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“Public awareness, Preparedness, Participation and
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Local Risk Assessment

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PB-4. Albanian Association of Municipalities, Albania	Project partner
PB-5. Municipality of Kolonje, Albania	Project partner
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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION.....	6
A. MATERIAL PREPARATION AND GUIDANCE PB4 and PB6	7
A.1 INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.....	7
A.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	8
A.3 PB4 PARTNER GUIDANCE.....	9
A.3.1 Primary Data via Interviews.....	9
A.3.2 Primary Data via Fields Inspections	10
A.3.3 Secondary Data Collection.....	10
A.3.4 Training of Inspectors Team	10
A.3.5 Recommended Analysis of Research Findings.....	12
A.4 PB6 PARTNER GUIDANCE.....	13
A.4.1 Door to Door Methodology	13
A.4.2 Recommended Analysis of Research Findings.....	13
B. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS	15
B.1 PB4 DATA ANALYSIS.....	15
B.1.1 Policy Regime on Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil protection.....	15
B.1.2 Local Development Planning and Risk Reduction in Kolonjë municipality.....	16
B.1.3 People with Disability and their needs in Kolonjë Municipality	17
B.1.4 Early Warning System	18
B.1.5 Preparedness for Emergency Response	19
B.1.6 Training and Capacity Building Needs.....	20
B.2 PB6 DATA ANALYSIS.....	22
C. SUGGESTIONS REPORT	34
ANEX.....	36

INTRODUCTION

Every citizen has the right to education and training, employment, resources, housing, health care, social protection and cultural life. However, access to the above social and public goods and services is often restricted. People with disabilities/ the elderly are a group of people for whom unhindered and equal access to all aspects of social life has not been guaranteed. The responsibility for this exclusion is not attributed to the individual himself and his physical characteristics, but to the planning of society, which did not take into account the needs of people with disabilities / the elderly. The same arise in case of emergency disasters.

Even if natural disasters (floods, storms, earthquakes, droughts, forest fires and volcanic eruptions) or disasters from human interventions (explosions, major fires, aviation, shipping and railway accidents) happen frequently and societies have made great efforts to avoid the unpleasant consequences that arising, either through the improvement of the built environment or through preparedness exercises and information actions, there are many concerns that arise about the effectiveness protecting people with disabilities/ the elderly. That disability issues are urgently needed to be included in emergency evacuation and preparedness planning.

In the context of the Interreg programme 4Plus and the specific deliverable, it is implemented a pilot study of local preparedness and appropriate forecasts / specifications for people with disabilities/ the elderly and the elderly. This study includes on the one hand research (search for data from various sources) / field (measurements and autopsies), as well as a door-to-door identification process of vulnerable groups and areas where demographics indicate high concentrations of people with disabilities/ the elderly in Kolonjë Municipality of Albania.

The aim of this action is to assess the need for a strategy for the prevention and response to multiple risks disasters in the cross-border area, to identify the basic requirements of such a strategy, to record the needs of people with disabilities / the elderly and the shortcomings in terms of existing facilities, rescue equipment, etc., the identification of the available infrastructure and the potential needs to improve access to them and the proposal of possible design and policy solutions.

In this research, LB was responsible to help a) PB4 to evaluate any existing disaster management plans, procedures and teams (e.g conduct appropriate interviews, focus groups, etc.) and infrastructure (e.g perform accessibility autopsies) and b) PB6 to carry out door-to-door the requested identification / identification of the most vulnerable people living in Kolonje, in other words the cases of residents who need special a priori planning / preparation. LB was responsible to act as a coordinator of the above actions, to study the findings and to prepare the final report with specific suggestions / advice to the local authorities and intervention groups for the improvement and remediation of the problems and shortcomings.

A. MATERIAL PREPARATION AND GUIDANCE PB4 and PB6

A.1 INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Human history has always dealt with disasters caused by natural phenomena and technological accidents, causing emergencies. In recent decades, these phenomena have occupied the world opinion and in particular the competent crisis management bodies more and more as they present an increasing frequency and more dramatic consequences.

In 1992, the United Nations (UN) designated disasters as "serious disruptions to society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses that go beyond society's own resources to deal with them." Typical examples of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions. At the same time, there are also global technological disasters resulting from human activities such as chemical or nuclear accidents, explosions, infections and pollution. The above risks have the potential to cause significant damage only when they occur in vulnerable societies that do not have the means to deal with these risks or have inadequate means.

In recent years, efforts at national, regional and local levels in disaster prevention, preparedness for civil protection and intervention in disasters have increased. Below is a brief overview of three phases of emergency management:

➤ **Preparedness and Prevention**

One of the priorities of the bodies responsible for the management of emergency situations is the development of action plans with the aim of the best possible preparedness before any event of disaster or crisis. Although priorities for these projects are set at the design and analysis stage, some actions should be taken when mitigation or disaster prevention measures do not work. Therefore, critical questions arise at the stage of preparedness and prevention for the management of emergencies such as: What is the size and characteristics of the population to be affected, what infrastructure is affected and what is their exact location, what is the time and evacuation techniques and which buildings could be used as shelters.

➤ **Design and Mitigation**

The planning and mitigation phase concerns the assessment of potential types of disasters and crises and the development of action plans to minimize the possibility of them affecting human lives and resources. A comprehensive disaster risk analysis provides the basis for developing disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery plans. This analysis and the overall design for emergency management clearly require the collection, integration and analysis of a large amount of information and data.

Until recently, the role of governments focused on rescue and rehabilitation. Over time, disaster planning and disaster mitigation have become increasingly important in managing emergency situations, making local government intervention absolutely necessary.

➤ **Response and Recovery**

Response and rehabilitation involve all actions taken both during a disaster or crisis to identify and assist victims as well as stabilize the disaster and post-disaster situation to restore the natural and man-made environment to its original state. of his condition. Immediate and effective intervention requires access to critical information such as the location of the incident, the intensity and severity of the event, the location of the affected population, the type of resources required for intervention by the competent authorities, etc.

With the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, reducing the risk of such disasters is the primary goal. Especially for people with disabilities / the elderly. There are many concerns that arise about the extent to which the structured environment serves the evacuation needs of people with disabilities / the elderly. That disability issues are urgently needed to be included in preparedness planning.

A.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

As it is mentioned before this action concerns a pilot study of local preparedness and appropriate forecasts / specifications for people with disabilities / the elderly. This action is the result of the cooperation of three of the project partners, the LB1 (National Confederation of Disabled People), PB4 (Albanian Association of Municipalities) and PB6 (Urban Research Institute).

The steps of implementing the study are shown in the following table:

Step	Task	Partner
1	Material preparation and guidance	LB1
2	Conducting desk review	PB4
3	Conducting semi-structured interviews with key partners/actors	PB4
4	Conducting questionnaires with local authorities	PB4
5	Conducting the door-to-door identification	PB6
6	Coordination of the data collection and analysis from both partners	LB1
7	Compilation/editing of a final report	LB1

In the framework of this deliverable LB1 was responsible to help firstly PB4 to evaluate any existing disaster management plans, procedures and teams (e.g conduct appropriate interviews, focus groups, etc.) and infrastructure (e.g perform accessibility autopsies). Also, LB was responsible to guide PB6 to carry out door-to-door the requested identification / identification of the most vulnerable people living in Kolonje, in other words the cases of residents who need special a priori planning / preparation. Then LB1 will study the findings and he will prepare the final report with specific suggestions / advice to the local authorities and intervention groups for the improvement and remediation of the problems and shortcomings.

A.3 PB4 PARTNER GUIDANCE

In the framework of the project, PB4 was responsible to conduct a local assessment for the current situation of Kolonjë Municipality of Albania concerning the disaster preparedness of the city, the laws/ regulations/ policies that relate to disaster management, the response capacity of the municipality, the existing administrative infrastructure etc. The local assessment aims to generate a baseline information on strength, needs and analyze capacity gaps of the municipal government in Kolonjë regarding disaster risk reduction capacities in general and specifically on people with disabilities / the elderly. The objectives of this assessment, are the following:

- Understanding how municipal authorities manage the budget for preparedness and disasters.
- Collection and evaluation of local and regional disaster management and civil protection plans
- Evaluation of infrastructure, systems, sources of information and services related to disaster management and civil protection.
- The degree of response of the municipality to an emergency.
- The research of the building code and the spatial planning and to what extent they integrate the hazard mapping in it
- Identifying laws, regulations and policies of municipalities that are related to emergency management.
- The evaluation of the administrative infrastructure at local and regional level

To achieve the above objectives, the LB1 proposed a series of actions to record and evaluate the capacity assessment of local municipality for people with disabilities / the elderly. More specifically it is proposed a mixed research method, which combines quantitative and qualitative techniques in their methodological design to make better use of the advantages of each method and to address more effectively the weaknesses of each. On the one hand, qualitative methods are applied in research projects and approaches that have as their main goal the investigation of social qualities, the investigation of relationships or correlations between social subjects and social groups. Perhaps the greatest advantage of the qualitative method is the ability to explore answers or observations and to obtain more detailed descriptions and explanations from experiences, behaviors and beliefs. On the other hand, the quantitative method discovers the causes of the change of social phenomena through objective measurement and numerical analysis. It aims to verify a hypothesis through figures. The data collection is done with structured protocols, such as questionnaires, scales and achievement tests and the data of the quantitative surveys are presented quantitatively, with numbers, which can be coded, analyzed and interpreted with statistical schemes, charts and statistical indicators.

A.3.1 Primary Data via Interviews

Initially, it was proposed to be designed an interview which would assess the capacity of the elected representatives and the staff of the Municipality, as well as their cooperation with the private sector and NGOs. In-depth Interview is one such method that is useful when you want to explore new issues in depth and you want to learn a person's thought, behavior, attitude and view. As a research tool it has many advantages, because it gives opportunities to clarify some answers, to ask additional questions, thus giving the opportunity for deepening, where what was said was unclear, and due to its immediacy, it is usually widely accepted by the participants in research. It is one of the most well-known methods of collecting material, where the researcher asks the respondent a series of questions in order to find out what he thinks in relation to a topic and to compare the opinions and views of the respondents.

There are three categories of interview method, structured interview, the semi-structured and the unstructured interview. In the present survey we proposed to PB4 to follow the semi-structured in-

depth interview, which consists of a set of predetermined questions and in order to have a guide with the most important topics to cover. This type of interview is flexible, because the content of the questions can be modified according to the respondent, the research can deep on some issues and can add or remove questions for discussion.

A.3.2 Primary Data via Fields Inspections

At the same time, it was deemed appropriate to record primary data through field research in the Municipality of Kolonjë. This research was considered appropriate to be done in the basic structures of the municipality (public services, schools, health and care centers, etc.), in order to determine the existence of the basic infrastructure for people with disabilities / the elderly and to record the main shortcomings. The purpose of this field research is to identify the needs of the Municipality in new or improved infrastructure, which will contribute to the protection and safety of people with disabilities / the elderly in the event of an emergency disaster.

A.3.3 Secondary Data Collection

Furthermore, it was proposed to PB4 to collect secondary data from either the Albanian Ministry of Defense, Interior and Health and Social Welfare, the Municipality of Kolonjë or from other relevant official sources in order to investigate the degree of inclusion of persons with disabilities / elderly in civil protection plans. The purpose of this action was to collect relevant documents and plans and to evaluate their effectiveness in universal civil protection.

A.3.4 Training of Inspectors Team

For this research it was proposed to PB4 to create a team of field inspectors, who would visit the Municipality of Kolonjë to investigate the secondary data mentioned above, to carry out inspections in basic municipal infrastructure and to collect the primary data through individual interviews with representatives of the Municipality (Deputy Mayors, Mayors, Municipal Directors, Specialists, Engineers and Technical). It was considered useful for these inspectors to have substantial knowledge, skills and experience in conducting on-site surveys. For this reason, it was considered appropriate to implement appropriate training on how they will conduct the interview first, and secondly some basic information about the project 4Plus and the emergency management. Also, ensure their continued support and assistance during the investigation.

So, it is considered appropriate to mention the following some key points that interviewers should pay attention to before, during and after the interview:

Before the Interview

- **Arrange an appointment for an interview as soon as you can.** In this case you are more likely to have a positive answer. Be polite and flexible with the dates and times of the interview and confirm them with an email.
- **Inform the participant that all protection measures against covid-19 will be followed.** Before the day of the interview, make sure that you have a disposable protection mask and antiseptic care to protect yourself and the participant.
- **Be clear about the information they are asking for.** Clearly explain the purpose of the specific survey and the time required (30 minutes or an hour is a typical time frame).
- **Designate the meeting place of the interviewee.**
- **Study the research well before the interview.** To be clear and informative it is good to have time to study the research, so if you need to focus on getting information that you cannot find from sources other than the interview.

