

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN URBAN SPACES IN ALBANIA

Tirana, 2018



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## Glossary

- I. **Domestic violence** shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim;
- II. **Gender** shall mean the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men;
- III. **Gender-based violence against women** shall mean violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately;
- IV. **Victim** shall mean any natural person who is subject to the conduct specified in points I and II
- V. **Violence against women** is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life<sup>1</sup>
- VI. **Sexual assault** is understood as engagement in sexual activity by use of force with adult females or between spouses or cohabitants, without the consent of either of them.
- VII. **Sexual harassment** is understood as commitment of actions of a sexual nature which infringe the dignity of a person, by any means or form, by creating a threatening, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.<sup>2</sup>

If you, or someone you know, suffer from sexual harassment or violence call the national helpline at 116117, or the Police at 112 or 129.

You are not alone.

<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe, *The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence*, November 2014, available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/text-of-the-convention> [article 3 Definitions]

<sup>2</sup> Albanian Criminal Code: Section VI-Sexual crimes, Article 121/a - Stalking and Article 130/a - Domestic violence. Available at: <http://www.eurallius.eu/index.php/en/albanian-legislation/send/10-criminal-code/56-criminal-code-en>

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## List of Acronyms

**ASPA** - Albanian School of Public Administration

**CEDAW** - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women

**CoE** - Council of Europe

**CCR** – Coordinated Community Response

**DV** - Domestic Violence

**FG** – Focus Group

**GAP** – Gender Action Plan

**GBV** – Gender Based Violence

**GBD** – Gender Based Discrimination

**GE** – Gender Equality

**GEE** – Gender Equality Employees

**GoA** - The Government of the Republic of Albania

**Istanbul Convention** – Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

**MoHSP** - Ministry of Health and Social Protection

**NCGE** – National Council for Gender Equality

**NGO** – Non-Governmental Organization

**NSGE** – National Strategy for Gender Equality (2016-2020)

**NRM** – National Referral Mechanism (for the treatment of domestic violence cases at local level)

**UN** - United Nations

**UN Women** - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

**Sida** - Swedish Agency for International Development

**SH** – Sexual Harassment

**SV** – Sexual Violence

**VAWG** - Violence against Women and Girls

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

Gender based violence against women is a human rights violation and it is prevalent around the world, including Albania. It is estimated that 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives.<sup>3</sup> It is defined as violence that is directed against a woman, because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.<sup>4</sup> Violence against women includes, but is not limited to, physical, sexual and psychological harm (including intimidation, suffering, coercion, deprivation of liberty within the family, or within the general community, sexual harassment etc.). The wide spectrum of gender-based violence nowadays is often expanded to include violence that results from unequal power relationships between men and women.

This study looks at the different **dimensions of sexual harassment and other forms of gender based violence against Albanian women and girls in urban public spaces** particularly, focusing primarily on women and girl's perceptions of safety and the impact this issue has on their lives, as well as the forms of violence they experience, what strategies they have at their disposal to cope with the violence, and what can be done to make their cities and neighborhoods safer.

The report is composed of four chapters. Chapter one contains background information on the general context, as well as information on the existing legal framework in Albania. Chapter two contains information on researching techniques, tools, selection of the sampling and the targeted areas. Chapter three contains the analyses of the data collected and specific findings for each of the targeted areas in the three municipalities (Tirana, Durrës and Fier). Chapter four contains general conclusions and recommendations based on the data analysis.

All findings presented in this report are a result of:

- i. **750 survey interviews** conducted with women and girls of age 16+ who live in, or frequent the public spaces, of selected areas in three Albanian municipalities (respectively 350 survey interviews in Tirana Center and the "Astir" area in the Municipality of Tirana; 200 survey interviews in Durrës Center, the "Stadium" area and Shkozë, in the Municipality of Durrës, and 200 survey interviews in the four administrative urban zones in Fier Municipality);
- ii. **seven Focus Group Discussions** with 53 participants, women and men of different backgrounds – one focus group discussion was organized specifically with Roma women and two focus groups discussions were organized with men. (In total out of 53 participants, 38 were women and 15 men)
- iii. **18 Structured Observations** conducted during days and nights (eight in Fier, six in Durrës and four in Tirana),
- iv. **three Safety Audit Walks** (one per municipality), and
- v. **13 structured interviews** with municipal and NGO stakeholders (five in Fier, four in Durrës and four in Tirana).

From data analysis it results that violent acts against women and girls in public spaces (especially verbal sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence) are still widely under-reported.

The overall findings of this study indicate that women and girls in public spaces of all selected areas in the three municipalities in Albania, face numerous forms of harassment especially verbally such as, but not limited to, "whistle after them (or honk from a car) or called their names, "unwanted sexual comments or comments on their appearance" or "watching or staring at them." Other operational definitions of sexual violence included in the study such as: "address them with nationally, ethnically, racially or religiously offensive comments", "follow them", "deliberately block their path", "attack them physically (pushing, slapping)", "attack them sexually" or "threaten to harm them" are also happening, however not as often according to the majority of respondents. Data combined from the three

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<sup>3</sup> [1] World Health Organization, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council (2013). *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*, p.2. For individual country information, see *The World's Women 2015, Trends and Statistics, Chapter 6, Violence against Women*, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015 and UN Women *Global Database on Violence against Women*.

<sup>4</sup> Art. 3 d, Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence)

municipalities, paint a clear picture of the most prevalent issues applicable for all zones in which the study was implemented.

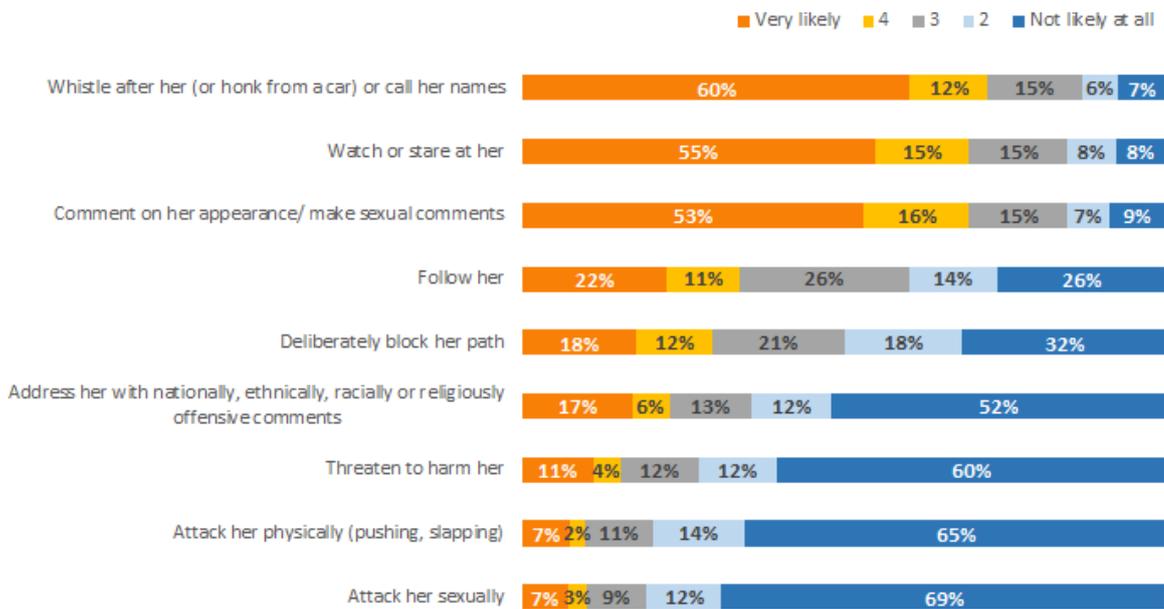


Figure 1 How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood (Tirana, Durres and Fier Municipality Data combined)

It can be observed that in all three municipalities the most common incidents relate to verbal harassment.

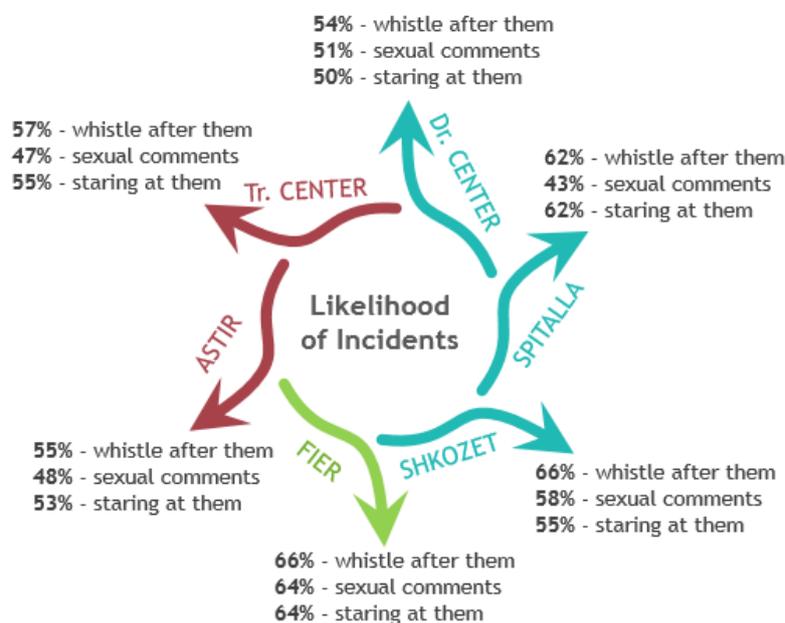


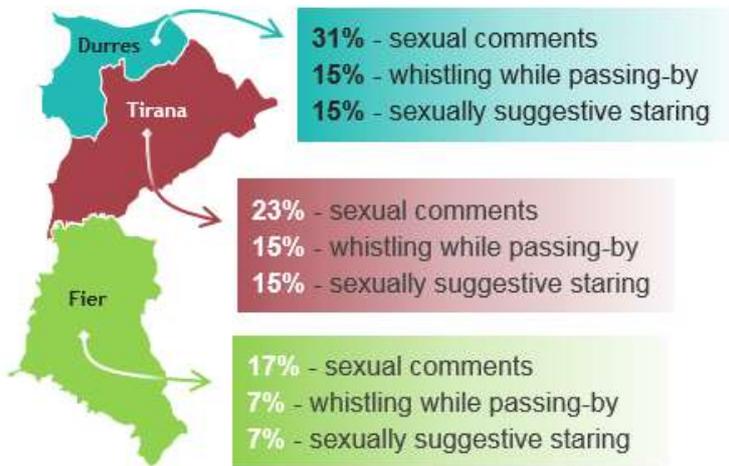
Figure 2 Likelihood of verbal sexual harassment happening to a woman frequenting the respective neighborhoods (shown only those who responded with "very likely")

Nearly half of the respondents (44%), have a friend or family member who has been subject to sexual harassment or sexual violence. Overall findings reveal an equally alarming situation where 38 percent out of 750 respondents reported to have been at risk of or exposed to sexual harassment or violence before or after the age of 15 (some have experienced both). The overall quantitative and qualitative data shows that the culture of reporting violence, especially sexual harassment and sexual violence, continues to be low. There are various reasons that stand behind this phenomenon, mostly related with patriarchal harmful traditions and gender stereotypes or myths, lack of information on where to

report and ask for help especially for specific forms of violence such as sexual violence, lack of trust in the responsible authorities and the fear of being labelled or judged. From 286 reported cases only 16 percent asked for help and assistance, most of them by requesting help from their relatives and friends

A previous study on sexual harassment and sexual violence in public spaces conducted in 2016<sup>5</sup> in three different neighborhoods in Tirana Municipality (respectively in Shkoza, Porcelani and Students' City), confirmed that their neighborhoods are not safe from sexual harassment and sexual violence. We have to recognize that these forms of violence against women and girls definitively require further research, and immediate interventions in terms of their prevention and/or professional treatment. Despite the various efforts of different stakeholders to create mechanisms and instruments on reporting violence against women and girls, there exists a common belief women and girls share, on keeping violent episodes private and putting up with violence in order to keep the family together. Phenomena such as **victim blaming and stigma around women and girls who fall victim to sexual harassment or sexual violence**, are in urgent need to be addressed in all three municipalities. Moreover, a considerable number of girls and women do not consider sexual comments, whistling and sexual suggestive staring as sexual harassment.

Figure 3 Respondents who **do not** classify these actions as either sexual harassment or violence



If sexual harassment occurs, the majority of all respondents claim that reactions are mostly indifferent and that few would provide assistance should they be witness of such incidents. Although women and girls do not consider this indifference as an acceptable behavior, the low level of awareness regarding different forms of sexual harassment and the fear from prejudices or blaming them for what might happened in the streets, are among factors that push most of them not to react in case of experiencing a verbal street harassment (79% of respondents in Tirana Center, 55% of respondents in Astiri area, 52% of respondents in Fier, 44% of respondents in Durres Center, 29% of respondents in Spitalla and 28% of respondents in Shkozë, declare that they will do

“nothing” in case of a verbal street harassment happening to them). Findings such as this, call for wider awareness raising campaigns to educate men, boys, women and girls alike about such issues, in order to **combat outdated mentalities and gender stereotype-based thinking** as well as encourage civic engagement and showing empathy and support for victims.

The importance of this issue becomes further apparent through data revealing the phenomena of victim blaming.

Figure 4 Agreement with the statement: “Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused, provoke it themselves” (Tirana, Durres and Fier Municipality Data combined)



<sup>5</sup> Please refer to page 18 of this report for further details in regard to this previous study

Behaviours and attitudes regarding sexual harassment and sexual violence especially in public spaces are also influenced by the fact that Albania has focused its efforts mainly on actions against violence in family relations (domestic violence). Other forms of violence against women and girls, although criminalized, have not received adequate attention in terms of prevention and civil protection measures. Addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence, together with other forms of VAWG, in a holistic and comprehensive approach; treating cases with professionalism and in a multi-response way; conducting surveys on measuring their prevalence; developing updated data categories; establishing additional

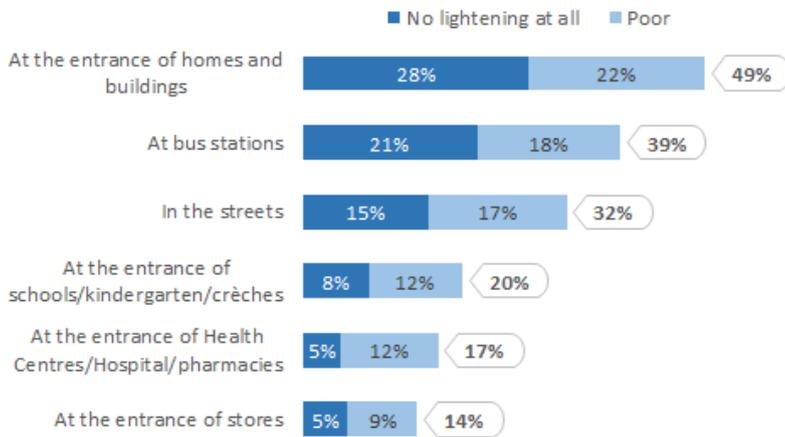


Figure 5 How is the lighting in this neighborhood? (Tirana, Durrës and Fier Municipality Data combined, only showing no lighting and poor lighting responses)

specialized services and developing needed standards and protocols, are among key recommendations of GREVIO for the Albanian government, as stated in the first baseline report regarding the implementation of the Istanbul Convention from Albania, published in 2017. ‘Women’s and girls’ safety in public spaces is linked also with specific conditions of these spaces, such as lighting, maintenance, public transport services, patrolling frequency from police, etc. Comparative data in terms of **lighting infrastructure** indicate that Tirana City Center, Durrës City Center and Region No. 4 in Fier are areas where lighting is considered to be at a good level. On the contrary, other areas such as Shkozë and Stadium in Durrës, Astir in Tirana and Region 1, Region 2, and Region 3 in Fier, need immediate attention and serious improvement in this aspect to increase the **safety and security of women and girls** frequenting these areas. Overall it becomes apparent that in all three municipalities lighting issues are mainly found in home entrances and bus stations.

**Men dealing drugs or substance abuse was identified as a common problem** that affects the personal safety feeling for women and girls in all the areas and cities of this study. **Crowded public transportation** is another factor that has a major impact on personal safety for women and girls in Tirana and Durrës. Furthermore, gendered factors such as simply being a woman or walking alone affect the unsafe feeling similarly for girls and women in all the studied areas. Differently from Tirana and Fier, in the city of Durrës, four out of ten respondents think that **sexual orientation** is a factor that affects the personal safety, highlighting the question if more needs to be done to enhance the safety of the LGBTI Community in this municipality.

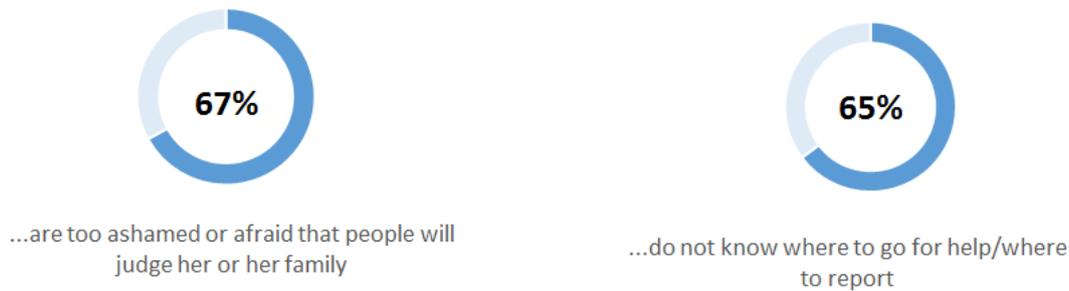
**Nearly half of all the respondents have a friend or family member who has been subject to sexual harassment or other forms of sexual violence.** Overall findings reveal an equally alarming situation with 38 percent of the 750 survey respondents who declare to have been at risk of or exposed to sexual harassment or other forms of violence in their lifetime. The overall quantitative and qualitative data shows that the **culture of reporting violence, especially sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence continues to be low.** There are various reasons that stand behind this phenomenon, mostly related with patriarchal harmful traditions and gender stereotypes or myths, or lack of information on where to report and ask for help, especially for specific forms of violence such as sexual violence, and lack of trust in the responsible authorities and the fear of being labelled or judged. **From 286 reported cases of**



<sup>6</sup> Council of Europe: Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO). Baseline Evaluation Report Albania (2017). Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-first-baseline-report-on-albania/16807688a7>

sexual harassment and violence, only 16 percent asked for help and assistance, most of them by requesting help from their relatives and friends; a very limited number went to the police.

Figure 6 Why women who have faced harassment do not report the incident (Tirana, Durres and Fier Municipality Data combined)



Considering all above findings, as well as additional ones as presented in the chapter three of this report, some of the **key recommendations** for the three selected municipalities are:

- The municipalities must consider this report and its findings in all actions they will undertake to improve the conditions of their cities, especially if they will specifically intervene to improve infrastructure in the selected areas that were part of this study.
- Municipalities' key partners and stakeholders must be aware on the results of this study. This can be achieved not simply by publishing the study' results on their webpages, but also through specific roundtables to discuss such results with them, as well as to request their support to improve the infrastructural conditions of their cities and to increase the awareness interventions regarding the issues of sexual harassment, sexual violence and safe urban spaces.
- Considering the fact that in all three selected municipalities the referral mechanism against DV exists, where the municipalities have the leading role, it will be very important to request the partners' collaboration on addressing in multi-sectoral response not simply the DV' cases, but also other forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment and violence happening in public spaces. Increasing the frequency of police patrolling in specific areas, protection of personal data in case of reporting violent incidents, adding data on sexual violence as part of the data and statistics of other forms of violence against women and girls, improving the collaboration with NGOs who are service providers, coordinating awareness activities on different forms of VAWG and on the existing services, etc., are some of the steps which can be initiated as part of this multi-sectoral response.
- Municipalities must take specific measures to improve the capacities of their staff, especially of the local administrators who are more in contact with community members. They must have adequate knowledge on how to collect women's and girls' concerns related to their safety in public spaces, in different meetings and discussions that municipalities organize with communities during the planning for improvement of infrastructural conditions of different neighborhoods, or during the participatory budgeting processes.
- All initiatives planned to intervene in a specific neighborhood for improving different conditions, must be based also on the perception and information provided from the women, girls, men and boys of different ages (and with different other characteristics) who may live or frequent this neighborhood for different reasons.
- Municipalities must commit to, plan and budget for accessible, affordable and gender-sensitive public services including access to street lighting, sensitive policing, public transport, housing, etc. They must support also the existing services to prevent and redress violence against women in private and public spaces, and try to establish new ones.

Additional specific recommendations toward the three municipalities of Tirana, Durres and Fier are presented in the chapter three of this report together with specific findings for each of them, while the general recommendations are presented in the last chapter of this report.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

Gender Based Violence is caused by various factors that vary from cultural impact and deep roots in the old patriarchal traditions, to unsound life situations, gender discrimination, unemployment, and intergenerational control in the family. The abuse can even turn into a health issue which causes injury and even death, as it has a negative impact on the physical, psychosocial and economic integrity of the person on whom such violence is imposed. Violence against women and girls in particular is still the most frequent kind of abuse of human rights, but still the least known and worldwide accepted. Several studies point out the difficulty of measuring the level and extent of e.g. domestic violence, because such phenomenon occurs within the family and it is considered a family issue. Consequently, among the factors which may affect the low reporting of violence against women and girls, it is worth mentioning that for instance shyness, fear from punishment, cultural norms, and gender stereotypes have a big impact. Therefore, the facts and figures must be read diligently, as they do not necessarily give a clear picture regarding the wide spread character of violence.<sup>7</sup>

**Gender based violence and discrimination is also a prevalent issue in public spaces**, globally, regionally as well as nationally, so it is happening also in Albania. Women and girls fear and experience various types of sexual harassment and violence in public spaces, from unwanted sexual remarks and touching to, stalking, rape and femicide. It happens on streets, in and around public transportation, schools and workplaces, water distribution sites, public toilets, and parks in urban, rural, and conflict/post conflict settings. This reality reduces women's and girls' freedom of movement and their ability to study and work, access essential services, participate in public life, and enjoy recreational opportunities. This impacts negatively their health and well-being (UN Women 2013<sup>8</sup>).

### Background and Context

The **UN Women Global Flagship Initiative**, "Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces<sup>9</sup>", was launched in November 2010, with leading women's organizations, UN agencies, and more than 100 global and local partners. It is the first-ever global programme that develops, implements, and evaluates tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention of and response to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls across different settings. By definition:

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*"A safe city is one that facilitates and ensures the elimination of gender-based violence, while at the same time providing equal opportunities for men and women in all the spheres of social, economic, cultural and political life..."<sup>10</sup>*

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In a safe city, women and girls can travel without experiencing violence, dress without facing discrimination, go to school without being excluded, work safely in the knowledge that employment rights will be upheld, access and use public services such as education, health, shelter and water provision without fear or harassment.

Further, they enjoy recreational activities, approach justice services and the police without suspicion, judgment or fear, contribute to planning the future of the city, and speak out about issues which are important. Women and girls should feel safe in their homes, at school, at work and while travelling with freedom around their neighbourhoods during the day and at night. Women and girls should feel valued as equals and their voices should be heard<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> UN Women & UNDP (2016). Gender Brief Albania 2016. Prepared by Monika Kocaqi, Ani Plaku and Dolly Wittberger. UN Women. See: <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/10/albania-gender-brief>

<sup>8</sup>See: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/creating-safe-public-spaces>

<sup>9</sup>See: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/creating-safe-public-spaces>

<sup>10</sup>See: <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/237-what-are-safe-cities-and-communities-for-women-and-girls-.html>

<sup>11</sup> For details see: ActionAid 2014: Safe Cities For Women From reality to rights. See: <http://www.actionaid.org/safecitiesforwomen>

Often, in every city, in every country, women can't go to work or university, use the bus – simply live their lives – without the threat of sexual attacks or harassment. Often, they're even blamed for being attacked or harassed. These issues are often much worse for women living in poverty, who don't have the means to find safe living conditions, bring their attackers to justice, or simply access refuge and hospitals safely. Women have the right to live in their cities without being violated<sup>12</sup>.

The current report aims to inform the development of a safe city programme in Albania, and to consider perspectives for participating in the Global Flagship Initiative, which currently spans 34 cities around the world.

This report was commissioned given that the issue of sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces has been understudied, especially in the Albanian context. One of the major barriers to women's rights as equal citizens in urban spaces is violence committed against women. The violation of a woman's ability and right to live a good life in cities because of the types of sexual violence she experiences or fears, is a challenge related to rapid global urbanisation.

Despite the scale and gravity of the problem, violence against women in public spaces remains under-recognised and under reported, making it difficult to assess, analyse and map out the real extent of the problem. Data on the links between urbanisation, urban poverty and gender-based violence is still sporadic. Combined with under reporting of sexual violence incidents, **this has an impact on the development and design of gender-sensitive public services, as well as the implementation and monitoring of existing programmes and interventions trying to reduce attacks on women in public spaces.** That is why it is important and necessary for this project to be conducted, with the support of UN Women Albania and Sida, the Swedish Agency for International Development.

In 2017, UN Women issued their latest Brief on Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces. The brief highlights the importance of issues related to sexual violence in public spaces and presents a strategy for change, for cities participating in the global programme of safe cities. The brief further highlights the severity and importance of the overall topic of sexual harassment and violence in public spaces;

- In Washington, D.C., United States, a survey revealed that 27% of women transit riders experienced some form of sexual harassment (WMATA, 2016).
- In Port Moresby, a scoping study reveals that over 90% of women and girls have experienced some form of sexual violence when accessing public transportation (UN Women 2014).
- In Kigali, baseline study shows that 55% of women reported that they were concerned about going to educational institutions after dark (UN Women 2013).

The brief also presents a few success stories of cities taking part in the global flagship programme;

- Quito (Ecuador) amended a local ordinance to strengthen action against sexual harassment in public spaces. In 2016, the municipality adopted the Safe City Programme as an emblematic programme with strategies, interventions and a budget allocation.
- Egypt's Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development adopted women's safety audits to ensure a gender approach to urban planning.
- Rwanda's Gender Monitoring Office launched their own training on the prevention of sexual harassment against women in public transportation.
- Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) established vendors' associations in their safe market programme, with 50% representation of women in executive positions.

