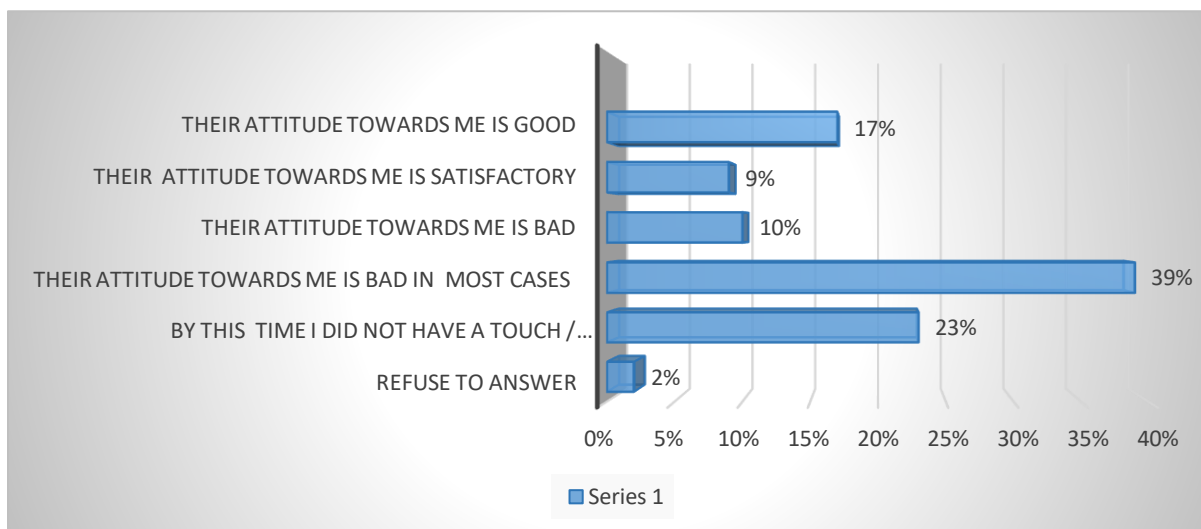


The main source of family income is earned...



On the question, what are your working conditions, 10 from 15 respondents working in RMG answered that the conditions are good, 4 of them said that the conditions are satisfactory. Only one respondent did not wish to answer. The respondents who noted that they have good and satisfactory conditions, explain their answer as follows: “normal salaries”, “good insurance”, “free meals”.

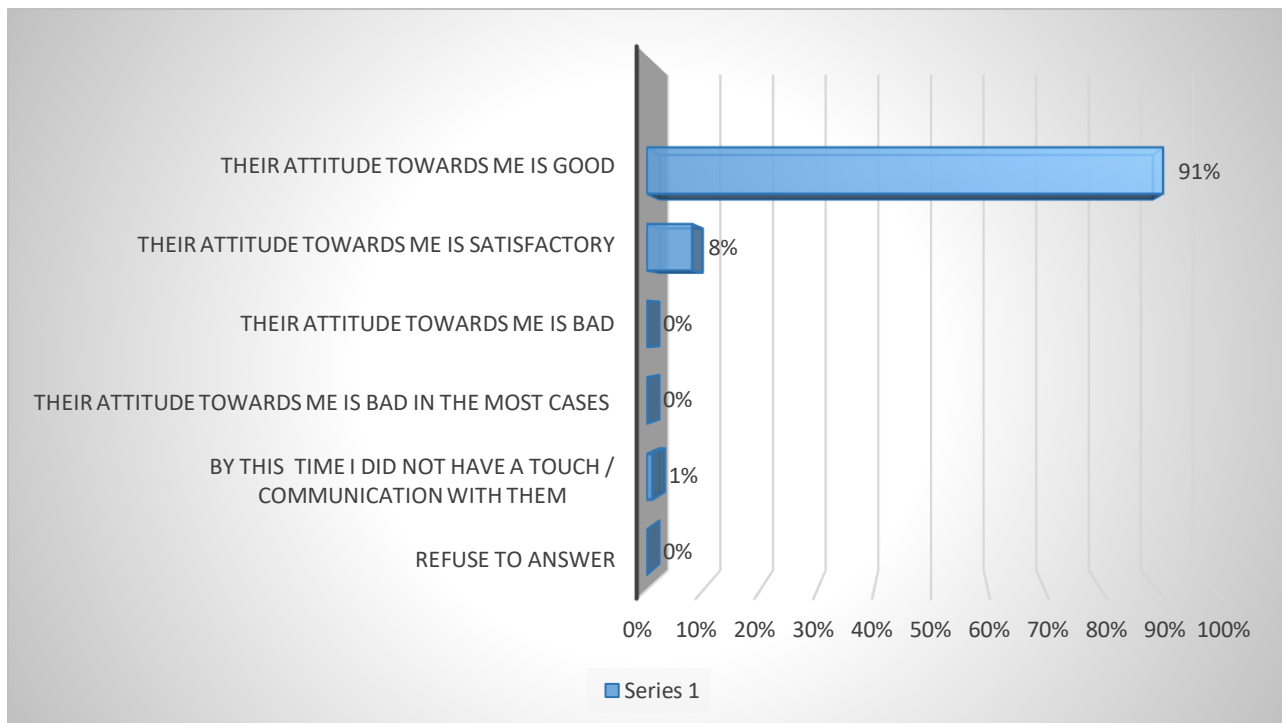
How do you assess the relationship of the administration of the enterprise (RMG) to you? (We ask all of our residents living in the settlement)



Respondents who have good / satisfactory attitude to the enterprise administration, explain the answer so: “We are employed at the enterprise”, “We have a stable income,” “Our family members are employed”, “They help us”.

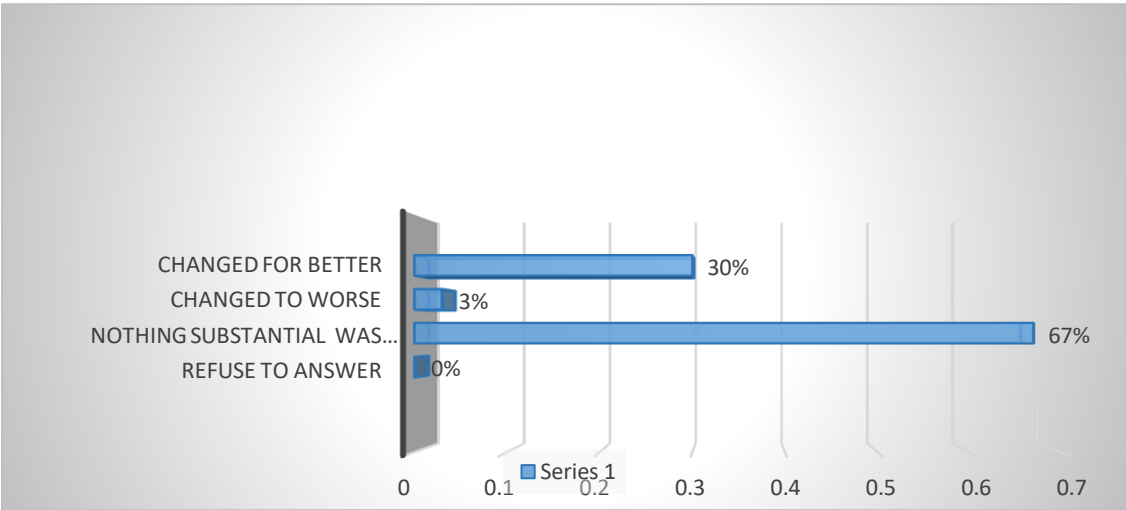
The respondents who noted that the attitude of the administration of the enterprise is bad / mostly bad, explain their answer so: “We have not been able to meet the enterprise administration for months”, “They refuse to employ us”, “People from other regions have been employed”, “They pollute our settlement most of all and do not do anything instead of it for us”, “The enterprise due to damages that it makes for the settlement and its residents”, “Should pay for at least a part of utility payments”;

How do you assess attitude of male workers / staff of the enterprise (RMG) towards you?



