

Preamble

The poverty reduction constitutes the priority task and objective disputed by none and all acknowledge unanimously the necessity of rapid and effective settlement of the said problem. The poverty reduction in the state is feasible through the sturdy economy on one side and the targeted social programs on the other side.

As a result of the reform of social systems, as of the year of 2006, the government program of social security was operated, the main purpose whereof is targeted and needful distribution of an aid and thus, drastic reduction of the poverty indexes at the national level.

As of June, 2006, the Association of Young Economists of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as the AYEG), upon cooperation with the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency and support by the Oxfam's Georgian Office, commenced with implementation of the new initiative – the participatory monitoring of the social security program. The said initiative constitutes clear demonstration of successful cooperation by and between the non-governmental and public sectors.

Within the scope of the participatory monitoring, for the purposes of assessment of the program progress, the studies of the population below the poverty threshold were conducted in the Samegrelo region. This publication includes the key findings and summary of the studies held within the scope of the said project.

Terms and expressions

The Agency – the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency, a legal entity under Public Law.

The Family – a group of persons being permanent residents of a detached living space and having the real kinship or otherwise, who keep house jointly (joint use of a living space, maintenance thereof, procurement of means of subsistence required for a family and disposal and distribution of those means for the benefit of a family). A family may include one person.

The Social Agent – a duly authorized person of the LEPL Social Assistance and Employment State Agency, who studies and assesses the social and economic state of a registered applicant following to the established procedure.

The Rating – a conventional unit indicating the social and economic state of applicants registered with the database.

The Beneficiary Family – the family registered with the database of the disadvantaged groups, which became subject to a social aid.

The Non-beneficiary Family – the family registered with the database of the disadvantaged groups, which failed to become subject to a social aid.

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The Project – Participatory Monitoring of the Social Security Program

The project is implemented upon cooperation with the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency and support by the UK Charity - Oxfam's Georgian Office.

Duration: June, 2006 – April, 2007.

Location: Samegrelo region.

The project is focused on elaboration of the model of sustainable participatory monitoring of the state social security program through facilitation of the joint participatory monitoring by the state and civil society, as well as capacity growth of the joint activity of the government and public sector engaged with the issues of poverty and poors in order to expand the dialogue between the various groups of the society for the benefit of poors.

Implementation of the project is based on the cooperation principle and at that, the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency is interested in findings of the study. Right the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency constitutes the direct beneficiary of the project, and families below the poverty threshold in the Samegrelo region constitute the indirect beneficiaries.

Within the scope of the project, there will be implemented the activities as follows:

- meetings and active consultations with representatives of the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency;
- panel study of the Beneficiary Families;

- quantitative study of the Beneficiary Families and the Non-beneficiary Families;
- discussion and presentation of outcomes of the study.

Within the scope of the project, there was held the panel study and 25 families subject to the monetary social aid participated therein. As a result of the study, there was assessed the impact of social aid upon the living standards. There was also conducted the quantitative study of 1,100 (including 600 beneficiaries and 500 non-beneficiaries) families of the Samegrelo region, following whereto, there was assessed the progress of build-up of the databases and the certain procedural and typical problems related to implementation of the program were revealed as well. Within the scope of the project, there were held the workshop with the representatives of the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency and the Ministry of Labour, Healthcare and Social Affairs.

The findings and recommendations of the studies were discussed at the workshop. At the said workshop, there were presented the outcomes of the study; thereby, the recommendations were discussed and the joint action plan was worked out.

The said project is the clear demonstration of successful cooperation by and between the non-governmental and public sectors, when both of the parties are evenly interested in disclosure and settlement of problems and defects. Accordingly, the outcomes and disclosed problems of the study will affect development and perfection of the state social security program. And as a result, one more step will be taken to the poverty reduction in Georgia.

The State Social Security Program

Within the scope of the social security program, registration of poors and development of the integrated database were commenced in 2005. The social security system existing in Georgia by that time was truly inflexible and ineffective and therefore, the reform of social system turned into actual necessity.

By 2005, in Georgia, there was operated the social security system, which nowise allowed for efficient utilization of funds assigned by the state. By that time, the so called “family aid” was divided in 5 main categories as follows: the families of one or more persons of unemployed single pensioners; the orphan children; the disabled and unemployed blind persons of the first group; the disabled children under the age of 18; and the families of dependent children, which got 7 or more children under the age of 18.

Such form of distribution of the aid, despite being subject to easier administration, includes the numerous defects, following whereto, in some cases, the monetary aid is rather given to those, who do not need it, than to those, whose need therein is vitally important.

Based on all the above, it appeared necessary to reform the social security system and to elaborate such a program, which could allow the state to utilize the available resources in the targeted and efficient manner.

The Government has elaborated the new program, which shall distribute the social aid through the different principle. And the concept of the program is as follows: to create the database, which shall ensure for targeted and “as per necessity” distribution of the social aid.

The State Program of Development of the Database of Population living under the poverty line is unique due to the concept thereof and its high level of targeting constitutes the major advantage.

As of 2005, the Social Assistance and Employment State Agency is in charge of implementation of the state program of “development of the database of poor families”, which aim registration of the poorest families at the national level. Any family that deems itself in beggary due to its social and economic state, requires an aid and is willing to get such aid may receive an application form at a communication point as per place of residence, fill that out and deliver back to such communication point.

Following to a delivered application, the social agent representing the Agency shall visit such family and study the social and economic state of that family, whereafter, along with a duly authorized representative of the family, s/he shall fill out a specific document – “the family declaration”, which shall contain an information (demographic data, revenues living conditions, a property in possession, etc.) declared by such duly authorized representative of such family.

Prior to fill out of the declaration, the social agent shall notice the family that in case of any inaccuracy of or false data disclosed in the course of examination thereof, such family should be unregistered and they forfeit the right of repeated application for registration with the database for subsequent 3 years.

After the said procedure, the family shall receive the so called “database registration certificate”, which constitutes a document of a specific form and may be issued only to the families registered with the database. The certificate shall include the rating corresponding to the family. Any capable member or an authorized member of the family may receive the certificate. For the purposes of determination of an identity, the family

representative shall, for the purposes of receipt of the certificate, furnish a document proving his identity (an identity (residence) card or a passport of the Georgian citizen), otherwise, no certificate shall be issued. By issue of the certificate, the registration procedure is deemed completed.

After completion of fill out of the declaration, accuracy of data provided thereunder shall be proved by signatures of an authorized representative of the family and the social agent. At the next stage, the Agency shall ensure processing of data provided under the declaration and following to the established procedure, shall set the rating of the family, which shall correspond to the living conditions thereof. As lower is the rating so much the family is poor.

The rating constitutes a solid unit, which determined whether the family shall receive the aid envisaged under the program.

For the purposes of effective implementation of the social security program, setting the so called “poverty threshold rating” bore the exclusive importance. At present, the threshold rating was set to 52,001, which means that the monetary social aid shall be given out to the families, which get lesser than 52,001 rating points upon registration with the integrated database.