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<sup>12</sup> See: <http://www.actionaid.org/safecitiesforwomen>

## 2.1 Legal Framework in Albania

The legal framework in Albania has seen major improvements through the ratification of a series of key international documents, essential amendments, and alignment of the national legislation in regard to gender equality and gender based violence. Specific progress on the issues of violence against women and gender equality, started in 2006 with the approval of the Law on Domestic Violence<sup>13</sup>. In order to better implement the philosophy of this law, the Referral Mechanism for the Treatment of Domestic Violence cases was introduced in 2011<sup>14</sup>, based on the successful model of piloting the coordinated community response against violence against women<sup>15</sup> at local level and following the specific platform<sup>16</sup> designed for this purpose. In 2008, the Law on Gender Equality<sup>17</sup> was adopted including a series of measures for the improvement of gender equality, including the establishment of the national gender machinery<sup>18</sup>, women's participation in decision-making in political and public spheres, etc. A set with harmonized indicators for gender equality and women's status was adopted in 2010<sup>19</sup> followed by specific measures on gender mainstreaming in mid-term budget programs in 2012<sup>20</sup>. The Law on Protection against Discrimination in 2010<sup>21</sup> was followed by the establishment of the Commissioner for the Protection against Discrimination as an independent body that safeguards protection against discrimination. A major step was the amendment of Criminal Code in 2012<sup>22</sup> and 2013<sup>23</sup>, which touched upon domestic violence and the protection of women and girls from violence and abuse. Some of the specific measures undertaken during the amendments of this Code<sup>24</sup>, included the need to make domestic violence a criminal offence, introduce stalking, criminalize forced sexual intercourse with adults or husband/partner without their consent, *criminalize sexual harassment or punish the encouragement*, and intermediation or offering remuneration for persuasion to prostitution.

Additional bylaws and policy documents support this national legal framework, which is based also on an exhaustive list of international conventions ratified, included but not limited to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)<sup>25</sup>, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)<sup>26</sup>, which is the key instrument to provide clear obligations for Albania to address in a comprehensive way all forms of violence against women. By signing the COMMIT declaration<sup>27</sup>, the Government of Albania committed to intensify its efforts for the reduction of violence against women and girls and domestic violence by ensuring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and the national domestic violence law, strategy and action plan. In addition to the above legal framework, Albanian Government has prepared also different strategies and policy documents, including the latest National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020 and its Action Plan approved in 2016, which include a specific objective on reduction of gender-based violence and domestic violence and specific activities. In January 2017, the Parliament of Albania approved **RESOLUTION NO. 1 dated 04.12.2017 "On the Punishment of Violence Against Women and Girls and the Increase of the Effectiveness of Legal**

<sup>13</sup> Law No. 9669, dated 18.12.2006 "On measures against violence in family relations, improved in 2008 and 2010 and currently under revision

<sup>14</sup> Council of Ministers' Decision no.334, dated 17.02.2011 "On the establishment of the national referral mechanism for the treatment of domestic violence' cases and its way of functioning".

<sup>15</sup> The model of the coordinated community response was firstly piloted by a project of the Network against Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Albania, managed by "Refleksione" Association and supported financially by UN Trust Fund. The project had as final goal the implementation of DV Law at local level by piloting the CCR model in 10 municipalities and it was implemented in two stages: 2007 – 2009 and 2010 – 2013.

<sup>16</sup> As part of UN Jointed Program, UNDP supported the drafting of the National Platform for the Establishment of the Coordinated Community Response in Albania. The platform was prepared by Trisha Gentle and Monika Kocaqi, in 2009, and it was followed by piloting the CCR in four more municipalities.

<sup>17</sup> The Law no. 9970, dated 24.07.2008 "On gender equality in society", published in the Official Gazette No. 125, dated 01.08.2008.

<http://www.osce.org/albania/36682>

<sup>19</sup> Instruction No 1220, dated 27.05.2010 of the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities for the "Harmonized Indicators on Gender Equality and Status of Women in Albania". See [http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/Harmonized\\_Indicators\\_ENGLISH.pdf](http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/Harmonized_Indicators_ENGLISH.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Council of Ministers' Decision No 465, dated 16.7.2012 "On gender mainstreaming in the Medium Term Budget Programme". See: <http://www.unifem.sk/index.cfm?Module=articles&Page=ArticleShow&ArticleID=216>

<sup>21</sup> Law no.10221, date 4.2.2010 "On protection against discrimination", published in the Official Gazette No. 15/2010. [http://www.ilo.org/aids/legislation/WCMS\\_178702/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/aids/legislation/WCMS_178702/lang-en/index.htm)

<sup>22</sup> Law No 23, dated 01.03.2012 "On some addenda and amendments to Law No 7895, dated 27.01.1995 'On the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania"

<sup>23</sup> Law No 144/2013, dated 2.5.2013 "On some addenda and amendments to Law No 7895, date 27.01.1995 "On the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania"

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.legislationline.org/documents/section/criminal-codes>

<sup>25</sup> Albania has ratified this convention in 1993 and its optional protocol in 2003

<sup>26</sup> Albania has signed the Istanbul Convention in 2011 and has ratified it in 2013. The Convention entered into force on 1 August 2014

<sup>27</sup> As launched by UN Women in 20 November 2012. See <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/11/press-release-un-women-executive-director-launches-new-initiative-to-spotlight-national-commitments>

**Mechanisms for its Prevention<sup>28</sup>** which alongside the findings creates a permanent subcommittee "On gender equality and prevention of violence against women" at the Commission responsible for Labour, Social Affairs and Health. This is a very important document, which draws attention and increases the oversight role of the Albanian parliament not only measures to address domestic violence, but all forms of violence against women, in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.

Recently, the Government of Albania appointed the deputy prime minister as the national coordinator for gender equality to ensure coordination among all key State institutions. In addition, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) is the national authority responsible for issues related to gender equality and domestic violence as well as for monitoring the process of appointment and improving the capacities of Gender Equality Employees at central and local levels and of the Local Coordinators against domestic violence as part of Referral Mechanisms against DV at local level. Other advisory bodies include:

- The National Council for Gender Equality (NCGE), established in 2009, which comprises 9 deputy ministers and 3 civil society representatives;
- Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs and Health, which examines at sessions of hearings issues of gender equality and domestic violence;
- The Women's Deputies Alliance (AGD) established in October 2013 by all women's deputies as an opportunity that gives priority to women's issues and gender equality.

Regardless of all achievements mentioned so far, Albania still needs to strengthen its legislative and institutional framework pertaining to gender equality and non-discrimination; improve access to justice as well as to general and dedicated services to victims/survivors of violence; and strengthen and intensify measures to prevent violence by means of awareness raising, education and social inclusion. Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be in place, together with the necessary human and financial resources for advancing women's human rights. Many efforts need to be focused on the effective implementation of the existing legislation regarding issues of GE and VAWG<sup>29</sup>.

In particular, the baseline assessment report on Albania, published in November 2017 by GREVIO (The Group of Independent Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence), which is an independent human rights monitoring body mandated to monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, emphasizes that legal and institutional response in Albania is mainly focused towards domestic violence. Other forms of violence, although criminalized, have not received adequate attention in terms of prevention and civil protection measures. GREVIO strongly encourages the Albanian authorities to make domestic violence against women and the gendered nature of other forms of violence against women more visible in the crime statistics presented to the public, to conduct surveys measuring the prevalence of the forms of violence against women not previously assessed, in particular sexual harassment, sexual violence and forced marriage and to develop data categories on the type of relationship between perpetrator and victim for all forms of violence against women that would allow the nature of their relationship to be more specifically documented.<sup>30</sup>

### A Study on Sexual harassment in Albania 2016

UN Women in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana and the Observatory for Children's Rights organization conducted in 2016 the first pilot study "On Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Urban Spaces" in three neighbourhoods of Tirana. (The "Congress of Monastery" in the area of Porcelan, "Ali Shefqeti" street in the area of Shkozë and "Pjeter Budi" street near the "Student City" in which students live in dorms.

**The Key findings** stemming from the 2016 study which have led to the decision of repeating the study in three municipalities in 2018 are the following;

<sup>28</sup> See: [http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore\\_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/212-2017.pdf](http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2017/PDF-2017/212-2017.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> A detailed description of the national legislation regarding VAW&DV is presented in the Council of Europe and UN Women publication: "Albania – Final report: Mapping violence against women and girls support services", prepared by Kelly, L., Lovett, J., and Kocaqi, M. (June 2015)

<sup>30</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-first-baseline-report-on-albania/16807688a7>

1. In general, **none of the three selected areas of the 2016 study in Tirana were considered as safe place** regarding sexual harassment and sexual violence against women and girls
2. The neighbourhood maintenance (street lights, limited space between buildings, close-by transportation) is not considered satisfactory.
3. Women, girls, men and boys interviewed have described the existence of some key public institutions such as police station, health care centres/hospital and municipality as located not in a far distance, **but they do not have a clear perception on their supportive functions**.
4. Incidents of sexual harassment (in verbal and in touching form) and sexual violence are **confirmed to have happened** in the three selected neighbourhoods of Tirana. More than one third of the total number of respondents (or 32% of the total female respondents and 40% of the total male respondents) think that sexual harassment **happens everywhere**. Incidence frequency for sexual harassment is classified as **often** by 18 percent of the total number of respondents.

Given the importance and results of this project, it was decided to extend the study in a second phase, including other areas of Tirana, as well as areas in the municipalities of Durrës and Fier, in cooperation with IDRA Research and Consulting. The study aims to build a vision of a safe city for women, community groups, students, especially those living in poverty, and to allow them to express their own visions of a safe city where they can live, work, learn, be mobile and thrive without fear of violence.

As stated above, for the repetition of this study in 2018, three municipalities (Tirana, Durrës and Fier) in Albania were selected within which, specific neighborhoods and areas were studied. The local authorities of these municipalities have requested to engage in the safe city initiative, given that the issue of public safety of women and girls has been identified through previous work.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology and organizational approach to accomplish the required tasks by UN Women for this project, was in compliance with the study goal: *to generate evidence and provide good understanding of the types and scale of violence against women and girls in urban spaces in the target municipalities*, as well as with the objectives to:

- Identify issues related to various forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces in Municipality of Durrës, Municipality of Fier and one neighborhood of the Tirana Municipality
- Provide valid and specific data to ensure understanding of the nature, forms and prevalence of sexual harassment in public spaces and other forms of VAWG and the context in which they occur
- Provide the evidence-base for advocacy work and guide stakeholders to identify solutions

Considering the benefits of a mixed methods approach, the methodology used was **a combination of desk review with empirical study** for primary data collection. IDRA used a combination of **some data collecting strategies**<sup>31</sup>, respectively as described below. The data collection was conducted in April-May 2018.

a) **Desk review** prepared a quick overview of the state of policies, plans, legislation, and initiatives/programs that address violence against women and girls and gender equality in Albania.

b) **Semi structured interviews** conducted with stakeholders from the municipal sector as well as NGO sector in the three selected municipalities, aiming at identification of the most prevalent issues in relation to gender based violence and discrimination of women and girls in public spaces from the perspective of the stakeholders, as well as their recommendations for the improvement of safety in their cities. These interview furthermore served to identify the areas/neighborhoods in the three municipality. The final selection for the specific areas where confirmed and approved by the municipality stakeholders. 13 structured interviews were conducted in total (five in Fier, four in Durrës and four in Tirana). The interview guide is attached to this report in the appendix.

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<sup>31</sup>The proposed methodology is prepared based on the “UN Women Global Programme: Safe Cities Free of Violence Against Women and Girls - Guidance for Scoping Studies” (2011) and “Tools for Gathering Information about Women’s Safety and Inclusion in Cities: Experiences from the Gender Inclusive Cities Programme”, prepared from Women in Cities International (2011)

c) **Structured observations** conducted during day and night time in each of the selected municipalities (respectively 18 Structured Observations in total, eight in Fier, six in Durrës and four in Tirana, to collect data (without direct involvement with the participants) that couldn't be collected using typical research methods like surveys and interviews.

d) **On-site quantitative survey.** Street survey interviews were used to gather general information, such as women's use and perceptions of safety in public spaces, and how they use public spaces. The survey instrument is a fixed format questionnaire (which can be found in the appendix part of this report). It was first tested/validated through the conduction of ten pilot interviews in Tirana, before starting the survey, in order to ensure the flow of questions and to identify possible adjustment to how questions are posed. The sampling method used was based on quota by age in order to ensure that girls/young women (16 to 25) and women (25+) are equally represented. The respondents were then randomly selected (every 5<sup>th</sup> person walking by was chosen). In total 750 survey interviews are conducted with women and girls of 16+ years old, who live in, or frequent the public spaces, of selected areas in three Albanian municipalities (350 in Tirana Municipality, 200 in Durrës Municipality and 200 in Fier Municipality). Eighteen enumerators and three supervisors, all women (six enumerators and one supervisor per each municipality) were appointed as responsible to conduct the on-site survey. They were all trained before starting the field work and mentored continuously during the work they did. Questionnaires were conducted in selected public spaces ("sites"), such as: public transport nodes, market places or shopping areas, plazas, squares and parks, connecting spaces such as sidewalks and streets, residential neighborhoods, places around educational institutions, areas around health institutions, opened playgrounds, areas around clubs, restaurants, bars, internet points, sports' bets etc. The population for the street survey interviews was comprised of a sample of girls and women aged 16+, who used the public spaces. Sampling method was "quota sampling". Intercept survey technique is used to select respondents, while their willingness and consent was taken into consideration before administering any questions. e) **Focus Group Discussions** (six in total) with 55 participants of different gender, age and backgrounds were conducted to obtain a deeper understanding on specific issues related with this study. Specifically, in Fier one group with women and one group with Roma women, in Durres and Tirana one group with women and one group with men per municipality.

f) **Safety Audit Walks** (three in total, one per municipality), were also conducted aiming at helping women and girls to identify what spaces are safe and unsafe, and how to improve the built environment from a gender perspective to ensure women's safety. The teams for the safety audit walks consisted of 5 to 7 people (an experienced and trained IDRA staff who was responsible for the coordination, and other women and/or girls, who were regular users of the selected neighborhood at e.g. bus stop, university campus, market or factory), with the aim to conduct a walk through that space to identify the factors that make them feel safe/ unsafe.

## Ethical Considerations

Before starting the on-site quantitative survey, enumerators were trained on the sensitive nature of the topic. They received a training and were familiarized with the sensitive topics and questions, and were trained how to approach respondents in an ethical correct manner. When conducting the field work, enumerators tried to create as much privacy as possible considering the environment. This was done e.g. through asking respondents to step aside from streams of people on a busy walking path. Focus Group Moderators as well as Safety Walk Leaders were also trained on the sensitivity of the topic through material provided by the gender expert of the project.

## Advocacy Strategy & Follow up Activities

After conducting all above methods of data collection, researchers were presented with a variety of results and data which fostered the creation of this analytical report. This report serves inter alia as a tool for stakeholder to identify which kind of actions are in dire need to be taken, and puts forward specific recommendations for the municipalities what could be done to increase the safety of girls and women in Tirana, Durres and Fier. Those detailed overall recommendations and advocacy suggestions as well as the recommendation for each municipality separately can be found in the conclusion and recommendation chapter of this report.

It is recommended to conduct follow up meetings with the respective municipal stakeholder after the validation event, to further monitor if recommendations are being taken into consideration. Furthermore, it is recommended to repeat this study annually to enable UN Women to follow trends and gain knowledge if and how the situation for women and girls in Tirana, Durres and Fier.

### Challenges & Alterations

Throughout the different stages of this research study, researchers and field staff faced some challenges and some alteration were made.

In the first stages of the study, through discussions with UN Women it was identified that conducting Focus Groups only with women and girls may leave out important perceptions of male inhabitants as well as minority groups of the three municipalities. Hence, additional Focus Groups were conducted with men and boys and Roma women and girls. The recruitment process of Roma Women posed slight challenges due to hesitation to talk about sensitive issues such as sexual violence. This was countered by the recruiting field staff spending additional time to ensure confidentiality as well as explaining the study purpose and its importance in detail.

The structured observations in the selected study areas took more time than anticipated. These observations require strong emphasis on detail and the researcher needs to ensure that all potential safety factors are noted, which in some cases means certain streets need to be explored not only once. Especially during the observation in Fier, around the train tracks area, it took time to explore the paths and area without putting the researchers at risk.

During the quantitative fieldwork it was observed that women and girls who frequented the public spaces alone, during the time of the interview, were less likely to hesitate to participate. When women or girls were accompanied by partners or friends, more reluctance. Due to the random selection process, to ensure data accuracy, this is not easy to counter; however, this issue was not so significant that it truly hampered or delayed the data collection process. The general response rate was good in all three municipalities. When conducting the Focus Groups, Roma women were more reluctant to take part when IDRA started the recruitment process for participants. They felt uncomfortable talking about such sensitive issues and did not immediately see how they would benefit in taking part in such discussions. An effort was made to explain in greater details the benefit of this study and how the inclusion of their group is of high importance. Recruiter were kind and took time to listen and talk to the Roma women who eventually decided to take part.

Furthermore, sexual harassment and sexual violence are forms of violence against women which are less discussed in public space, in education institutions as well as in other service providers. This fact increased the difficulties faced to gather the needed information on actual situation in each of the targeted areas.

Lastly, due to time and budget restrictions, as mentioned above, only Roma women were specifically included as a minority group. It is recommended to replicate this study and also include other specific groups of women i.e. women with disabilities, Egyptian women, as well as women from the LGBTI community etc.

## 4 STUDY FINDINGS

### 4.1 Similarities and Differences -Tirana, Durres and Fier

The overall findings of this study indicate that women and girls in public spaces in the three targeted cities in Albania face numerous forms of sexual harassment such as rude comments, unwanted sexual attention, staring, whistling, or touching. Other forms of sexual violence such as sexual attack or rape, although reported in a very low level, are not missing, too. Astoundingly there are women and girls in Durrës and Fier who partly agree with the statement that some women don't mind verbal and physical violence and that it is normal for a beautiful girl or woman to draw attention and consequently suffer from sexual harassment by men in public spaces. This finding highlights the extent to which sexual harassment has been normalized in these areas and the further need to raise awareness and understanding of the issue.

Despite the various efforts of different stakeholders to create mechanisms and instruments on reporting gender based violence, there exists a common belief women and girls share on keeping violent episodes private and putting up with violence in order to keep the family together. A considerable number of girls and women do not consider sexual comments, whistling and sexual suggestive staring as sexual harassment.

Women's and girls' safety in public spaces is linked also with specific conditions of these spaces, such as lighting, maintenance, public transport services, frequently patrolling from police, etc. Comparative data in terms of lighting infrastructure indicates that Tirana City Center, Durrës City Center and Region No. 4 in Fier are areas where lighting is considered to be at a good level. On the contrary, other areas such as Shkozë and Stadium in Durrës, Astir in Tirana and Region 1, Region 2, and Region 3 in Fier, need immediate attention and serious improvement in this aspect.

Men dealing with or taking drugs is the most common factor that women and girls perceive as affecting their personal safety in all the areas and cities of this study. Crowded public transportation is another factor that has a major impact on personal safety for women and girls in Tirana (Astir) and Durrës (Shkozë). Furthermore, gender norms that perpetuate inequality and social norms supportive of violence such as simply being a woman or walking alone and affect the unsafe feeling similarly for girls in all the studied areas. Differently from Tirana and Fier, in the city of Durrës, four out of ten respondents think that sexual orientation is a factor that affects the personal safety.

Similarly, in all the areas where this study was conducted, actions such as whistling comments on the appearance or parts of the body and sexual suggestive staring are the most common forms of sexual harassment and have the same likelihood to happen.

Nearly half of the respondents (44%), have a friend or family member who has been subject to sexual harassment or sexual violence. Overall findings reveal an equally alarming situation where 38 percent out of 750 respondents reported to have been at risk of or exposed to sexual harassment and violence before or after the age of 15 (Some have experienced both). The overall quantitative and qualitative data shows that the culture of reporting violence, especially sexual harassment and sexual violence, continues to be low. There are various reasons that stand behind this phenomenon, mostly related with patriarchal harmful traditions and gender stereotypes or myths, lack of information on where to report and ask for help especially for specific forms of violence such as sexual violence, lack of trust in the responsible authorities and the fear of being labelled or judged. From 286 reported cases only 16 percent asked for help and assistance, most of them by requesting help from their relatives and friends. A limited number went to the police and only few of them were filling protected without being judged.

Quantitative but especially qualitative findings indicate that police are not effective or professional when it comes to dealing with some forms of violence cases. Some report that Police Officers even made fun of women seeking for help, especially when episodes of sexual harassment occur. On this note, it is hard for a victim to have trust in the institution that has failed to protect violated women and girls. Another important finding is that the work in regard to awareness raising and promoting help services, of nongovernmental organizations is considered to be nearly nonexistent when it comes to receiving information about sexual harassment or violence, for the vast majority of the respondents.

Comparative data among male and female participants of the focus groups shows that men acknowledged the verbal sexual harassment as an occurrence but not as problematic issue while for female participants it is considered a big concern. This shows again that the roots of this issue are deeply embedded in the patriarchal mentality and harmful tradition which has considered women and girls as men’s properties, as well as in those myths that emphasize the “duty” of women to be obliged to men’s sexual desire despite the fact that they might not want/feel to do it.

Comparing the qualitative data between young girls and older women, young female participants have the tendency to identify clothing choices and what is displayed on social media as factors leading to sexual harassment. Meanwhile, for older female participants, personal safety is affected mainly by poor lighting and limited free space in public spaces. Further, older women in Fier and Durrës display a strong fear of what others might think if they were sexually harassed and/or abused. Roma Women who took part in a FG discussion in Fier, mainly highlighted the overall bad infrastructure and maintenance as well as the lack of work and economic opportunities.

## 4.2 Tirana

### General Information



Figure 7 The two areas, Astir (left) and Center (right), in which data was collected

A total of *three-hundred and fifty street interviews* were conducted in the city of Tirana and were equally distributed into Astir and Center areas. Respondents who took part in the study were women of different ages (16-50+ y.o.). In terms of marital status, the majority of them were single while more than one fourth were married. A small number were divorced or widowed. Most of the respondents were living with their partners, children, siblings or parents and few of them lived alone.

Qualitative information was gathered by using different methods (as described in previous chapter on “Methodology”). *Three focus group*

*discussions* were conducted for both neighborhoods in Tirana’ Municipality. Two of the groups were conducted with female participants and one group with male participants. Four structured observations were conducted twice a day, one in the morning and the other during the night hours in both areas. Further, a safety walk comprised of eight participants was conducted, with a random selection of the area. Four semi-structured interviews were conducted, two of which with representatives of Local Government and two with representatives of an NGO.

The two selected areas of this study (Center and Astir) are neighborhoods with a lot of buildings, bars, gambling and sports betting areas, offices, streets with busy traffic and other facilities that occupy the public spaces and make the free space insufficient. Even though both neighborhoods have a high frequency of visitors, Astir is frequented mostly by its inhabitants unlike the city center which is also frequented for entertainment, work and education purposes.

### Safety of Neighborhoods

*Free space:* According to the majority of the respondents there is not a lot of free space in the neighborhoods and even the existing free space is considered as insufficient. Respondents who participated in the study for Center are more optimistic in this regard. While participants in the focused group discussions highlighted as a big concern the occupation of free space and sidewalks from cafés and bars.

*Lighting, police patrolling and public services:* When asked about the main issues they faced in the Astir area, focused groups' participants mentioned the overcrowded public transportation and the lack of infrastructure in terms of street lighting. Quantitative data show that the level of lighting infrastructure is better in the city Center. Compared to Astir area, the city Center shows more police presence as well.

|   | CENTER | ASTIR |
|---|--------|-------|
| In the streets                          | 17%    | 50%   |
| At the entrance of buildings            | 27%    | 38%   |
| At the entrance of stores               | 6%     | 10%   |
| At the entrance of schools/kindergarten | 6%     | 9%    |
| At the entrance of Health Centres       | 6%     | 15%   |
| At bus stations                         | 25%    | 58%   |

Figure 8 Combined percentage of respondents who have rated lighting as poor or entirely lacking. Colors indicate the most severe issues.

The finding on the lighting condition in the center and Astir area are conferred by the data of structured observations. Other qualitative findings revealed from focused group discussions or safety audit walks show that in some particular areas or streets, the lighting condition is problematic. (For more detailed information please refer to the lighting maps under the subchapter of structured observations).

### Personal Safety

*Affecting factors:* Participants stated that the general factors affecting safety in city Center and Astir areas were poor lightening in specific parts/lights that do not work during the night, overall maintenance of the streets, public transport, as well as being alone (unaccompanied). Gender factors such as being a girl/woman of certain age or body clothing are mentioned as factors affecting personal safety. Although in a small percentage, sexual orientation and ethnicity were also listed among these factors. Some of these factors are closely linked to the traditional beliefs and harmful gender stereotypes which position women and girls as weak and unprotected. Clothing factor is linked to gender stereotype that women or girls who are attacked/abused in the street provoke attention and sexual harassment themselves. Similarly, the sexual orientation or ethnicity is related also with the level of intolerance and non-acceptance of the society towards such groups.

Interestingly, unlike the quantitative study respondents, female and male who participated in focused groups' discussions think that girls coming to live in Tirana as students may feel more insecure and unsafe since they have little knowledge of the streets and neighborhoods. Further, the respondents claimed that if they are known to be living alone in the neighborhood, they might be more exposed to sexual harassment. Men from the focused groups also think that girls working in casinos or similar facilities are predisposed to being sexually harassed after facing a complete male environment.

*Likelihood of incidents:* The majority of the respondents and focus group participants think that forms of verbal sexual harassment such as making comments on the appearance, whistling or staring are more likely to happen compared to forms of physical violence. However, male participants believe that this is a phenomenon that has been decreasing lately.

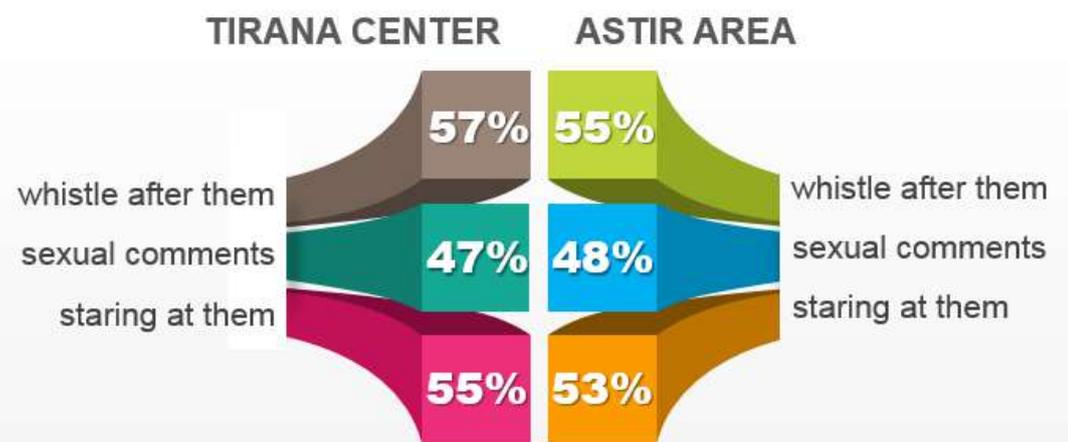


Figure 9 Likelihood of verbal sexual harassment happening to a woman frequenting the respective neighborhoods

*Unsafe feeling:* Female participants from both studied neighborhoods are afraid to go unaccompanied at night and at the same time are also reluctant to use the taxi. Female participants feel unsafe about the existence of groups of boys that consume

marijuana/narcotic drugs in the neighborhood or at the entrance of their buildings. Meanwhile the fact of being a woman, or being of a certain age are also mentioned as issues which have an impact on personal safety (63 % and 59 % respectively).