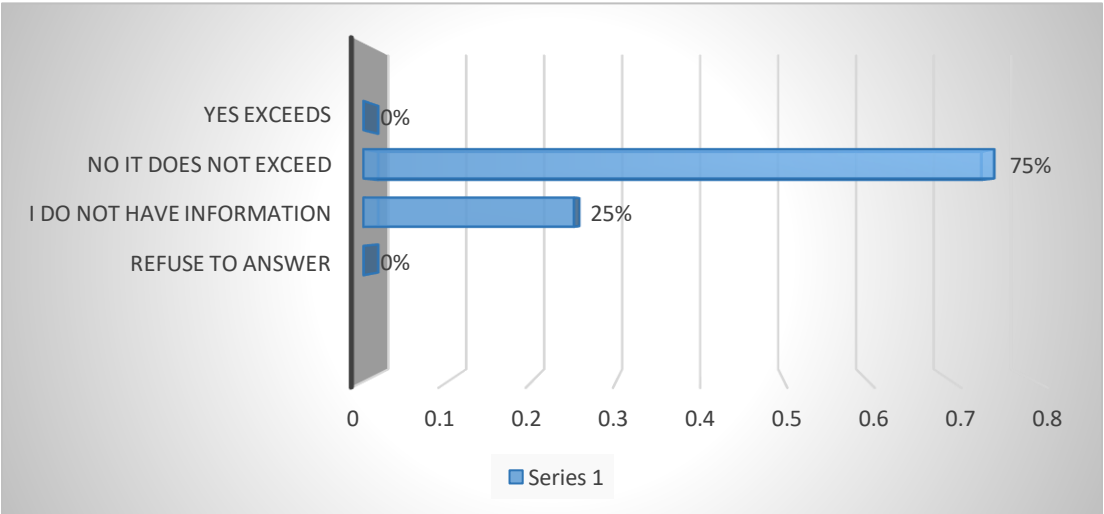
The respondents note that they never had any kind of harassment / discrimination from male workers / staff of the enterprise.

How changed living in Kazreti after RMG started managing the enterprise?

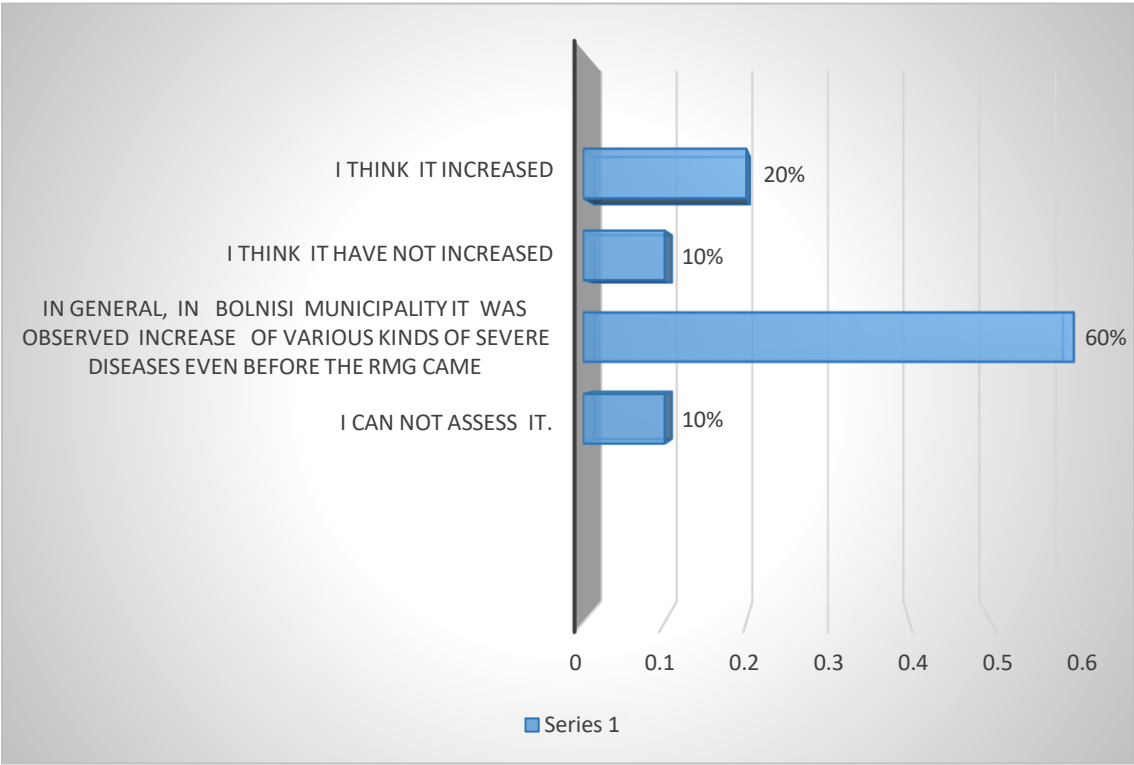


Respondents, who positively assess working of the enterprise mainly focus on the stable salary. They note that the enterprise is the only source of their income and income of their family members. And the respondents who say that nothing substantially changed, explain that as in the past as nowadays the enterprise pollutes the environment, poisons the air and the soil and does not feel its own social responsibility towards residents.

The remuneration of men in the enterprise (RMG) exceeds women’s remuneration, even when work is equally hard?

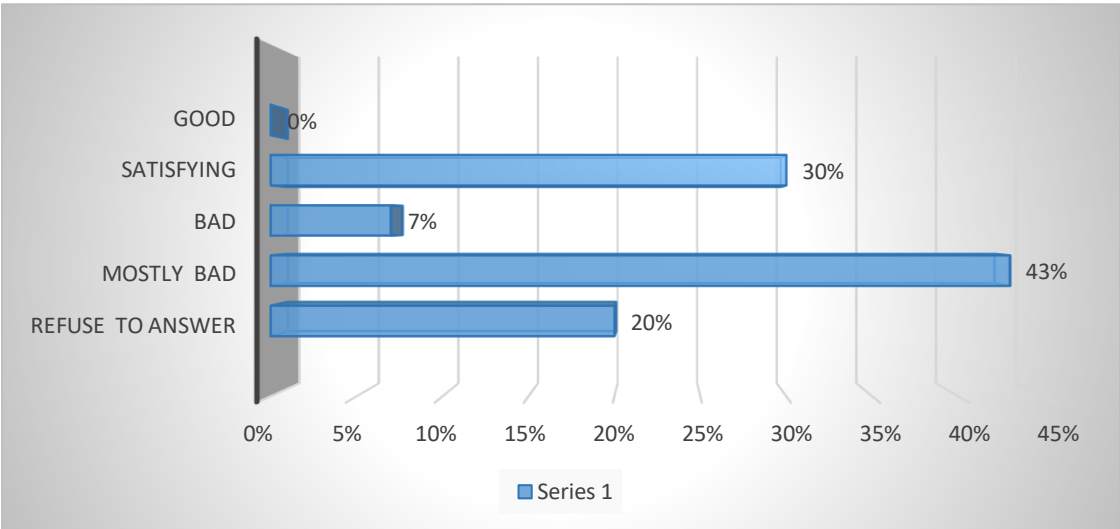


According to your observation / evaluation, as a result of RMG activities increased or not cases of various kinds of severe diseases in the settlement?