Within the scope of the social security program, the special importance is assigned to the so called “healthcare policies”, whereunder poors are offered the enough wide range of healthcare services. Those policies are issued to the families registered with the integrated database and which rating is lesser than 70,000 points.

At this stage, 102,038 families were granted the social aid, and the most part thereof reside in Tbilisi, Samgrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Kakheti regions (**please, refer to Table 1**).

In Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, 55,177 families delivered the application; there were filled out 42,502 declarations and the corresponding rating was assigned to 44,890 families.

Table 1¹

Number of program beneficiaries per regions

Region	Family	Person
Tbilisi	10604	23045
Guria Region	5245	14154
Racha-Lechkhumi and Qvemo Svaneti Region	4280	9197
Kakheti Region	14610	33490
Imereti Region	21381	53675
Mtskheta-mtianeti Region	5841	12900
Samegrelo-zemo svaneti Region	14510	41993
Samskhe-javakhe region	3321	7589
Qvemo Qartli Region	6479	16040
Shida Qartli Region	9111	21713
Autonomous Republic of Adjara	6431	26176
Zemo apkhazeti	225	717
Total	102038	260689

¹ By May, 2007

Description and Methodology of the Study

In order to assess the impact of the social security program upon the population's living conditions, as well as the progress of implementation of the program, various studies were conducted in Samegrelo region: the quantitative study of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary families and the panel study of the beneficiary families.

Within the scope of the panel study, 25 beneficiary families of the program were monitored in the course of implementation of the project. The study aimed to identify the social needs of the families and assessment of efficiency of implementation of the project.

The selection extent of the quantitative study constituted 1,100 (600 beneficiary and 500 non-beneficiary families of the program) families. The study was conducted at the level of Samegrelo region (**please, refer to Table 2**).

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- assessment of the program impact on living conditions of households;
- disclosure of changes in the structure of expenditure of a household after provision of the aid;
- identification of social needs of households;
- assessment of the program purposefulness;
- comparison of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary families against various factors.

Table 2**Quantities of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary families per districts**

Nº	Location	Quantity
1	Abasha Rayon	130
2	Zugdidi Rayon	226
3	Martvili Rayon	112
4	Senaki Rayon	157
5	Poti	99
6	Chkhorotsku Rayon	88
7	Tsalenjikha Rayon	99
8	Khobi Rayon	99

The studies were conducted in September-October of the year of 2006. The face to face questionnaire survey constituted the study methodology.

The agency experts participated in elaboration of the questionnaires and selection of the households.

The panel study was performed by the representatives of the local community groups.

Selection Methodology of Conducted Studies

Panel study

For the purposes of the panel study, we have had to select 25 families from the list of families subject to receipt of the monetary benefit.

We divided the list of families subject to receipt of the monetary benefit into the groups. In order to form those groups, there was applied the criteria as follows:

The size of the family:

1. the family of one person;
2. the family of 2-4 persons;
3. the family of at least 5 persons.

The share of members of the giving age (16-65) in the family:

1. 0-30%;
2. 30-70%;
3. 70-100%.

The size of settlement:

1. the city (Zugdidi, Poti);
2. the town (other district centres);
3. the village.

On aggregate, there were formed 25 groups.

3 respondents were randomly selected from each group; those three meant 1 primary plus 2 reserve respondents, if the primary denies participation in the study.

Quantitative Study

Selection basis – the integrated database of socially unsecured families; study area – the districts of Samegrelo region.

Selection extent – 1,100 interviews (600 beneficiaries and 500 non-beneficiaries).

Selection design – the stratified selection in the cities and the cluster selection.

The selection extent was distributed against the districts as per ration of the applicants residing there.

The selection extent determined for the district was distributed against the cities and the villages as per ration of the applicants residing there.

11 interviews (with 6 beneficiaries and 5 non-beneficiaries) should be conducted in each selected village.

The number of selectable villages in each district N_R was determined by formula:

$$n_R = \frac{N_R}{11}$$

when N_R constituted the number of interview to be conducted in the villages of the district.

Selection of the villages was performed as per proportion of probable size (PPS). Selection of the families in the cities and the villages was performed through the simple random selection.

In each city and selected village there were performed the additional selection. Should the family selected through the main selection deny the interview, it would be substituted by the other family of the same settlement from the additional list.

Review of Outcomes of the Panel Study

The panel study started in September so far as payouts of the aid to the population below the poverty threshold within the scope of the state social security program were commenced right since September.

25 families from among the beneficiaries under the state social security program were selected for participation in the study. Due to the study methodology, the interviewers visited the selected families by the end of each month and conducted the study based on the same factors. In addition, by the end of each quarter of the course of the study, the families subject thereto were delivered the nominal gifts. The study lasted for 8 months and completed in April.

The objective of the panel study was to assess the impact of the state social security program on the living conditions. In addition, the certain issues related to the progress of program were disclosed in the course of implementation thereof.

Upon recruiting the families, we failed to identify several of them, since some families did not reside at the indicated addresses, some others missed the information that they were appointed as beneficiaries of the program or to the contrary, some families were first granted the monetary aid, but later ceased receiving it.

During the first month of the study, the awareness level was truly low. For instance, in September, the most of the families did not know that payout of the aid has been commenced; they lacked the information as how and at which bank they could get paid the aid; several families kept waiting that they should get the aid at their home places beyond the granting procedure; almost none of the families knew about the date and duration of receipt of the aid;

they possessed no information concerning the assigned ratings; only one from among 25 families subject to the study has got paid despite the fact that the first questionnaire design occurred within September 27-30 period; the refugee beneficiaries were afraid that they could lose the refugee's status and that served as the basis for denial of the social monetary aid in the most of cases.

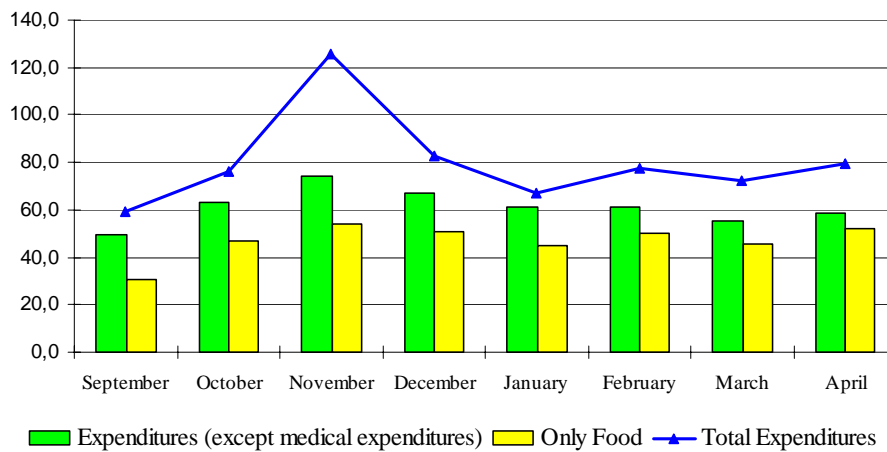
As a result of conduct of the panel study, the impact of the social monetary aid program on the population below the poverty threshold was cleared and that was demonstrated by the costs incurred by the families per month best of all **(please, refer to Table 3, Graph 1)**.