*Common reactions toward incidents:* the majority of respondents think that the common reaction of a bystander witnessing an episode of sexual harassment or violence is that it will be noticed but no one will react to help or even call for help. Similar to the findings of the quantitative study, both male and female participants report a high level of indifference and lack of empathy by the people who may be witnesses of episodes of violence against a girl or woman.

**General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence**

*Information about violence against women and girls:* Sexual harassment is mostly expressed in the form of verbal harassment rather than physical violence in both of studied areas. However, Focus Groups discussions reveal that physical sexual harassment is also occurring in public spaces; overcrowded public transportation buses are perceived as a location where this is common. Furthermore, the general mentality of Albanian men is seen as an influencing factor which causes the normalization of sexual harassment.

The highest risk factor for Astir is considered to be the lack of safe spaces for women and girls illustrated by the crowded buses, while men who consume drugs is considered to be the highest risk factor for the center of Tirana.



**Only 11 out of 93**  
Women in Tirana Center have asked for help



**Only 13 out of 71**  
Women in the 'Astir' area have asked for help

buses, while men who consume drugs is considered to be the highest risk factor for the center of Tirana.

In both quantitative and qualitative data there are figures indicating that Non-Profit Organizations and their help are nearly none existent. Meaning that respondents were never or rarely informed by NGOs on the general topic of sexual harassment and violence or where to seek help. The only positive finding in this regard is the

Figure 10 Women who experienced cases of sexual harassment or violence and asked for help

quantitative finding for the Center of Tirana where more than half of the respondents have received information from NGOs.

*Reporting sexual harassment and violence:* Qualitative and quantitative data show that both areas are characterized by lack of trust in the police and very low level of reporting of such cases. This lack of trust is, for a number of reasons, both ethical and professional. The respondents mentioned reasons such as bribing, corruption, nepotism, not taking the reported cases seriously and dissemination of personal information for explaining the amount of mistrust they display. Furthermore, sexual harassment and violence continue to be considered among “taboo” issues what means that discussion about them is still limited, while the general mentality usually blames the victims themselves (women and girls) for the sexual violent acts that might happened to them. This is another reason that keeps the reporting of such cases in a very low level.



**Out of 175 women in Tirana Center 2% strongly agree and 42% partly agree**



**Out of 175 women in the 'Astir' Area 7% strongly agree and 42% partly agree**

A high number of respondents reported to have been at risk of or exposed to the sexual harassment, before and after the age of 15 (before the age of 15: 32% Center, 16 % Astir, after the age of 15: 49% Center, 37 % Astir. The majority of the reported cases were caused by a stranger or someone at school. Such findings indicate that the safety in the public spaces and school facilities is questionable.

Figure 11 "Girls/Women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves." Showing only: Strongly agree & Partly agree by respondents

Respondents who had been subject to sexual harassment or violence explained that they had chosen not to report it due to lack of information on where to report, to the lack of trust in the responsible institutions or due to the fear of being labelled.

The fear of being labeled or hold accountable themselves when falling victim to sexual harassment, is an important issue underlined by the findings of this study (infographic left above). Furthermore, a large number of women view verbal sexual harassment neither as sexual harassment nor violence showing the problematic issue of normalization of such behavior by men in the respective neighborhoods.

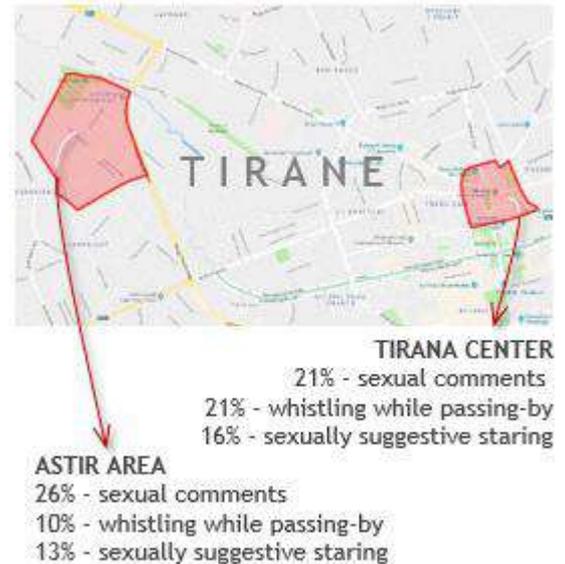


Figure 12 Respondents who do not classify these actions as either sexual harassment or violence

### 4.2.1 TIRANA CENTER

#### Safety of Neighborhood & Public Services

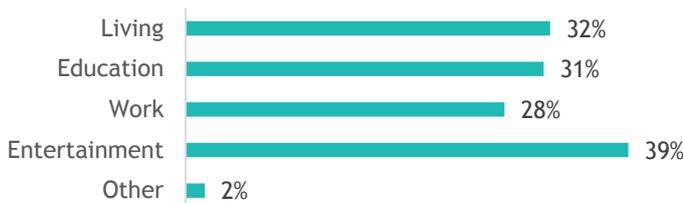


Figure 13 Reasons for frequenting this neighborhood.

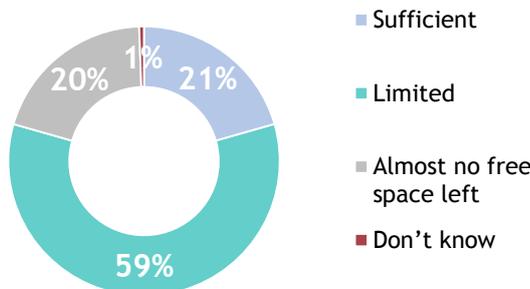


Figure 14 What do you think about free spaces between buildings and streets in the neighborhood?

According to the majority of respondents the Center of Tirana is a neighborhood frequented on a daily base by women and girls most commonly for entertainment related reasons (39%), living (31%), education (30%) and work (28%).

In terms of safety of the neighborhood, when asked about their opinion on free spaces between buildings and streets in the center of Tirana, only 21 per cent think they are sufficient and nearly 80 per cent consider the free spaces as limited among whose 20 percent perceive the areas as with "almost no free space left".

The findings of the survey show that according to the 91 per cent of respondents the lighting

condition is very good and good at the entrances of the stores, followed by 83 percent share the same opinion for the lighting in the streets and 73 percent in regard to entrances of the schools and kindergarten. However, twenty-seven percent of the respondents who are living in or using the Center of Tirana state that lightening condition is poor or that there is no lighting at all at the entrances of the homes and buildings and 25 per cent thinks similarly regarding the lighting infrastructure at bus stations. Hence, commercial places are more likely to be well lid than residential area or public service points.

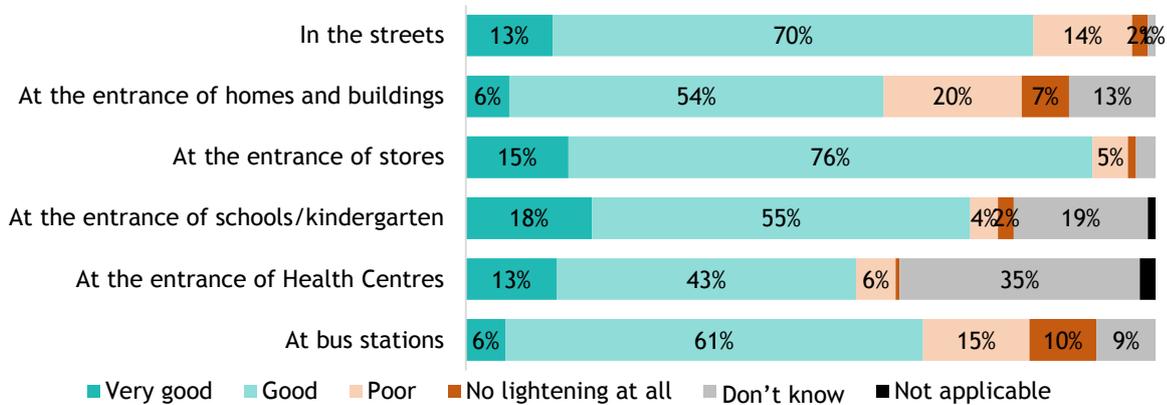


Figure 15 How is the lighting in this neighborhood?

When asked to provide some information about the Center of Tirana, despite the above vastly positive perception on lighting, more than half of the respondents (61 percent) state that the lighting system is not distributed evenly nor managed properly. This suggests that respondents may have varying perceptions on specific places and street areas within this neighborhood. On a positive note, the majority experiences the police as patrolling often in this area (57%).

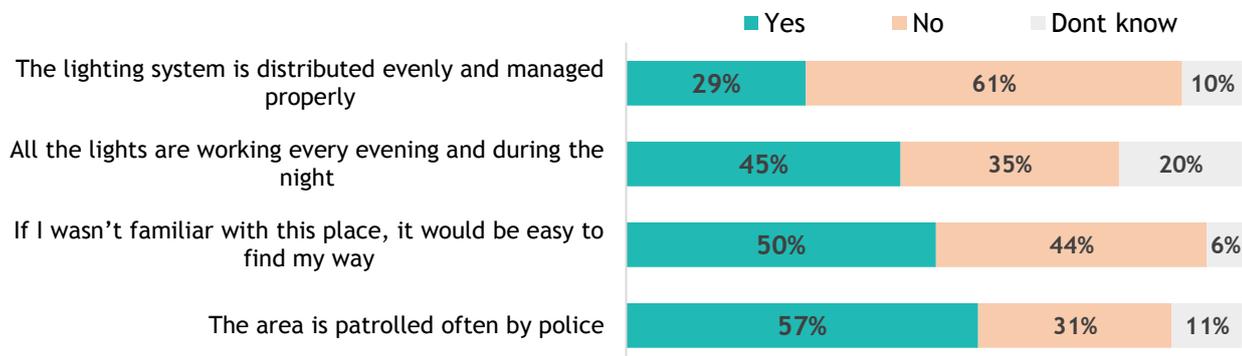


Figure 16 Provide some information about the following questions regarding this neighborhood

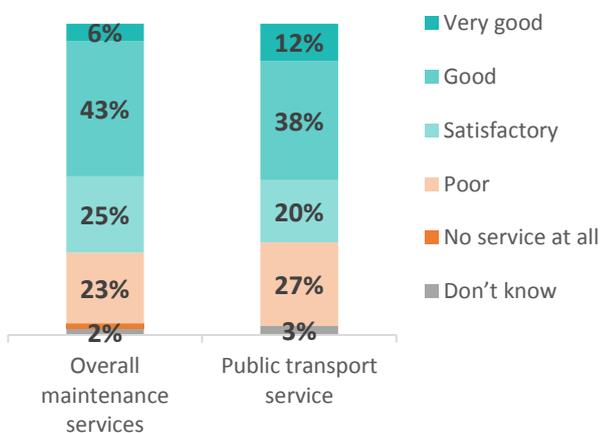


Figure 17 Evaluation of public services in the neighborhood

On the evaluation of public services, findings indicate that almost half of the respondents (49%) have assessed the overall maintenance services as good and very good. Similar results can be observed in regard to the evaluation of the public transport service (18 % very good and 32 % good) which is used by over half of the respondents often. Around one quarter each however rates these matters as poor, indicating that there are varying opinions in this regard.

The quantitative study results further show that among factors affecting the personal safety of women the majority of the respondents (70%) state that being alone (unaccompanied) and clothing choices (67%) are the factors which are most likely to hamper their safety when moving in public spaces.

Meanwhile the fact of being a woman, or being of a certain age are also mentioned as issues which have an impact on personal safety (63 % and 59 % respectively). Interestingly, respondents think that facts like being from out of town, sexual orientation or being of certain ethnicity and of a certain religion are not prominent issues that affect the personal safety in the Center Area. **Focus group discussion on the other hand revealed that respondents not originating from Tirana, especially unaccompanied students, are in fact more likely to be subject to sexual harassment.**

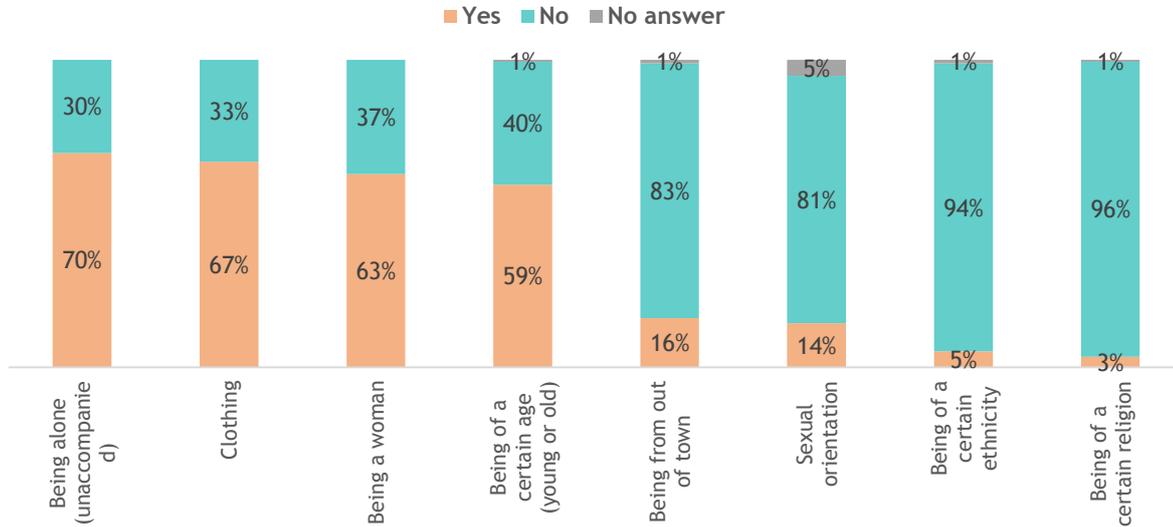


Figure 18 Do you think any of these factors affects your personal safety in this area?

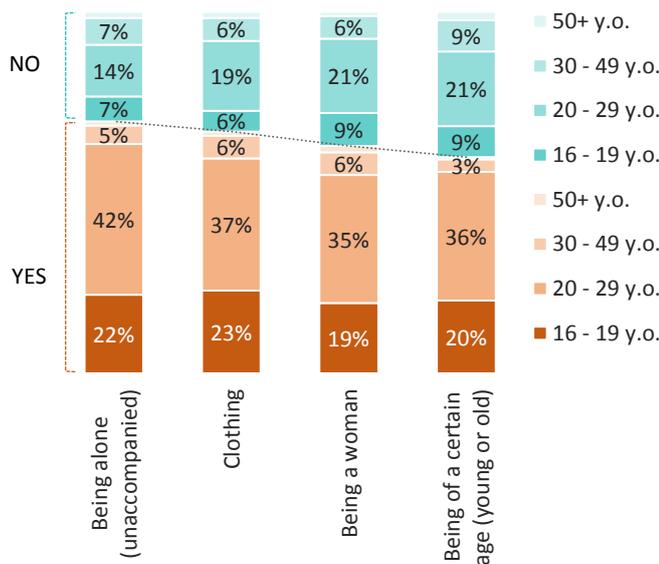


Figure 19. Factors that affect personal safety in the area by age

When analyzing the data disaggregated by age, it becomes apparent that the three most prominent factors influencing personal safety are more commonly mentioned by younger women and girls.

When asked about the likelihood of being subject to certain forms of sexual harassment or violence in the Center of Tirana, findings show that forms of verbal sexual harassment are more common compared to physical harassment. The respondents rated whistling and name calling as the issue which is most likely to happen to a woman in this neighborhood (57%, very likely). This is followed by the issues of sexual comments and suggestive staring with nearly half of the respondents rating these kinds of incidents as very likely. However, the possibilities of being threatened to get harmed, getting sexually or physically attacked are considered as not likely to happen, according to the

majority of women who took part in this survey.

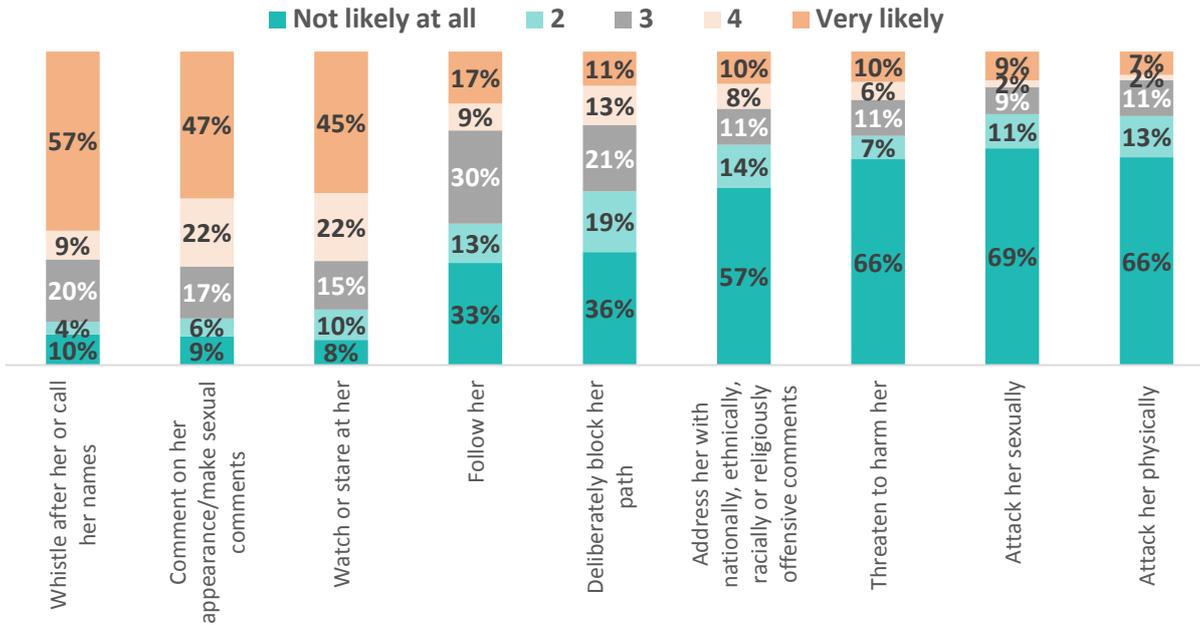


Figure 20 How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood?

In terms of factors that contribute to feeling unsafe in this neighborhood, the majority of the respondents (84 percent) consider men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs and group of men, as aspects that makes them feel unsafe the most. Focus Group findings emphasize this issue further; women often feel unsafe when being object to men consuming alcohol or drugs, especially in groups, in public spaces.

When being asked how other issues hamper their safety in this neighborhood, poor lighting (69%), and crowded public transport facilities (68%) also stand out with a high level of agreement. What can be considered as an interesting finding of this study is that more than half of the respondents 66 per cent state that street dogs contribute to the unsafe feeling.

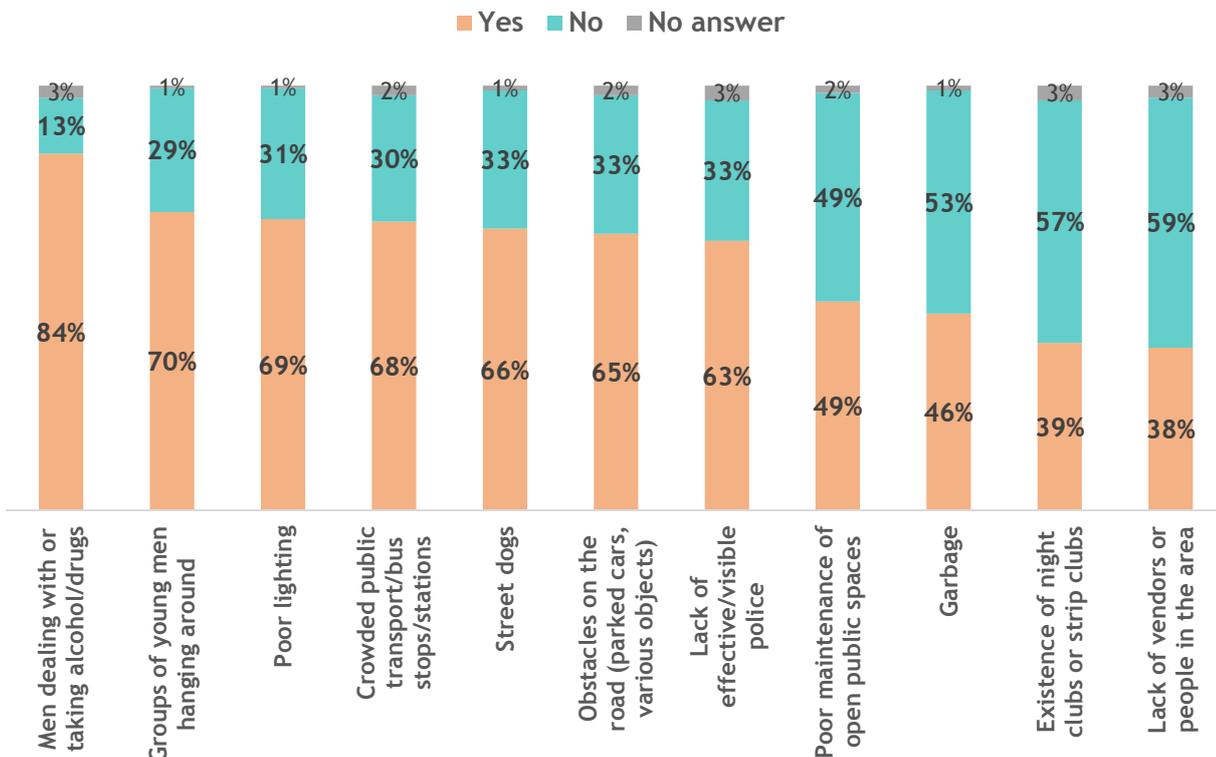


Figure 21 In this area, which factors contribute to your feeling unsafe in this neighborhood?

An alarming finding is identified regarding reactions toward incidents which may happen to a woman or girl in public. According to half of the respondents the most prominent reaction of people witnessing incidents is that people will notice, but will not react. Only 27 per cent of the respondents think that people witnessing such incidents will help or will call for help (17%). Unfortunately focus group discussion findings further highlight this serious issue. Men and women alike expressed mostly indifference toward this matter. These findings may indicate that some versions of sexual harassment or violence are still accepted as the norm as result of outdated mentalities and gender stereotypes based thinking among the population. There appears to be a lack of knowledge and understanding of the grave consequences such issues have, especially for women and girls. Results like this further suggests that there appears to be a general lack of civic altruism in the society.

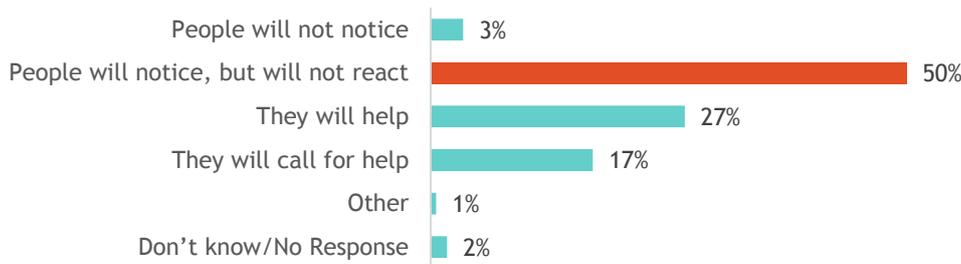


Figure 22 According to your opinion, what is the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that may happen to a women in this area?

### General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence

Respondents were asked for their opinion in regard to 15 statements within the context of sexual harassment and violence. Whilst the overall impression of this data displays several positive results, other strike as particularly serious, such as the high number of respondents who partly agree that women who are subject to sexual harassment or abuse, provoke it themselves (42%). Which can be interpreted as the phenomena of victim blaming. In conjunction with this, data also reveals 15 percent part agreement with that statement that some women like to be beaten. The high acceptance of women and girls toward the statement of men being violent by nature and the 18 percent agreement that violence is a family matter, suggest the normalized use of violence within the family or society to address conflict and Social norms supportive of violence are still present among some women and men in Albania.

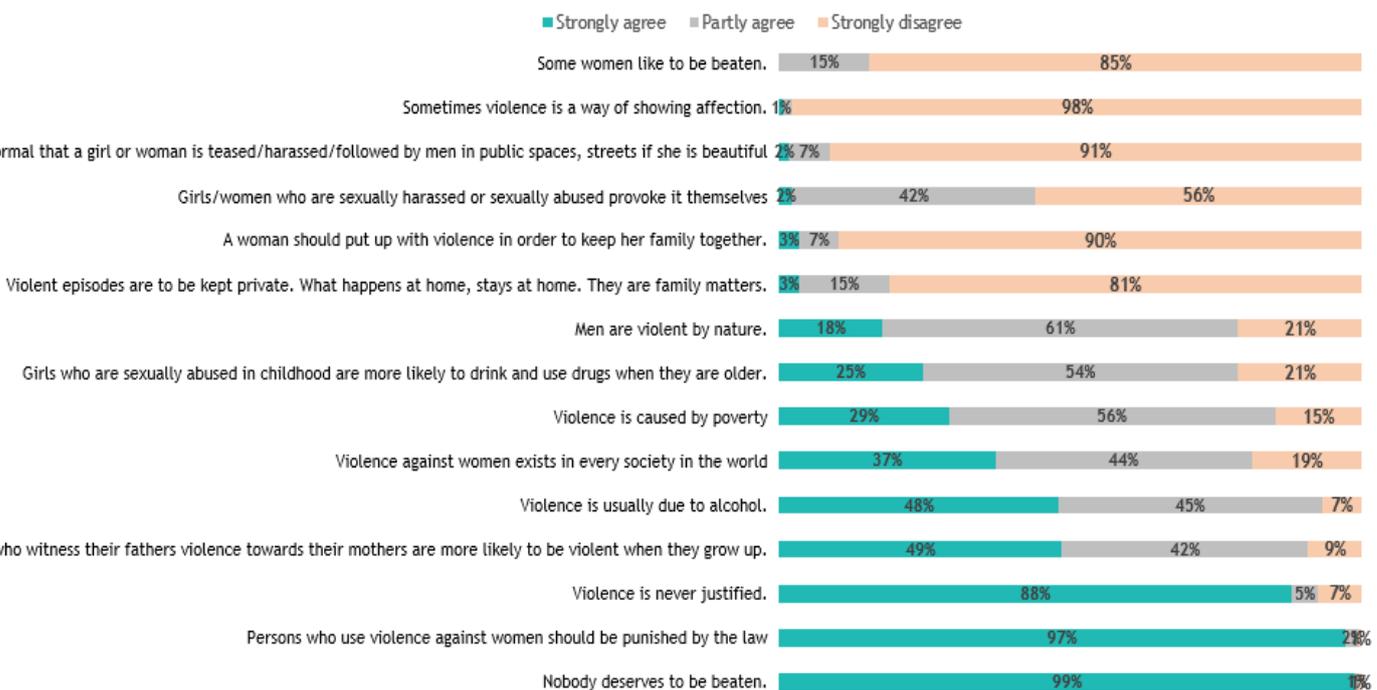


Figure 23 Which is your opinion about the following statements on violence?