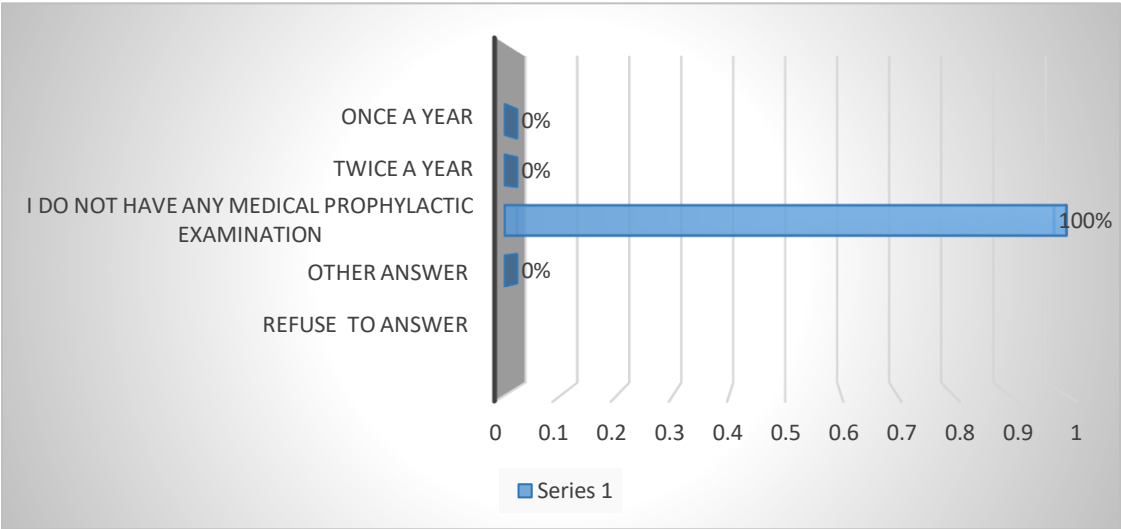
Most of the respondents explain that cases of various severe diseases around them increase, that as they think, in general is a result of the work for years of the "Kombinati" in Bolnisi municipality. They note that the enterprise contaminates the environment for years, that affects the health of the local residents.

What is your health condition personally?

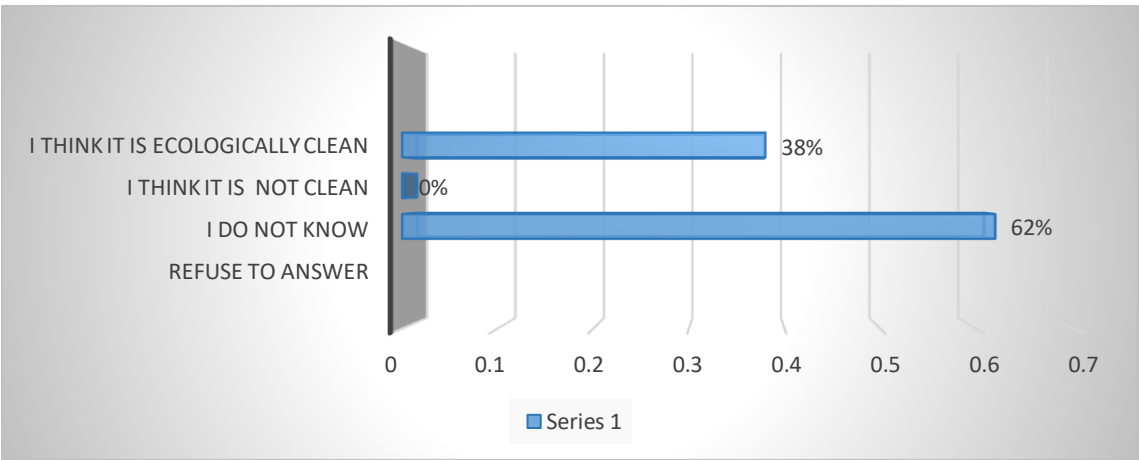


The respondents whose health conditions are bad and mostly bad, say that they are worried by: High blood pressure, Diabetes, Oncology, Respiratory tract and Various complexity diseases of the skin.

How many medical prophylactic examinations do you conduct in a year?

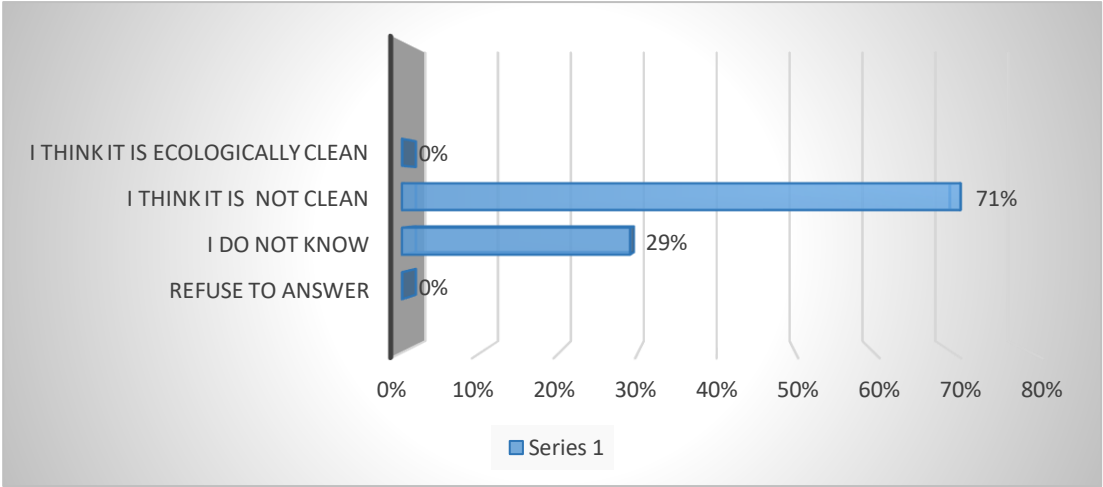


According to your observation / estimates, in the settlement Kazreti, how ecologically clean is drinking water?