As compared with September (when the families did not receive the monetary aid), consumption of the foodstuff was increased. The most of the families fails to maintain any substantial reserves and almost fully consumes purchased products. Growth of purchase and consumption of the food stuff was obvious in December and that was presumably related to the New Year preparations.

Table №3
Average Expenditures of the Families by Months

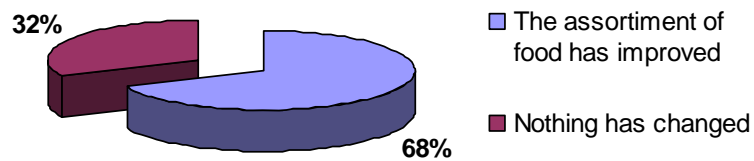
Average Expenditures (GEL)	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Total expenditures	59,4	76,4	126	83,0	67,0	77,2	77,0	79,7
Expenditures (Except medical expenditures)	49,7	63,4	74,0	67,0	60,9	61,2	55,0	58,9
Only food	30,4	46,8	54,3	50,5	44,6	50,4	45,6	52

Diagram №1
The Dynamic of the Expenditures of the Families



As a result of the state social security program, the food allowance of the families was improved; however, as per most of the respondents, their revenues could not cover even the foodstuff costs (**please, refer to Graph 2**).

Diagram №2
The Influence of the Financial Social Assistance Program on the Beneficiary Families

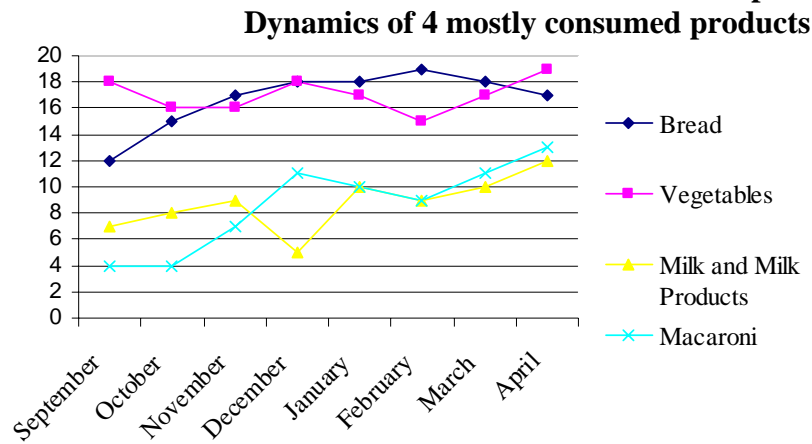


All through the panel study, there was disclosed that the families subject to the study mainly consumed the products as follows:

- the bread;
- the vegetables;
- the macaroni;
- the milk and dairy.

(please, refer to Graph 3)

Graph 3



The foodstuff procurement through maintenance of the own farms remains the most remarkable way thereof. The families mainly produce through their farms the products as follows:

- the vegetables;
- the meat;
- the egg;
- the milk and dairy;
- the mchadi (the corn meal cookies);
- the gomi (the corn meal mush).

As for the other costs incurred by the families, they included the medication, transport and education costs, as well as those against cell phone deposit cards.

In addition to the foodstuff costs, the average values of other expenses are as follows:

- only 2 families from among those participating in the study bore the costs against cell phone deposit cards (GEL 7.5 per month on average);
- transportation costs are mainly incurred by the rural population (GEL 5.5 per month on average);
- during 6 months, four families paid the amount back as if a debt (GEL 20.0 per month on average);
- only four families bore the education costs (GEL 40.0 per month on average).

The families subject to the social monetary aid enjoyed the healthcare policies as well. During the first month of the study, 5 of those 25 families subject to the study were still missing the policy. In the course of the study, 17 from among 25 families utilized the healthcare policy at least once; at that, 4 of them used them intensively.

It shall be noted that in December, one family participating in the study dialed to use the policy for the purposes of surgery. One of the members of the family required the urgent eye surgery; however, the surgery appeared impossible until March.

The families utilized the policy mainly at the polyclinics and the hospitals. The most of the beneficiary families was satisfied with services rendered by physicians at the polyclinics.

Despite the social monetary aid received for months, the families kept the major living essentials, which, unfortunately still remain subject to satisfaction. Those essentials are as follows:

- the foodstuff;
- the medications;
- the clothes.

The low level of awareness of the beneficiary families is cleared by the family histories provided herein below.

There occurred the concrete case, when the family of 10 members residing in Tsalenjikha district, due to incomplete and incorrect information, denied the social monetary aid. After been selected to our study, when they got the detailed information, they got willing of becoming the beneficiary under the social security program. The Association of Young Economists of Georgia delivered them the information and instructions concerning restitution of the beneficiary's status.

Upon conduct of the study it appeared that the family of 4 members residing in Zugdidi received the monetary aid against only 2 members. As a result of the study, those disclosed defects were communicated to the Agency. Accordingly, the application was submitted to the local office of the Agency; as a result, the monetary aid was granted to the remaining 2 members of the said family.

There existed the problems related to law awareness of the refugee beneficiary families. They have learnt as if the beneficiary families (those indicated in our study) should not receive the social aid, if they got the refugee's status. Actually, the families participating in the state social security program rather lose the refugee's allowance and receive the social monetary aid and other social benefits (the health insurance, the electricity voucher, etc.) than forfeit the refugee's status. Both the local representatives and the refugee families were delivered the relevant clarifications with regard to the said matters as well.

Key Findings of the Quantitative Study

- The certain part of population misses the birth certificates and/or identity cards; that does not allow them for applying to the Agency for the social allowance. And such families, as a rule, face the severest poverty. At that, there frequently occurs that the families, upon fill out of the declarations, use concealing the family members missing the relevant certificates.
- The major cause of failure in obtaining an ID is absence of a birth certificate, receipt whereof, on its side, is related to substantial procedural and financial barriers. And poors are missing any means for applying to a court and collect the relevant documentation. In the course of the study, there were identified the dozens of families, where even infants missed the birth certificates since they were delivered at home places.
- The families, which include at least one refugee receive the social allowance despite the fact that the similar families do not receive such low rating (according to the Agency's clarification, the artificial interference in formula takes a place); we may conclude that the matter of participation of the refugee families in the study requires further examination and analysis in order to allow each family the even treatment upon assessment of the social state.
- Some social agents or representatives of local administrations allowed the maladministration expressed in incorrect fill out of a declaration and dissemination of the misleading information regarding the identification methodology (frequently, some families got prepared to a visit by the social agent beforehand and hid household appliances, curtains, etc.).
- At the sites of refugees' mass settlement, there was disseminated the misleading information that in case of

registration with the database, refugees forfeit the refugee's status, and if they mis-fill an application, the international institutions would grant them an occasional allowance of EUR 2,000-5,000. Following to the said misleading information, some refugee family been already granted the social aid denied receipt thereof at their own discretion.