- **Study in advance, if possible, the person you are interviewing.** In order to be clear and informative, it is good to know in advance some information about the person you are going to meet.
- **Prepare the questions you will ask.** The aim is to be as clear as possible to the interviewee so that you receive a clear answer. As the largest part of the proposed questionnaire consists of open-ended questions it allows you to get more information and explanations for one answer.
- **Decide in advance how you want to record the interview.** Recording an interview is a good practice as you will be able to focus more on the discussion with the participant and at the same time you will have a complete and accurate file of the interview. However, keep in mind that the interviewee may be a shy person, who may feel embarrassed about a possible recording. In this case, try to either make it feel more comfortable with the process, otherwise keep as many written notes as you can.
- **Confirm the interview appointment.** Given the large number of interviews that will take place, it is a good idea to call the interviewee one day before each scheduled interview to confirm it. In case it is canceled for any reason, you can suggest a new date and time.

During the Interview

- Try to be on time.
- Make sure you follow all the protection measures against covid-19
- Be friendly and polite.
- Do not show how anxious you can be.
- Remind to the interviewee the purpose this appointment.
- Keep your cell phone off.
- Write the name of the person you are interviewing, the date, time and place of the interview
- Before you start, ask the participant if he / she wants to be recorded and if he / she agree record the answer on the recording device. In case of refusal, start the interview by taking as many notes as possible.
- Relax and have fun in your interview.
- Be cooperative and speak simply and directly.
- Look straight in the eyes but not indiscriminately.
- Ask the questions you have designed in simple words.
- If an answer was not helpful enough, ask follow up questions.
- Do not be absorbed in taking notes as long as the interview lasts.
- Be neutral so as not to influence the participant, but always with an interest in his point of view.
- Respect the time of the person you are interviewing and if you want a little more time for the interview ask for his / her approval.
- Thank the person for his / her time to participate in this survey.

After the Interview

- Immediately after the interview, check if you have recorded the interview, otherwise go to your notes and make sure they are completed.
- Send a thank you email.
- Properly record all the information you gained in the interview according to your documentation style.
- It is recommended that you send the final report to the person you interviewed with a final thank you note.

A.3.5 Recommended Analysis of Research Findings

To evaluate the research findings, the following methodology was proposed to PB4 in order to be highlighted the problems of the capacity assessment of local municipality for people with disabilities / the elderly.

- **Annotation of Findings**
 - Presentation of results in diagrams and tables and annotation of the findings under each graph (One paragraph per table of 3-5 lines).

- **Evaluation of Findings**
 - Which are the main strategies/plans/actions of the Municipality of Kolonjë for disaster management for people with disabilities / the elderly (1-2 paragraphs)?
 - Which is the early warning system for people with disabilities/ the elderly (1-2 paragraphs)?
 - Which are the preparedness and response of the Municipality of Kolonjë for people with disabilities / the elderly (1-2 paragraphs)?
 - Which is the local infrastructure for people with disabilities / the elderly (1-2 paragraphs)?
 - Which are the capacity and training needs preventing people with disabilities / the elderly (1-2 paragraphs)?
 - Which is the financial capacity of the Municipality of Kolonjë for disaster management (1-2 paragraphs)?

- **Conclusions**
 - Summary assessment about the Municipality's emergency plans and the inclusion of people with disabilities / the elderly in them (1 paragraph).
 - Summary assessment about the needs and gaps of the Municipality of Kolonjë (1 paragraph).

A.4 PB6 PARTNER GUIDANCE

In the framework of the project, PB6 was responsible to carry out a door-to-door survey in order to be identified the most vulnerable people living in Kolonjë, more specifically the cases of residents who need special a priori planning / preparation. The LB, in the context of this deliverable, proposed to PB6 a specific methodology to record and evaluate the results of this survey.

A.4.1 Door to Door Methodology

The purpose of this survey is to assess the level of awareness among people with disabilities / the elderly about the needs, current risks and types of exclusion that this group of people face in periods of natural hazards and civil emergencies. As it mentioned before, the lives of these people are in daily danger as there is no proper evacuation planning, safe infrastructure and the necessary information in case of a sudden disaster. So, this survey seeks to bring to light the problems that these people are faced in such a case.

For this reason, LB proposed to PB6 to implement a door-to-door closed-ended questionnaire. Questionnaire is a form, which includes a series of structured questions, to which the respondent is asked to answer in writing and in a specific order. Questionnaires collect data asking people to answer the exact same set of questions. They are usually used in the context of a research strategy, in order to collect descriptive and explanatory data on opinions, attitudes, characteristics, attitudes, etc. Although there are several definitions, we use the questionnaire as a general term that includes data collection techniques, where each respondent answers the same set of questions, in a predetermined order.

The main advantages of the questionnaires are the following:

- can be sent to a large number of people,
- they are easy to create and use them,
- respondents can express themselves freely (lack of direct communication),
- the ways of analyzing the material are standard,
- the researcher cannot influence the answers,

Some general guidelines for designing the questionnaire were the followings:

- The questions must be formulated clearly and in such a way that they can be understood by all users.
- The questionnaire must not contain technical terms and difficult words. If, however, there must be some technical terms that need to be used, then some explanation should be given in parentheses so that all users can fully understand these concepts.
- The questions should be simple and concise.
- The size of the questionnaire should be small.
- The questionnaire must not have pointless questions.
- The questionnaire should be sent to about 20 participants to find out if there are any problems with its design.
- The questionnaires should not exceed 250.

A.4.2 Recommended Analysis of Research Findings

To evaluate the res survey findings, the following methodology was proposed to PB6 in order to be highlighted the problems of the capacity assessment of local municipality for people with disabilities / the elderly.

- **Annotation of Findings**
 - Presentation of results in diagrams and tables and annotation of the findings under each graph (One paragraph per table of 3-5 lines).

- **Evaluation of Findings**
 - Which are the needs and challenges for people with disabilities/ the elderly people in their daily life? (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Which is the level of civil emergency preparation of the Municipality of Kolonjë? (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Which are the ways of information and communication in a sudden disaster for people with disabilities / the elderly? (1-2 paragraphs)

- **Conclusions**
 - Summary assessment about the needs and challenges of people with disabilities / the elderly people (1 paragraph).
 - Summary assessment about the emergency plan of the Municipality of Kolonjë (1 paragraph).
 - Summary assessment about the needs and gaps in information and communication (1 paragraph).

B. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

B.1 PB4 DATA ANALYSIS

Partner PB4, after the guidance of LB, carried out the primary and secondary research in the Municipality of Kolonjë. Initially, PB4 designed a questionnaire based on which the interviews with the elected representatives and the staff of the Municipality would be conducted. The questionnaire was guided by the requirements outlined in the law no. 45/2019 on Civil Protection, law no. 139/2015 on Local Self-Governance and the law no. 93/2014 on people with disabilities / the elderly.

PB4, in collaboration with the ACEG Center team, selected filed inspectors (3 female and 1 male), who conducted all the research carried out in the Municipality of Kolonjë. Initially, they conducted interviews with the elected representatives and employees of the Municipality, they recorded data from the field research in the basic structures of the Municipality and they collected secondary data such as municipal documents, strategy plans etc. Prior to the implementation of the above research, a two-day training seminar was held for the filed inspectors regarding the management of emergency disasters. The seminar was implemented via the Skype platform using an interactive methodology. In addition, a WhatsApp team was created, to which all filed inspectors had access and could ask any question that arose during the investigation. With this application, their immediate support was provided.

The research questionnaires were automatically completed in a coded database created through the cloud system and analyzed. A draft summary of the findings was then prepared and communicated to members of the on-site inspection team to verify the data. This was followed by a notification of a report to the head of the respective Municipality's DRR focal person, municipality's elected official representative, URI representative and, where possible, a meeting with them for a follow-up interview. The purpose of the above action was to review the evaluation report of the municipality, to identify any updates and developments after the research and to make suggestions for improving the report.

B.1.1 Policy Regime on Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil protection

After the extensive recording of the primary and secondary data of the partner's research, all the data were collected and presented in detail. The main points of the research are analyzed below:

- Albania is a country prone to disasters. The four main dangers affecting the country are earthquakes, floods, forest fires and landslides. According to the annual World Risk Report (BEH-IFHV, 2019), which calculates the Disaster Risk Index for 180 countries based on exposure, sensitivity, vulnerability and response and adaptation capabilities, Albania ranks first in Europe and 61st in the world.
- The National Strategy on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction is a draft document not yet adopted by the government of Albania.
- Law 45/2019 "On Civil Protection", aims to reduce the risk of disasters and the implementation of civil protection brought several innovations in the field of civil protection in Albania both from an institutional point of view and from the means used to achieve the objectives. The main instruments used at national and local level are the risk and vulnerability assessment document, the risk reduction strategy and the emergency policy plan.
- At the national level there is the Civil Protection Service is the main body at the national level in the exercise of civil protection duties.

- At regional level, one of the main tasks of the prefect of the region is to coordinate the distribution of international aid in case of disasters, as well as to control the implementation of the measures taken by the municipalities.

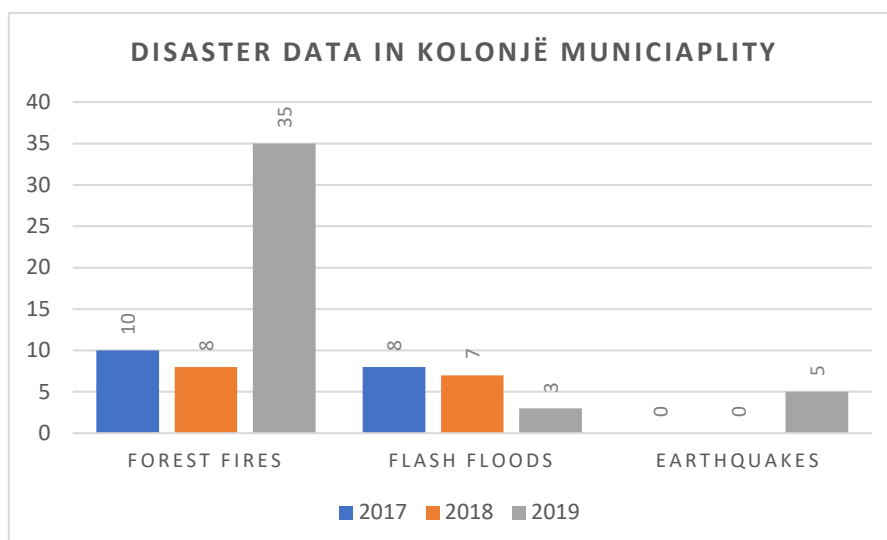
- Municipalities also have direct responsibilities in the field of civil protection, such as informing the public and the vulnerable community and organizing training activities in the field of civil protection for workers and residents of their territory, providing the necessary data for citizens and private



bodies, disaster prevention, protection and rehabilitation investments. Thus, all municipalities are obliged to establish as part of their structures their respective civil protection directorate.

B.1.2 Local Development Planning and Risk Reduction in Kolonjë municipality

- The Municipality of Kolonjë has a total area of 864.06 km² and a population of 11,070 inhabitants. It consists of 8 administrative units (Erseke, Qendër Ersekë, Deskovic, Qënder Leskovic, Novoselë, Barmash, Mollas, Çlirim) extended in 2 cities and 77 villages. Its geographical position extends upstream of two water basins: the Seman and the Vjosa.
- The Municipality of Kolonjë is exposed to various natural phenomena as it is located at the foot of the Gramoz Mountains. The municipality is mainly affected by earthquakes, floods, forest fires.
- Leskovic, Barmash, Gostivisht and the village of Qafzes are considered areas of high seismicity.
- The Municipality of Kolonjë has identified around 6500 people who are vulnerable to a catastrophic risk.
- The Municipality of Kolonjë has set up the Local Civil Protection Committee (LCCP) of emergency, however it has been called only once in 2020.
- The Municipality of Kolonjë has started drafting a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and a Local Emergency Policy Action Plan, however the documents are still being drafted and in addition no reference is made to the protection of the disabled.