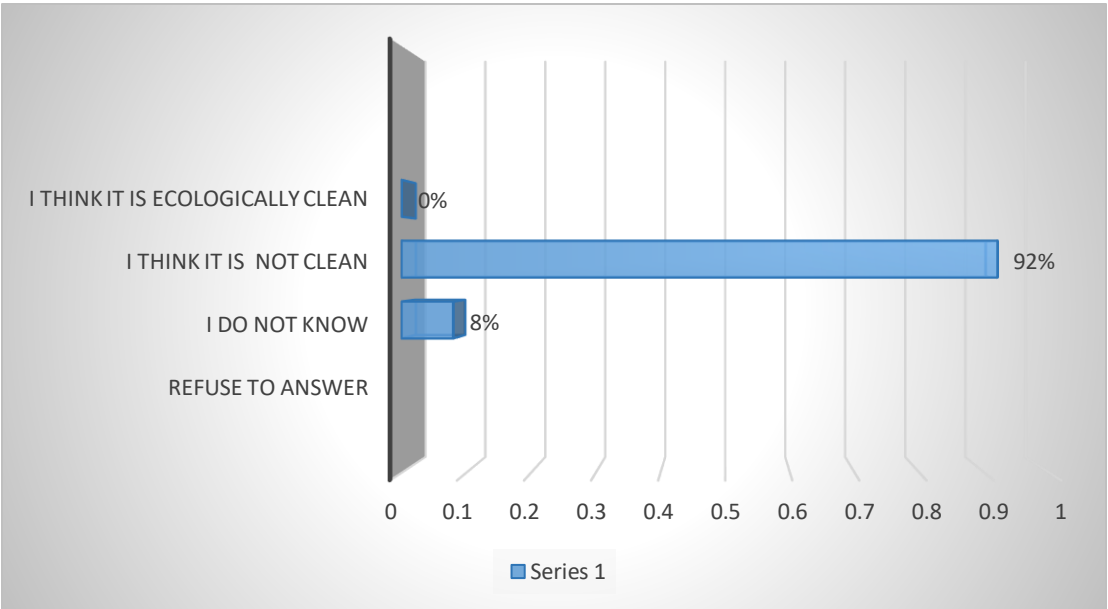
The part of the respondents explains that the water is supplied from the Karabulakhi mountain, Which according to their information, is not contaminated at the moment. [but they can not say the same about the Bolnisi rivers, which according to their information, are ecologically contaminated exactly as a result of activities of RMG]

According to your observation / estimates, in the settlement Kazreti, how ecologically clean is Soil?



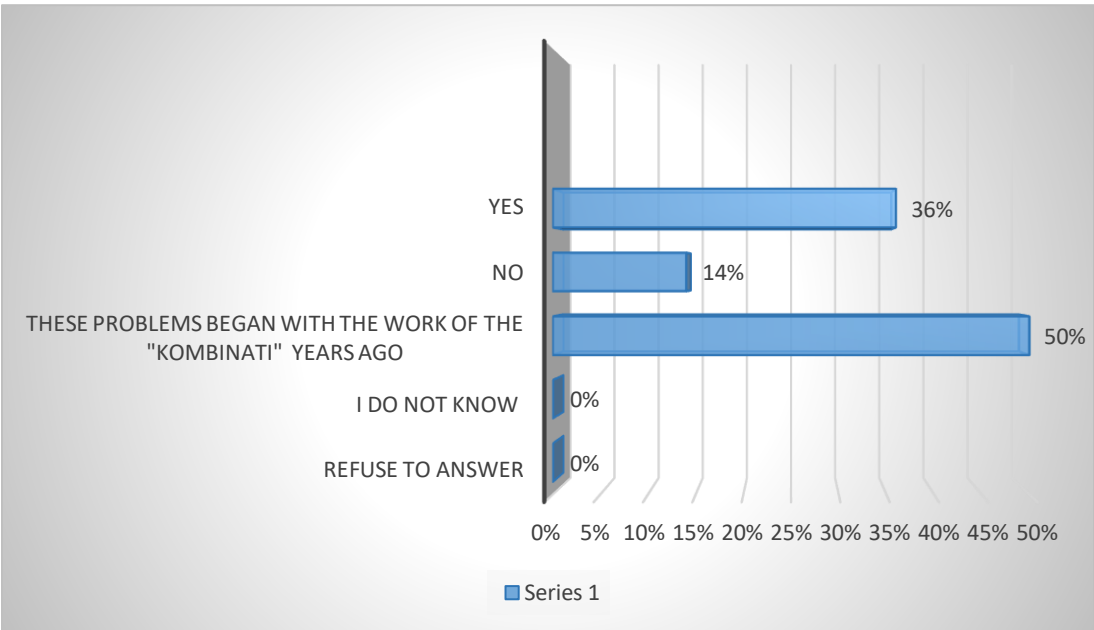
The part of the respondents denotes that who had little land plots in the settlement, no one ever cultivates it, because "everything is rotting."

According to your observations / estimates in Kazreti how ecologically clean is Air?

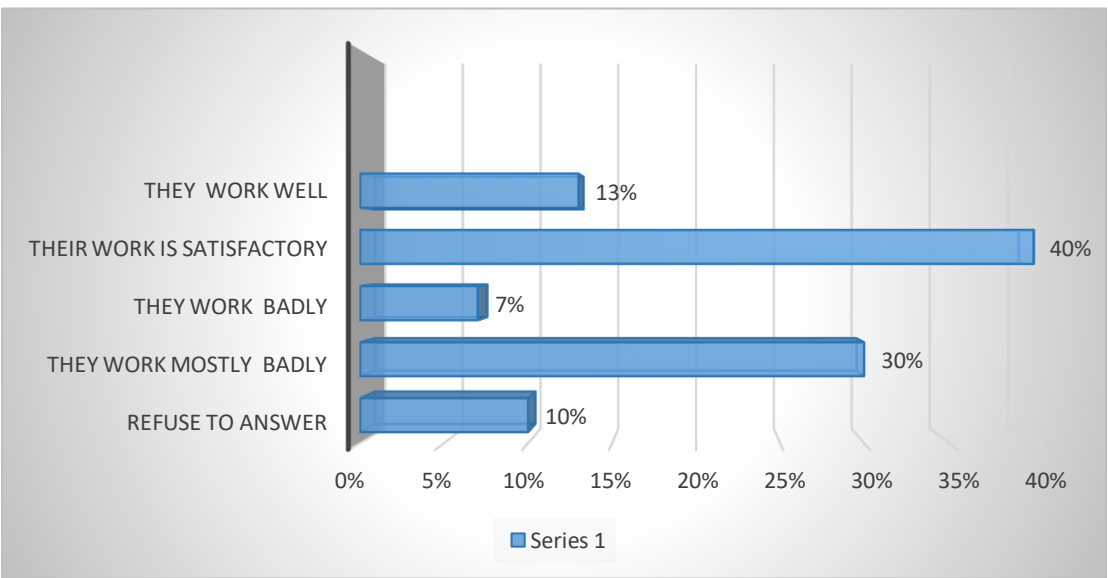


The most majority of respondents denotes that the air is contaminated in the settlement. They explain that especially in summer there is a big number of dust in the air - often comes rain, which is yellow. They say that they often wash again their laundry, because rain drops remained on them as yellow spots.

Do you think the reason for these problems is the work of RMG ?