- The progress of program may be evaluated as good; the state of the families, which received the social aid, was improved. The food allowance of the most of respondents was improved.
- Frequently, the actual number of family members contradicts the number set under the database. And there occurs artificial division or enlargement of the families.
- 14% of the studied households demonstrated the deliberated misleading number of family members. In most of the cases, family members were hidden. We are of the opinion that that was related to dissemination of the information concerning the assessment methodology, since, as a rule, the healthy members capable of working were concealed.
- 12% of the families getting the aid at home places pay GEL 0.2-2.0. Such cases mainly occur in Zugdidi and Zugdidi district.
- The most of interviewed families has received the healthcare policies; however, by the study time, only 26% thereof used the policy. It shall be hereby noted that the healthcare costs of the respondents that used the healthcare policy were substantially reduced.
- The foodstuff plays the special role within the expenditure structure of poor families. After adoption of the social security program, the extent of foodstuff consumed by the beneficiaries was increased and food allowance was improved.

- The beneficiary families mainly consume the wheat flour, the macaroni and the high-calorie food. The dairy is consumed only by the families, which can afford the own farming. And the fish and related products are mainly consumed by the non-beneficiary families.
- Repayment of debts constitutes the most share (37%) within the structure of expenditure of the studies families. Those expenses are distinctive; however, they mainly remain related to the costs against the foodstuff and healthcare services.
- The average expenditure of the interviewed families constitutes GEL 298.00, however, the same indicator equaled to GEL 342.00 for the non-beneficiary families.
- The absolute majority of the families purchase medications on monthly basis; at that, the beneficiary families spend relatively bigger amount than the non-beneficiaries. Their average expenditure constitutes GEL 21.00 per month.
- On average, the studied families monthly spend GEL 54.00 against the foodstuff, GEL 20.00 against both the medications and the clothes and up to GEL 17.00 for education.
- The employment level is very low both for the beneficiary (8%) and the non-beneficiary (14.4%) families. The average monthly income of employees constitutes GEL 109.00.
- Only 30% of the non-beneficiary families treat the program positively; at that, the absolute majority of those families believed that they deserve the social aid.
- The social aid plays the important role as to the beneficiary families. Such aid granted to them directly affects upon the extent of foodstuff and the food allowance. 90% of such families spend the paid monetary aid for the foodstuff. However,

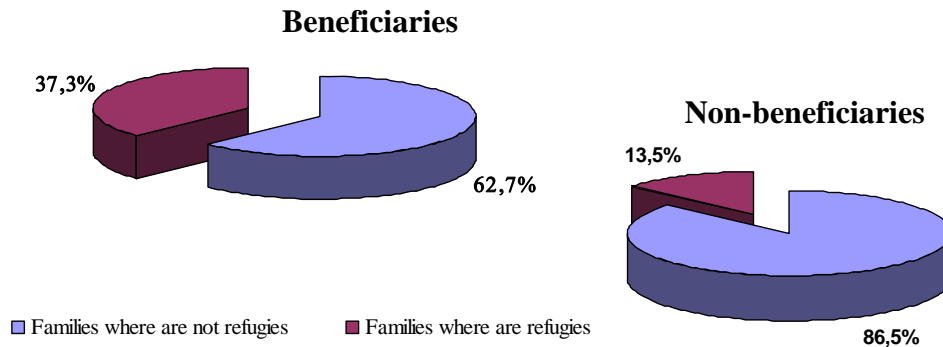
their demand with that regard still remains unsatisfied. Even in case of double revenues, they would have to spend them completely for the foodstuff.

- As per interviewer's assessment, the living conditions of both of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary families remain enough hard. However, we may hardly see the marks "satisfactory" or "good" in assessments by the beneficiary families.
- As a result of analysis of the outcomes of implementation of the social security program we may conclude that it progresses within the pre-declared deviations. The most of the beneficiary families are poor or pauper, and 20% of the non-beneficiary families were treated as very poor and extremely poor.

Description of Outcomes of the Quantities Study

At least one member of 26% of the families participating in the study is a refugee. However, their ratio is 3 times bigger in the beneficiary families (**please, refer to Graph 4**).

Graph 4



90% of the interviewed families held the healthcare policy; however, by the study time, only 26% of the policy holder families used the healthcare services.

At the same time, the absolute majority of the studied households held and utilized the electricity voucher, which almost completely covered the relevant expenses of the family.

The social aid constitutes approximately 37% of the gross revenues of the beneficiary families, and the most ratio (39%) comes on sales of agricultural products and domestic animals (**please, refer to Graph 5**).

Diagram №5
The Source of Income in Beneficiary Families

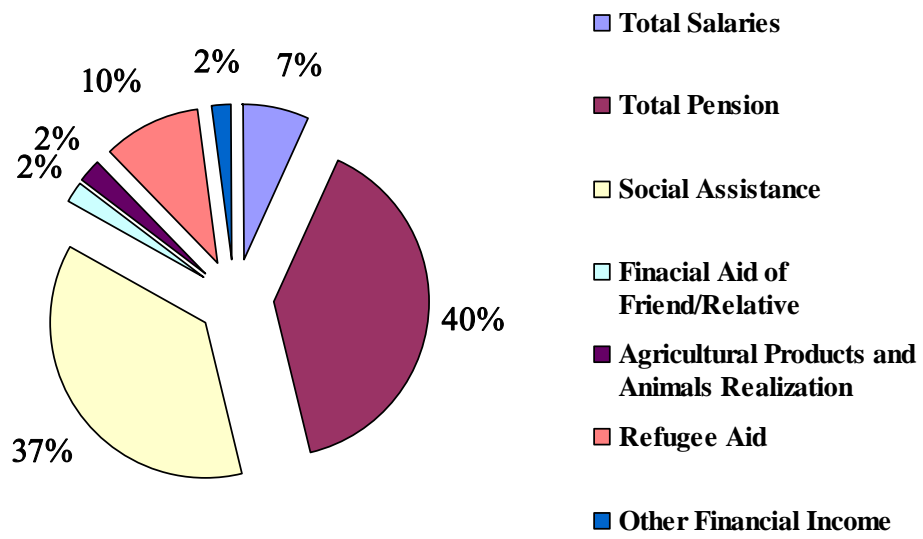
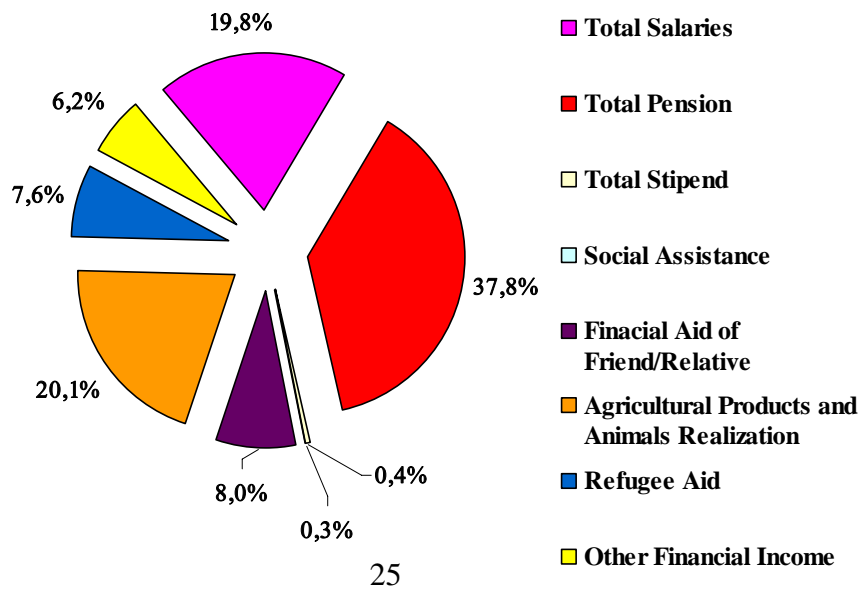