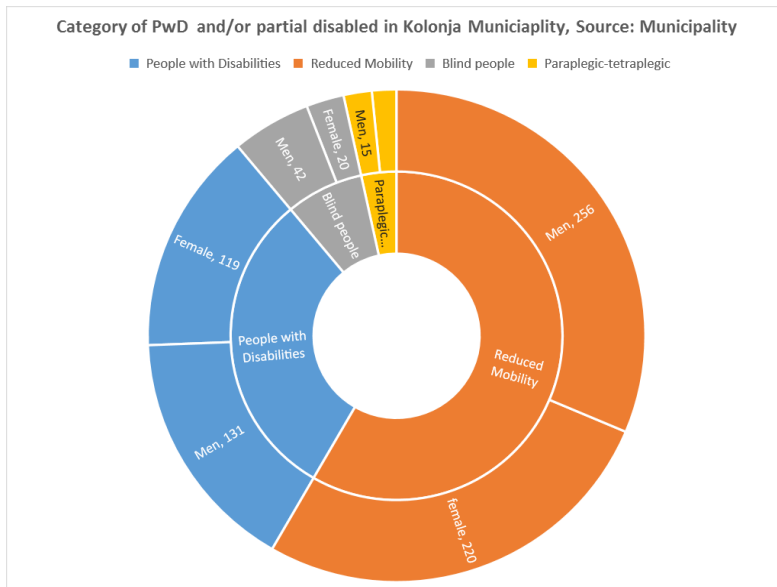
B.1.3 People with Disability and their needs in Kolonjë Municipality

The research carried out in the field of Social and Disabled Aid sector within the Municipality of Kolonjë, revealed the following data regarding the demographic characteristics.

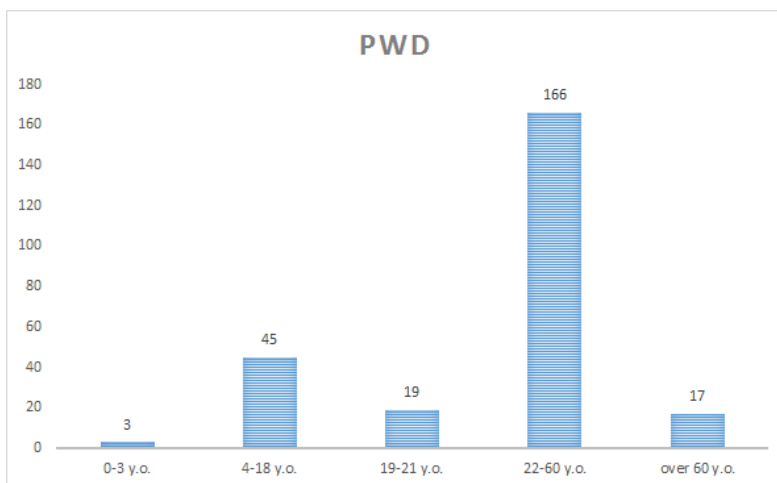
In Municipality of Kolonjë are registered a total of 816 with disabilities, which are registered and receive state aid, constituting 0.07% of the total population of the Municipality. Additional information per administrative unit is shown in the table below.

	People with Disabilities		Physical disabled		Sight Impairment		Pre-tetraplegic	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Ersekë	35	30	95	100	12	19	8	7
Qendër Ersekë	31	35	39	58	3	8	1	3
Barmash	8	8	10	10	0	2	0	1
Novoselë	6	8	6	4	0	1	1	0
Mollas	15	18	32	42	3	4	1	0
Çlirim	5	9	2	10	0	2	0	1
Leskovik	16	17	25	28	1	6	2	2
Qendër Leskovik	3	6	11	4	1	2	0	1
Total	119	131	220	256	20	42	13	15

Concerning the number of disabled people registered by gender, it was found that people with reduced mobility are in total 476 (220 women and 256 men), people with disabilities / the elderly 250 (119 women and 131 men), people with vision problems 62 (20 women and 42 men) and paraplegics quadriplegic 28 (13 women and 15 men).

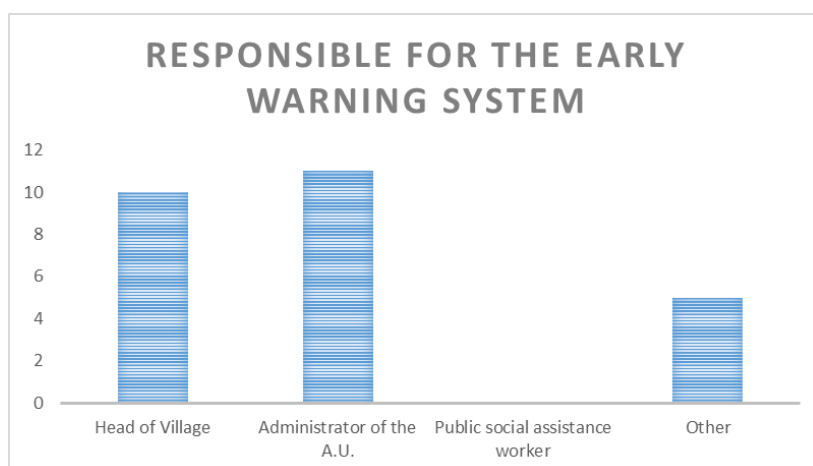


Regarding the age group of the disabled people, it was found that 66.4% are people 22-60 years old, followed by the ages 4-18 years old, 19-21 years old, over 60 years old and 0-3 years old.



B.1.4 Early Warning System

In the present study, the available early warning system for possible dangers that may affect the Municipality was also recorded. From the questionnaires given, 60% of the respondents mentioned the existence of such a system and concerns the case of heavy rainfall. The following diagram shows the hierarchy of early warning system.



Regarding the on-site investigation into the existence and evaluation of devices that could be used by people with disabilities / the elderly during a disaster, it emerged that:

- There are no sirens placed in the municipality of Kolonjë.
- There is no system of registered volunteers.
- There is no specific program or EWS station that could be used in the event of an emergency or emergency tailored to the needs of people with disabilities / the elderly.
- There is no electronic warning sign for any danger.

Looking the categories of the PwD community, 51 of them have cognitive barriers, 58 physical ones, whereas 57 have hearing and speaking barriers and 70 of them have a mixed barrier. This variety of age and impairments highlights the importance of a tailored early warning system for PwD in Kolonjë.

	Cognitive	Physical	Hearing/Speaking	Mixed	Down-syndrome	Total
People with disabilities	51	58	57	70	8	250
0-18 years old	1	1	0	0	0	2

Also, the information provided in the municipality website www.Kolonjë.gov.al are not DRR inclusive for PwD, nor does the guidance note which are listed under the section of the civil emergencies.

B.1.5 Preparedness for Emergency Response

Concern the on-site surveys which were implemented in Municipality of Kolonjë regarding the use of infrastructure and equipment in emergency situations, the following were recorded:

- There is no system for recording and managing data on disaster events in the Municipality.

- The Fires Rescue Service of the municipality has 4 fire trucks of which only 1 is in use. It also does not have equipment for people with disabilities / the elderly (evacuation chairs or motorized electric chairs, etc.), which could be used in case of emergency,
- There are many open and closed public areas for use in the event of a disaster, but no one is marked as a safe gathering place.
- In the public spaces of the municipality there are ramps for the disabled.



B.1.6 Training and Capacity Building Needs

As part of the research, the needs of the local authorities of the municipality of Kolonjë were also implemented and recorded. These needs have been grouped and are listed below:

➤ Institutional arrangement

A civil emergency unit has been established within the municipality, consisting of 2 specialists belonging to the Human Resources Department. This separation is not practical and by law, there should be a separate address that will provide more means of decision-making at the local level. Also, the municipality of Kolonjë has established the Local Commission for Civil Protection based on the legislative provisions of law 45/2019 with a decision of the municipal council no.9 on 14.01.2020. The Commission is supposed to meet regularly every three months. The Fire and Rescue Service in Kolonjë is the main emergency response agency, which, however, has only basic equipment and an extremely dysfunctional fleet.

➤ Human capacities and technical skills

The survey also found that 60% of the Local Commission for Civil Protection staff and members are not trained in disaster risk management for people with disabilities / the elderly. In addition, they confirmed that the basic training needs are mainly related to preparedness despite dealing with emergencies.

➤ Infrastructure capacities

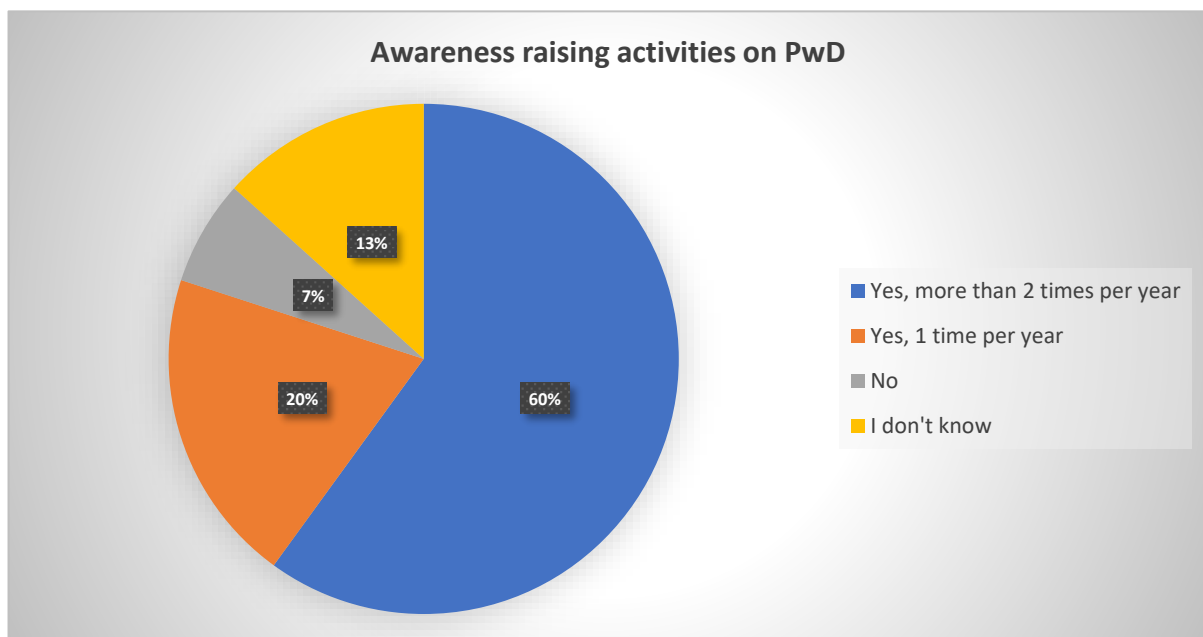
Regarding the infrastructure capacity of the municipality, only 7% responded that there was an emergency access for people with disabilities / the elderly in residential areas whereas 27% responded to lack of access and 46% only partially. On the same question for public buildings 34% of the responders said there was access for PwD and other 33% confirmed that most of the buildings had access. However, 13% stated there was no access followed by another 20% who confirmed of minimal access. Regarding the existence of supporting infrastructures such as ramps, audible signal, illuminated emergency and visible writing, the existence of basic ramps was the main public infrastructure, however none of them had support handrails for the disabled.

➤ **Financial capacities**

The total budget of the municipality for 2020 amounts to 345,928,573, of which 5,000,000 are intended for emergencies. In fact, law no. 45/2019 stipulates that the budget for emergencies should be 4% of the total budget, while the actual distribution by the municipality of Kolonjë is only 1.4%. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the budget was increased to 3%.

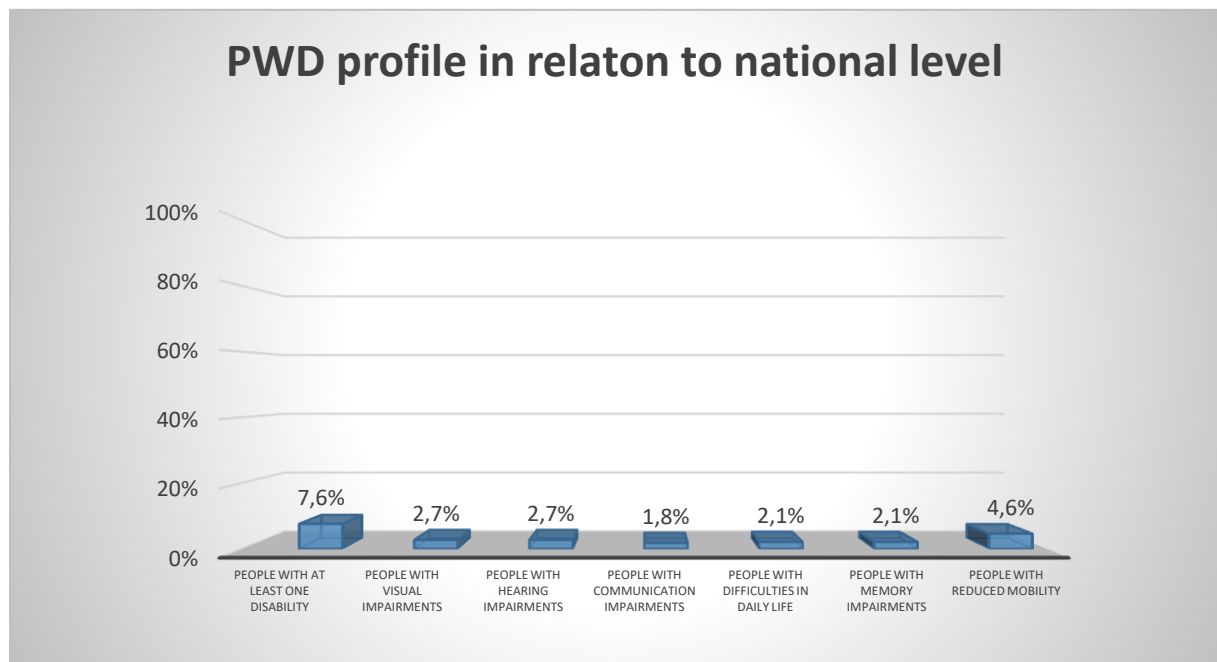
➤ **Information and awareness**

According to local experts, 60% of them said that dedicated awareness sessions for the disabled are organized twice a year, while 20% answered that they are held once a year. In addition, the interviews showed that there is no program for information or awareness activities for the disabled.