Findings indicate that almost all the respondents have received information about forms of violence against women through media outlets and social connections, creating a picture of an informed respondent group in regard to these matters. TV/Radio, Web and Social Media stand out as the most mentioned channels.

Almost half of the respondents have never received this kind of information from non-profit organizations which indicates that efforts by the civil society within this context did not have a large and sustained impact on spreading information about violence against women.

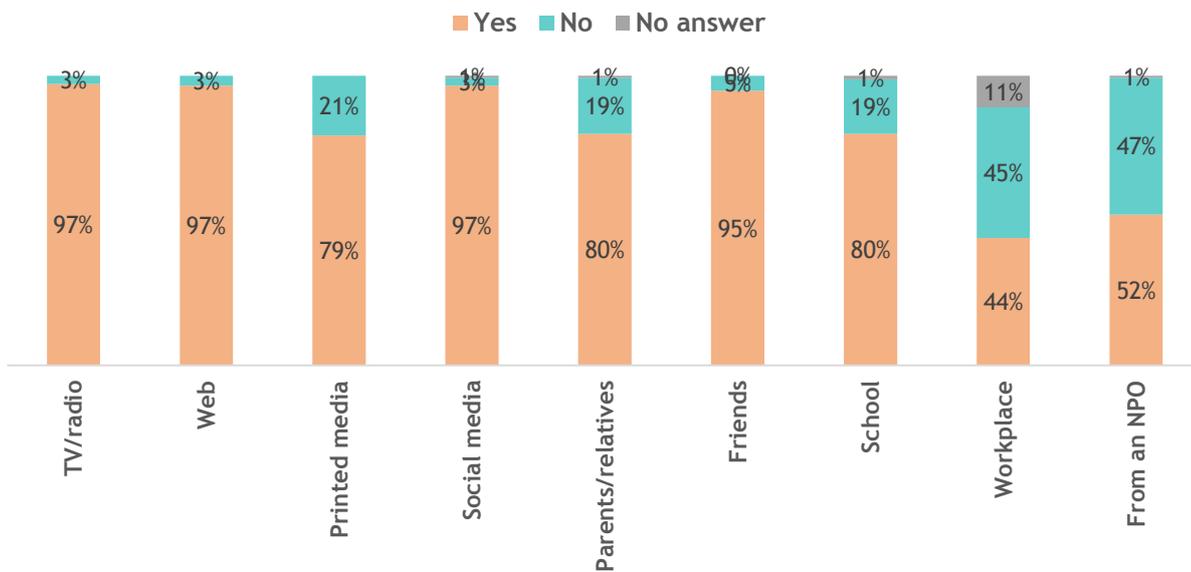


Figure 24 Have you ever received information about any form of violence against women and girls through?

As shown below, 60 percent of the respondents declare that acts of violence happening in the center of Tirana are usually verbal, against only three percent who state that these episodes are usually physical. It is noteworthy thought that 26 percent reported that both kinds are common in this area.

The majority perceived girls<sup>32</sup> as the group of individuals that are most in danger, only five percent thinks that Roma and Egyptians are more in danger than others.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>32</sup> The terminology 'girls' here translates to the individual perception and interpretation of the respondents which age group this may exactly include. (They were not presented with clarifications what IDRA classifies as girls).

<sup>33</sup> Interestingly, when comparing findings from the Focus Group Discussions between the group of non-Roma women participants and Roma women participants, it can be observed that in regard to most topics and issue, the opinions are alike. This is apart from Roma women participants who were reporting that they had solely received information on domestic violence but not about any other forms of GBV or GBD by any kind of stakeholder.

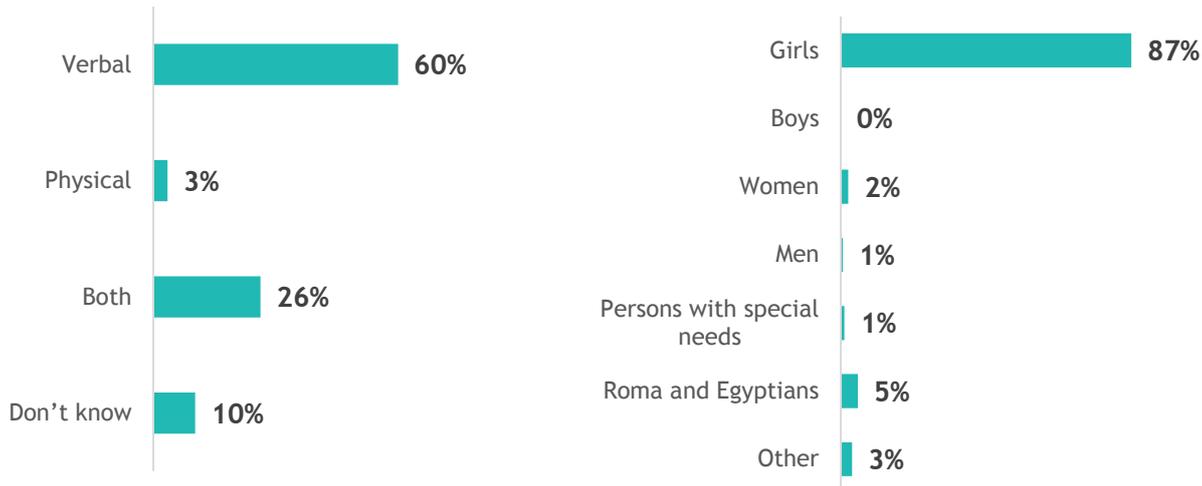
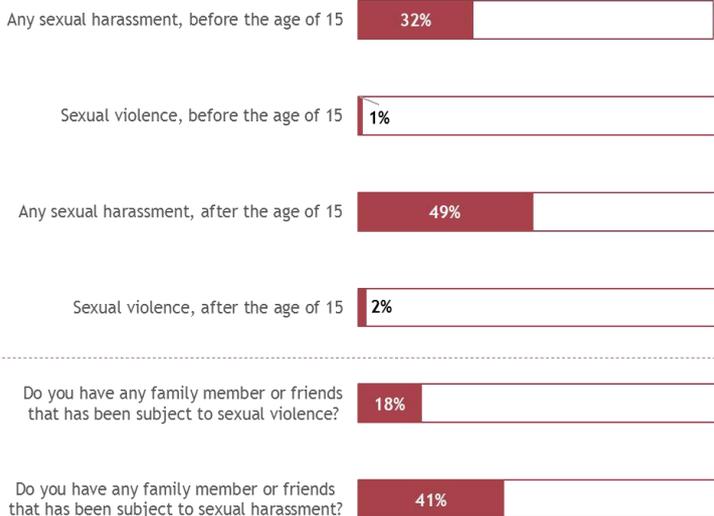


Figure 25 which kind of violence happening in this area are usually more common(left) and which groups of individuals are more in danger in this neighborhood (right)

Quantitative stat show that nearly half of the 93 respondents have been subject to sexual harassment after the age of 15. They report frequent cases of sexual harassment both prior to and after the age of 15. On the contrary, the study shows a very low reporting of cases of sexual violence before or after the age 15 (respectively 1% and 2%). However, 18% of the participants accept knowledge of sexual violence cases exercised on others. They report to have at least one family member who has been a subject of sexual violence. Such findings highlight the common tendency to not report personal cases or stories, which are often considered private and family matters.

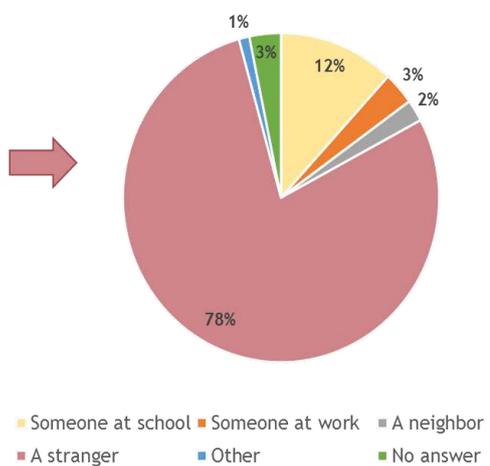
The majority of the participants state that the harassment was exercised by a stranger (in public places), followed by harassment at school settings (12%) and 3% at work. Due to such findings, the safety in schools becomes questionable.

Have you ever been in risk or exposed to:



N=93

Who did this to you?



■ Yes □ No ■ Refuse/no answer

Figure 26 Have you ever been at risk to & Who did this to you

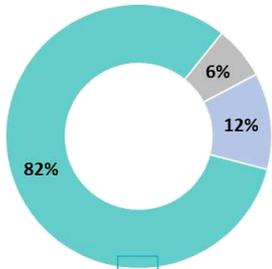
The majority of the respondents (82% or 76 cases) who have been exposed to sexual harassment or violence declared that they did not ask for help due to the lack of trust in getting the appropriate help or didn't have information where to go asking for help. Another 17 per cent of these respondents have chosen not to ask help because of the fear of being labelled. The other 12 percent who did choose to ask for help went to their families (6 cases), to relatives (2 cases), to police (1 case), to a passerby (1 case), and to psychologist of a school (1 case). Ten out of these 11 cases were met with

being taken serious and victims were not blamed. These findings highlight the issue of lack of trust in institutions as well as lack of information of help services. Due to the high number of respondents who stated that they have received information about sexual harassment and violence through various channels it becomes questionable if the level of information provided (i.e. simply what does it mean, or legal measures against such forms of violence, services existing, etc.), as well as campaigns' effectiveness in sufficiently highlight the different options women have in order to seek help.

Have you ever asked for help related to that?

N=93

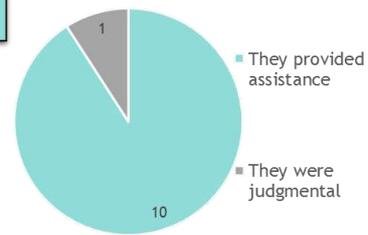
- Yes
- No
- No answer



If yes, where exactly

|                               | Number of cases |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| To my family                  | 6               |
| To relatives                  | 2               |
| To a passerby                 | 1               |
| To the police                 | 1               |
| To the psychologist at school | 1               |

How did they react?



If No, why?

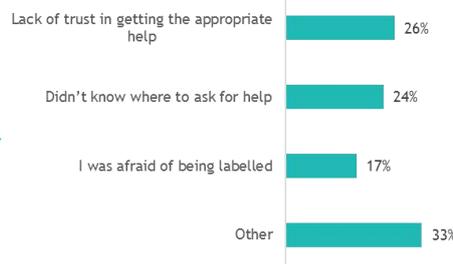


Figure 27 Asking for help

When asked how they would react in the case of experiencing verbal street harassment, 79 percent reported that they would do nothing, creating the image that there is a vast acceptance among girls and women who experience harassment which is not physical.

Conversely in the case of physical or sexual attacks, 68 per cent would report such cases to the police. The difference in reactions can also be seen in terms of asking bystander or family for help.

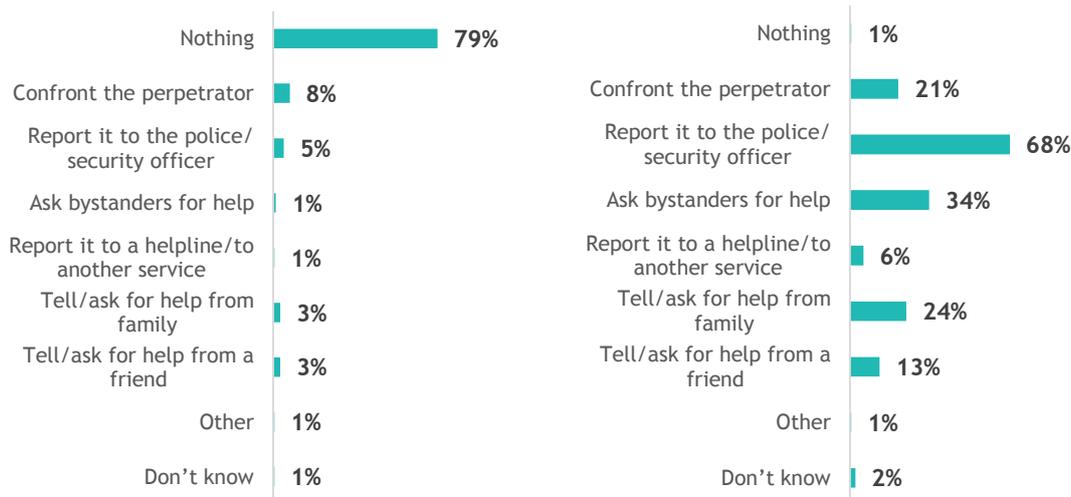
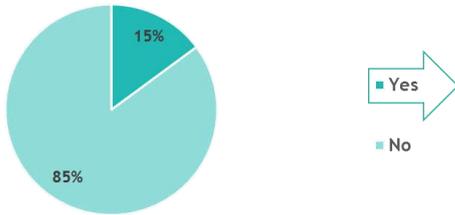


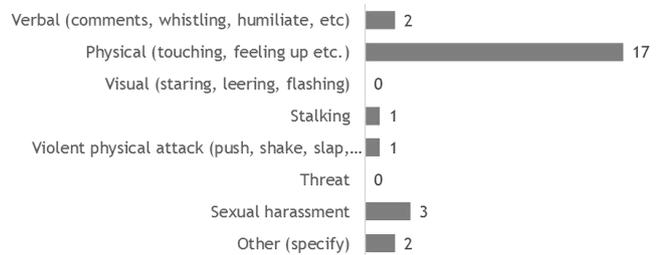
Figure 28 Reactions to verbal street harassment (left) & direct physical or sexual attack (right)

Only 15 percent of the respondents state to know a woman who has faced harassment and reported it. A significant number of incidents was of physical nature (17). Half of those cases where not treated by the Police when attempting to report them.

Do you know a woman who was harassed on the street and reported an incident (to the police, NGO ect)?



What was the nature of the incident?



What was the police response?

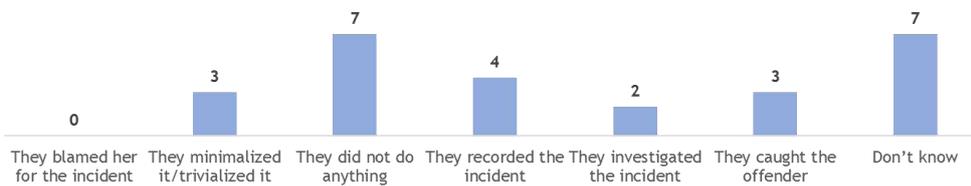


Figure 29. Incidences reporting

An astounding number of women stated that the main reason for not reporting an incident is the lack of knowledge where to turn to for help (63%). Another third expressed to be too ashamed or afraid to be judged. Thirty percent is afraid to approach the Police. **Findings like this highlight the serious issue of lack of trust into the Police when sexual harassment or sexual violence incidents happen, which urgently needs to be addressed.**

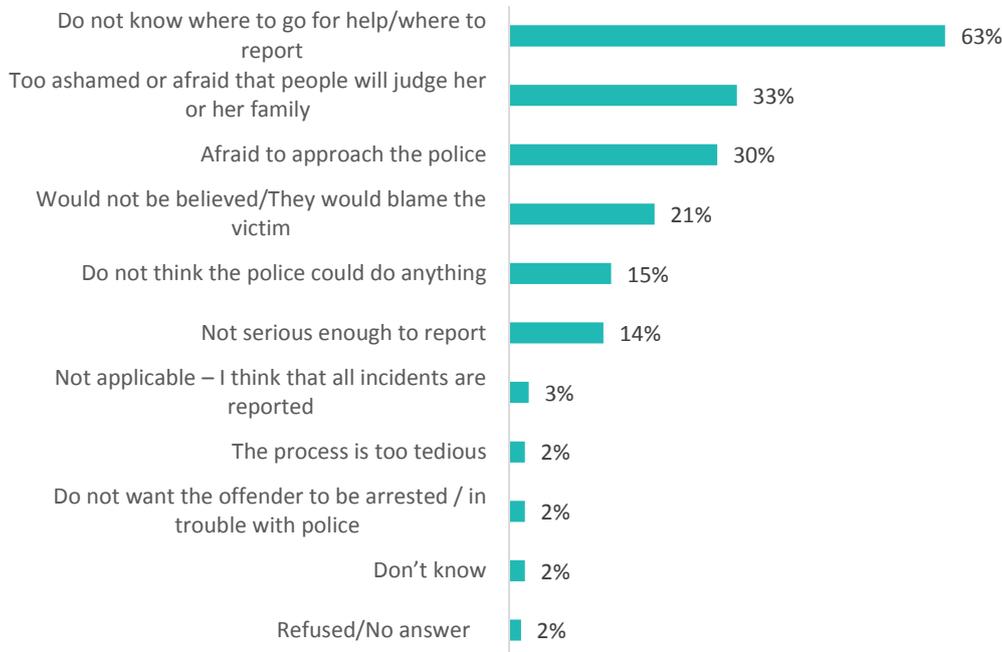


Figure 30. Why many women do not report cases of violence to the police?

## 4.2.2 TIRANA ASTIR

### Safety of Neighborhood & Public Services

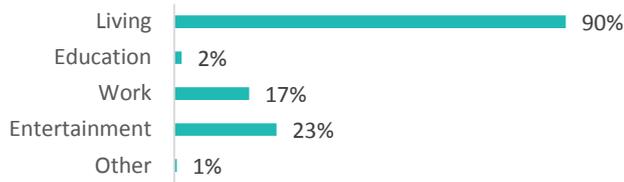


Figure 31 What are the reasons to visit this neighborhood?

According to the majority of respondents, Astir is a neighborhood frequented on daily bases by most women and girls for living related reasons (90 percent), entertainment (23 percent), education (2 percent) and work reasons (17 percent). In terms of safety of the neighborhood, when asked about their opinion on free spaces between buildings and streets in the center of Astir, only 17 per cent think they are sufficient and 84 per cent consider the free spaces as limited

and as almost no free space left.

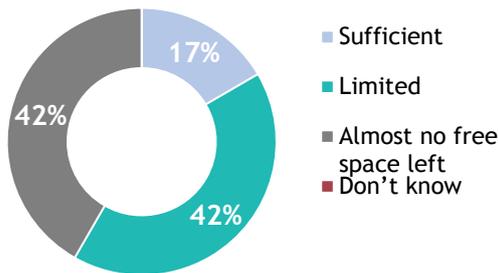


Figure 32 What do you think about free spaces between buildings and streets in this neighborhood?

In the context of lighting, the findings of the survey show that according to 90 per cent of respondents the lighting condition is very good and good at the entrances of the stores, followed by 60 per cent for the lighting at the entrances of homes and buildings. However, half of the respondents who are living in or using the Astir area state that lightening condition is poor or that there is no lighting at all in the streets and another 57 per cent thinks similarly for the lighting

infrastructure at bus stations. These findings are somewhat similar to Center of Tirana findings where private owned commercial entrances were also more likely to have better lighting

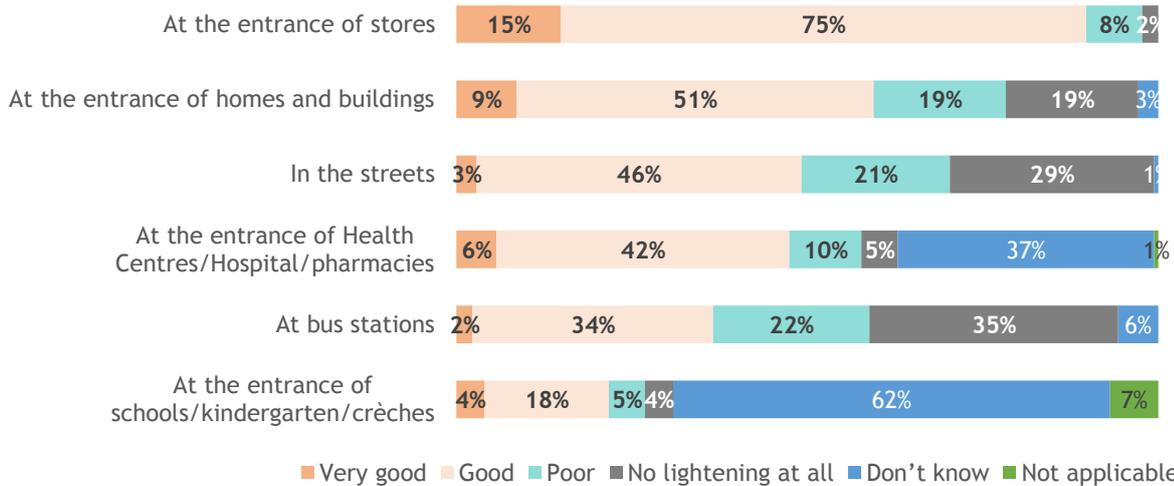


Figure 33. How is the lighting in this neighborhood?

When asked to provide some information about the area of Astir, the majority of the respondents (82 per cent) state that the lighting system is not distributed evenly nor managed properly. It stands out positively that 64 per cent declare that the area is often patrolled by the police.

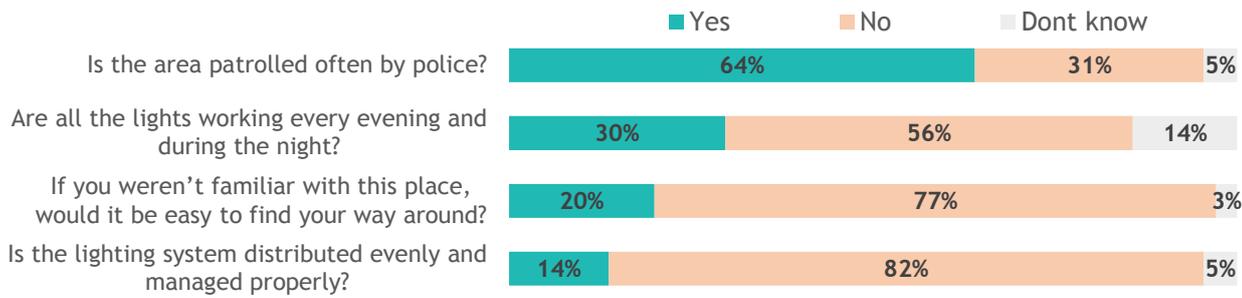
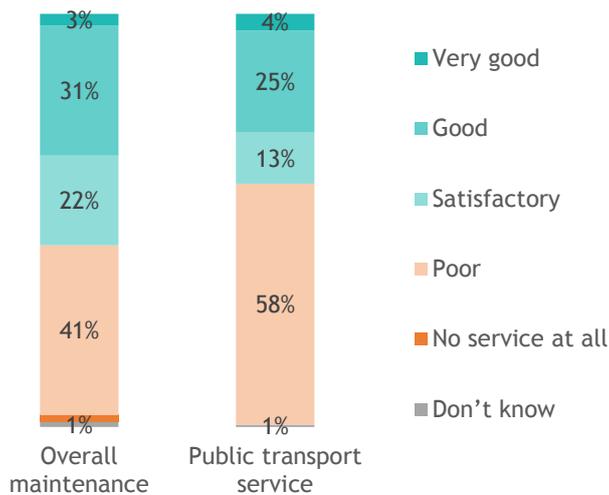


Figure 34. Provide some information about the following questions regarding this neighborhood.

On the evaluation of public services, findings indicate that respondents living in or using the Astir area have varied



opinion about the overall maintenance services, with 44 percent rating it as poor or no service at all 56 percent rating it positively to different extents. Over two thirds of the respondents declared to use the public transport services often, with more than half evaluating it negatively, however, still 42 percent rated it positively. These findings suggest that the situation in the Astir area is not the same in all its spaces.

Figure 35. Evaluation of Public Services in the Neighborhood

The quantitative study results further show that among factors affecting the personal safety of women the majority of the

respondents (71%) state that being alone (unaccompanied) and clothing choices (63%) are the factors which are most likely to hamper their safety when moving in public spaces.

Meanwhile the fact of being a woman, or being of a certain age are also mentioned as issues which have an impact on personal safety (63 % and 59 % respectively). Interestingly, respondents think that facts like being from out of town, or being of certain ethnicity and of a certain religion are not prominent issues that affect the personal safety in the Astir area, similar to the situation in the Center.

With regard to sexual orientation, compared with findings of the Center, a small increase of respondents who think that sexual orientation can be a factor which affect the personal safety (from 14 % to 22%) can be noted.

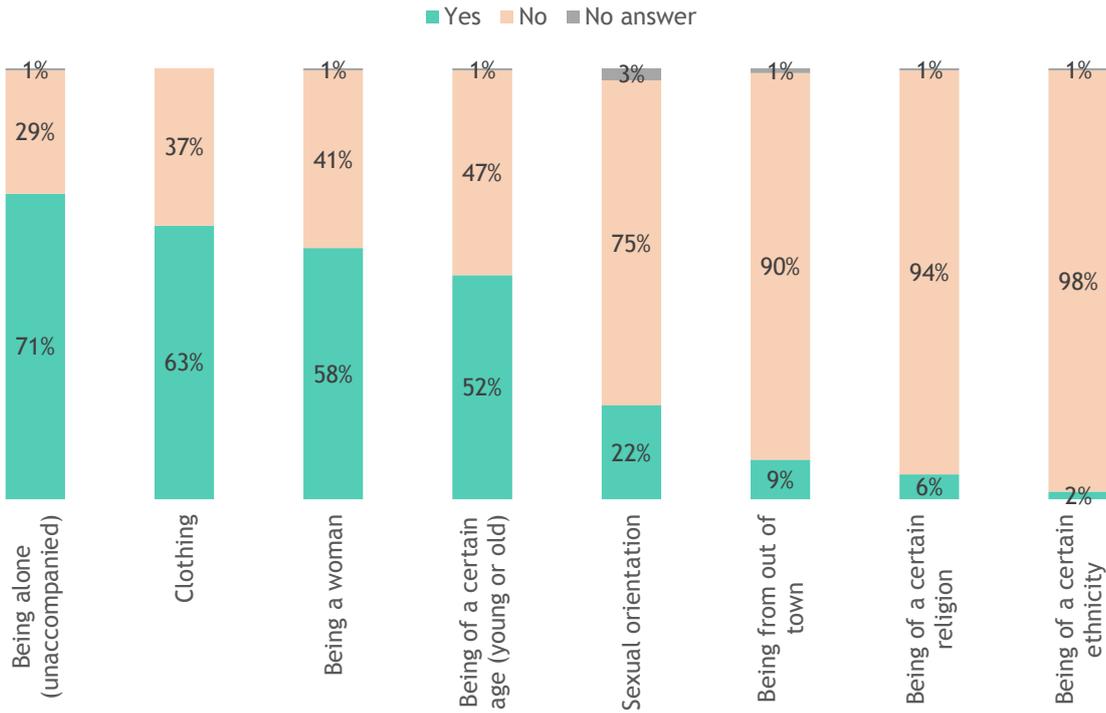


Figure 36 Do you think any of these factors affects your personal safety in this area?