Diagram №6
The Source of Income in non-Beneficiary Families



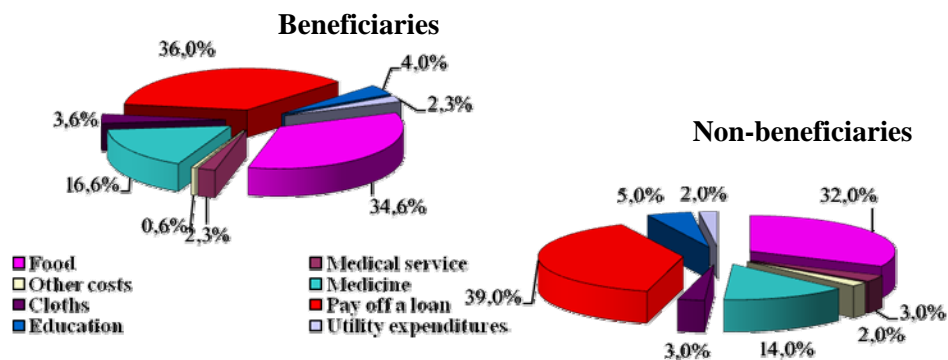
Pensions constitute the most part of revenues of the non-beneficiary families. For the purposes of such families, proceeds from sales of products of domestic farms occupy the enough substantial share. However, salaries got much more part within the structure of revenues, than the non-beneficiary families **(please, refer to Graph 6)**.

Within the scope of the study, there was studied the expenditure structure of the families as well. The most part of expenses comes on repayment of debts (36%), followed by costs per foodstuff (32%) and the medication costs (16%).

The expenditure structure of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary families are enough similar **(please, refer to Graph 7)**. The beneficiary families spend 34% of expenses against the foodstuff and the non-beneficiary families – 32%.

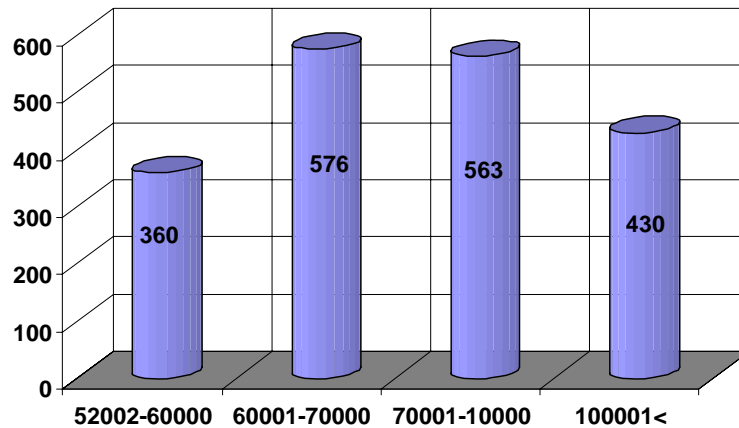
There is almost no difference between the ratios of costs incurred per medications: the beneficiaries spent 17% and the non-beneficiaries spent 14% of expenses against the medications.

Diagram №7
The Structure of Expenditures in Beneficiary and non-Beneficiary families



Repayment of debts constitutes the most share within the structure of expenditure of the families. The beneficiary families spend against repayment of debts GEL 130.00 on average. And the average value of repaid debts of the non-beneficiary families differs as per rating (**please, refer to Graph 8**).

Graph 8
The average value of repaid debts of the non-beneficiary families (GEL)



The expenditure differs as per membership of the families. The average revenue of the families of 3 persons equals to GEL 200.00 for beneficiaries and GEL 284.00 for non-beneficiaries.

The revenues per capita are always higher for the beneficiary families, except multi-member (at least 7 persons) households, when the revenues per capita equals approximately GEL 42.00 (**please, refer to Graphs 9 and 10**).

Diagram №9
The Average Expenditures of the Families (GEL per Month)

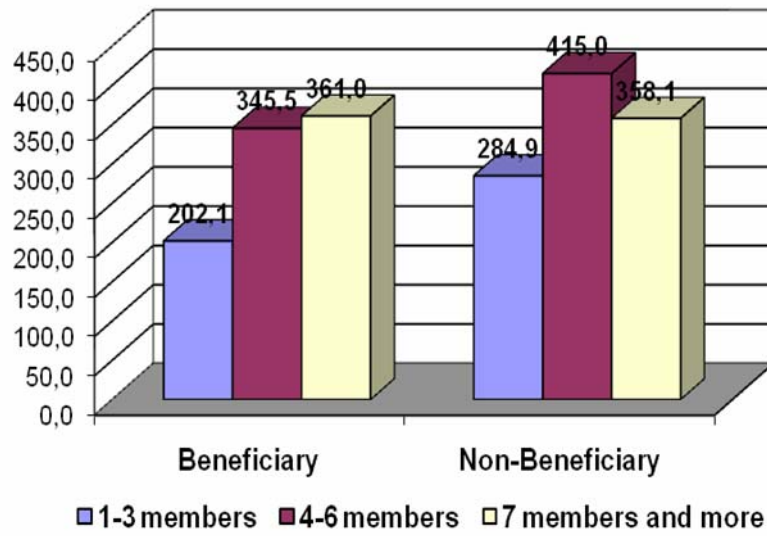
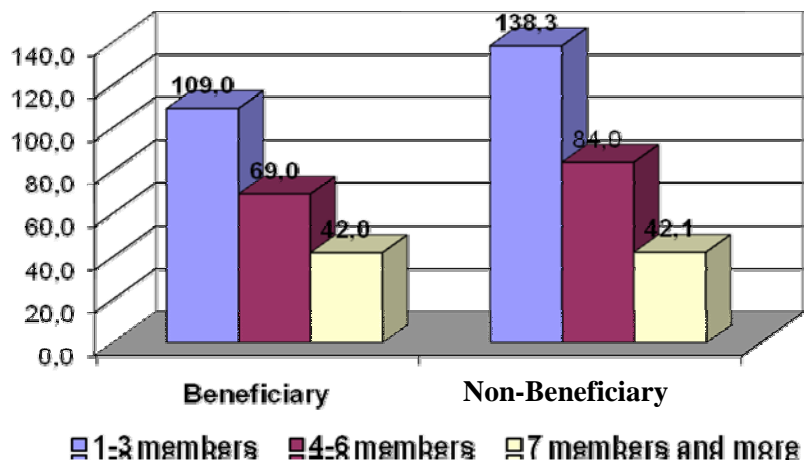


Diagram №10
Expenditure per capita (GEL)



The foodstuff occupies the outstanding share in the expenditure structure of poor families. The wheat flour and the corn meal, the bread, the tea, the milk and the egg – those are the products consumed most frequently and to the highest extent (**please, refer to Table 4**).