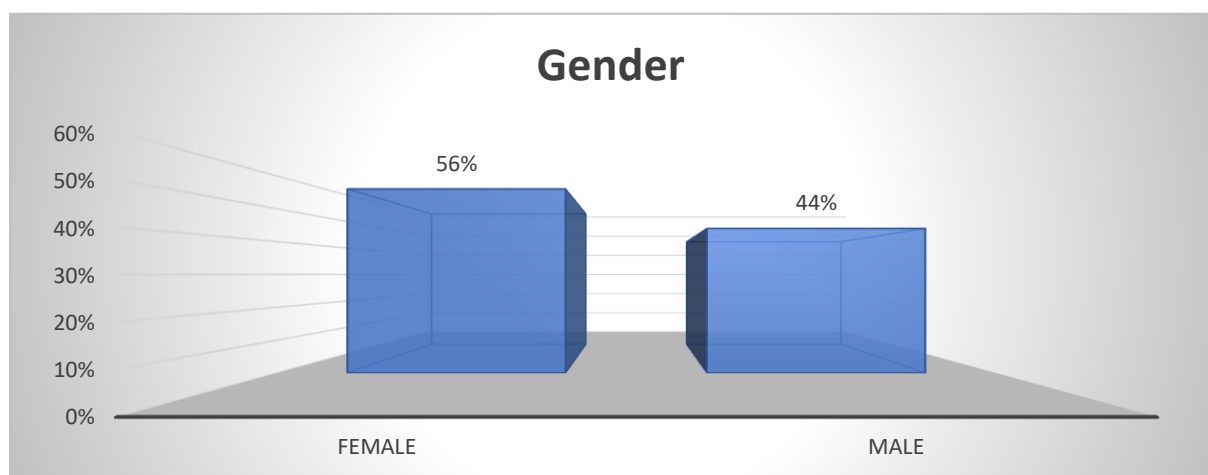
B.2 PB6 DATA ANALYSIS

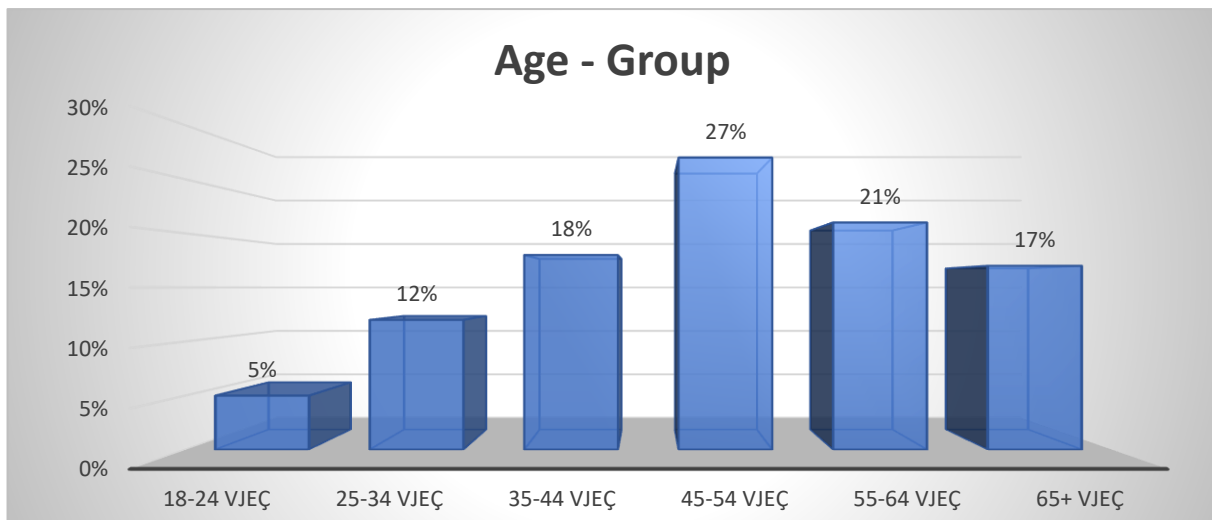
In the context of the present survey, a door - to - door research was implemented by the PB6 in order to identify vulnerable groups and areas where demographics indicate high concentrations of people with disabilities / the elderly in Kolonjë Municipality of Albania. 60 interviews were conducted, to assess the level of awareness among people with disabilities / the elderly about the needs, current risks and types of exclusion that face in periods of natural hazards and civil emergencies. Below are the results of the research as they emerged from the implementation of the interviews.



As shown in the chart above, 7.6% of participants have at least one disability. 4.6% are people with reduced mobility, 2.7% are people with vision problems, 2.7% are people with hearing problems, 2.1% of people have memory problems, 2.1% have difficulties in daily life. And 1.8% are people with communication problems.

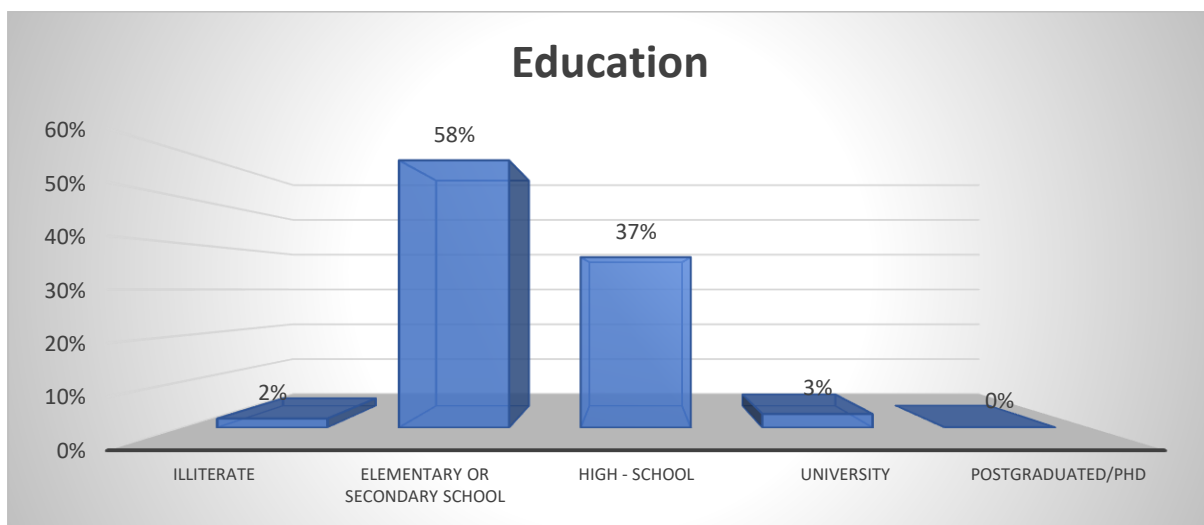
From the survey that was conducted, the majority of respondents who answered were women with a percentage of 56% while the remaining 44% were men.





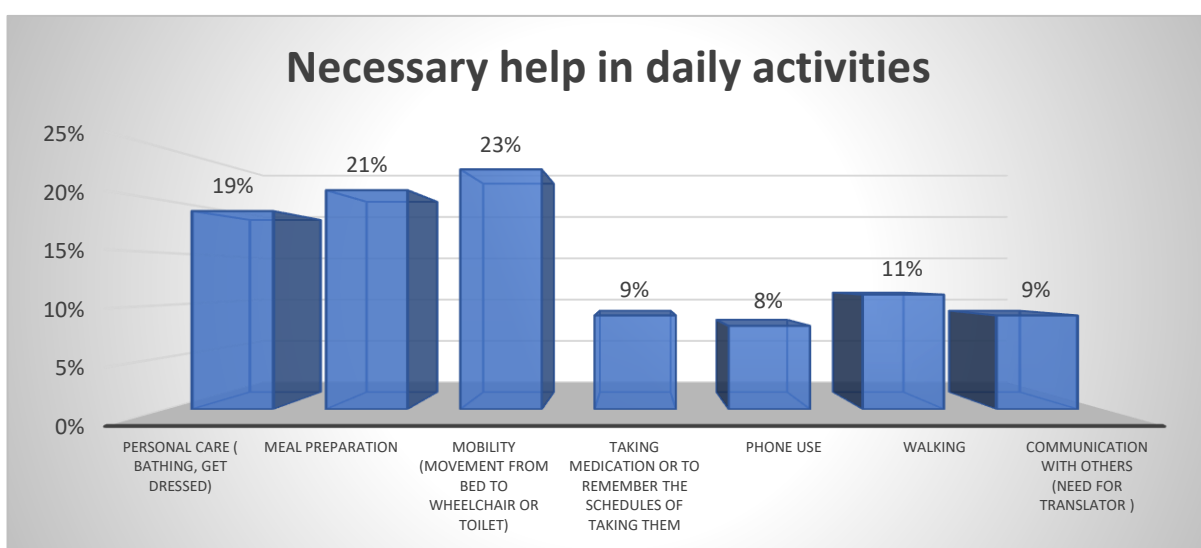
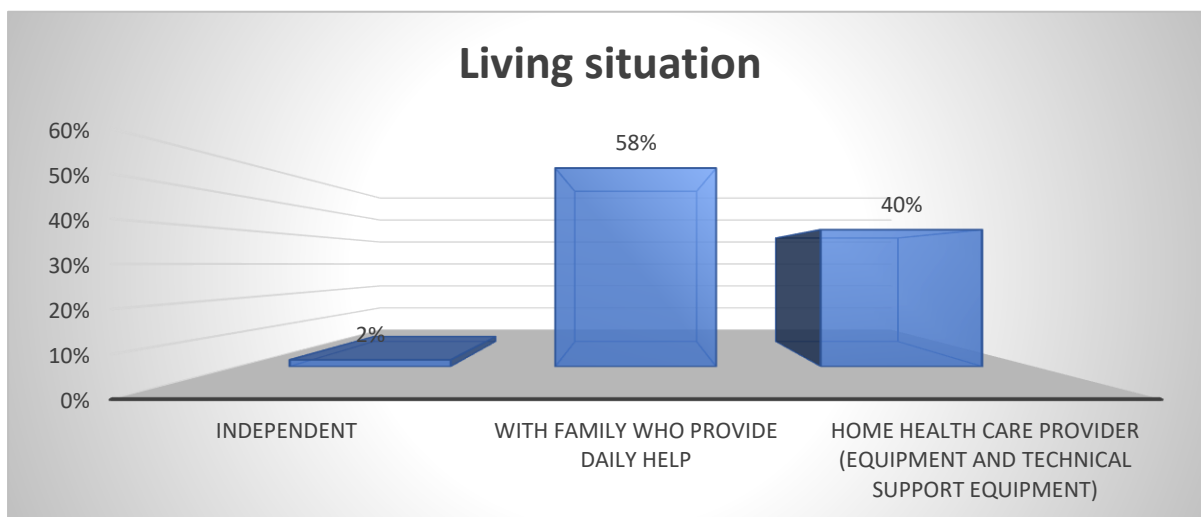
Concerning the age group of the participants, in 27% of cases belong to the age group 45-54 years. While 21% of them belong to the age group 55-64 years and 18% of the respondents belong to the age group 35-44 years. About 17% of them belong to the age group 65+. A smaller percentage belongs to the age group 25-34 years and 18-24 years, respectively 12% and 5%.

Regarding education, 58% of respondents stated that they have completed 9-year school, while a significant part of respondents, 37%, have completed secondary education. About 3% of them said they have a university degree and only 2% are illiterate.



Needs and challenges

Regarding their living situation, only 2% of respondents (being persons with disabilities and / or reduced mobility) stated that they are independent (in all cases the person lived alone) and do not need help and support in their daily lives. Whereas, 58% have a family member who provides daily assistance. About 40% of respondents have a social caregiver (paid staff) who provide technical support with equipment, service evaluation.