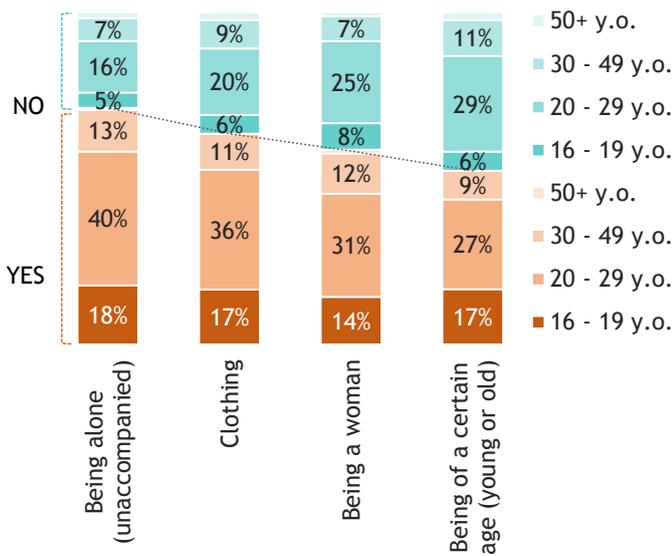


Figure 37. Factors that affect personal safety in the area by age

When observing the above data disaggregated by age, it becomes apparent that the most prominent factors which contribute to **feeling unsafe are mentioned by a higher number of young women and adolescent girls compared to older respondents.**

When asked about the likelihood of the things to happen to a woman or a girl in this neighborhood, findings show that, similarly to the Center of Tirana, forms of verbal sexual harassment are more likely to happen compared to physical harassment. The respondents rated whistling and name calling as the issue which is most likely to happen to a woman or a girl in this neighborhood. This is followed by the issues of sexual comments and suggestive staring with around half of the respondents rating these kinds of incidents as very likely. However, the possibilities of being threatened to get harmed, getting sexually or physically attacked are considered as

not likely to happen, according to the majority of women who took part in this survey, similarly as the finding for Center of Tirana.

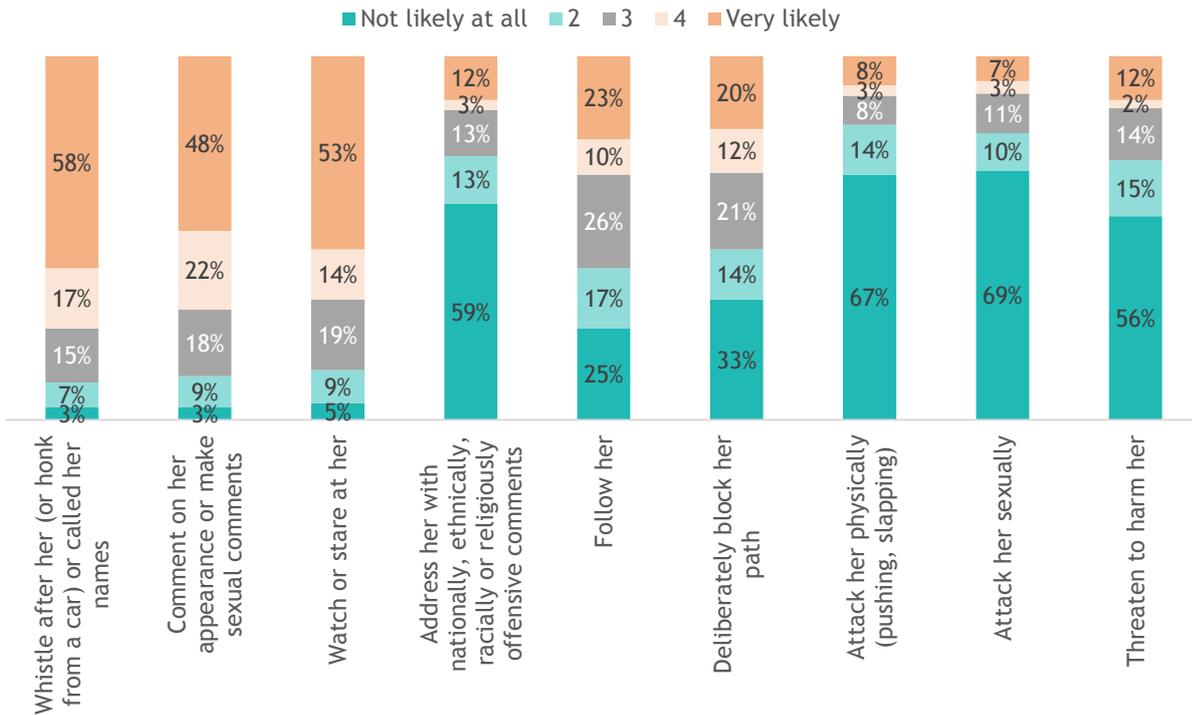


Figure 38 How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood?

In terms of factors that contribute to feeling unsafe in this neighborhood, differently from the findings of the Center of Tirana<sup>34</sup> where 84 % considered the factor of drug and alcohol abuse as well as groups of men hanging around in the streets, as the most mentioned risk factor, for 93 % of respondents living in Astir lack of safe spaces for women and girls described by the crowded public transport and poor lighting (87%) display the biggest risk factor display the biggest risk factor

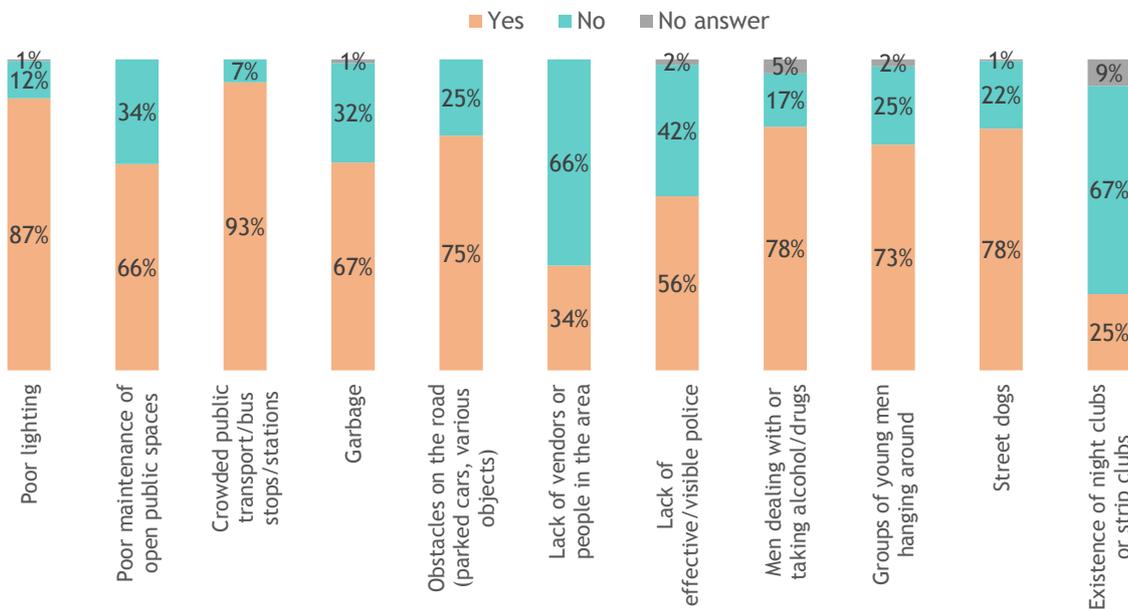


Figure 39 in this area, which factors contribute to your feeling unsafe in this neighborhood?

An even more serious finding was identified, compared to the Center of Tirana<sup>35</sup>, regarding reactions toward incidents which may happen to a woman in public. According to 63 percent the respondents the most prominent reaction of

<sup>34</sup> See page 29 for more information.

<sup>35</sup> See page 30 for more information.

people witnessing incidents is that people will notice, but will not react. Only 17 per cent of the respondents think that people witnessing such incidents will help or will call for help (15%). As pointed out above, these findings may indicate that some versions of sexual harassment or even violence are still accepted as the norm as result of outdated mentalities and gender stereo types based thinking among some women of the Albanian population.

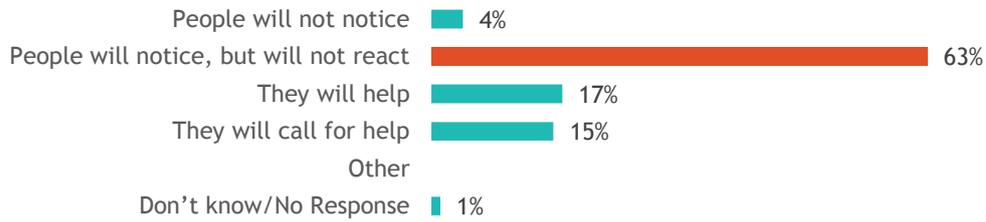


Figure 40 According to your opinion, what is the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that may happen to a woman in this area?

### General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence

Findings indicate that almost all the respondents have received information about different forms of violence against women through friends and media or other social contacts. Similar to the findings for the Center of Tirana, but even more noticeable, is the lack of information received from non-profit organizations.

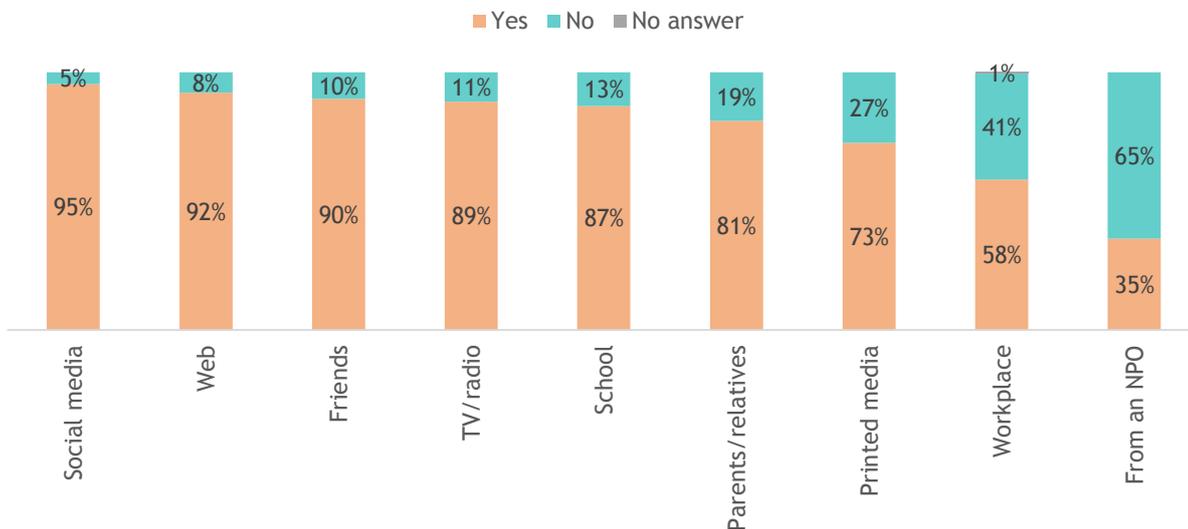


Figure 41 Have you ever received information about any form of violence against women and girls through?

Fewer respondents of this neighborhood compared to the ones of Center reported that violent episodes are mostly verbal (43%) and approximately the same number experiences both kinds as most prevalent (42%). Nearly all agree that girls are at highest risk in this neighborhood compared to other demographic groups. Only few respondents believe that Roma and Egyptians are at higher risk (3%).

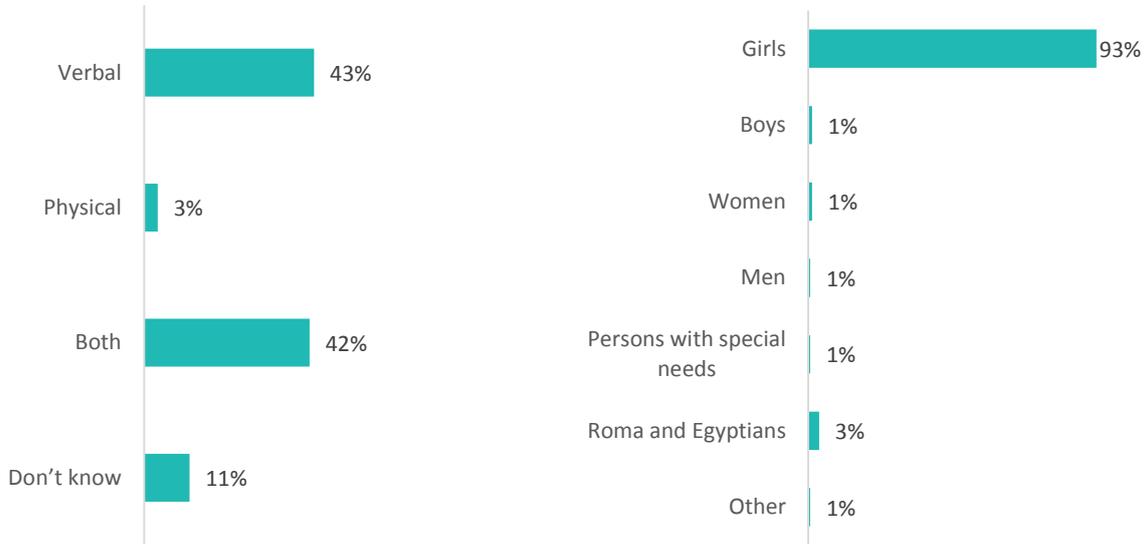
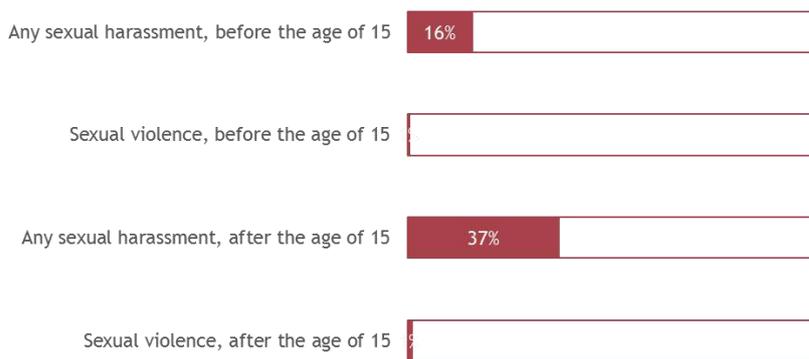


Figure 42 The violence episodes happening in this area are usually more...(left) & Which groups of individuals are more in danger here in this neighborhood? (right)

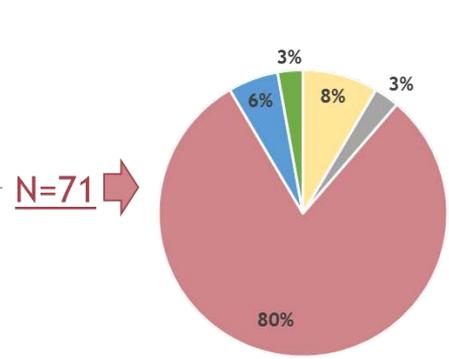
A total number of 41 percent of the respondents have been at risk or exposed to forms of sexual harassment or violence before or after the age of 15 in the Astir area (Tirana Center reported 93 cases in comparison). Nearly one third report to have a family member or friends who have been subject to sexual harassment whereas only 13 percent report the same in regard to sexual violence. As in the Center the majority of these cases report a stranger having subjected them to harassment or violence, eight percent report to have experienced such cases in a school environment. **As this is the second neighborhood where schools are the second likely place to be exposed to such issues, the safety at schools for girls becomes a more pressing issue.**

Have you ever been in risk or exposed to:



■ Yes □ No ■ Refuse/no answer

Who did this to you?

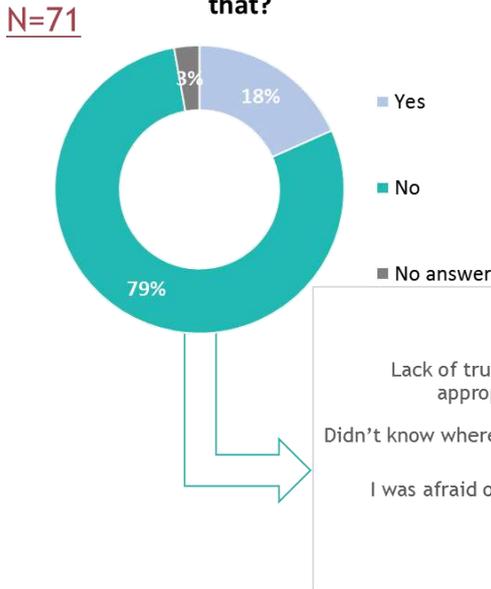


■ Someone at school ■ Someone at work  
 ■ A neighbor ■ A stranger  
 ■ Other ■ No answer

Figure 43 Have you ever been exposed to... & Who did this to you

The majority of the respondents who have been at risk or exposed to sexual harassment or violence declared that they did not ask for help due to other reasons than the ones listed in the figure below or due to lack of trust in receiving appropriate help. The other 18 percent who did choose to ask for help went to their families (7 cases) and to the police (3 cases). The other 18 percent who did choose to ask for help went to their families (7 cases) and to the police (3 cases)

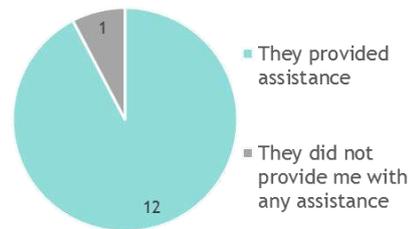
**Have you ever asked for help related to that?**



**If yes, where exactly**

|               | Number of cases |
|---------------|-----------------|
| To my family  | 7               |
| To the police | 3               |
| Friends       | 2               |
| Passers by    | 1               |

**How did they react?**



**If No, why?**

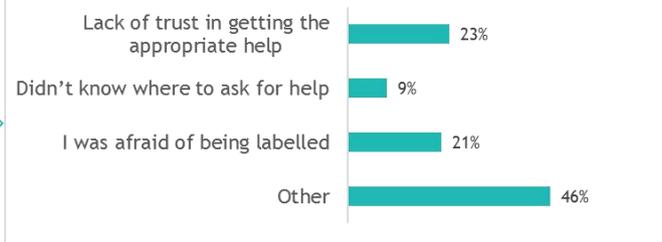


Figure 44 Asking for Help

When asked how they would react in the case of experiencing verbal street harassment, 55 percent claim to do nothing. The reaction was not the same in the case of physical or sexual attacks, where 77 percent would report it to the police. The difference in their reaction can also be seen in terms of asking someone for help, as shown in the below figure; percentages are higher in the case of physical or sexual attack.

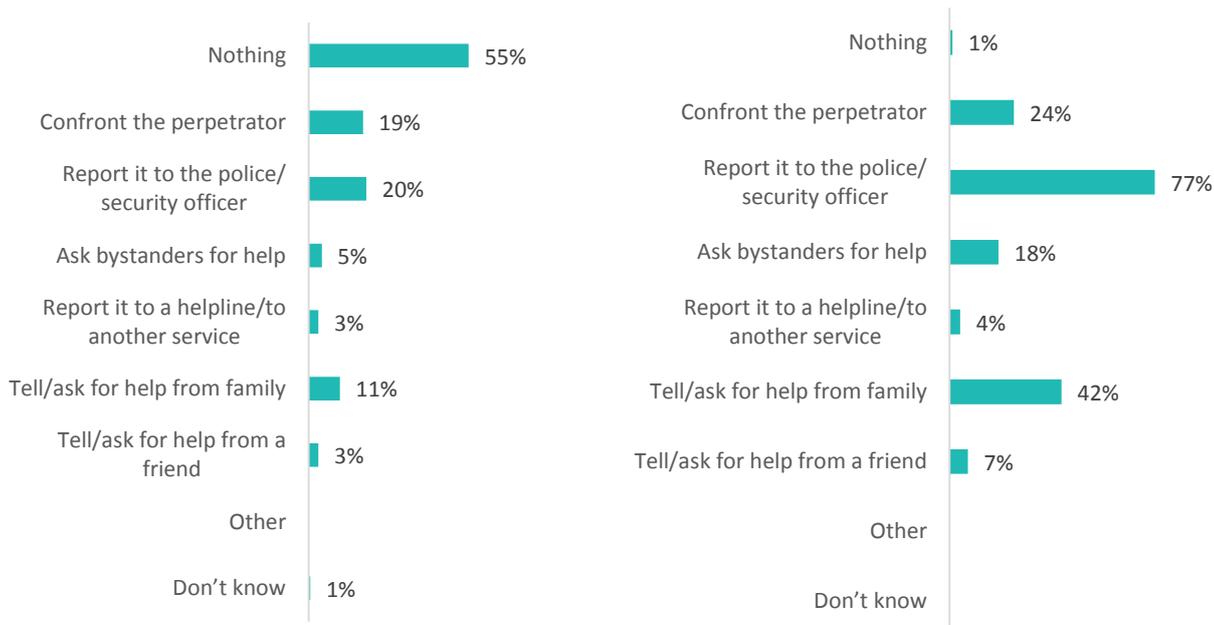
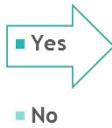
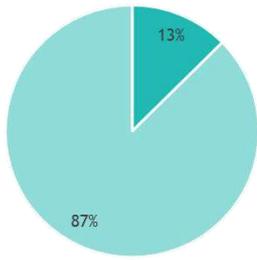
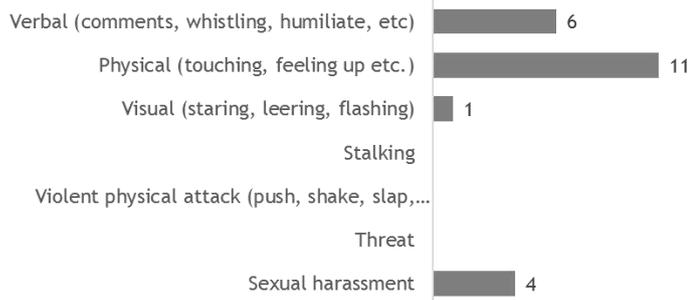


Figure 45 Reaction to verbal street harassment (left) & cases of direct physical or sexual attack (right)

Do you know a woman who was harassed on the street and reported an incident (to the police, NGO ect)?



What was the nature of the incident?



What was the police response?

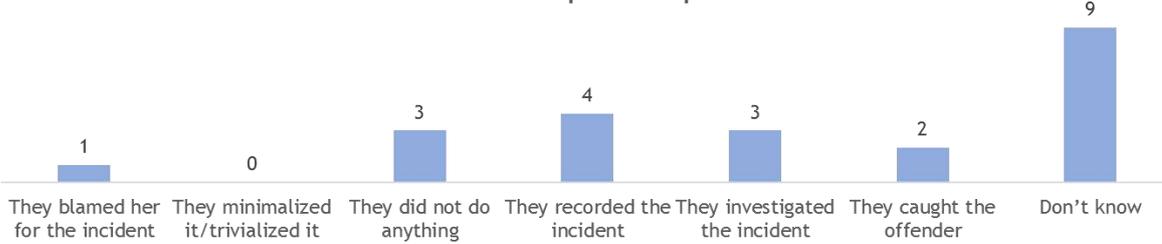


Figure 46. Incidences reporting

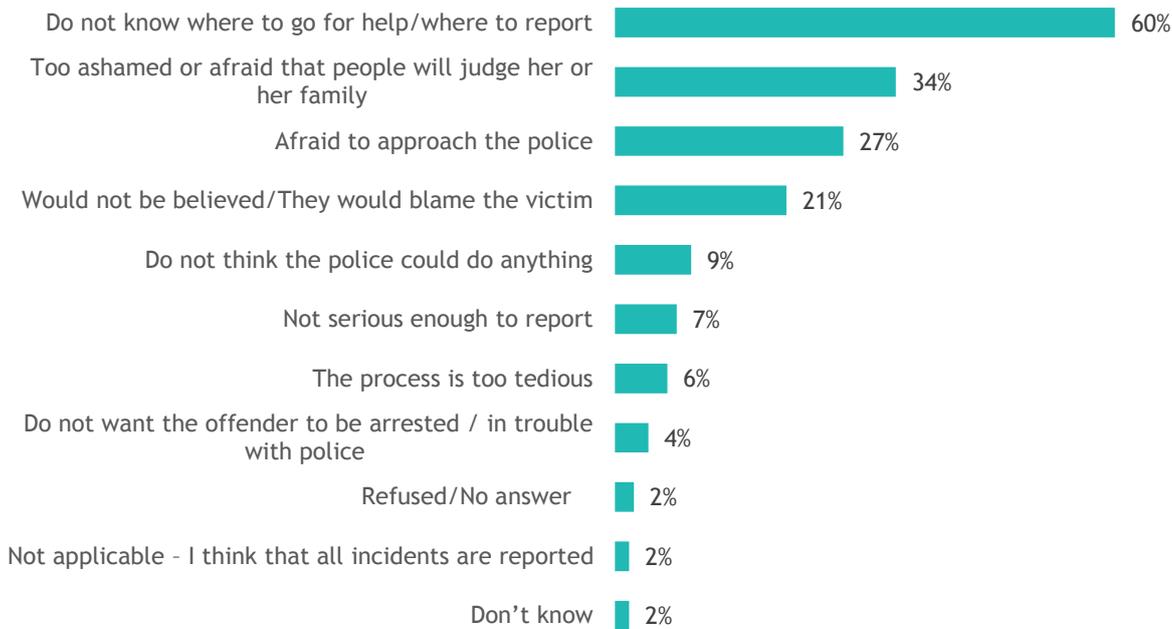


Figure 47. Why many women do not report cases of violence to the police?