Table 4
The products consumed by the families to the most extent (the average volume per family)

	Product	Families, total	Beneficiary	Non-beneficiary	Unit
1	Wheat flour	40.0	40.4	39.5	kg
2	Corn meal	24.7	2	25.6	kg
3	Bread	46.7	45.3	48.7	piece
4	Tea	27.9	25.5	30.7	piece
5	Milk	43.3	37.2	50.4	liter
6	Egg	18.9	18.2	19.5	piece
7	Vegetables	8.7	8.5	9	kg
8	Sugar	3.8	3.8	3.8	kg
9	Soap	3.3	3.2	3.4	piece
10	Kidney bean, pea	3.4	3.1	3.7	kg
11	Cheese	2.3	2.8	3.7	kg
12	Salt	2.2	2	2.4	kg
13	Washing powder	2.0	1.9	2	kg
14	Macaroni, vermicelli	3.2	3.1	3.4	piece
15	Oil	1.7	1.7	1.7	liter
16	Coffee	2.2	2.1	2.4	piece

The beneficiary and non-beneficiary families consume the most products almost at the same level. The difference is evident in case of the products like the milk and dairy and the baked bread, which are consumed by the non-beneficiary families to the high extent.

Table 5
Lesser consumed or non-consumed products
(the average volume per family)

	Product	Families, total	Beneficiary	Non-beneficiary	Unit
1	Buckwheat, semolina	2.2	2.5	1.8	kg
2	Canned meat	3	2.7	3.3	piece
3	Mutton and goat's meat	1.5	1.5	1.5	kg
4	Powdered milk, condensed milk	1.5	1.4	1.6	piece
5	Wurst, sausage	1.7	1.7	2	kg
6	Canned fish	2.2	1.7	2.7	piece
7	Canned fruit	3.4	3.7	1	piece
8	Honey	1.4	1.1	1.7	kg
9	Fish	12	4	11	piece
10	Sour cream	1.6	1.6	1.6	kg
11	Canned vegetables	1.4	1.6	0.8	piece
12	Cottage cheese	1.8	1.2	2.1	kg
13	Tooth-brush	1.8	2.5	1.3	piece
14	Oil	1	0	1	kg
15	Adipose	0.5	0.5	0	kg

As for the products of the least consumption by the families (**please, refer to Table 5**), we may underline the fish, the cottage cheese, the sour cream and the buckwheat. By the study time, the

buckwheat became substantially expensive due to the Russian embargo, as a result whereof its consumption was reduced. At the same time, it shall be noted that the beneficiary families consume almost no fish, while that product is accessible to the beneficiary families.

The goods like shoes, clothes, education items and books are mainly delivered to the beneficiary families by neighbours and relatives.

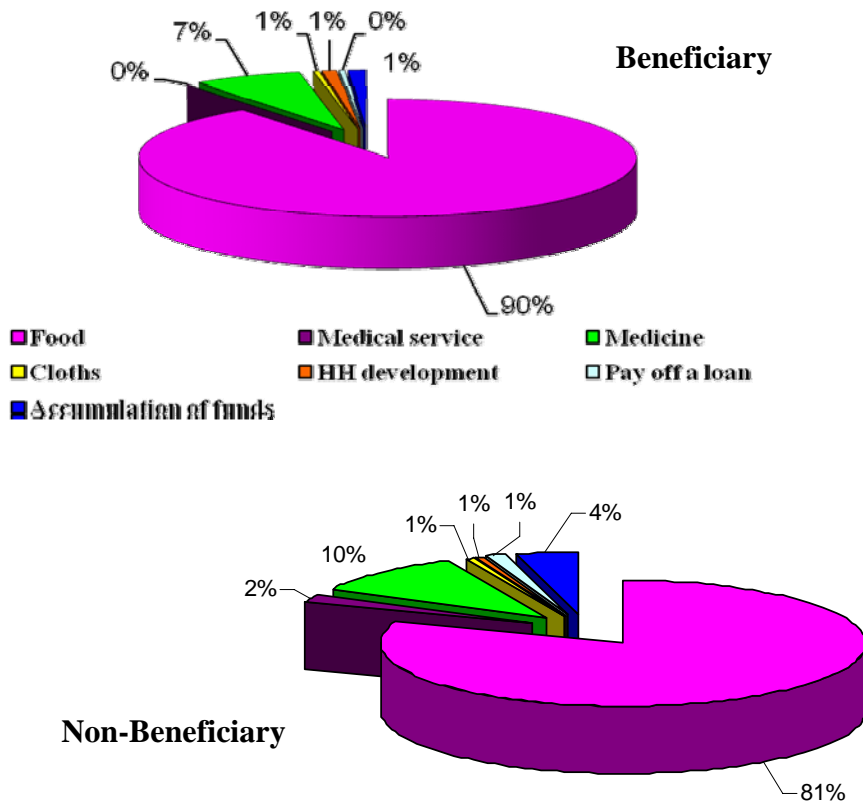
As it was mentioned hereinabove, the most part of revenues of the families comes on the foodstuff, followed by the medications (**please, refer to Table 6**).

Table №6
The Average Expenditures by the Following Components
(Month, GEL)

	Total	Beneficiary	Non-Beneficiary
Food	54,3	57,4	50,6
Medical Service	15,5	14,5	16,4
Medicines	20,8	21,8	19,7
Cloths	20,2	18,5	22,0
Education	17,1	14,5	19,8

It shall be hereby noted that 91% of the beneficiary families spend the granted social aid for the foodstuff, while 81% of the non-beneficiary families would also spend that amount for the foodstuff if involved into the program (**please, refer to Graph 11**).