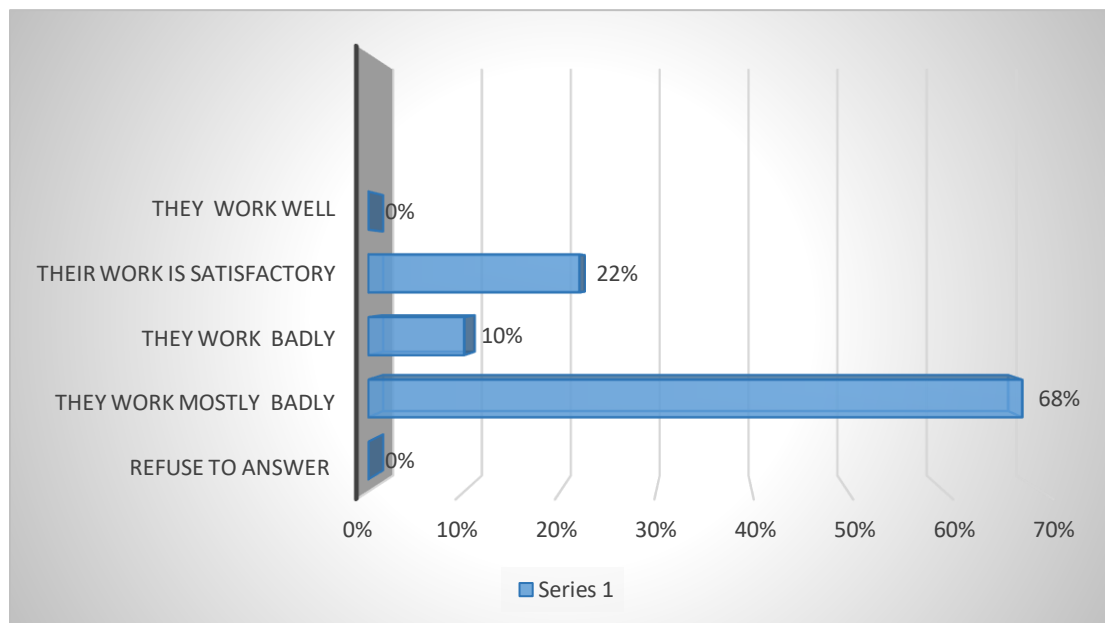
How do you assess the work of the local government?



The respondents positively assess construction of the motorway cover from Bolnisi city to Kazareti, arrangement of elevators in the building blocks. But those respondents who negatively assess the work of local authorities, explain that the settlement does not have an emergency medical center, that is why they have to wait the ambulances for at least 15-20 minutes. Also, there is no maternity hospital and Full Health Care Center.

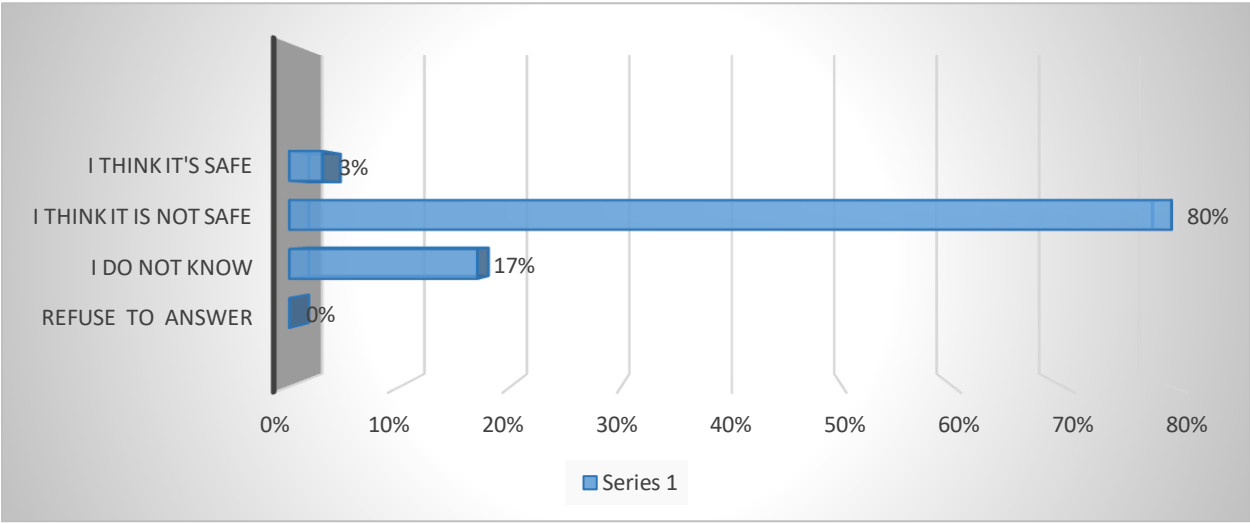
Residents of the settlement say that there is only possible to make a Blood Common analysis in the medical center there. Other types of laboratory studies are not possible. The next argument contrary the local authorities is that in opinion of part of the respondents the government does not require environmental protection from RMG.

How do you assess the work of the central government?



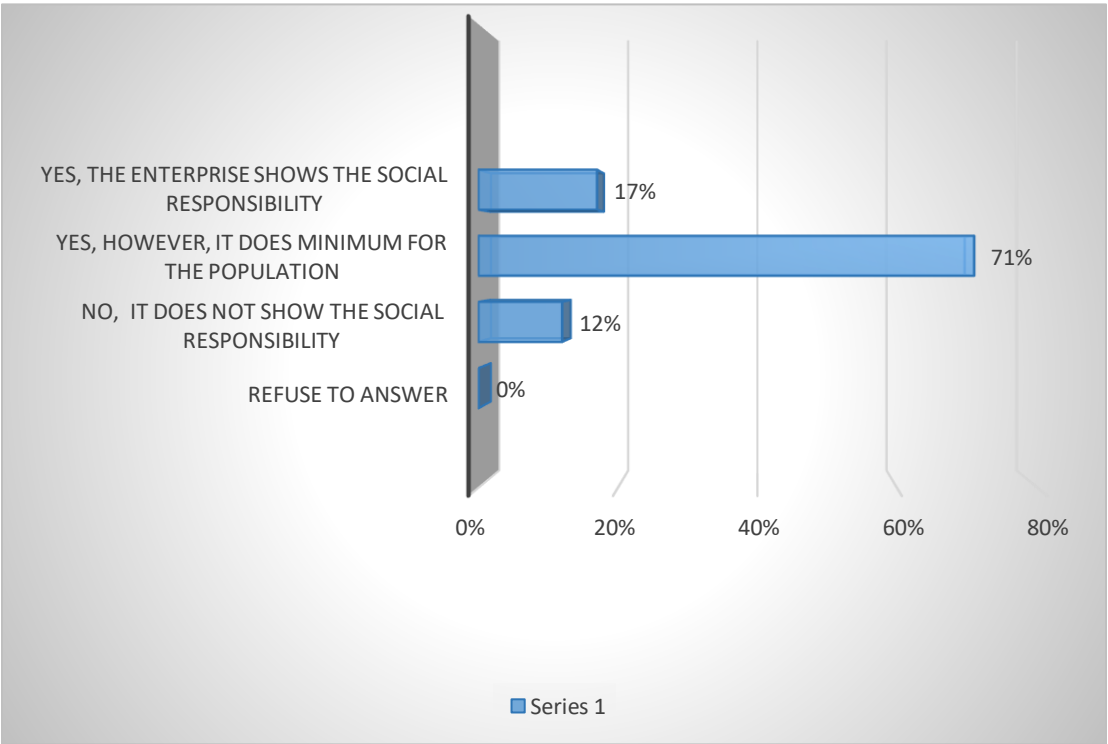
Unlike assesses of the local government, the respondents are much more critical towards the central government. They point out: "Criminals have increased", "prices of everything are increasing", "RMG poisons us and the state does not say anything", "They promised a lot, but they did nothing", "RMG did not leave the mountains, the forests are buried alive, we can not breathe air, where is the government?!"