## 4.2.3 QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

### 4.2.3.1 Focus Groups

The findings of the focus groups conducted in the city of Tirana corroborate the findings of the quantitative study in several regards. Participants living in the Astir area list as most problematic issues the over crowded public transport buses and the lack of infrastructure in terms of street lighting.

Female participants from both study neighborhoods are afraid to go outside unaccompanied at night, and at the same time have no faith in using the taxi (except licensed taxis, they refer to yellow taxis owned by companies that offer the taxi service). They feel furthermore unsafe due to the existence of the groups of men that consume marijuana-type narcotic drugs in the neighborhood or at the entrance of their buildings.

Both male and female participants, similar to the findings of the quantitative study, witnessed a high level of indifference and lack of empathy when witnessing episodes of violence toward a girl or woman.

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*“In one moment, in the bus line “Tirana e Re”, one girl shouted, “Idiot don’t touch me”, he slaps her, but no one reacted.”*

*-Female participant, Tirana*

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Reporting to the police is seen as the only way by the participants to go and ask for help, however, at the same time the lack of trust in the police due to corruption and nepotism that may exist and also due to the fear of dissemination of personal data, poses an issue.

Female participants express that the most widespread forms of sexual harassment are sexual comments and at times being followed by men. According to male participants this is allegedly a phenomenon that has been decreasing lately. Although male participants admit having sexually harassed women with comments or whistling in the past, it was claimed that their efforts are stopped at the moment when they get refused by the women. Male participants also claimed that men from the Northern Region of Albania can pose a problem in sexual harassment because of their outdated mentality such as traditional roles of men and women and pride.

It stands out that participants of both genders agree that clothing is a provoking factor for sexual harassment. Additionally, both genders agree with the statement that women are sexually harassed because they are fragile by nature. This finding suggests the persistent ideologies of male sexual entitlement and female subordination as a risk factor and determinants of victimization.<sup>36</sup>

Interestingly, unlike the quantitative study respondents, female and male participants think that being non-resident of Tirana is a cause for sexual harassment. Mostly they refer to student girls living in dormitory and who do not have parental control which still place an important role in many Albanian families even to the girls and young women above 18 years old.

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*“We come from families where men are very authoritarian. Throughout the generations men made the rules in the family. The girls did not have any freedom. When girls move to Tirana from rural areas, they often feel very isolated. Also, living in Tirana presents more freedom and some girls who live alone are more likely to fall victim to sexual harassment or violence.”*

*-Female participant, Tirana*

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Men also think that girls working in casinos or similar facilities are predisposed to being sexually harassed as they are facing a male dominated environment.

**Participants of the focus groups propose the following recommendations for improvements:**

- Improve lighting conditions and expansion of public spaces
- Protection of personal data when reporting cases of sexual harassment or violence to the Police
- Adoption of compulsory measures with a correction nature in cases of verbal sexual harassment and reform of corrective measures for physical sexual harassment.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> [https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Prevention\\_Framework\\_unwomen\\_nov2015.pdf](https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Prevention_Framework_unwomen_nov2015.pdf) (pg.27)

<sup>37</sup> This recommendation came from one of the FG participant who gained knowledge about a new law in Finland. There, if a person is verbally sexually harassed, the harasser has to pay a fine, if caught on site. <https://www.citymetric.com/politics/finnish-police-officers-can-now-issue-spot-fines-sexual-harassment-1889>

- Creation of self-defense trainings programs for women

#### 4.2.3.2 *Semi structured Interviews*

Stakeholder interviews in Tirana broad forward the following findings:

##### **General assessment of municipality/neighborhoods & Exploration of prevalent safety and security issues**

The Municipality of Tirana in general is perceived as safe by some, however not by all stakeholders, which have been interviewed. The most problematic issues pointed out by all stakeholders, municipal and NGO alike, were the lack of street lightning in secondary roads and the lack of sufficient infrastructure in some of the public spaces.

##### **Exploration of prevalent issues in regard to GBV and GBD**

Gender based violence and sexual harassment is in general regarded as an issue in Tirana Municipality. According to the stakeholders, there has been recently an increase of cases, however, the majority points out that this may be due to a higher reporting rate and not necessarily due to higher number of cases. Compared to the past, awareness of reporting possibilities is higher which leads to women being more likely to seek help.

The reported cases most commonly relate to domestic violence, psychological violence and sexual violence/harassment.

##### **Existing plans, initiatives, policies in the municipality/neighborhoods**

Tirana stakeholders have pointed out several positive developments or initiatives which have recently taken place. The most commonly mentioned activities were;

- Initiatives and investment regarding improvements of the infrastructure in the entire city
- The existence of the Referral Mechanism against DV cases, as coordinated by the Municipality and the presence of the Local Coordinator against domestic violence as a member of municipality' staff.
- The approval from the Tirana Municipal Council (on 7<sup>th</sup> of June) of the three years Local Gender Action Plan (2018-2020) drafted with support of UN Women, in line with the requirements of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life. The preparation of this study was also part of this GAP (specific objective 3.6).
- Increased Police patrolling
- The Municipality of Tirana has six social centers dispersed in the city area along with six Police stations
- The existence of different specialist services for addressing violence against women and girl's cases, mostly as members of the Referral Mechanism against DV. The national free helpline or the local free helpline, together with national/local shelters and other services such as free legal or psychological support provided from different members of the Referral Mechanism in Tirana are extremely important on successfully addressing of VAWG cases.

##### **Recommendations for Possible Improvements**

Despite the already implemented improvement measurements, it was pointed out that there is a need to do more to make the city of Tirana safe for its citizen, especially for women and girls. Particularly in regard to initiatives which relate to lighting and infrastructure improvements, it was highlighted that those were rather of sporadic nature. The following recommendations for improvements were put forward by all stakeholders.

- Improvements of the street infrastructure
- Street lighting of secondary roads
- Lighting of all dark street corners such as small alleys, foot passes and house entrances
- Camera monitoring around buildings
- Increase of Police patrol

- Increased support services for the victims of GBV
- More advertisement for available phone numbers for victims in the city as well as in Buses
- Raising awareness of the community by distributing leaflets and brochures with information about contact numbers for police stations, NGOs that support and help

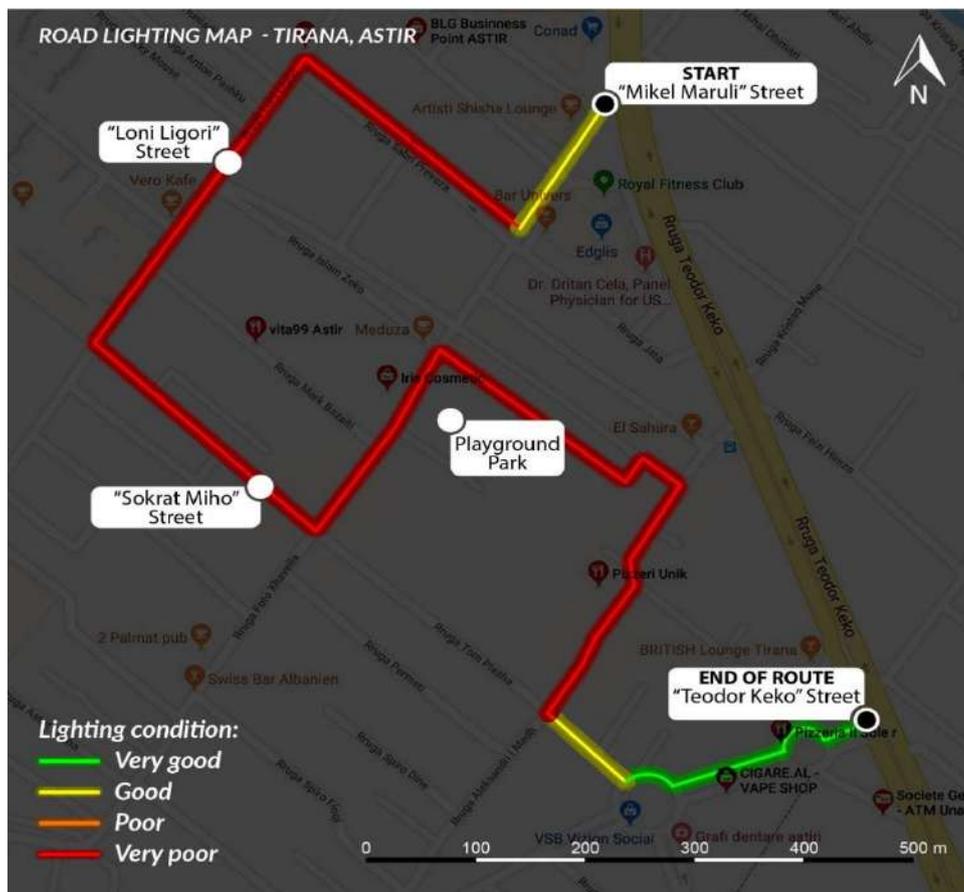
#### 4.2.3.3 Safety Audit Walks

The participants had the chance to explore the Astir area in the capital. At first the area was experienced as chaotic, noisy and overcrowded. They reported to have seen a lot of bars, crowded traffic and people passing by. The area creates a feeling of insecurity since it is not well maintained and it lacks lighting in many of the streets. Only one playground in the area has proper lighting. Further, the participants report to have seen many hidden dangerous alleys. There are numerous spaces between buildings that seem scary to them and hard to escape. Also, they report to have noticed men who consume alcohol and stand by the street, which makes women and girls feel unsafe, as expressed by women in the Focus Groups.

The majority of participants do not feel safe when walking in the Astir streets at night which is amplified by the perceived lack of police patrolling. These findings suggest that the perceived safety and security situation is alarming.

#### 4.2.3.4 Structured Observations

Two structured observation were conducted by trained IDRA staff who explored the same roads as the participants in the safety audit walk. The aim was to gather data and impressions of the safety and security situation from the perspective of persons who are trained in analyzing geographic urban areas.



The above structured observation took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. It started at Mikel Maruli street and ended at Teodor Keko street in the Astir area. The first walk took place during the day at 11:00am and second in the evening at 9:00pm. Based on the observations this area stood out due to a total lack of street signs which hampers orientation efforts especially if one should not be familiar with these streets. The general impression of the overall situation is poor. There are numerous places where someone could hide without being seen, such as between trash containers, alleys and construction sites. Except for the roads near Teodor Keko street (highlighted in green and yellow color on the map above), the evening observation exposed a severe lack of street lights. The only light sources are

coming from the shops and bars. Because of the darkness it is difficult to get a clear overview of the vicinity and surrounding areas.



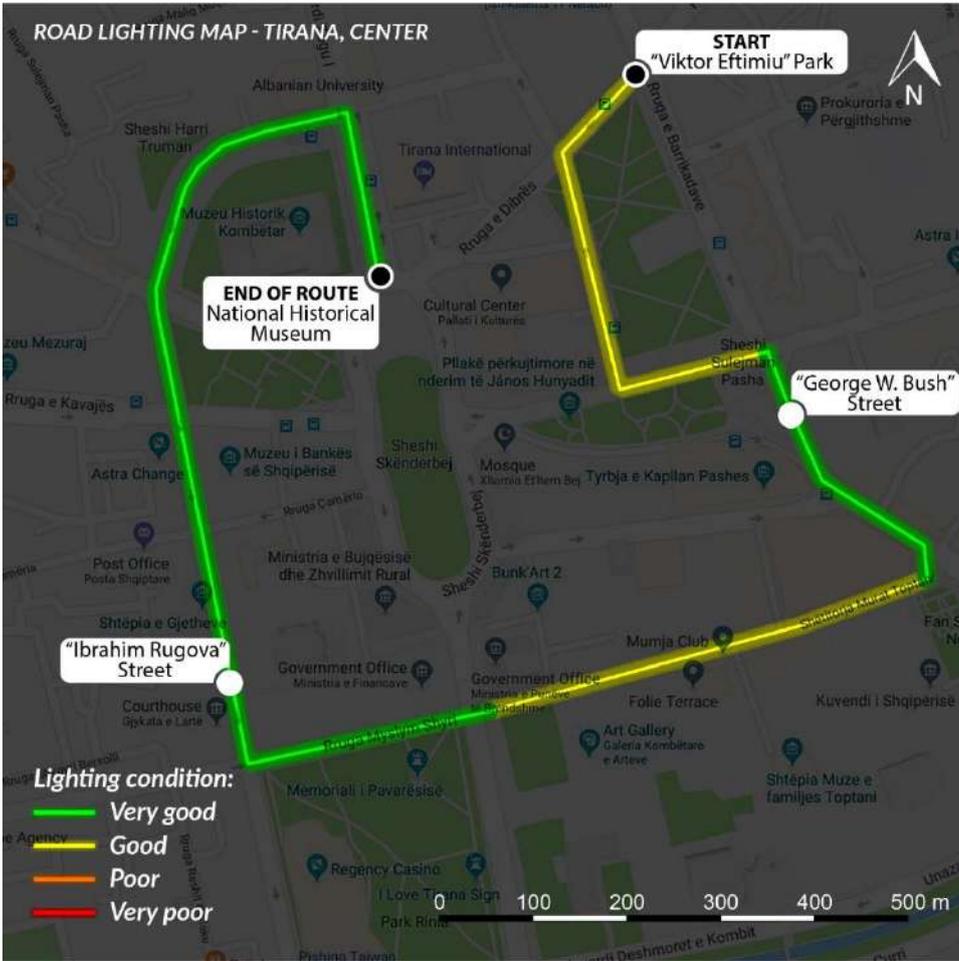
*Lack of lighting during the evening, Sabri Preveza and Loni Ligori crossroad*



*Lack of maintenance and unfinished construction site*



Two structured observations were conducted in the Center of Tirana, where the situation compared to the Astir area, shows itself as more adequate.



The left shown structured observation walks took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. With a starting point at Viktor Eftimiu park and ending point at the National Historical museum. The first walk took place during the day at 10:00am and the second one in the evening at 10:30pm.

Based on the observations the general impression of the overall situation is very good. Lighting is distributed evenly, which fosters a clear overview of the surrounding areas. There are just a few segments where the street lights are dysfunctional (as shown in the photos below). The area appears very well maintained.



Dysfunctional street lights in "Murat Toptani" avenue



*Dysfunctional street lights in front of BKT (National Commercial Bank)*

#### 4.2.4 RECOMMENDATIONS SPECIFIC FOR TIRANA

- The Municipality of Tirana must consider the results of this study (together with the results of the previous one conducted in 2016 in three neighborhoods) in all actions that will undertake to improve the infrastructure or maintenance of these public spaces.
- A specific roundtable or event should be organized with the presence of different stakeholders to make visible the findings from this survey, as well as to request their support for improvement women's and girls' safety in Tirana.
- Urgent intervention is needed to improve lighting system at Astiri neighborhood as well as to ensure that the lighting system is managed properly during the entire year. Interventions in some streets such as in: "Loni Ligori" street, "Sokrat Miho" street, "Sabri Preveza" street and "Murat Toptani" street should be prioritized.
- Since the municipality of Tirana is the main responsible institution at local level to coordinate the referral system against DV, it should require from police to increase the level of controls and patrolling in all neighborhoods of the city and not simply in main ones. These patrolling must be with high frequencies especially during evening and late hours in night. In addition, protection of the personal data when reporting cases of sexual harassment or violence can be required from police, as well as from other members of the referral mechanism.
- Considering the high number of specialized NGOs focused on VAWG and DV which exist in Tirana, the Municipality can collaborate with some of them and initiate a self-defense training programs for women and girl, especially for situations of sexual harassment and sexual violence that may occur in public spaces.
- Data and statistics on cases of sexual harassment and violence must be recorded as part of data and statistics of other forms of VAWG.
- The Municipality of Tirana, must take all needed measures to allocate and/or ensure the budget for capacity building activities focused especially on local administrators of all administrative units (as planned in the Gender Action Plan 2018-2020). These capacity building activities must have a very strong focus on sexual harassment and sexual violence as well as on identification, referral and recording of such cases from them. Particular attention should be paid on avoiding gender stereotypes and victims' prejudices.

- All state institutions, especially the ones of education, health and social services must be equipped with camera which can monitor the incidence of public spaces happening inside (especially in case of schools) as well as around them.
- Information on existing services as well as their contact numbers must be spread all over the city, especially in bus stations, health clinics and schools. Specialized NGOs must collaborate with state institutions for such purpose. In the meantime, they must improve their public relations and must ensure that their services will be available and accessible for all groups of victims, despite their personal characteristics such as age, disability, dependency, sexual orientation, etc.

### 4.3 Durres

#### General Information

A total of 200 street interviews were conducted in the city of Durres and were equally distributed into Stadium, Shkozet and Center areas. Respondents who took part in the study were females of different age (16- 50+ y.o).

Two focus group discussions were conducted, respectively one with 8 women and another with 8 male participants, with an age of 16 + y.o. Six structured observations were conducted twice a day, one in the morning and the other during the night hours. Further, a safety walk comprised of eight participants was conducted, with a random selection of the area. Four semi-structured interviews were conducted, two of which with representatives of Local Government and two with representatives of an NGO.

The vast majority of the respondents surveyed in Durrës visited the respective neighborhoods (Center, Stadium and Shkozet) every day. Among the reasons for frequenting the Center area were the entertainment it offers and their work. Most of the respondents lived in the Stadium area and therefore visited it every day. Others were inhabitants of Shkozet and a few also visited the area for work purposes.

#### Safety of Neighborhoods

*Free space:* Qualitative and quantitative findings show that all three areas do not have sufficient free space. Similarly, in all the areas there were a large number of cafes and bars as well as gambling and sports betting areas which mostly occupy the sidewalks and streets with busy traffic.

*Lighting, police patrolling and public services:* The City Center is the neighborhood with the highest level of lighting

infrastructure compared to the two other areas. On the other hand, the quantitative study shows that police presence appears to be higher in Shkozet area, which has the lowest level of satisfaction regarding the overall maintenance and public transportation service. Such findings serve as recommendation for the local governance plans and measures to be taken for the improvement of the situation.

|   | STADIUM | CENTER | SHKOZET |
|---|---------|--------|---------|
| In the streets                          | 65%     | 31%    | 61%     |
| At the entrance of buildings            | 71%     | 54%    | 61%     |
| At the entrance of stores               | 23%     | 15%    | 27%     |
| At the entrance of schools/kindergarten | 42%     | 28%    | 27%     |
| At the entrance of Health Centres       | 14%     | 19%    | 18%     |
| At bus stations                         | 38%     | 47%    | 60%     |

Figure 48 Combined percentage of respondents who have rated lighting as poor or entirely lacking. Colors indicate the most severe issues.

#### Personal Safety

*Affecting factors:* Focus Groups discussions revealed that factors which make women feel unsafe and contribute to harassment in public are the overall poor maintenance of the streets, public transport, and the mentality of men who are standing around in groups in the streets. This can be summarized in factors such as cleanliness, visibility, gender ration or the usage of public space. Quantitative findings indicate that gender factors like the simple fact of being a woman or being alone can also affect how women feel about their personal safety. According to one of the participant's

personal observation living in Shkozet, high school girls are being more harassed than other girls or women, indicating that in this neighborhood the fact of being of a certain age can affect the safety. Four in ten respondents in Durres think that sexual orientation can have an impact in personal safety. Furthermore, as in Tirana, verbal sexual harassment is most prevalent in the three areas of Durres.

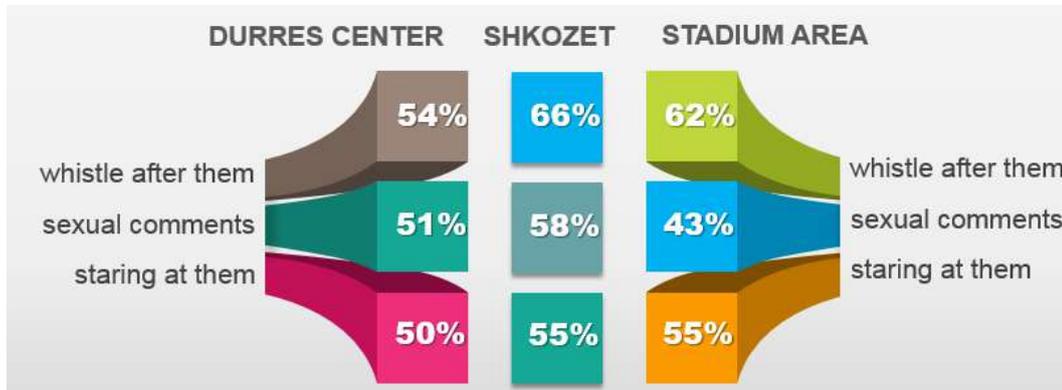


Figure 49 Likelihood of verbal sexual harassment happening to a woman frequenting the respective neighborhoods

*Unsafe feeling:* For the three areas, lack of lighting is the most common factor that can impact personal safety. According to female participants, only the center of Durres is well maintained in regard to lighting. Men visibly dealing or taking drugs in the streets also contributes to women feeling unsafe. Qualitative findings show that there is

a large number of boys consuming marijuana in these areas. Girls are always accompanied after 8 PM, mainly by their parents due to lack of trust in using taxi or public transportation.

*Common reactions to incidents:* When asked about the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that might happen to a girl or a woman in the area, findings indicate that five in ten respondents in Durrës think that people will notice such incidents but will not react.

**General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence**

According to female participants in the Focus Group Discussion conducted in Durrës, GBV and GBD issues are problematic. Sexual harassment in their opinion is a phenomenon happening everywhere. The overwhelming part of this sexual harassment comes from boys and men who sit at the cafe bars of or at the sports betting areas.

*Reporting sexual harassment and violence:* From 200 street interviews conducted in the Durrës, approximately 50% reported to have been at risk of or exposed to sexual violence and sexual harassment. Most of the reported cases were related to sexual harassment and after the age of 15. The majority of the reported cases in Durrës were caused by a stranger, or someone at school. Data results show that perceived safety in some areas in Durrës is very low.



**Only 3 out of 26**  
Women in the 'Stadium' area have asked for help

**Only 6 out of 46**  
Women in Durres Center and Shkozet area have asked for help

A very limited number of these reported cases asked for help. A significant number of the girls who have been at risk of or exposed to sexual harassment and sexual violence choose not to ask for help for reasons such as lack of trust, lack of information where to turn to, or fear of being labelled. Findings from focus group discussion revealed that sexual harassment in the streets is not reported by girls and women in Durrës due to the lack of trust in responsible institutions, as well.

Figure 50 Women who experienced cases of sexual harassment or violence and asked for help

Victim Blaming appears to be also an issue in Durres, with a high percentage of respondents partly or even strongly agreeing with the statement; **“girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves.”**

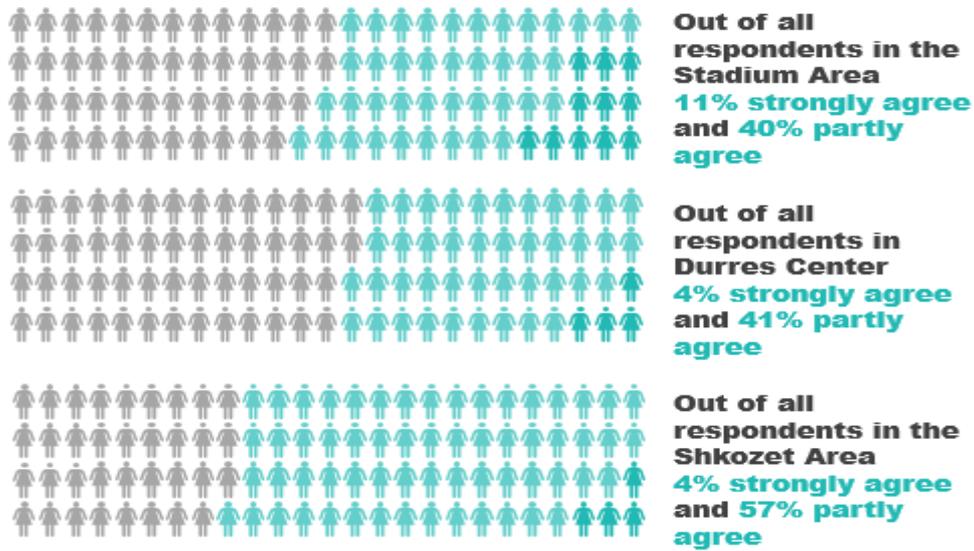


Figure 51 “Girls/Women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves.” Showing only: **Strongly agree & Partly agree** by respondents

### 4.3.1 DURRES CENTER

#### Safety of Neighborhoods

The vast majority of the respondents surveyed in the Center of Durres, on average visited the neighborhood every day.

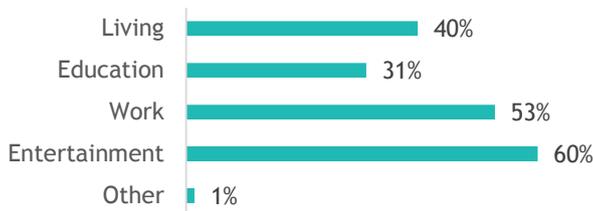


Figure 52. Reasons for frequenting this neighborhood.

Among the reasons of frequenting the neighborhood the most common one was entertainment (60%). This neighborhood has a high number of buildings dedicated to offices, therefore, almost half of the respondents frequented the Durres Center for work reasons.

Respondents appear to have varying opinion in regard to the space distribution between buildings and streets in this neighborhood with 40 percent perceiving it has having no space left, whereas others believe it is either limited or sufficient (37 and 24 percent respectively).

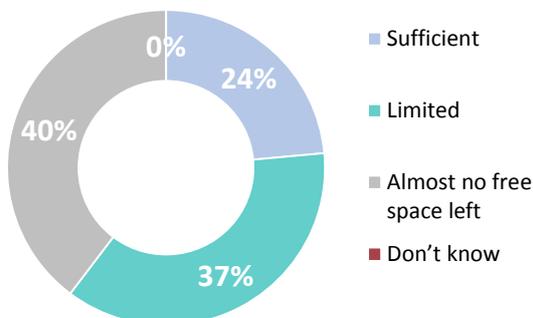


Figure 53. What do you think about free spaces between buildings and streets in this neighborhood?

Similar to the situation in Tirana, respondents declared that the lighting conditions appear better for facilities taken care by private the sector like entrances of the stores where 84 percent, evaluated the lighting as good and very good.

On health care facilities like entrances of health centers, hospitals and pharmacies the majority of the respondents assessed them as good (62%). Respondents also stated that the lighting condition in streets is mostly good or very good.

The perceived level of lighting infrastructure at the entrances of homes or at buss stations however appears to be lower. A thirty-five percent of respondents stated that there is no lighting at all and 13% assessed the lighting as poor at the bus stations meanwhile more than half of the respondents 52% stated that there is no lighting at all or the lighting is at the poor level at the entrances of the homes or buildings.