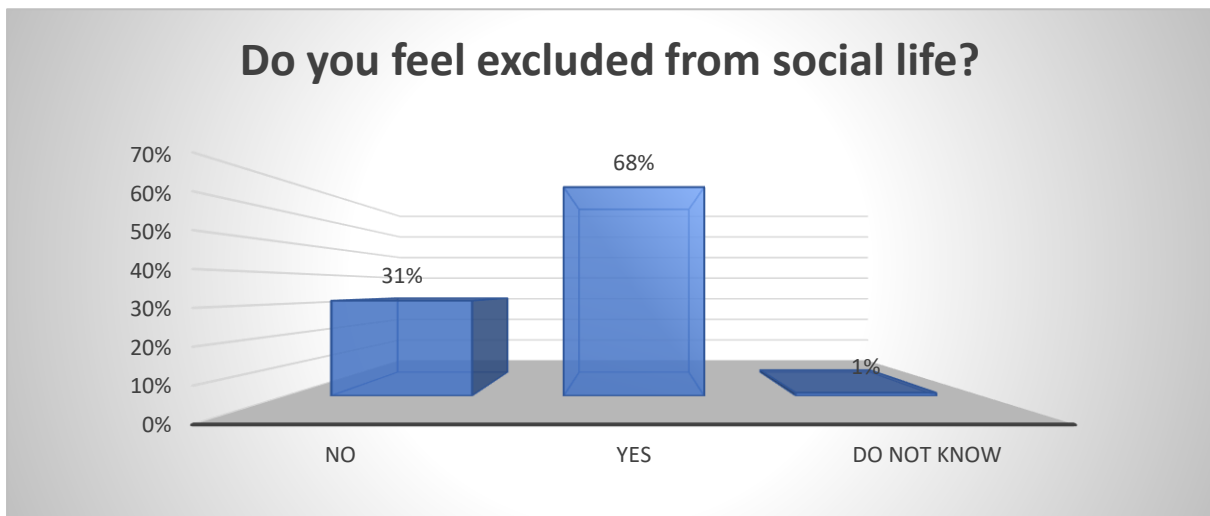


The chart below shows the daily needs of people with disabilities / the elderly, from personal care to the need for communication facilities. The results shows that respondents need help mainly for movement (23%), for meal preparation (21%) and for personal care (19%). Fewer of the participants answered that they need help for walking (11%), for taking medication (9%), for communicating with others (9%) and for phone use (8%).

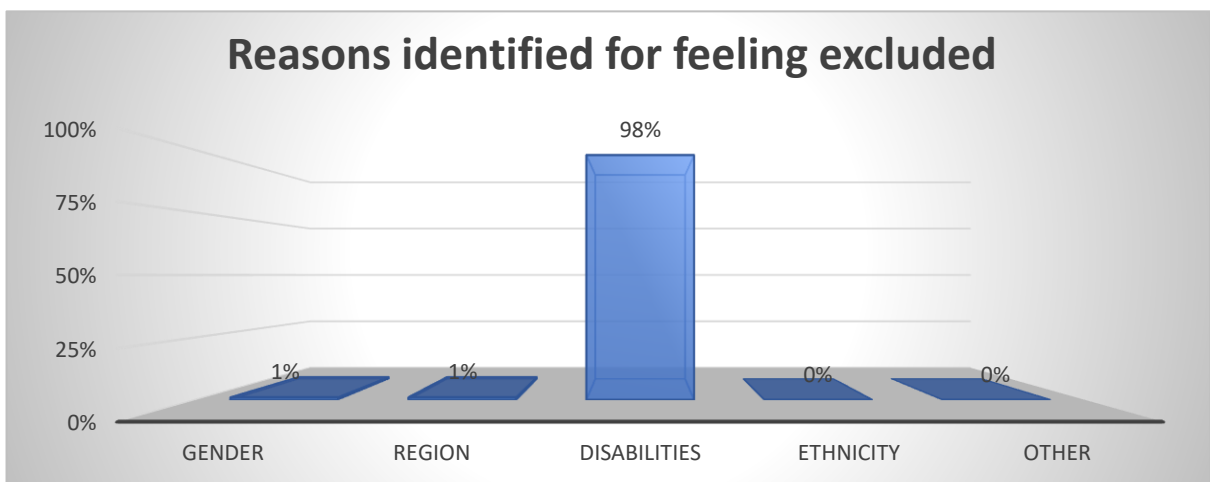
Type of assistive technology or durable medical devices	PWD (N = 60) percentage
Ramp	28%
Sticks, or crutches	18%
Wheelchairs, special wheelchairs or scooters	29%
Belt, which helps with walking, equipment for lifting the patient	4%
Shower chair	21%
Tailored utensils, plates, dishes	8%
Clothing tools (button pull, clothing stick)	4%
Phone with buttons, amplified or large	15%
Hearing aid	24%

Optical glasses	26%
"High-tech" communication device (iPad, tablet or other specialized device for speech generation)	18%
Communication board with pictures or letters	1%
Digital recorder	8%

The table below shows the assistive devices or the durable medical devices that people with disabilities / the elderly need in their daily life. According to participants answers, a large proportion of respondents need wheelchairs or scooters (29%), ramp (28%), glasses (26%), hearing aids (24%) and shower chair (21%). Fewer of the participants answered that they need sticks or crutches, phone with buttons, high tech communication devices, digital recorder, tailored utensils, plates, dishes, clothing tools, belt and communication board with pictures or letters.

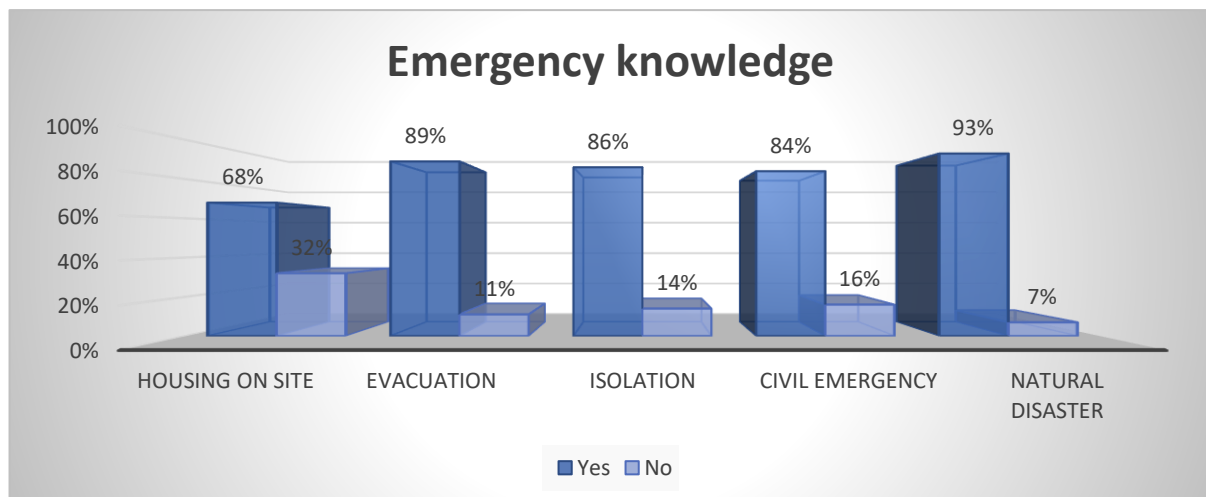


The majority of people with disabilities / the elderly and / or people with reduced mobility (68%) stated that they feel excluded from social life (face challenges in having friends, limited opportunities to participate in social events or to interact with numerous individuals, in developing different types of relationships). 31% of the respondents do not feel excluded.



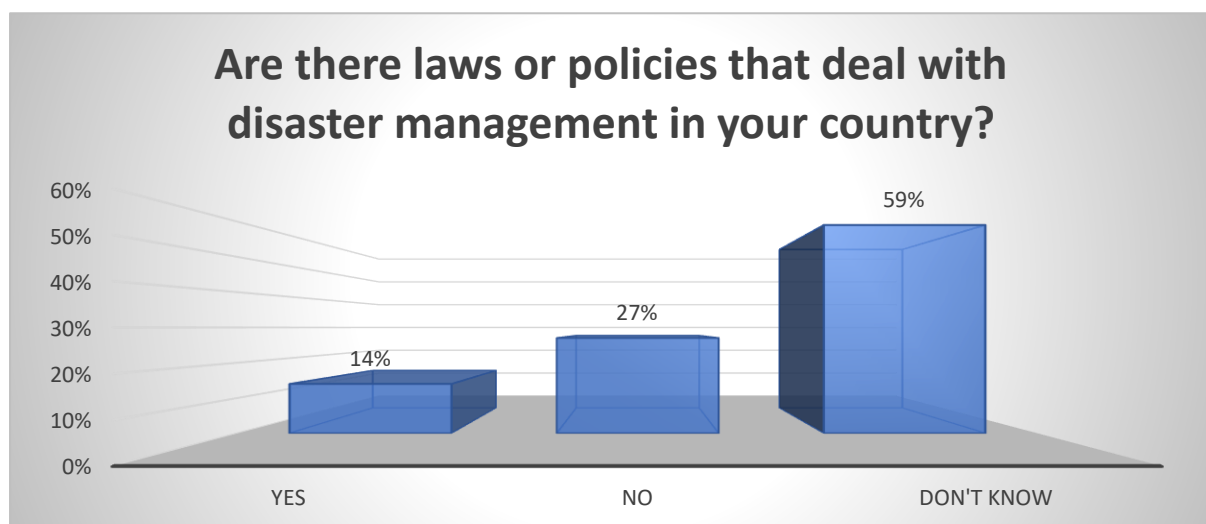
Concerning the reasons for feeling excluded, data analysis shows that 98% of them feel excluded from social life due to disabilities, 1% feel excluded due to their gender and 1% due to their region.

Level of Preparation



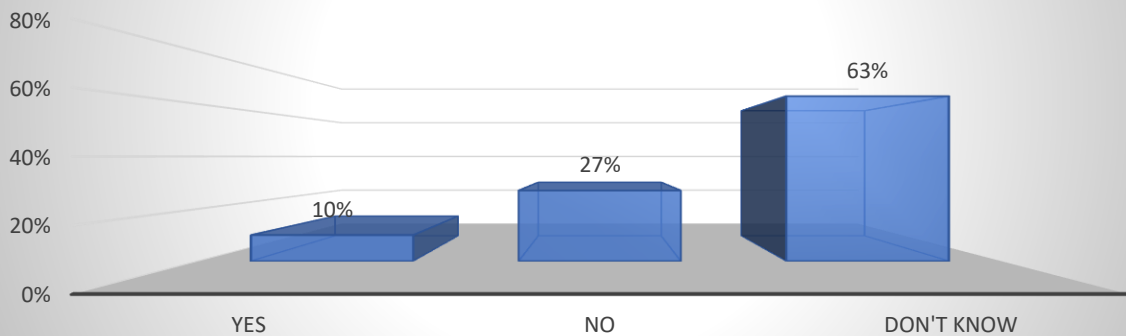
The next question assessed participants' knowledge of the terminology commonly used in emergency referrals, of existing laws / plans / strategies at local and national level, and their knowledge of what to do in the event of an emergency or disaster. The terms chosen to respond were: "on-site housing", "evacuation", "isolation", "emergency" and "disaster". These terms were chosen because of their high frequency of use to provide public information through announcements on television, radio and social media in the event of an emergency or disaster. According to the results of the survey, respondents said that they understood the terms related to emergency well.

The following three graphs show the knowledge about the existence of laws / policies and disaster management plans in the country and at the local level.



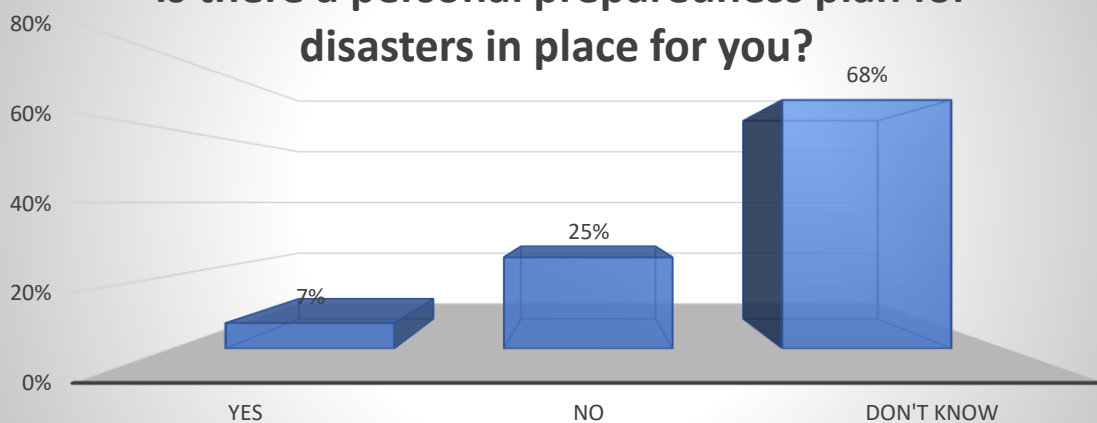
It can be easily seen from the graphs that most of the respondents are not aware of the existence of laws / policies (59%). Also, many of the respondents said that there are not laws or policies for the disaster management (27%) and only 14% of people know about the existence of these laws.