Graph 11
Items of expenditure/eventual items of spending the social allowance

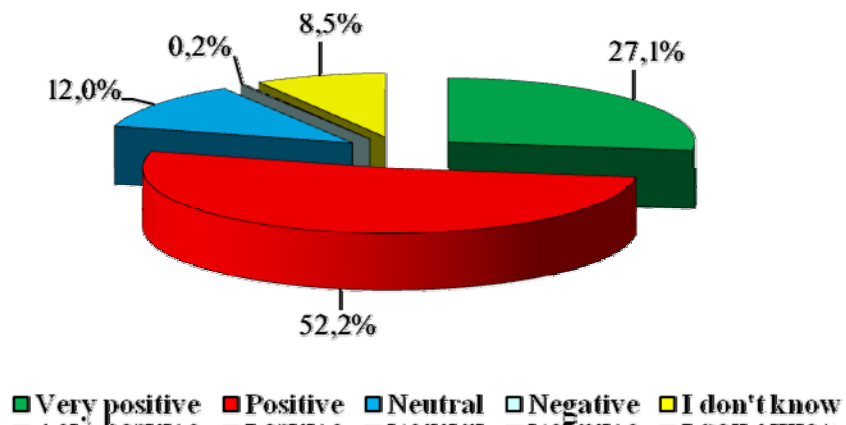


Approximately 30% of the non-beneficiary families considered that the program progressed fairly and 40% deemed otherwise. At the same time, the most of them believed that they deserved the social allowance, including even those, which, following to the interviewers' subjective judgments, constituted the families with the solvency level above the average.

The absolute majority of the beneficiaries positively assessed the program progress and 8% thereof found difficulty in answering (please, refer to Graph 12). At that, 80% of the families believed that their food allowance has improved after granting the social aid and 14% thereof found difficulty in answering.

According to the non-beneficiary families, if they are granted the social aid, their food allowance and living conditions would improve.

Graph 12
How do the beneficiary families assess progress of the social security program



One of the objectives of the study was to identify the social needs of the households subject to the study. The absolute majority of the respondents believed that if they gain double revenues, they would anyway spend them against the foodstuff and the healthcare.

At the same time, almost 100% of the families believed that their social needs still remains subject to satisfaction. The respondents got the opportunity to name three needs as per priority thereof.

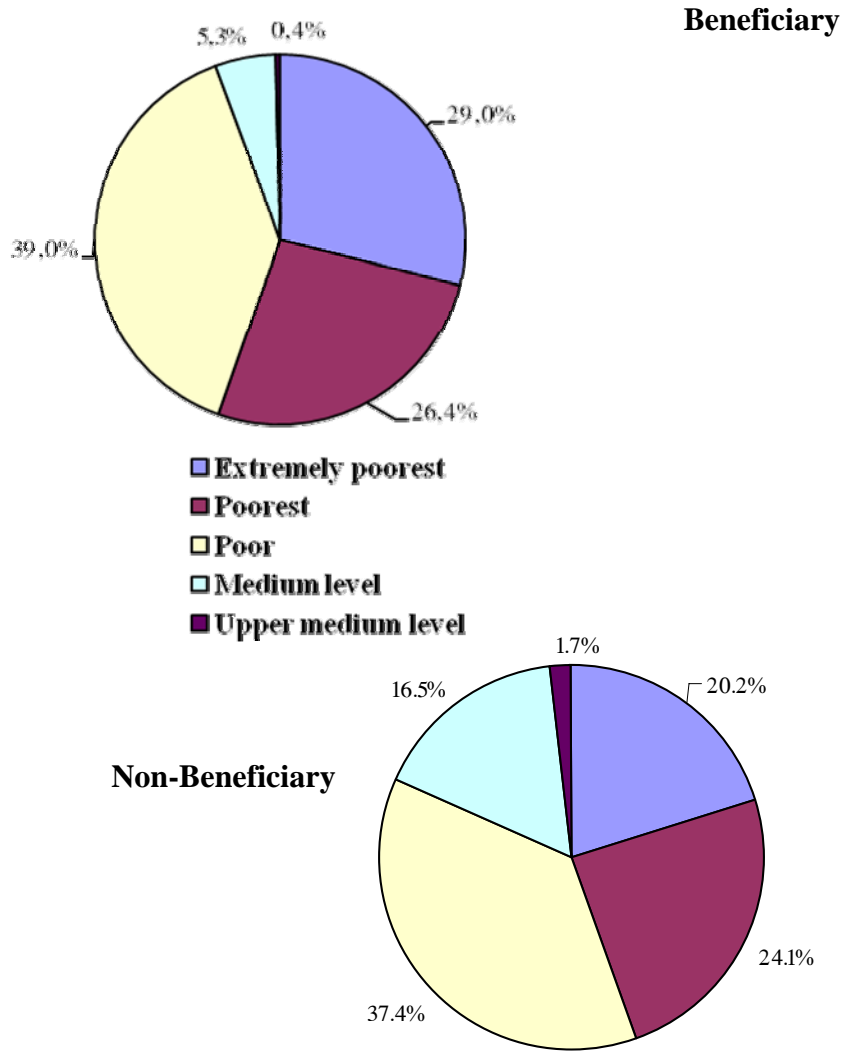
Almost 80% of the families named the foodstuff as the highest priority, followed by the medication. The last third priority was allocated between various needs like the healthcare services, housing conditions, clothes and shoes.

It shall be hereby noted in addition that the priorities did not demonstrate the substantial difference between the beneficiary and non-beneficiary families.

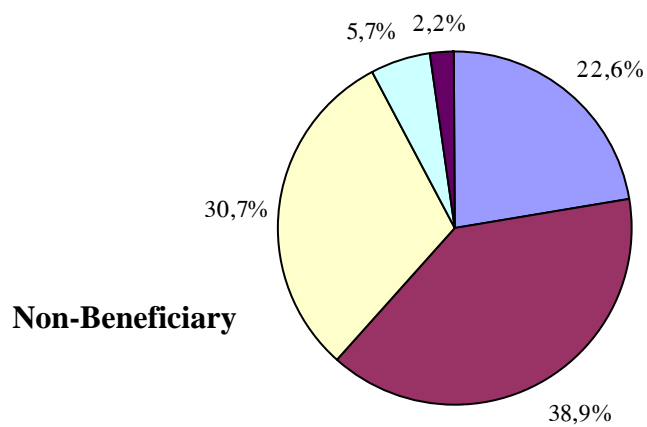
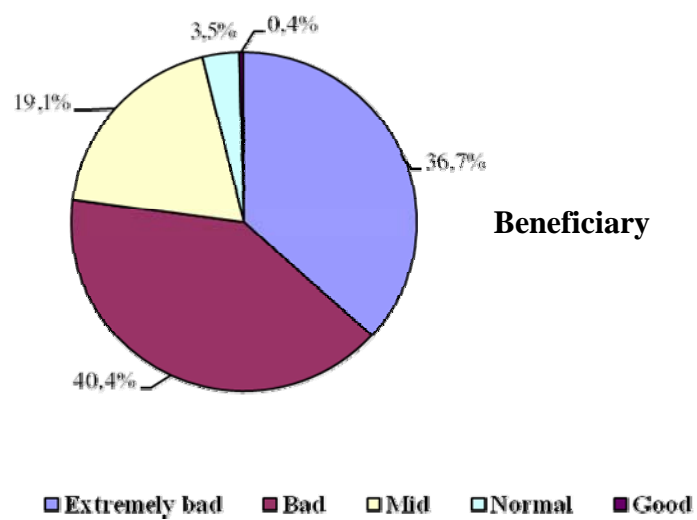
The families subject to the study were also assessed by the interviewers following to their own judgments, who took into account the living conditions and the social state upon the said assessment (**please, refer to Graphs 13 and 14**).