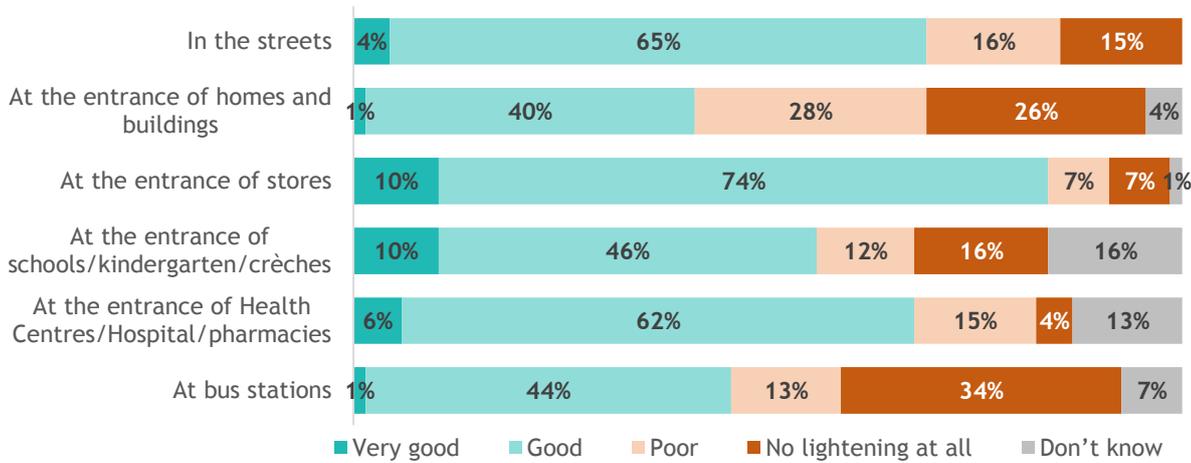


Figure 54. How is the lighting in this neighborhood?

More than half of the respondents, (59%) think that the lighting system is not managed or distributed evenly, indicating that the situation in regard to this matter is not the same in all areas within the center.

Fifty-three percent stated that Center of Durres is patrolled often by police officers. These findings are relatively conforming to the ones observed in the Tirana neighborhoods.

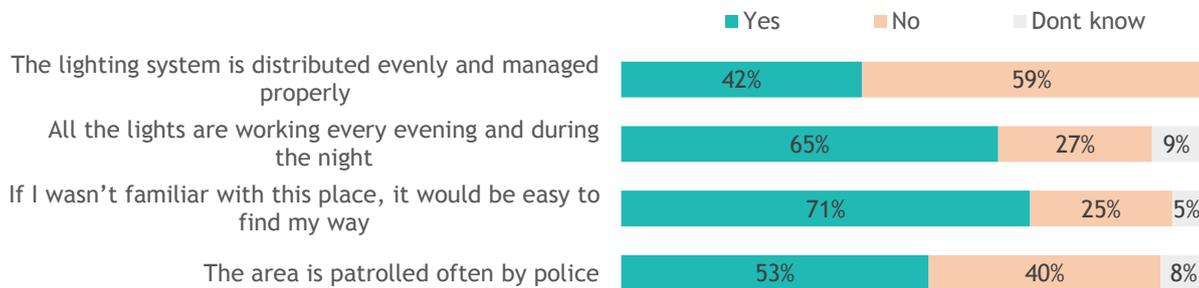


Figure 55. Provide some information about the following questions regarding this neighborhood

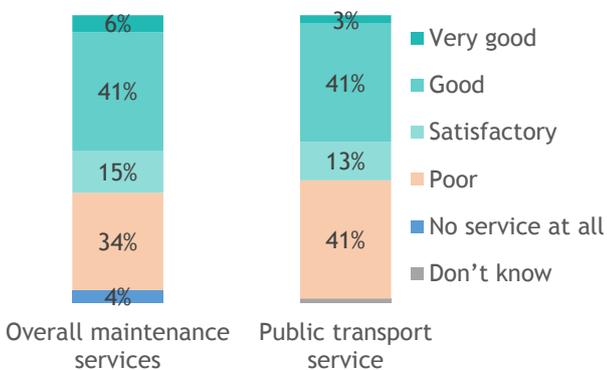


Figure 56. Evaluation of public services in the neighborhood

Following the evaluation of the public services 47 per cent thinks that the overall maintenance of services is good and very good. Regarding public transportation service, 44% have assessed it as good or very good. However, at the same time 41 percent rate the public transport as poor. As with the perception on light distribution, there appears to be differing opinions in regard to public services.

**Personal Safety**

When asked about factors affecting the personal safety in this area, two thirds of the female respondents mention being unaccompanied and clothing choices. These were the two most common reasons also mentioned in Tirana neighborhoods. Being a woman is a factor that affects the personal safety for more than half of the respondents in the center of Durres, whereas being a certain age, on the contrary is not consider as a factor that might affect the personal safety for 54 per cent of the respondents.

An interesting finding is the fact that 40 percent of the respondents consider the sexual orientation as a factor affecting the personal safety, this portrays a much higher number when compared to Tirana municipality and should be paid attention to as this may indicate that the LGBTI community does not feel very safe in this neighborhood.

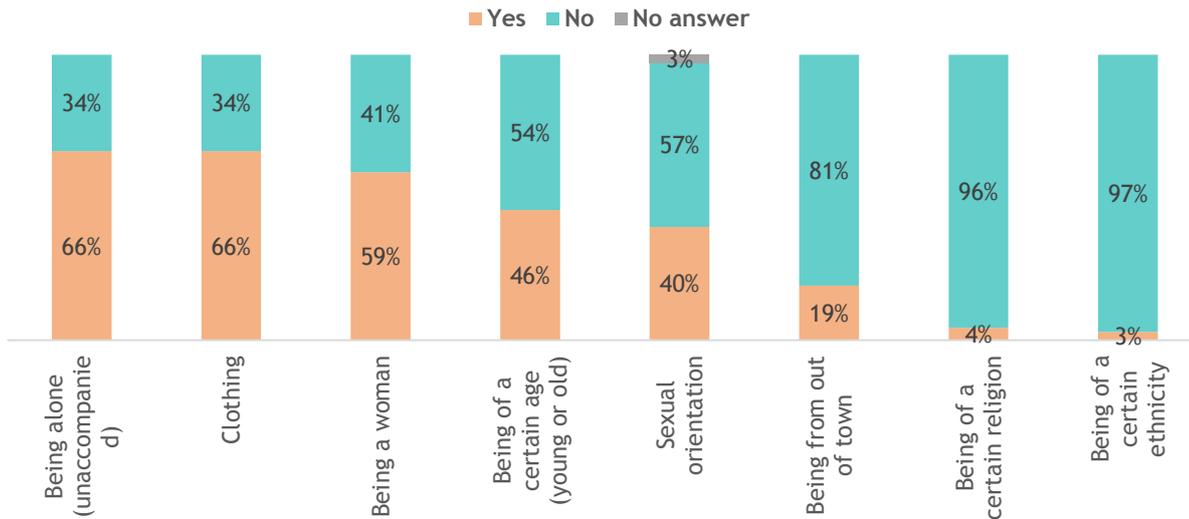


Figure 57. Do you think any of these factors affects your personal safety in this area?

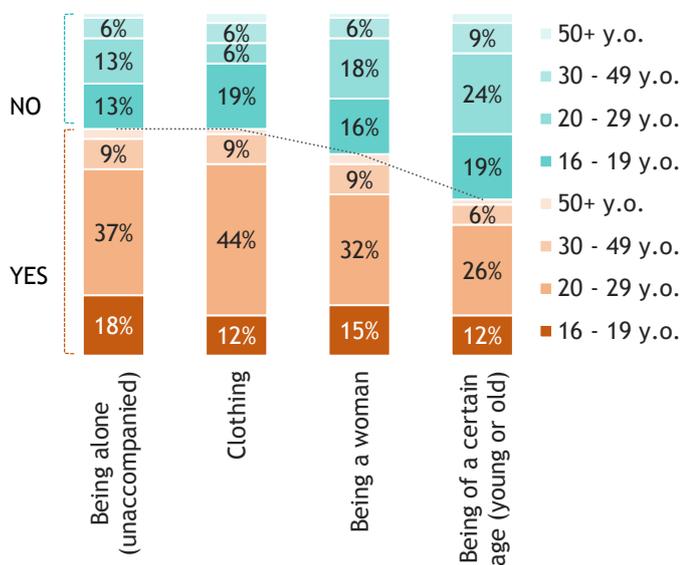


Figure 58. Factors that affect personal safety in the area by age

common in this area.

When looking at the above data disaggregated by age, it becomes apparent that younger women and girls are more likely to experiences the most prevalent factors which impact safety as significant.

According to the respondents verbal sexual harassment actions like whistling after a girl, honking from a car, watch or stare at her, and sexual comment on their appearance are very likely to happen according to around half of the women and girls who took part in the survey of this neighborhood.

Actions like following a girl or deliberately block her way are still evaluated as likely to happen in the Durres Center according to around one third of the women interviewed. According to the majority of the respondent’s actions that can lead to physical sexual violence like the physical attack or sexual attack are less

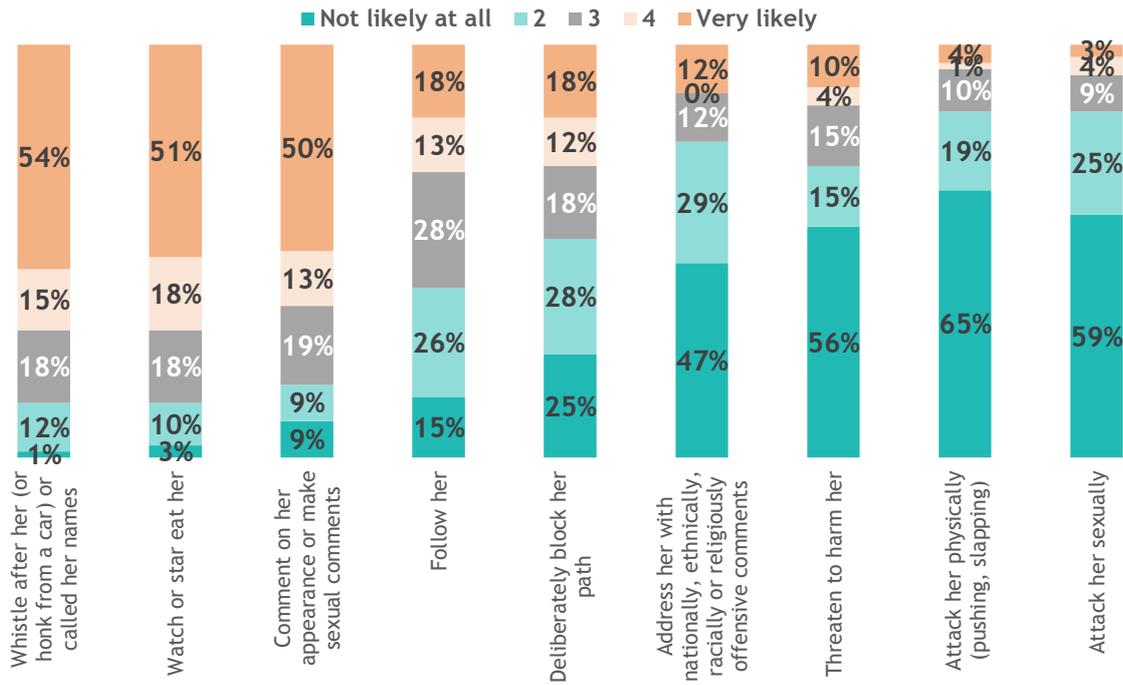


Figure 59. How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood?

The data shows that men dealing or taking drugs is the most common factor that can contribute to feeling unsafe for nearly all of the respondents who are living in or using the Center of Durres (93%). Poor lightening and lack of effective and visible police officers are considered similarly as contributing elements to the unsafety of the respondents (84% and 81%). Interestingly, street dogs are considered more risk factor to safety than crowded public transports (79% against 69%). Groups of young men hanging around is a considered from respondent slightly less affecting factor to the unsafe feeling compared to crowded public transport bus or stations.

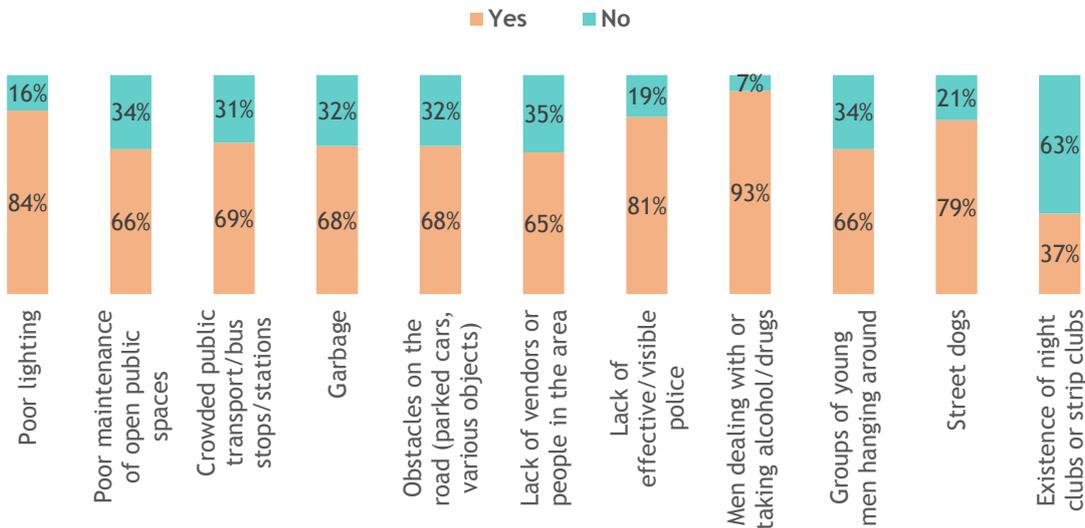


Figure 60. In this area, which factors contribute to your feeling unsafe in this neighborhood?

### General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence

When asked about common reaction of people witnessing incidents that might happen to a girl or a woman in the Center of Durres City, findings indicate that more than half of the respondents (56%) think that people will notice such incidents but will not react. The remaining respondents have a more positive attitude in this regard, 21 per cent of them

think that people will help and another 24 per cent have the opinion that people will call for help in case of witnessing incidents happening to girl or a woman in the city center.

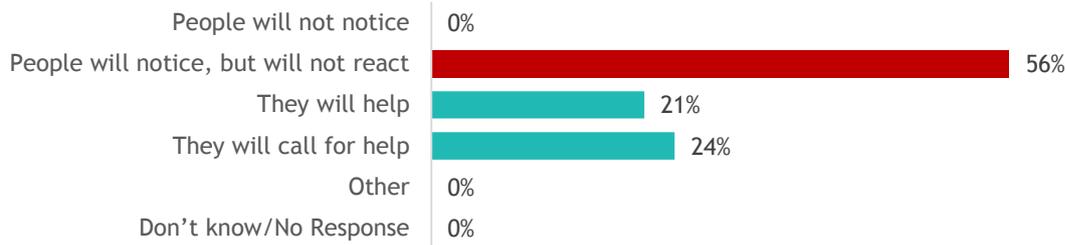


Figure 61. According to your opinion, what is the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that may happen to a woman in this area?

When presented with a series of statements on violence, it can be observed that a considerable percentage of respondents partly or strongly agree (44%) with the statement “Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves”. This is a finding which is prominent in both municipalities of Tirana and Durrës. What stands out in regard to the Center of Durrës is the 20 percent strong and part agreement on perceiving it as normal when a beautiful girl is harassed, as well as even more agreement on the statement of men being violent by nature. There appears to be some overall issues of women accepting long learned behaviors which are gender discriminating and reflects outdated mentalities among women.

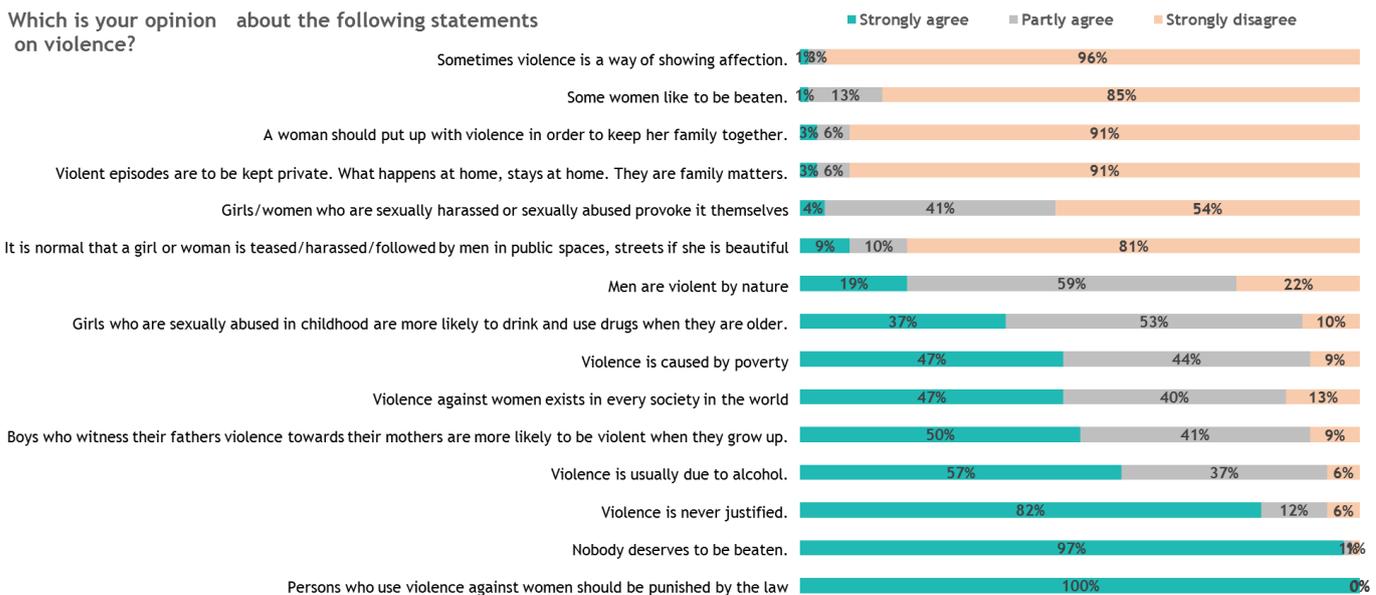


Figure 62. Which is your opinion about the following statements on violence?

With regard to sources of information about different forms of violence against women and girls, almost all the respondents have received the information through different media channels. The great majority has also received information through social contacts. It stands out that 82 percent received information from schools which indicates that schools are making an effort on educating their pupils/students on this issue.

Conversely, and similar to the situation in Tirana, few have received information from a non-profit organization. This may be due to the small number of NGOs focused on women’s issues in general and particularly to VAWG issues (compared to the number of similar NGOs existing in Tirana).

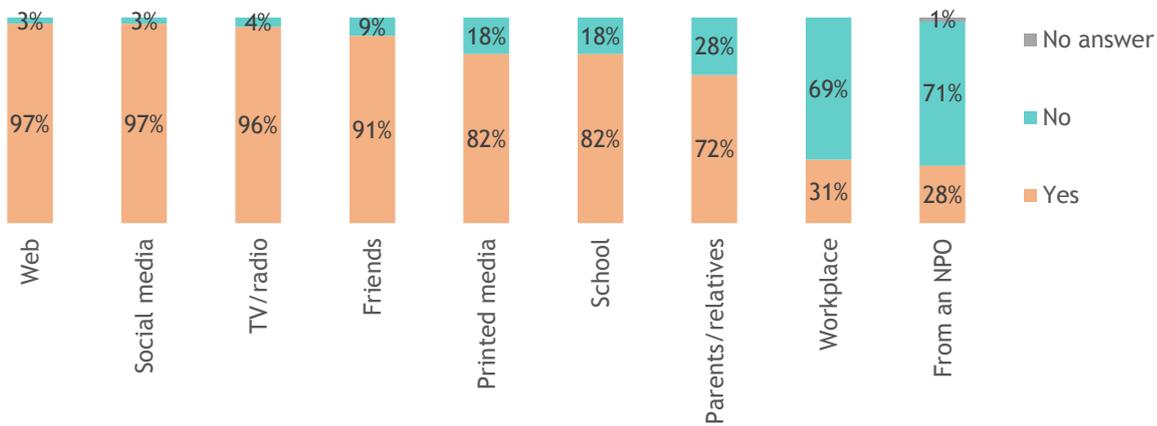
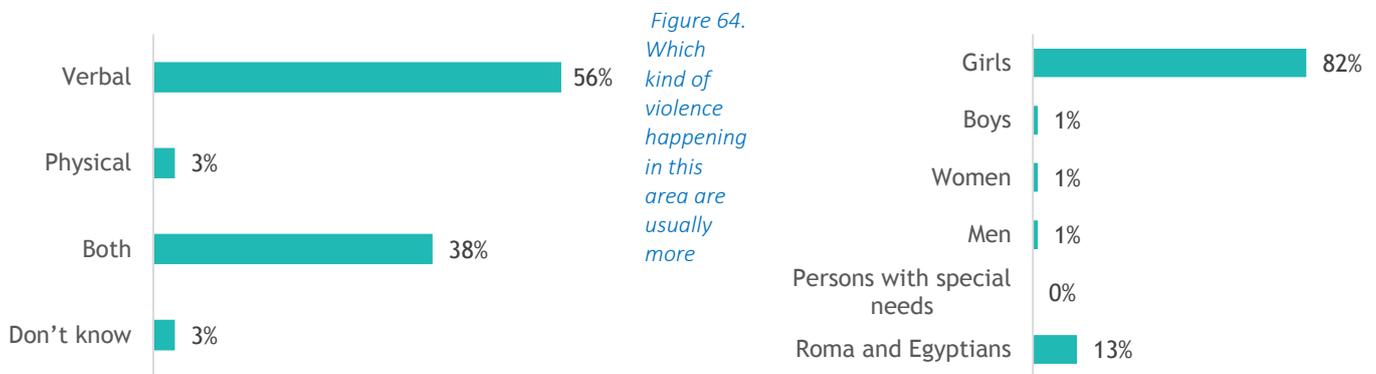


Figure 63. Have you ever received information about any form of violence against women and girls through?

According to more than half of the respondents, in the Center of Durres, the kind of violence which is more common to happen, is usually verbal violence. However, thirty-eight percent of them answered that happing incidents are usually both form of violence (verbal and physical).



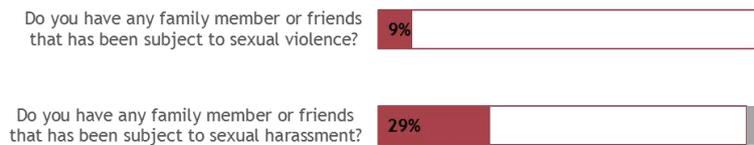
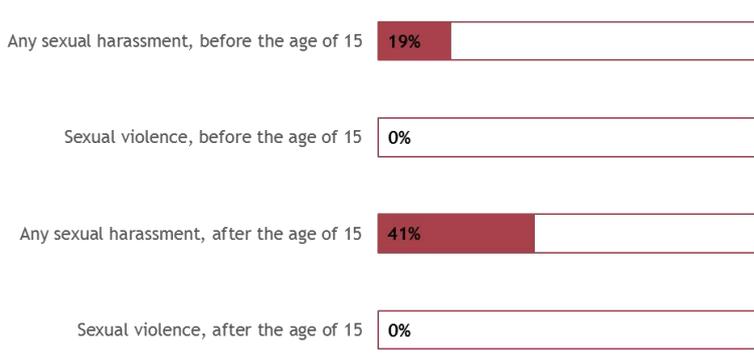
common(left) and which groups of individuals are more in danger in this neighborhood (right)

The vast majority of the respondents who are living in or using the city center think that girls are the group of individuals who at risk the most in this neighborhood. Compared to Tirana, what stands out is the 13 percent of respondents who consider Roma and Egyptian as a group of individuals that are more in danger than others.

Findings indicate that from the respondents who are living in or using the center of Durres, 30 women and girls report to have been at risk or exposed to any sexual harassment before and after the age of 15. The majority of these cases (41%) display sexual harassment after the age of 15.

Nearly 30 per cent of the respondents stated to have a friend or family member who has been subject to sexual harassment. Out of the 30 cases of sexual harassment, the vast majority (25) were caused by a stranger, and four cases are caused by someone at school.

**Have you ever been in risk or exposed to:**



■ Yes □ No ■ Refuse/no answer

**Who did this to you?**

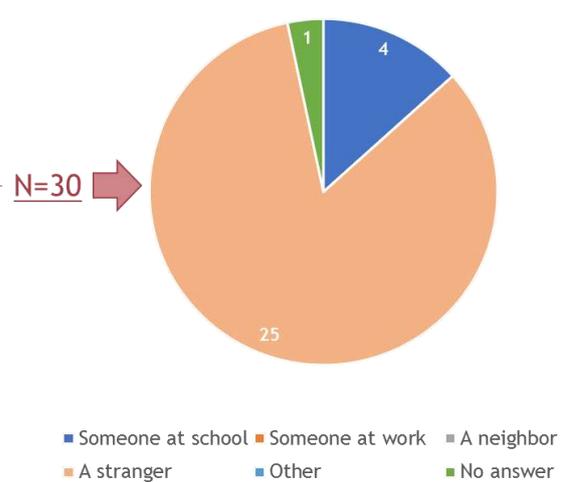
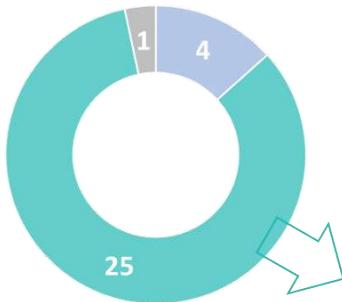


Figure 65. Have you ever been at risk to & who did this to you?

When respondents who reported sexual harassment cases were asked if they ever asked for help related to the above mentioned cases, 25 out of 30 did not requested help. Among the reasons of not reporting the cases, 40% of the respondents mention not to have the information where to ask for the help. The four cases in which help was asked for, 3 turned to their family and one to her relatives. Respondents reported to have gotten a positive feedback from asking for help, since the four of them were provided with assistance.