Are you aware of a national disaster management plan in your country?



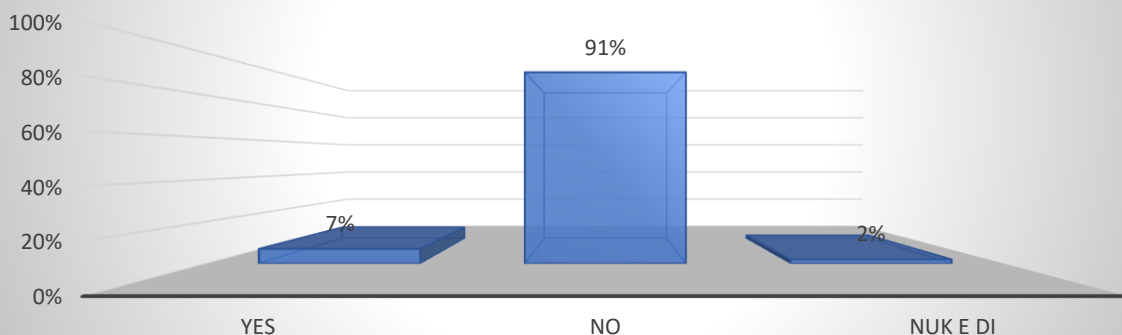
As for the national disaster management plan in the Albania country, most people said that they do not know about that, 27% of people said that there is not a national disaster management plan and only 10% of people they know about this plan.

Is there a personal preparedness plan for disasters in place for you?

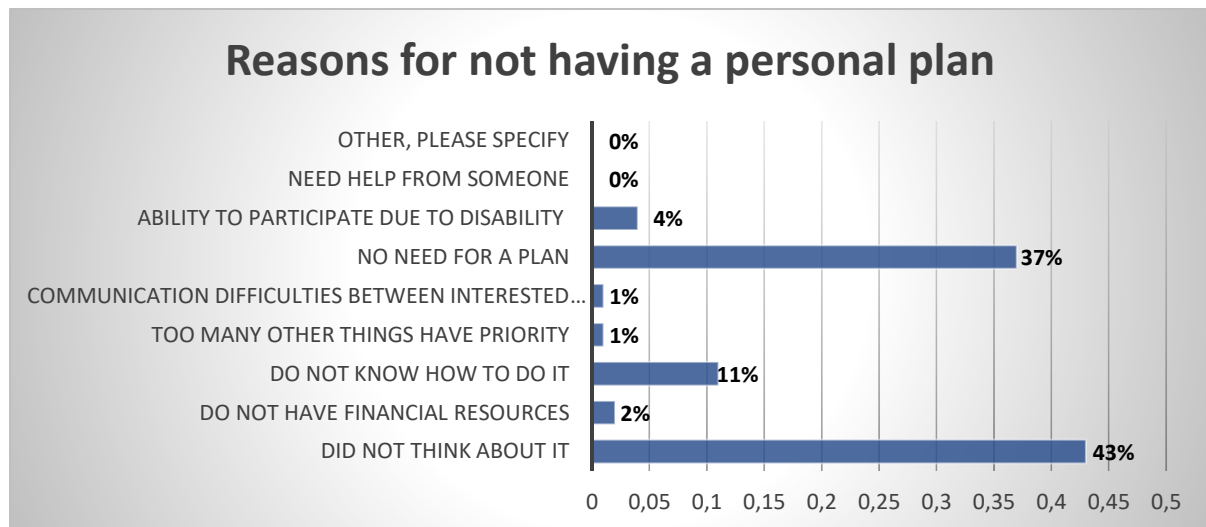


As for a personal preparedness plan, only 7% of respondents stated that there is a personal / community disaster management plan for them. While most of them state that they do not have a personal emergency plan (25%) or they do not know about that (68%).

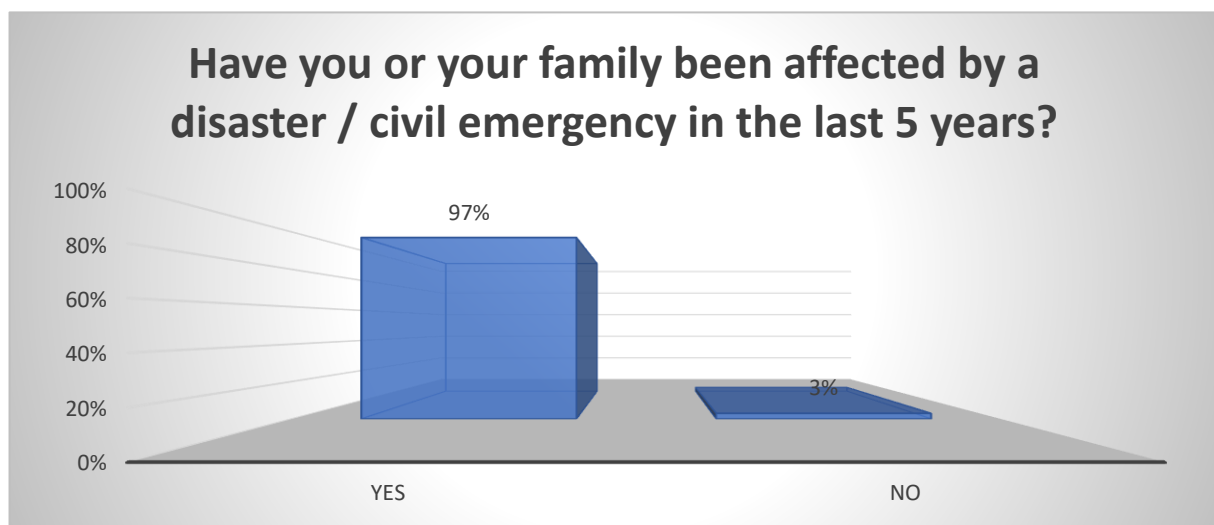
Do you have any personal preparedness plan for disasters/ civil emergencies?



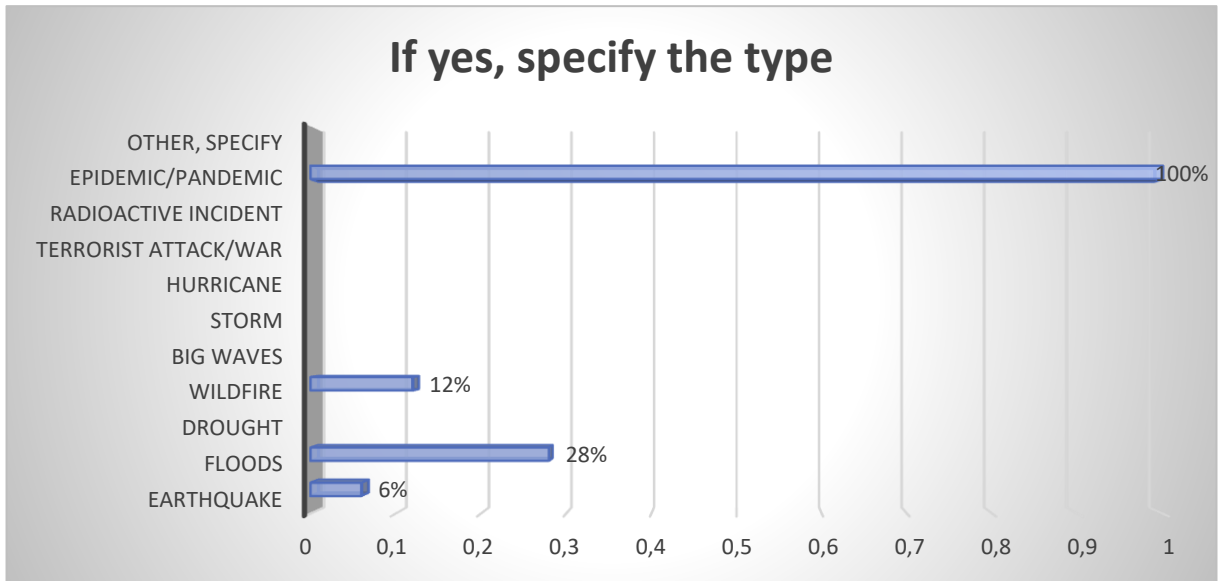
As for the personal preparedness plan, 91% of respondents said that they do not have such a plan. Only 7% of them has a preparedness plan.



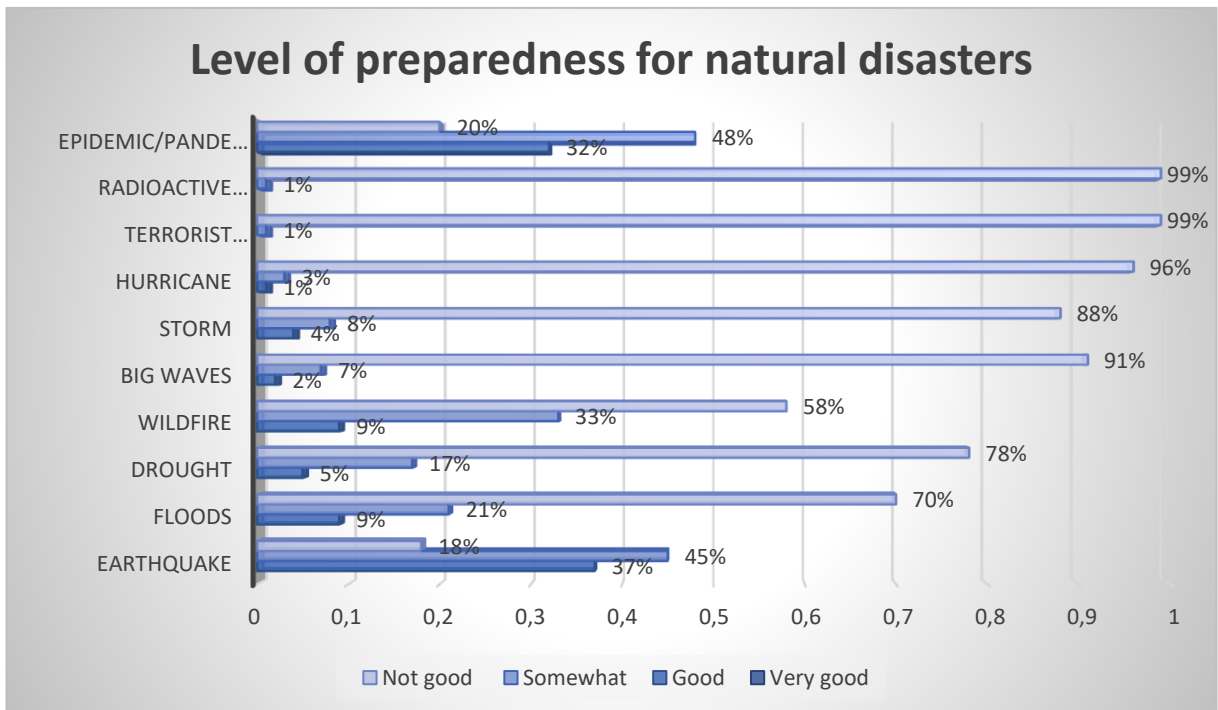
When asked why they do not have such a plan, most answered that did not think about it (43%) and they do no need for a plan (37%). 11% answered that they do not know how to do it, 4% answered that they do not have the ability to participate duo to disability and 2% answered that they do not have the financial resources.



Respondents also were asked if their family have been affected by a disaster/civil emergency in the last 5 years. Most of the respondents (97%) stated that in the last 5 years they have been affected by a natural / civil emergency. Only 3% of them they have not been affected.