According to your assessment, from the point of view of health how safe is growing up the children in the settlement?



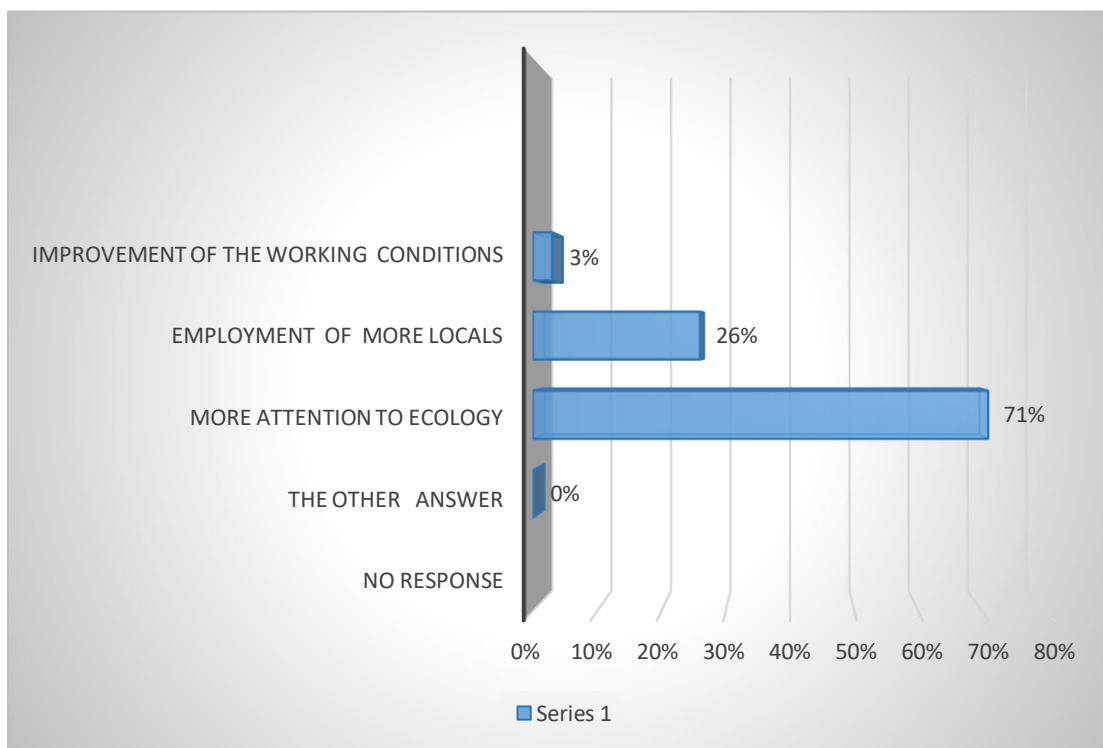
The vast majority of the respondents clarify that by growing up the children in the settlement they put their health in peril. Hence, who has the opportunity, they have their family elsewhere and go to the enterprise by transport or personal own car.

Does RMG show a social responsibility towards the local population?



The inhabitants of Kazreti note that the enterprise finances "Circles of culture and sports direction", repairs schools, on the basis of individual addresses provides financial assistance to citizens. The majority of the respondents explains that the enterprise must be responsible to cover at least a part of household payments for the damages to the local population caused by its working. And they add the enterprise does minimum form its possibilities for the settlement.

What changes would you like in the work of the enterprise (RMG)?



Problematic issues mentioned within the focus group:

(Date of Conductig: April 16, 2018)

- Early marriage. The majority of focus group participants say that in Bolnisi municipality this problem still exists. The more closed is the community, the more the issue is acute. They emphasize the fact that often the state can not make the appropriate events to resolve the problem.
 - Public indifference towards the gender sensitive issues - low level of awareness
 - Housewife is still perceived as "the unemployed member of a family."
 - Women do not have the opportunity to care for their health - there is no possibility of medical prophylactic examination.
 - In Kazreti air, soil is polluted. According to their assessment, this is the result of RMG currently working. They explain that the town has similar problems since then the "Kombinati" started working in the region / municipality and nothing changes for years. (Since 1975, in Kazreti gold and copper ore and plant have been operating, which has been operated by JSC "Madneuli" for years. In 2012 the owner of the enterprise became the Russian company Rich Metals Group (RMG).
 - In Kazreti air pollution is easy to see with naked eye (Focus group members explain that there is dust and yellow rain comes).
- The roads are irrigated by the enterprise but this is not effective, as a result the roads are muddy and roads within the buildings, which are not in good conditions, are also impassable because of mud.
- In the settlement and generally in Bolnisi municipality there is noted increase of severe diseases. It is necessary to conduct a full range medical research. However, research should not be conducted by interested party ...
 - Career processing should not be open.
 - The settlement can not receive the benefit, it is worthy due to damages as a result of work of the enterprise.

We addressed the Bolnisi Municipality City Hall about issues raised in the scope of the study. We present their answers from the letter prepared on 29 May 2018:

- In 2017, for residents of Kazreti settlement the sum was allocated from the budget by Bolnisi municipality on the categories covered by the program (blind persons, persons with disabilities, deaf-mute persons) -15 600 GEL; Utility payments (Electric energy, natural gas) -15 475,23 GEL. One-time material assistance - 31 200 GEL. In 2018: on the categories covered by the program (blind persons, persons with disabilities, deaf-mute persons)- 5 750 GEL; Utility payments (Electric energy, natural gas) - 11 744,85 GEL; One-time financial assistance - 25 880 GEL.
- In Bolnisi municipality, **emergency service is operating in Bolnisi**, service of which is available throughout the municipality territory, including the population of Kazreti .
- In the settlement of Kazreti the Medical-polyclinic union is functioning . **The building, in which the above mentioned union is located, does not satisfy the norms for locating a Maternity and multi-profile hospital in it.** In Bolnisi the multi - profile Clinic Ltd "Bolnisi Central Clinic" is functioning, which is a provider of medical services, including childbirth and services related with it.
- In the settlement of Kazreti the common picture of the health of the resident population **does not differ** from the health of the residents of the region. To assess the health of the population of Kazreti , the Bolnisi Municipality **has not conducted any examination;**
- **Bolnisi Municipality does not have a relevant structure in the city hall, which would study the work of the enterprise "RMG Gold" in the issues of ecological and environmental protection of Bolnisi municipality.** Correspondingly, we do not have the competence to assess this issue; Regarding this issue the Bolnisi municipality does not have an information. **Bolnisi Municipality City Hall does not have statistics in which mentioned how many oncology patient applied to the City Hall for help in 2017-2018.**

- As regards the issue about partial or complete covering the utility costs of citizens living in Kazreti by the company "RMG", and because the most part of the Bolnisi municipality population has the same requirements towards them, we deem it is unrealistic to communicate with the company about payment of utility costs (electricity, natural gas, water). This will be connected with uncontrolled expenses. **The company "RMG Gold" pays all taxes in which it is obliged to the state**, additionally it implements financing of various social projects (e.g . arrangement of sports squares or purchase of inventory for schools and others);
- **Bolnisi Municipality has acquired a project of a new square arrangement in Kazreti settlement , however, funding of construction has not been completed yet due to priority.** The most problematic issue at this stage is the emergency situation of the sewage network , and there is gradually carried out its recovery. After the restoration of sewage networks we will have an opportunity to start rehabilitation of existing passes among buildings step by step, due to their large scale and expensive prices accordingly.
- Bolnisi municipality budget in 2017 was: the own income 21 245,2 GEL; **financing by RMG – 16 981,4 GEL.** Plan for 2018 is: own income - 22 419 GEL; financing by RMG (as a situation by May 28) -10 486,3 GEL.