It shall be noted that following to the interviewers' judgments, 26% of the beneficiary families got the solvency level above the average. It shall be hereby noted in addition that the certain part of such families included at least one refugee member. And approximately 45% of the beneficiary families were assessed as indigent.

Graph 13
Interviewer's judgment – the social state of the families



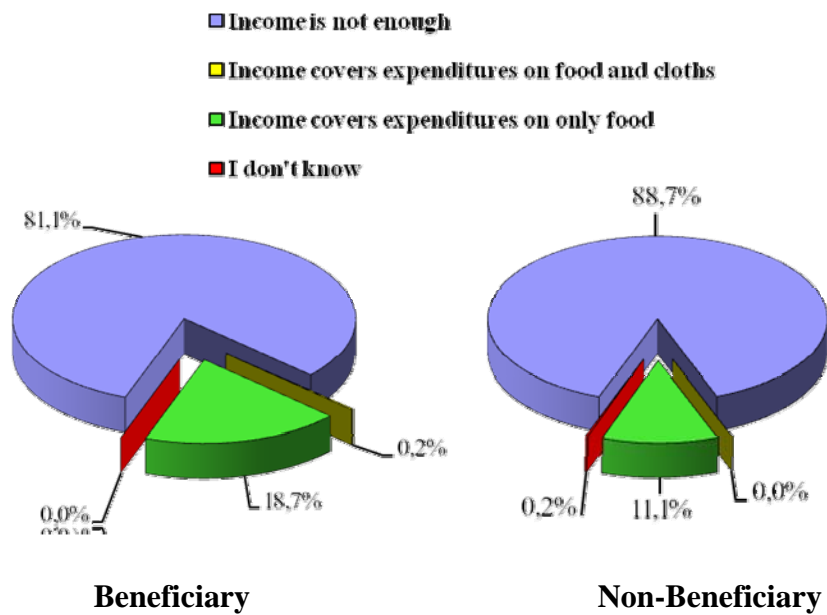
Graph 14
Interviewer's judgment – the living conditions



The self-assessment of the families was also interesting. 81% of the beneficiaries and 88% of the non-beneficiaries believed that their revenues could not cover even the foodstuff costs.

At the same time, it shall be hereby noted in addition that the absolute majority of the families were informed with regard to the program and its methodology; accordingly, they were motivated for concealing their social state in order to be granted additional revenues in the form of the aid (please, refer to Graph 15).

Graph 15
Self-assessment of their material well-being by the families



Self-assessment by the families, naturally, was subjective and could not reflect the actual social state. Therefore, along with the said self-assessment, the interviewers' judgments were also analyzed against the various factors.

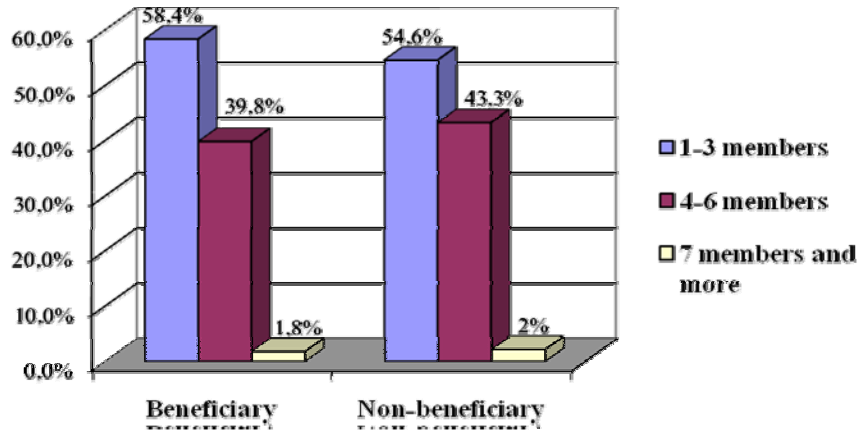
50% of the families stating that their revenues were not sufficient or covered only the foodstuff costs were assessed by the interviewers as indigent (**please, refer to Table 7**). And approximately 11% were assessed as the families with the average solvency level or above.

Table 7
Self-assessment by the family and the interviewer's judgment

Social Evaluation		The Income isn't Enough	The Income is Enough only for Food	Total
Extremely indigent	Quantity	236	16	252
	percentage	27.7	10.4	25.0
Indigent	Quantity	239	16	255
	percentage	28.0	10.4	25.4
Poor	Quantity	309	77	386
	percentage	36.2	50.0	38.3
Average solvency level	Quantity	65	39	104
	percentage	7.6	25.3	10.4
Above the average solvency level	Quantity	4	6	10
	percentage	0.5	3.9	1.0
Total	Quantity	853	154	1009
	Percentage	100	100	100

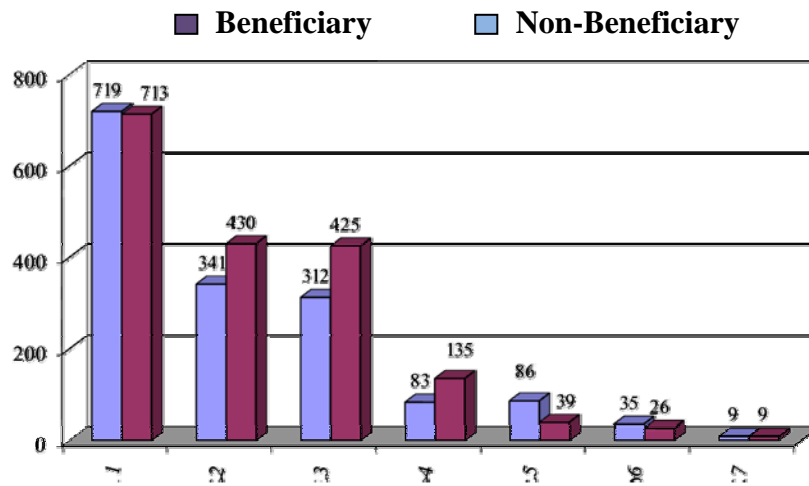
The studied families mainly were comprised of 1-3 or 4-6 members (**please, refer to Graph 16**). The number of the families with the membership above 6 is substantially low.

Graph 16
Indexes of the families against the membership



The beneficiary families included more children, pensioners and disabled persons. While the non-beneficiary families included more students and employed members (**please, refer to Graph 17**). The data above demonstrates the purposefulness of the program. However, as regards to the students, it shall be noted that their accurate identification was complicated. Some respondents deliberately miss to mention the student members of the families.

Graph 17
The social states of the members of interviewed families



1. *Unemployed*
2. *Child*
3. *Pensioner*
4. *Invalid pensioners*
5. *Employed*
6. *Student*
7. *Invalids*

62% of the interviewed families got paid the social monetary aid at their home places and the remaining part was paid through bank institutions. At that, as a rule, the beneficiaries got the aid at home places timely. By the study time, 78% of the respondents got paid the aid as of September and the remaining part as of November.