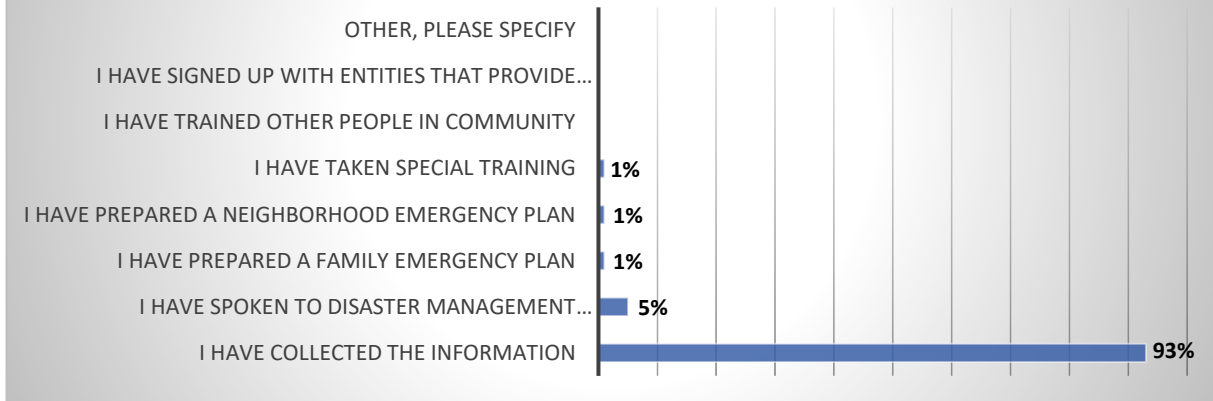


Of the respondents who reported being affected by a natural / civil disaster, all of them were affected by the pandemic of Covid-19, 28% of the respondents were affected by flood, 12% by wildfire and 6% by earthquake.



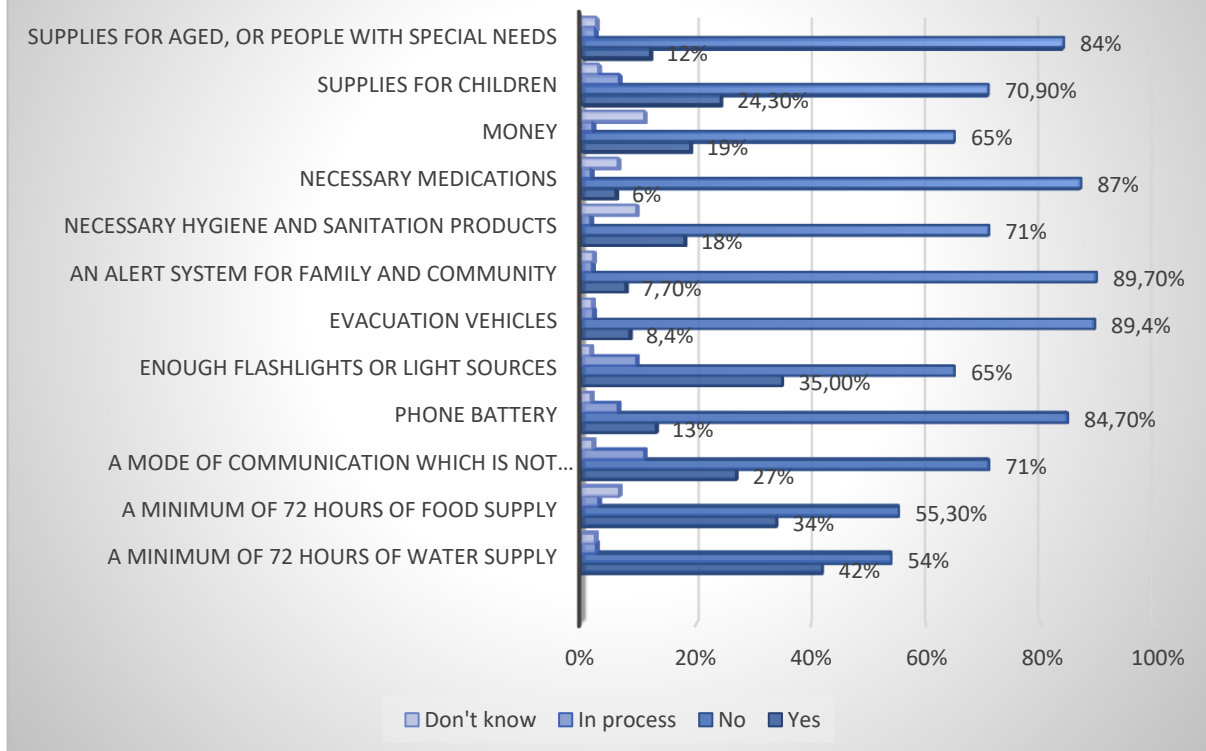
As can be seen in the graph below, regarding the level of knowledge in dealing with natural disasters, most of the respondents have good or somewhat good knowledge about earthquakes, fires and epidemics / pandemics. As for the rest of the assessed risks, the information is not good at all.

To what level have you prepared yourself for any disasters that might occur?



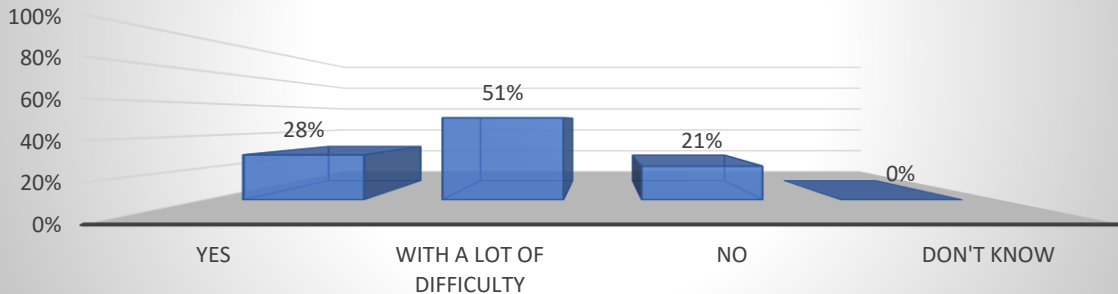
Regarding the level of preparedness in case of disaster, the majority of respondents, 93%, have gathered relevant information on how to react in these cases. About 5% have contacted a disaster management representative (usually a person from the emergency department in their municipality). A small part, 1% have received special training, 1% have prepared a neighborhood emergency plan and 1% have prepared a family emergency plan.

In case of emergencies or disasters, do you have a bag / package for the following?



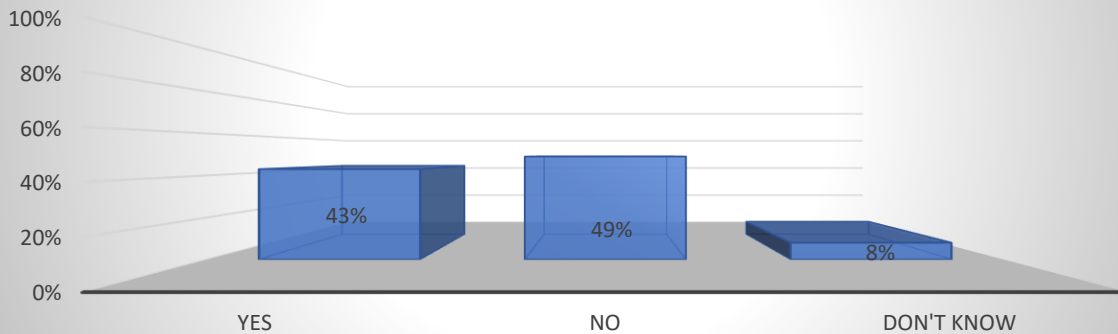
Regarding the existence of a package for emergencies / natural disasters, most of the interviewees answered as follows, where a small part of them is in the process of preparing such a package.

Can you evacuate immediately without difficulty in the event of a sudden disaster event?

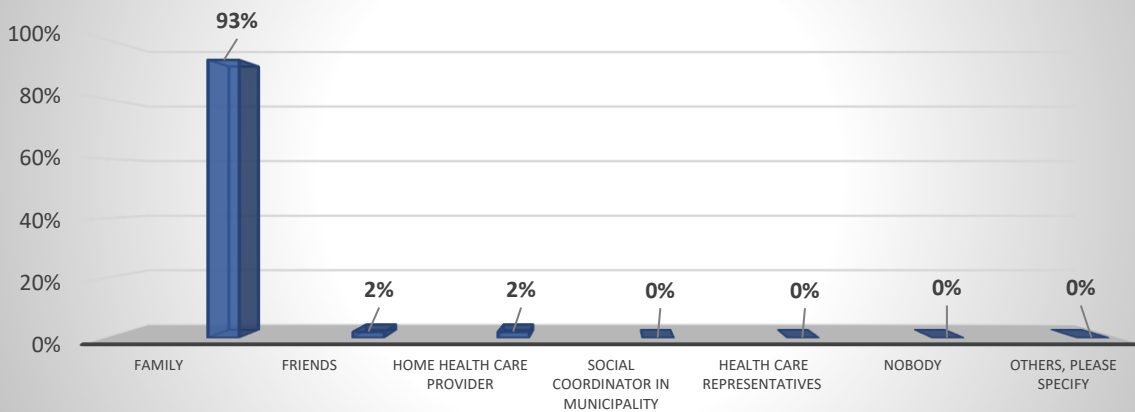


When asked if they can evacuate immediately in a sudden disaster event, only 28% of respondents can evacuate without difficulties, while 51% of them can be evacuated "with great difficulty" and 21% cannot be evacuated at all.

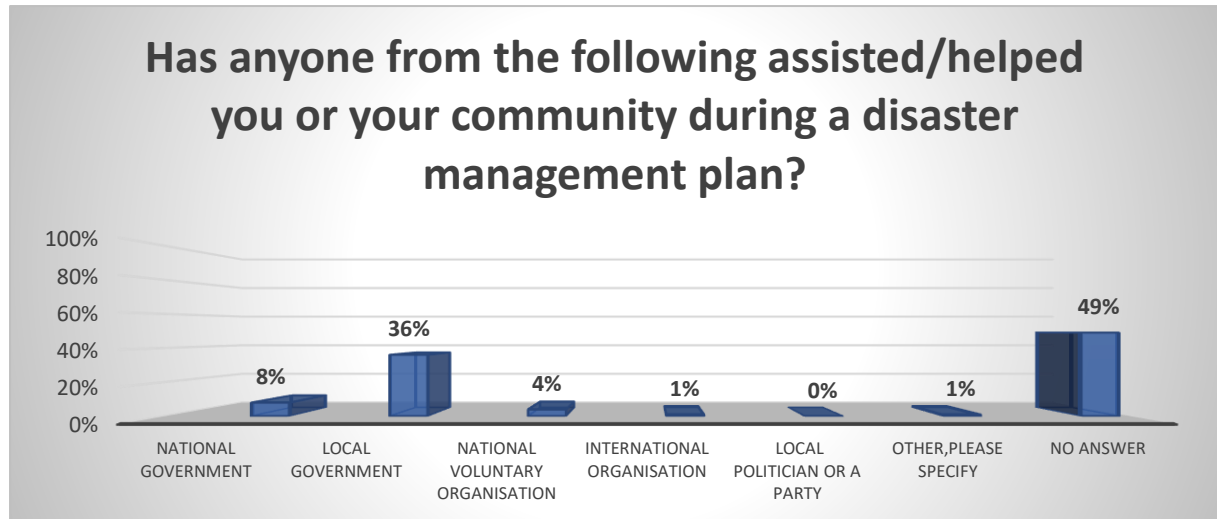
If not, do you have someone there to help you?



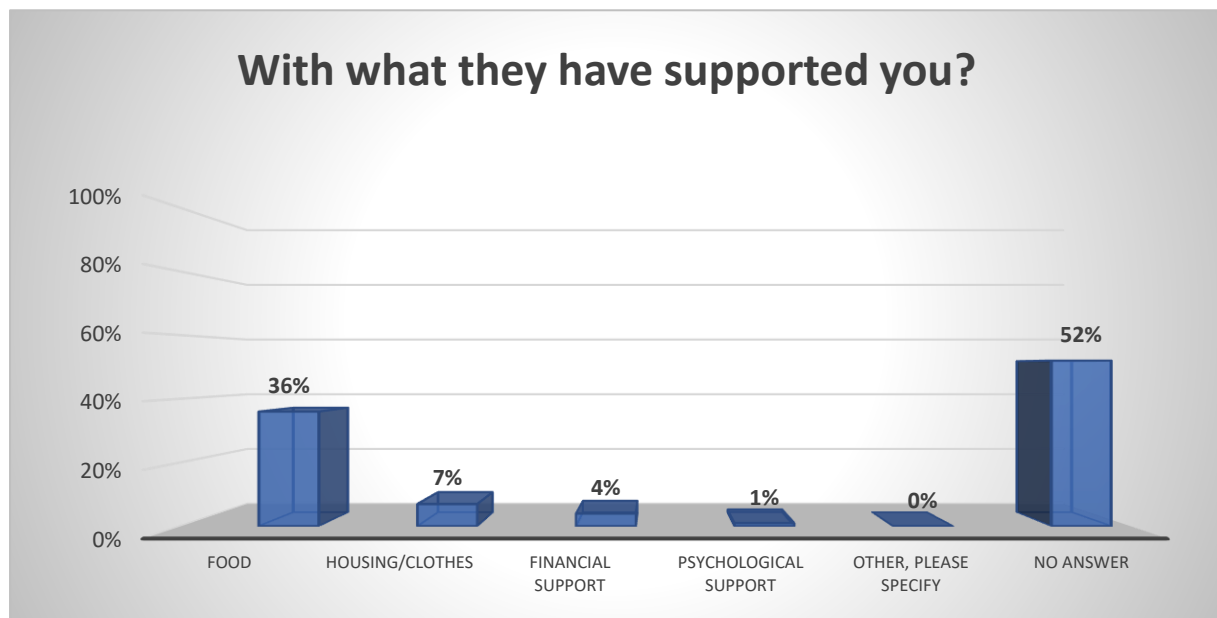
If yes, who helps you?