We provide information from the letter prepared by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture

[The letter was provided by the Ministry on June 15, 2018]

In 2015-2016 years The Environmental Supervision Department conducted a check of the conditions envisaged by the permit # 000056 (ecological expertise conclusion №14 of January 30, 2009) of Environmental Impact issued on "RMG Gold" Ltd, as well as, the conditions envisaged by the ecological expertise conclusion №15 of April 03, 2014, approved by the Order # I-193 of April 03, 2014 of the Minister for environment and natural resources of Georgia and the condition to meet the norms established by the legislation applicable in the field of environmental protection for recycling of minerals in RMG Gold Ltd (operation of the production plant leaching the deposit ore of Sakdrisi). In 2015-2016 years, also conducted a check on the conditions envisaged by the permit # 00005 (ecological expertise conclusion №13 of January 30, 2009) of Environmental Impact issued on JSC "RMG Gopper" (ID 225358341) and the condition to meet the norms established by the legislation applicable in the field of environmental protection.

The following protocols of administrative violations were drawn up toward JSC "RMG Copper" and LLC "RMG Gold" regarding the violations revealed during the inspection carried out in the aforementioned period:

In 2016, the Protocols No.029651, No.029653 and №029655 of the administrative violation were drawn up toward JSC "RMG Copper" for the violation envisaged by articles 792, 65 of administrative violence code and by article 42 of the Waste Management Code of Georgia.

In 2016, the Protocols No.029661, No.029657, №029658, №029660 and №029662 of the administrative violation were drawn up toward "RMG Gold" Ltd for the violation envisaged by articles 79, 65 of administrative violence code and by article 42 of the Waste Management Code of Georgia.

In September 15, 2017, the Protocols No.035829 and №035835 of the administrative violation were drawn up toward JSC "RMG Copper" for the violation envisaged by article 792 of administrative violence code of Georgia. 4. In April 24, 2014, the Protocols No.041338 and №041339 of the administrative violation were drawn up toward JSC "RMG Copper" for the violation envisaged by article 79 of administrative violence code of Georgia.

As a result of reviewing the protocols above, RMG Gold" Ltd and JSC "RMG Copper" have been found guilty by Bolnisi Regional Court. We would like to inform you that the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia has appointed a reasonable time to eliminate the violations revealed during the inspection of RMG Gold" Ltd and JSC "RMG Copper" and the Administrative Orders No. 000956, No.000906 and No.000904 have been developed by the Department.

After the expiration of a certain period of time, pursuant to applicable law, the state of fulfillment of commitments will be inspected. As for the information about the specific funds paid by the Enterprise, we inform you that the Ministry does not carry out monitoring of this fact due to its competence. "

We present the information from the letter prepared by the enterprise RMG:

[Date of Submission of the letter : 2018, July 19]

- "As you know, the company RMG is an increased dangerous enterprise, that is why observe the labor security rules in the company has a great importance. More than 2 200 employees employed in the RMG group, are constantly instructed to provide a labor safety. Personnel working in various industrial areas are equipped with special clothes and personal protection means. All the production cases reported during 2017 were of medium and light category. As for the current year indicators including the May of 2018, only 7 cases are recorded, all of them are of light trauma category. According to the provisions of the labor safety regulations acting

in the company, all the cases were been investigated, revealed and eliminated the reasons causing traumas"

- "From the summer of 2017 trucks from Sakdrisi carrier to the factory move on the bypassing road. Last year by the initiative of the company there was implemented rehabilitation of the road from Kazreti Bridge to the tail depository (კუდსაცავი) in order to reduce intensive movement of trucks in the settlement. Although the trucks are no longer moving on the central road leading to the enterprise, all the central roads of the mentioned section of Kazreti and the village Balitchi are daily irrigated by the special irrigation cars. The irrigation intensity depends on the season and weather. The irrigation frequency is increased in summer period according to the needs. Correspondingly, watering of all roads on which move trucks, are implemented several times a day. The company has a car park for irrigation vehicles. It consists of 5 units of 12 tonnes irrigation vehicles which are moving daily with a big intensity on the roads; "
- "Environmental protection direction together with the safety of labor, is one of the main priorities of the company. Since 2017, active and daily work is carrying out together with the environmental experts of the International consulting company Golder Associates, by direct participation of whom the RMG environmental program was created, which is set for 2018-2020 and means to invest 30 million GEL. In addition, the Short and Long-term action plan is agreed with the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture, which consists of more than 100 concrete environmental activities and aims to implement mining activities with high environmental responsibility. It is to be noted that 29 points of action plan has already completed. According to the Action Plan the main priority is exactly protection from water, air and soil pollution. "
- "The fact, that as a result of working of the company there has increased the number of diseases in the settlement and in Bolnisi municipality, is not confirmed by any specific research. As it is known according to the official statistics of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, a number of diseases in Kvemo Kartli are far less than in Tbilisi and several regions of West Georgia. The same is confirmed by the report of the Cancer Registry of the National Center for Disease Control, recently published by the Center for 2015-2017, according to which Bolnisi is not among those 18 municipalities, where the highest rate of cancer incidence is observed. Despite the above mentioned statistics, the company is ready to hold dialogues with the competent authorities and share the specialists' argumentative recommendations on this issue"
- "The greatest part of the social responsibility of the Company" RMG "is directed towards Bolnisi and Dmanisi regions on implementing of different types of cultural, sports, educational and infrastructural projects. Since 2018 the company carries out a large project of "Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage Monuments". This program stipulates rehabilitation of the most important cultural heritage monuments of the country: archaeological survey of the territory of Shuamta

Monastery, rehabilitation of Fitareti Monastery, Bolnisi Sioni, Satkhe monastery complex and the road for access it, Samshvilde, Nakalakari, Nikortsminda monastery complex and Alaverdi monastery complex. 1 700 000 GEL is allocated for this project. Also, within the framework of the Memorandum signed in 2017 between RMG and Georgian Technical University, successfully is implemented the “Scholarship Students’ supporting program”. 11 students of Mining-Geologic and Chemical Technology and Metallurgy Faculties of the Technical University have received monthly scholarship from RMG since 2018. In 2015-2017 by the funding of RMG there was built a new Bolnisi museum building equipped with new technologies and designed according to the modern standards. For preparation and construction of the museum project RMG spent 7 000 000 Gel. From 2017 until the present day for the muzeography and technical arrangement was spent additional 1 340 150 GEL; From 2016 "RMG" is the general sponsor of Bolnisi football club "Sioni". The company supports the promotion of the healthy lifestyle in the region. The company every month finances two choreographic Ensembles (Ensemble "Madneuli" and Ensemble "Martve") located in the regions Bolnisi and Dmanisi, the circle of fine art at the Culture house in Kazreti and a various sports circles (football, rugby, freestyle wrestling, arm wrestling, mixed single combats). In the summer of 2017 in Kazreti # 1 school with the financial support of the company the school amortized water supply system was completely changed. At Kazreti # 2 school there was renovated 152 sq. m. Assembly hall. In the rehabilitation works 70 000 GEL was spent. In the autumn of 2017 rehabilitation works of the road leading to the enterprise RMG in Kazreti amounted GEL 500 000. In the spring of 2018 rehabilitation of two recreational objects located in Kazreti was carried out. 120 000 GEL was spent in rehabilitation works of Kazreti resting park and Memorial of the heroes killed in the war and park.”

Organization: Green Policy Scientific-Research Platform ³

We read in research prepared by Green Research Scientific-Research Platform in 2017:

"we compared the research carried out within the framework of the project to the maximum permissible concentrations and measured the quantitative contents based on the data and it has been clarified an increasing toxic metals compared to the maximum permissible concentration in the villages. The calculations gave us an opportunity to see how many times the amount of metals exceeds the permissible norm in each village. (Also calculated the percent contents, based on which

³ <https://greenpolicyplatform.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/e183a5e18395e18394e1839be1839d-e183a5e18390e183a0e18397e1839ae18398e183a1-e183a1e18390e1839be18397e1839de1839be1839de1839ee1839de183951.pdf>

the percent increase of toxic metals compared to the permissible concentration in the villages has been identified, see appendix)

In Nakhiduri, on the soil surface, Copper content exceeds the norm 1.58 times, Manganese 1.433 times, Cadmium 3.186 times, in the depths-Manganese 1.552 times, Cadmium 2.57 times;

In Tskneti, on the soil surface, Cadmium increased by 4.32 times and in the depths - 3.2 times;

In Poladuri, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.236 times, Cadmium 2.84 times, and in the depths- Cadmium exceeds 3.4 times;

In Kvemo Bolnisi, on the soil surface, Manganese exceeds 1.158 times, Cadmium exceeds 2.232 times, in the depths-Manganese 1.126 times, Cadmium twice;

In Ratevani, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.262 times, Zinc 3.37 times, Cadmium 10.19 times, in the depths - Copper 2.1 times, Cadmium 3.4 times; In Mushevani, on the soil surface, Cadmium increased by 2.04 times and Manganese 1.50426 times, Cadmium 2.14 times;

In Akaurta, on the soil surface, Cadmium is increased by 4.72 times and in the depths- Cadmium 4.44 times; In Gomareti, on the soil surface, Cadmium is increased by 4.22 times and in the depths- Cadmium 4.158 times. In Gantiadi, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.189 times, Cadmium 3.05 times, in the depths - Manganese 1.1393 times, Cadmium 2.46 times; In Vardisubani, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.20126, Cadmium 2.95 times, Bullet 1.0272 times, in the depths - Manganese increased by 1.2688 times, Cadmium 1.774 times, Bullet 1.1295 times;

In Mamishlo, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.042 times, Cadmium 1.587 times, Bullet 1.021 times, in the depths - Cadmium 1.785 times, Bullet 1.1732 times; in Small Dmanisi, on the soil surface, Cadmium increased by 1.73 times, Bullet 1.281 times, in the depths - Cadmium by 1.71 times, Bullet 1.154 times; In Abulbuki, on the soil surface, Copper increased by 1.25 times, Manganese 1.3468 times, Cadmium 2.7 times, Bullet 2.0174, in the depths - Copper 1.287 times, Manganese 1.502 times, Zinc 3.5847 times, Cadmium 3.71 times, Bullet 3.027 times ;

In Balichi Chalebi, on the soil surface, Copper increased by 1.26 times, Manganese 1.24 times, Zinc 1.73 times, Cadmium 5.65 times, Bullet 3.36 times, in the depths - Manganese 1.436 times, Cadmium 3.65 times, Bullet 2.265 times; In Tandzia, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.274 times, Cadmium 3.5 times, Bullet 1.8084, in the depths - Manganese 1.146 times, Cadmium 3.71 times, Bullet 1.80 times; In Darbazi, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.10404 times, Cadmium 3.17 times, Bullet 1.99 times, in the depths - Manganese 1.09692 times, Cadmium 3.01 times, Bullet 1.929 times;

In Potskhveriani, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.36 times, Cadmium 2.82 times, Bullet 1.9929 times, in the depths - Manganese 1.105 times, Cadmium 3.5 times, bullet 2.2883 times;

In Kazreti, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.188 times, Cadmium 3.94 times, Bullet 2.7128 times, in the depths -Manganese 1.21 times, Cadmium 3.9 times, Bullet 2.97 times;

At the entrance of Balichi, on the soil surface, Copper increased by 1.9 times, Manganese 1.236 times, Cadmium 3.5 times, Bullet 2.88 times, in the depths - Manganese 1.0512 times, Cadmium 4.62 times, Bullet 2.53 times;

Balichi Shuaubani, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.166 times, Cadmium 3.64 times, Bullet 2.865 times, in the depths - Cadmium 5.15 times, Bullet 1.715 times;

In Balichi Zedaubani, on the soil surface, Manganese increased by 1.327 times, Cadmium 1.867 times, Bullet 4.3337 times, in the depths - Manganese 1.109 times, Cadmium 1.73 times, Bullet 1.79 times.

The report of the Public Defender of Georgia (2017) ⁴

The report states: "during the years, the causal links between the environmental damage and the health problems of the population in the Municipalities of Bolnisi and Dmanisi can't be researched as a result of entrepreneurial activities of RMG Gold and RMG Copper.

By an explanation of the State it is based on the experts' opinion that to establish a correlative relation and to get firm evidences can't be for the lack of the population and to take preventive measures are considered as priority. As it turned out, advanced epidemiological surveys must be conducted to identify specific risk factors and effects of impact to their health. The measures taken in this direction should be considered as ineffective, which impairs the right of the local population to live in healthy environment.

Challenges identified during the survey:

- At the start of the research, two interviewer refused to cooperate with us, despite the existence of a preliminary agreement. One of them stated that his/her family member works in the enterprise RMG and he/she may have problems. A similar argument [the relative works in RMG] had another interviewer. Accordingly they have been changed.
- While testing the questionnaire and filling out them, the respondents' fear about identification and study of their assessments and identity by the company RMG has

⁴ <http://www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/5/5139.pdf>

been identified. The field working group needed to make a great effort to gain the respondents' confidence.

Research findings

- Most of the respondents questioned in Kazreti, think that the environment around them is harmful. They think that to bring the children up in this environment is dangerous for their health. They state that the enterprise damages the environment and ruins their health. This part of the society does not feel the proper support of the local or central government.
- The enterprise RMG is the only employer for them, on the one hand, but it doesn't give them an opportunity to live in peace, on the other hand. Most of the respondents think that the air by which they breathe is contaminated and the soil is polluted as well, but does not see the State, which will conduct a high-quality research and will take measures to solve the problem. [the most of the respondents is not able to carry out a systematic medical examinations. There is no medical center and maternity house]
- some of the respondents ask for getting more benefits by the local population as a result of working of the enterprise. They call the claim legitimate because they think that the locals are being mostly damaged as a result of working of the enterprise. The "RMG" did not leave us the mountains and forests, we cannot breathe air, where is the government?!" we read in their assessments.
- The recommendations of the public defender identify the attitudes/assessments of the majority of the respondents. The country's first defender demands to conduct epidemiological research in Bolnisi and Dmanisi municipality for identify specific risk factors and impacts on health of the local population. The Public Defender calls the measures taken in this direction ineffective and the fundamental right of human beings to live in a healthy environment trampling.