Among those who cannot be evacuated, about 43% of them have someone who can help them in this case, and in most cases, it is their family members (93%), their friends (2%) and their home health care provider (2%). About 49% of the respondents do not have help to be evacuated.

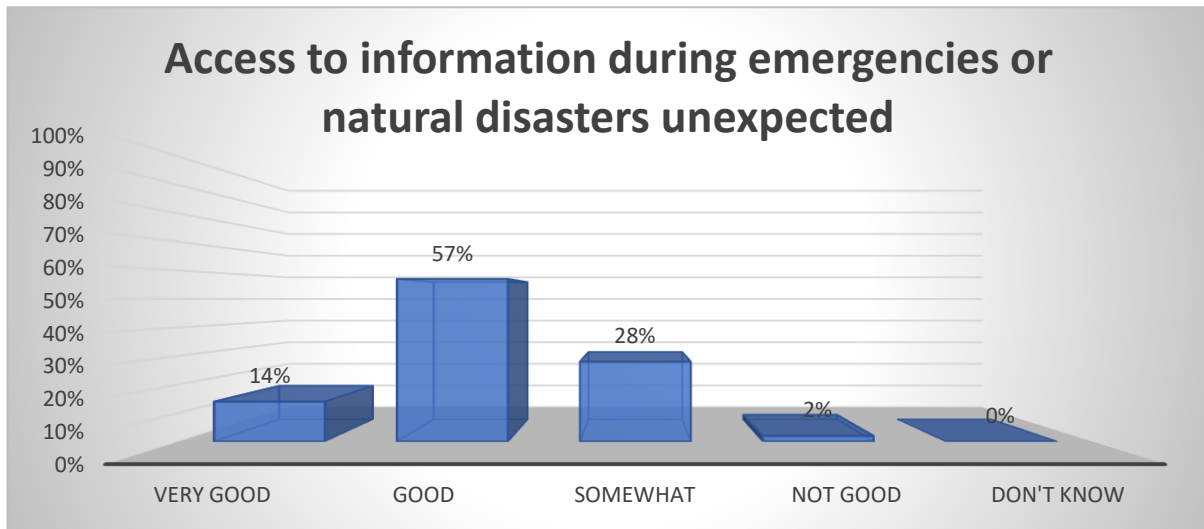


In terms of disaster support received, about 36% of respondents indicated local government as supportive and only 8% said they were assisted by national voluntary organizations and the central government.

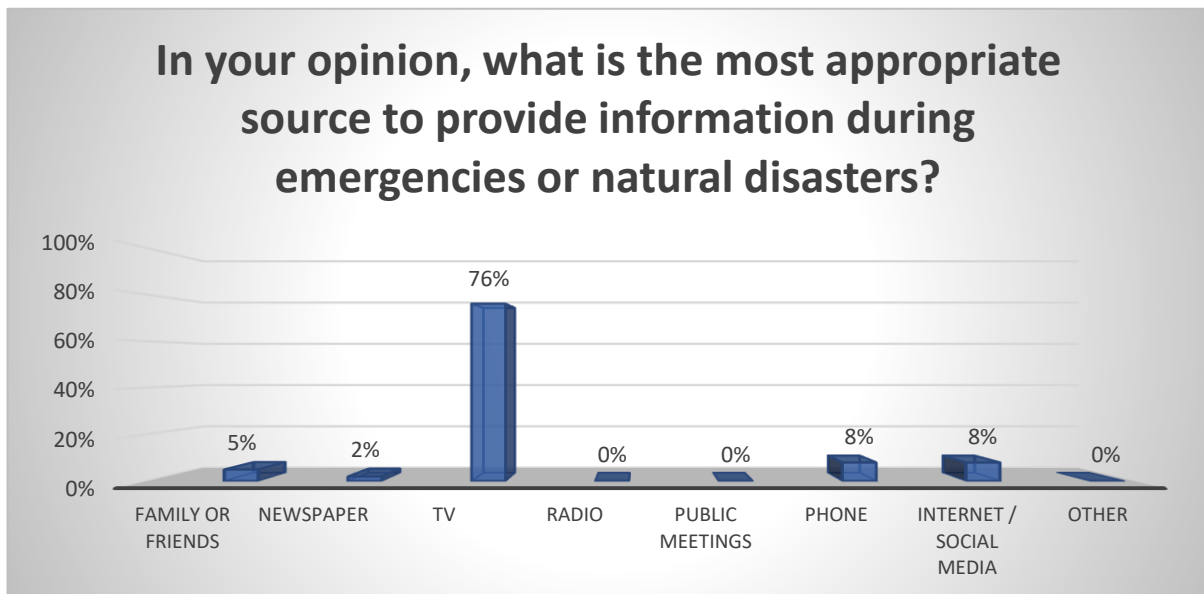


Among the type of support received, respondents stated that they were assisted with food, shelter / clothing and financial and psychological support at 36%, 7%, 4% and 1% respectively.

Access to information



As for their information access during emergencies, about 57% of people stated that access is good. However, some of them during the interviews stated that there is a lack of information in Braille language as well as in sign language. About 28% of people said that access is somewhat and 14% very good.



As for the most appropriate source to provide information during a disaster is television (76%), the phone (8%), the internet (8%), the family and friends (5%) and the newspapers (2%).

C. SUGGESTIONS REPORT

The above research aimed to conduct multifaceted research on the civil protection of people with disabilities/ the elderly in emergency situations. The research included on the one hand a field inspection to evaluate the infrastructure of the Municipality of Kolonjë for people with disabilities / the elderly, interviews with representatives of the Municipality, a collection of documents and plans related to the civil protection of the population and door-to-door research on people with disabilities / the elderly, in order to identify their needs as well as the problems they face.

From the results that emerged from the analysis of all primary and secondary data of the research, it was observed that there are some important shortcomings and needs of the Municipality of Kolonjë concerning the civil protection of people with disabilities / the elderly. These shortcomings concern the following:

- The strategic civil protection plan for people with disabilities/ the elderly.
- The infrastructure and equipment that can assist in the evacuation process for people with disabilities/ the elderly.
- The presence of people with disabilities / the elderly in participatory planning in the emergency disaster management.
- The communication ways either in the context of the preparedness of people with disabilities / the elderly or in the event of a disaster and its end.
- The raising awareness of local government, the community and stakeholders about the needs and protection of people with disabilities / the elderly.

Here are some suggested key conclusions and proposals that will allow the improvement of the existing plans, equipment and infrastructure of the Municipality for an inclusive civil protection strategy:

1. Record all individuals in order to have a complete picture of the characteristics of the population.
2. Participation of the of people with disabilities / the elderly in the civil protection consultations of the local government.
3. Identification of their special needs, for each type of disability.
4. Inclusion in the draft local DRR strategy measures for the protection of people with disabilities / the elderly.
5. Design of plans and risk maps by Municipality of Kolonjë.
6. Improve or even create assistive devices for the efficiency of the early warning system, for various categories (people with vision problems, hearing and speech problems, physical and cognitive disabilities etc.).
7. Identification of basic ways (eg television, radio, alerts, etc.) in which people with disabilities / the elderly will be immediately and easily informed about the danger that occurs.
8. Providing emergency policy information in easily accessible formats.
9. Implementation of an annual simulation exercise, for safe evacuation and protection of people with disabilities / the elderly.
10. Establishment of local communities for the networking of the disabled, the provision of civil protection advice and the file management of volunteer rescuers.
11. Coordination and cooperation of local government, communities, relevant bodies, groups, individuals and volunteers in the improvement of civil protection strategies.
12. Improving public infrastructure in places such as shelters, toilets, etc.

13. Construction and supervision of all public infrastructure works, with a special focus on ensuring the implementation of technical standards set out in the Decision of the Council of Ministers (no. 1503).
14. Involvement of people with disabilities / the elderly in the design and implementation of new infrastructure.
15. Development of the Civil Emergency Unit into a full directorate within the organigram of the municipality.
16. Establishment of the new Emergency Management Directorate, fully staffed and with available resources.
17. Continuous training and information to all stakeholders / groups based on a predetermined program.
18. Increase the capacity of the staff, the disaster management teams of the municipality to meet the needs of people with disabilities / the elderly.
19. Securing the required civil emergency budget (law no.45/2019).
20. Creating an easy-to-use grievance mechanism for people with disabilities / the elderly to address accessibility issues throughout the municipality.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS, PREPAREDNESS, PARTICIPATION AND
COORDINATION FOR CIVIL PROTECTION FOR ALL
PROJECT NO.: A2 – 1.4 – 1**

**DOOR TO DOOR IDENTIFICATION
KOLONJË MUNICIPALITY**

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1. Group age** 18 - 24 years old
 25 – 34 years old
 35 - 44 years old
 45 - 54 years old
 55 - 64 years old
 65+ years old
- 2. Gender** Male Female
- 3. Education:** Illiterate
 Without education
 Elementary or secondary school
 High-school
 University
 Postgraduate (Master / PhD)

NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

- 4. Living situation**
- Independ
 - With family who provide daily help
 - Home health care provider (equipment and technical support equipment, accessibility services, including transport)
- 5. Do you feel excluded from social life?**
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- 6. Reasons identified for feeling excluded:**
- Gender
 - Region
 - Disabilities
 - Ethnicity
 - Other

7. Necessary help in daily activities

LEVEL OF CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPARATION

Please answer the following questions regarding the management of civil emergencies or natural disasters.

1. Are there laws or policies that deal with disaster management in your country?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2. Are you aware of a national disaster management plan in your country?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

3. Is there a disaster management or emergency plan for the area you stay in?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

4. Is there a personal preparedness plan for disasters in place for you?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

5. If yes, who supported/helped with the plan?

- Family
- Friends
- Home health care provider
- Social Coordinator in municipality
- Health care representatives
- Nobody
- Others, please specify _____

6. If not, what is the reason for not developing a personal plan (multiple choices, write down all that is valid)

- Did not think about it
- Do not have financial resources
- Do not know how to do it
- Too many other things have priority
- Communication difficulties between interested parties
- No need for a plan
- Ability to participate due to disability
- Need help from someone
- Other, please specify _____

7. Has you or your family ever been affected by a disaster?

- Yes

- No
- Don't know

8. If yes, specify the type:

- Earthquake
- Floods
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Big waves
- Storm
- Hurricane
- Terrorist attack/ war
- Radioactive incident
- Epidemic/Pandemic
- Other, specify _____

8. In case of emergencies or disasters, do you have a bag / package for the following?

	Yes	No	In process	Don't know
A minimum of 72 hours of water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A minimum of 72 hours of food supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A mode of communication which is not dependent on electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone battery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enough flashlights or light sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evacuation vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An alert system for family and community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Necessary hygiene and sanitation products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Necessary medications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supplies for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. 9. In case of natural disasters, have you been helped or supported by: (multiple choice, list all that apply)

- Military Service,
- Policy
- Prefect
- Region council
- Municipality (emergency department, forest management department in municipality, etc)
- The head of the village
- National voluntary organization
- International organization
- Other, specify _____

10. With what they have supported you (multiple choices, write down all that applies)

- Food
- Housing/ clothing
- Financial support
- Psychological support
- Information and awareness to cope with the situation
- Other, specify _____

11. In your opinion, what is the most appropriate source to provide information during emergencies or natural disasters?

- Newspaper/Brochures
- TV
- Radio
- Internet and e-mail
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Tweeter)
- Phone applications (applications for emergency situations, WhatsApp, viber, other)
- Telephone
- Alarm siren
- Public Electronic tablets

12. Please list the following awareness tools according to their importance to you and your community

	not at all important	A little important	important	Very important
Public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in the planning and development of the Emergency Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Door-to-door meetings by specialists and experts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaflets and other printed materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TV documentaries or TV shows, educational videos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic tool (internet, social media, other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education in school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THANK YOU FOR COOPERATION!

END OF INTERVIEW