**Have you ever asked for help related to that?**

**N=30**



**If yes, where exactly**

|              | Number of cases |
|--------------|-----------------|
| To my family | 3               |
| To relatives | 1               |

**How did they react?**

**FOUR CASES**  
they provided assistance

**If No, why?**

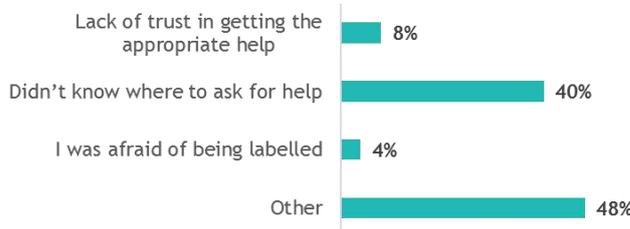
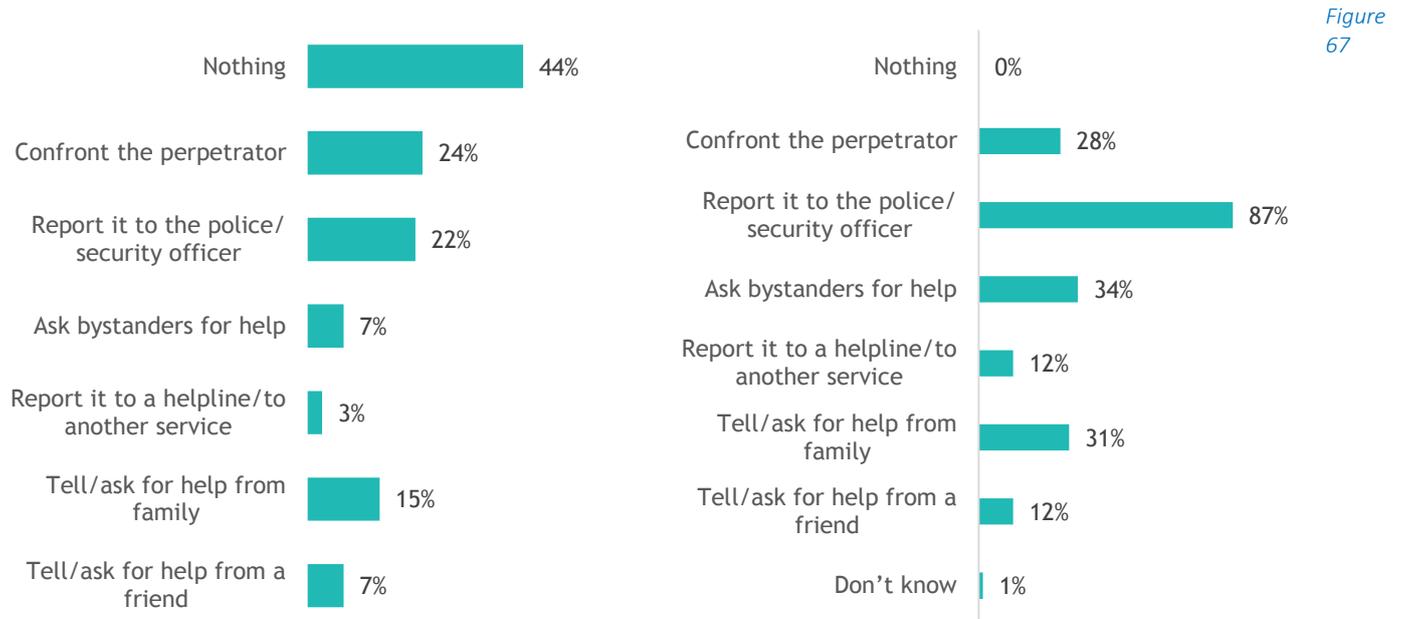


Figure 66. Asking for help

The figures of this study regarding respondent's reactions in case of verbal or physical sexual harassment indicate that reactions are differing. Almost half of the respondents reported that in cases of verbal street harassment they would take no action, conversely in case of physical or sexual attack no respondent reported that they would do nothing. Reporting the case to the police officers is chosen by majority of the respondents (87%) regarding physical and sexual violence, and only by 22% in the case of verbal street harassment.

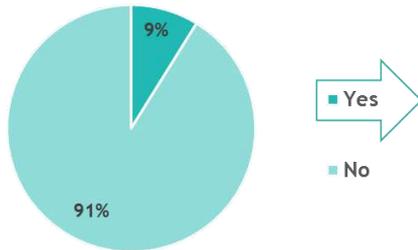
Respondents would rather confront the perpetrator than reporting it to the helpline. This becomes visible for both forms of violence, but with a slight increase in the case of physical or sexual violence. Findings shows that family is seen also as an option for help by 15% of the respondents in case of verbal street harassment, and by 31% in case of a sexual attack. These findings suggest two possible underlying factors. First, whilst it is positive that women would confront the perpetrator, the low number of respondents who would reach out to helplines may indicate a lack of knowledge about them, or a possible doubt on their non-stop functioning (according to the Istanbul Convention standards, the helpline services must be free of charge and functioning 24/7), as well as on their effectiveness. Second, as turning to the family for help appears to be a prominent choice, this may hint at the issue that these kinds of incidents are still preferred to be kept private issues.



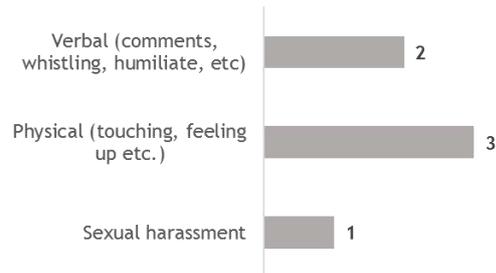
*Reactions to verbal street harassment (left) & direct physical or sexual attack (right)*

Only nine percent of the respondents confirmed to know a woman who has been harassed in public spaces and turned to the Police for help. From this total, three cases related to physical incidents, two to verbal and one to sexual harassment. Police responses appear to have been different. The low number of women who have turned to the Police may indicate a lack of trust in this public institution to deal adequately with such cases, as well as the perception and attitude towards sexual violence which still continues to be considered as “taboo”, what has limited also the awareness on the legal means and institutions in disposition to be protected from such form of violence.

Do you know a woman who was harassed on the street and reported an incident (to the police, NGO ect)?



What was the nature of the incident?



What was the police response?



Figure 68. Incidences reporting

Nearly half of the women stated that they do not know where to receive help when falling victim to sexual violence (47%). Another prominent factor is the feeling of shame or being too afraid of judgment with nearly one third mentioning this as a reason for non-reporting. These results suggest that falling victim to such incidents remains stigmatized by parts of the Albanian Society. Furthermore, it becomes questionable if helpline and other service providers' advertisements are sufficiently displayed and distributed in the city of Durres. Being afraid to approach the Police is also mentioned by 22 percent of the women and girls, this further underlines the impression that trust in Police to deal with such cases appropriately is lacking.

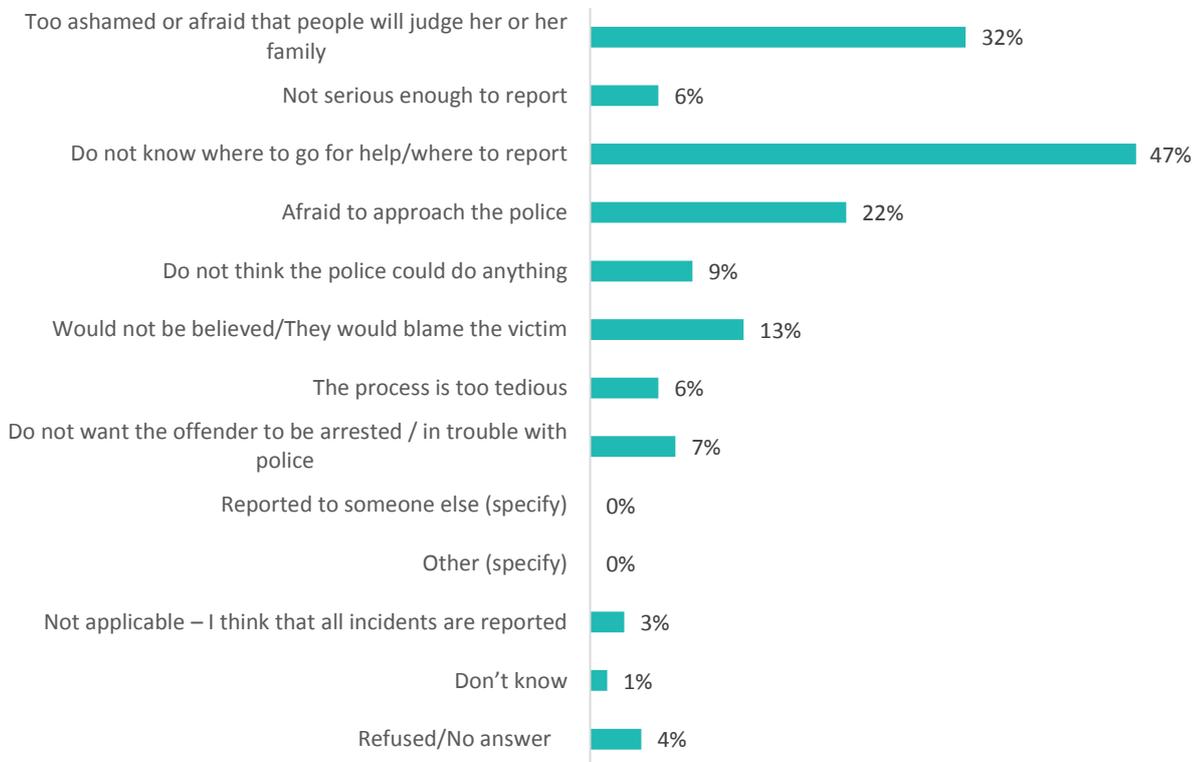


Figure 69. Why many women do not report cases of violence to the police?

### 4.3.2 DURRES STADIUM AREA

Similarly, to the findings in the Shkozet are below, most of the respondents (85 percent) surveyed in the Stadium area, on average visited the neighborhood every day.

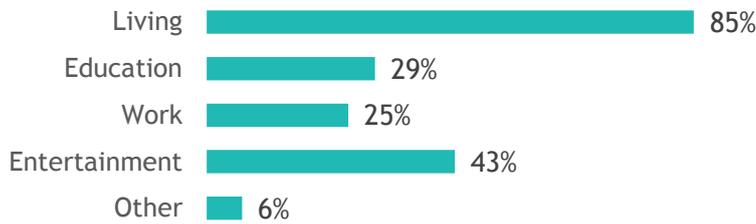


Figure 70. What are the reasons to visit this neighborhood?

The majority of the respondents (85%) are frequenting and spending time in this area because they live in it. Similar to the respondents in the Center, 43% is frequenting the area for entertainment purposes. Education is a reason for frequenting this area for more than one fourth of the respondents (29%), another 25 percent report to work in this area.

### Safety of Neighborhoods

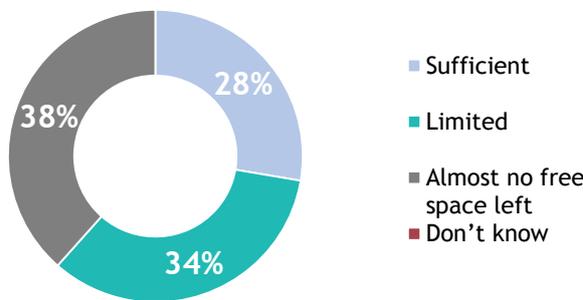


Figure 71 What do you think about free spaces between buildings and streets in this neighborhood?

Findings show that, according to the majority of the respondents (72%), the Stadium area is a neighborhood with almost no free space left (34%) or with limited space (38%).

Positively, the lighting infrastructure in Stadium appears to be good at health care facilities including entrances of the hospitals, health centers and pharmacies (81% as good or very good). The level of lighting at entrances of the stores remains to be in the best condition as in the center area, or in Tirana areas.

On the other hand, respondents stated that the lighting conditions are at the poor level at entrances of homes (29% poor and 42% no lighting at all), and streets where more than half of the respondents reported that there is not lighting at all, or the lighting is poor. The lighting of bus stations appears to be at the good level according to more than half of the respondents (53%). It should be noted that, on average, nearly one in four respondents did not know an answer to these questions.

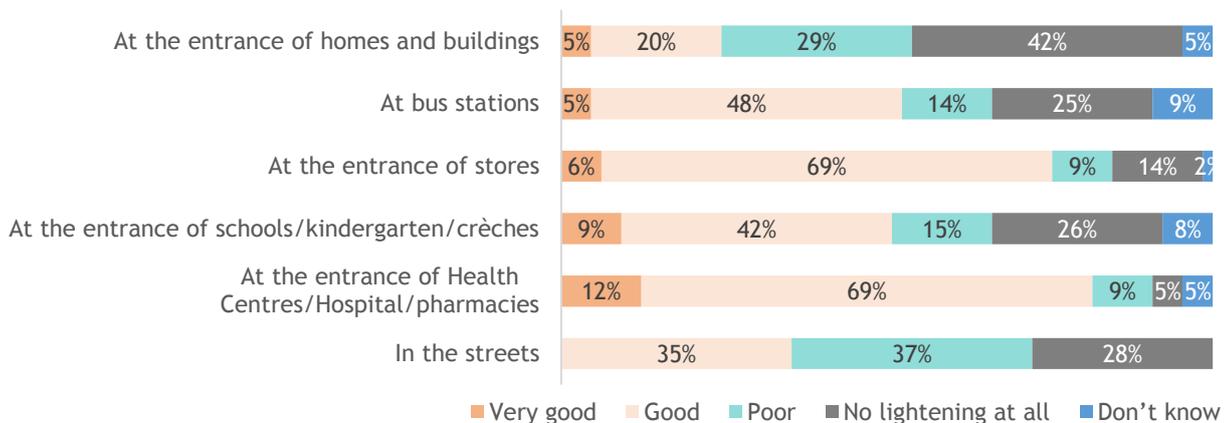


Figure 72. How is the lighting in this neighborhood?

Despite the number of positive response in regard to lighting in different points in the neighborhood above, the vast majority of the respondents (88%), think that the lighting system is not managed or distributed evenly. This number is higher than in the Shkozet area (below in this report) and the city center. Similarly as in case of Center neighborhood, fifty- seven per cent stated that the area in Stadium neighborhood is patrolled by police officers often.

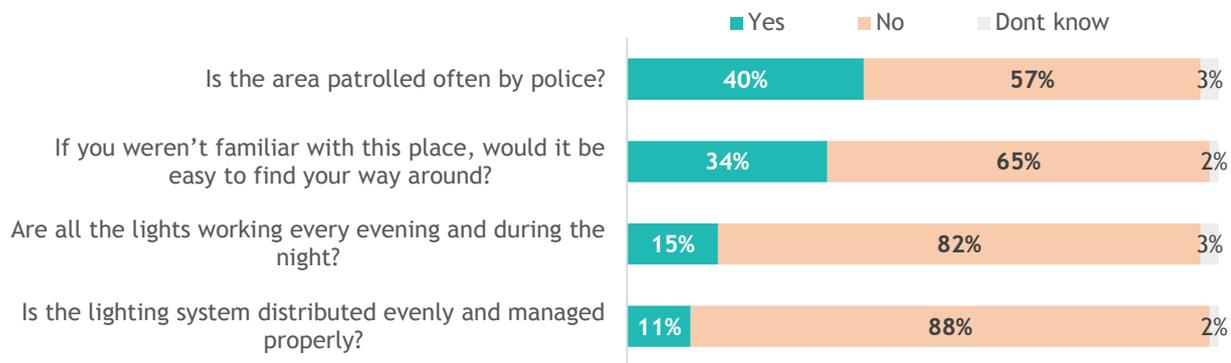


Figure 73. Provide some information about the following questions regarding this neighborhood.

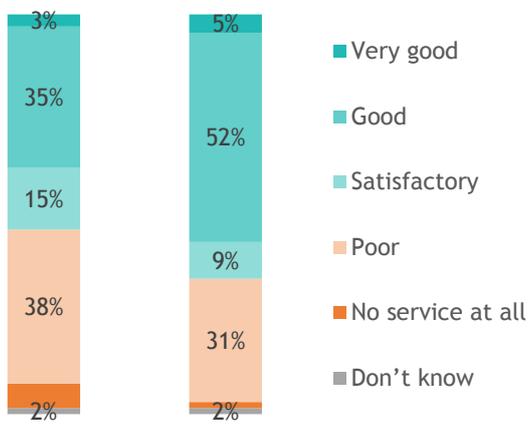


Figure 74. Evaluation of Public Services in the Neighborhood services

Following the evaluation of the public services 38 percent thinks that the overall maintenance of services is good or very good, however, the same number of respondents regards this matter as poor. Perceptions seem to differ. Regarding public transportation service, 57% have assessed it as good or very good, an increase compared to the number of respondents who think the same in regard to Shkozet and the City Center). It should be pointed out that only 28% of the respondents are using the public transportation from this area often.

In terms of factors affecting the personal safety, similarly to the Center, 63 percent of the respondents think that being alone or unaccompanied can affect their safety. Being a woman is a factor that affects the personal safety for two thirds of the respondents, followed by being of a certain age (57%). Clothing

factor unlike in the other zones, on the contrary is not consider as a factor that might affect the personal safety for 52 percent of the respondents.

Differently from the Center of Durres and Shkozet, only 23% of the respondents consider the sexual orientation as a factor affecting the personal safety.

**Personal Safety**

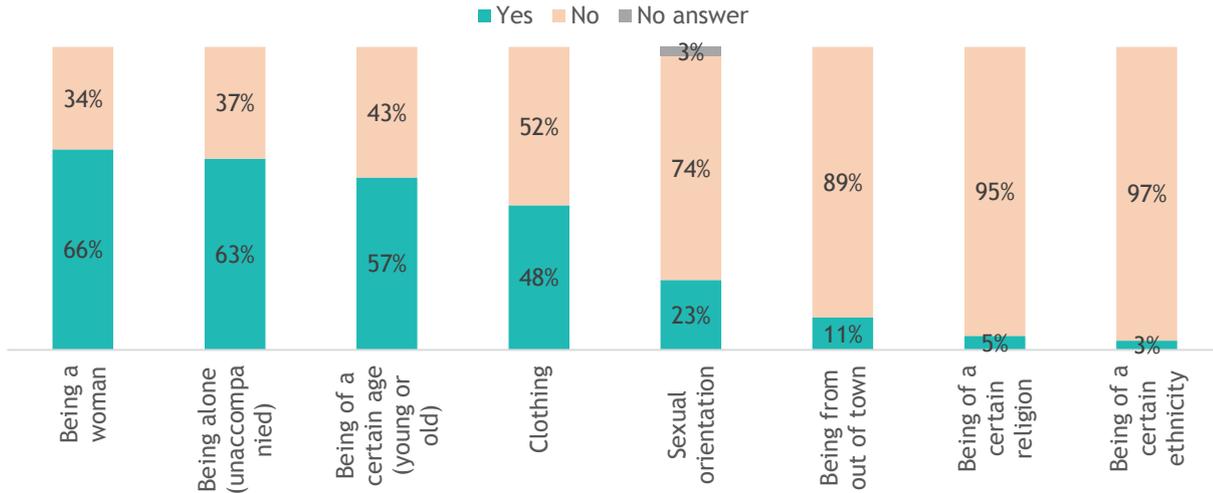


Figure 75. Do you think any of these factors affects your personal safety in this area?

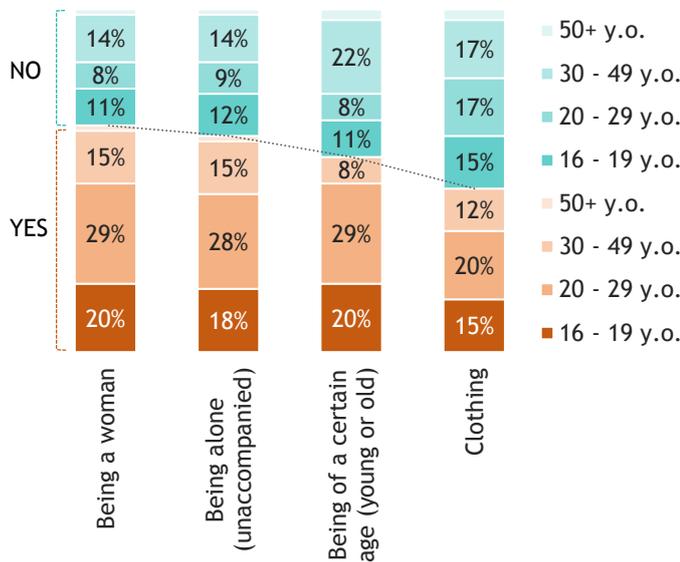


Figure 76. Factors that affect personal safety in the area by age

When looking at the above data disaggregated by age, it becomes apparent that younger women and girls are more likely to experience the most prevalent factors which impact safety as significant.

According to the respondents verbal sexual harassment actions like whistling after a girl or honking from a car, watching or staring, are very likely to happen by nearly two thirds of the women who took part in this study. Sexual comments are also perceived as very likely to happen to a woman by 43 percent.

Similar findings as in the other areas of Durres can be found in regard to following a person or blocking their way as well as offensive comments, with considerable numbers reporting these to be likely incidents to happen.

According to the respondents, actions related to physical sexual violence like the physical attack or sexual attack and threatening to harm are less likely to happen. It should be however noted that 15 percent perceive it as very likely to receive threats to be harmed in this area.

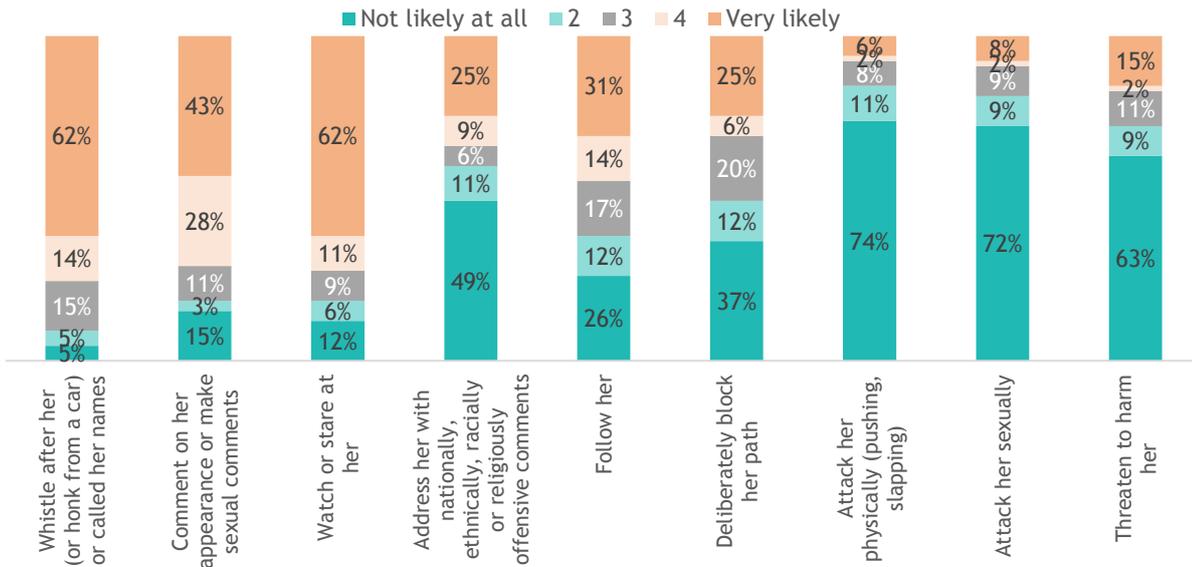


Figure 77. How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood?

The lack of lighting is the most chosen factor that can impact personal safety, (86%) similar to other zones, men dealing or taking drugs can contribute as well to the unsafe feeling (75%). Street dogs, group of men hanging around, and poor maintenance of the public spaces are also considered as contributing elements to the unsafety of the respondents (around 70%).

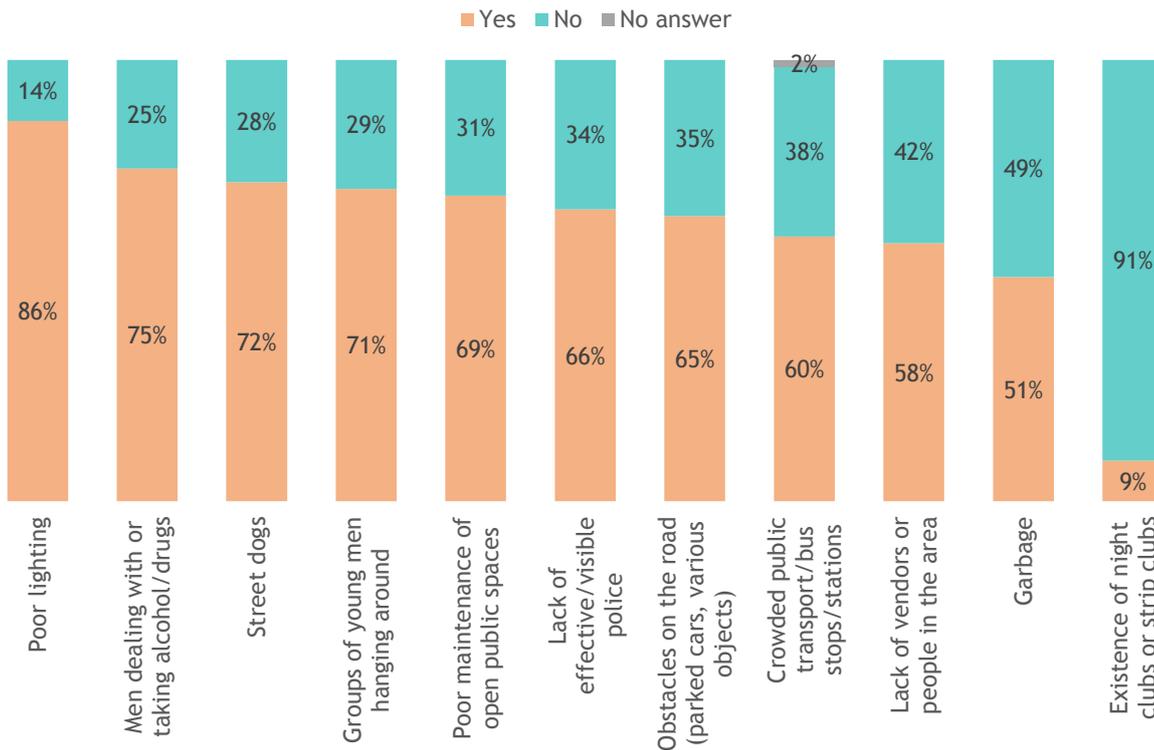


Figure 78. How likely are the following factors to affect the safety in this neighborhood?

### General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence

When asked about common reactions of people witnessing incidents that might happen to a girl or a woman, findings indicate that also in this area an alarming number of the respondents (49%) think that people will notice such incidents but will not react. On a positive note, helping or calling for help is perceived as nearly as likely (45% combined).

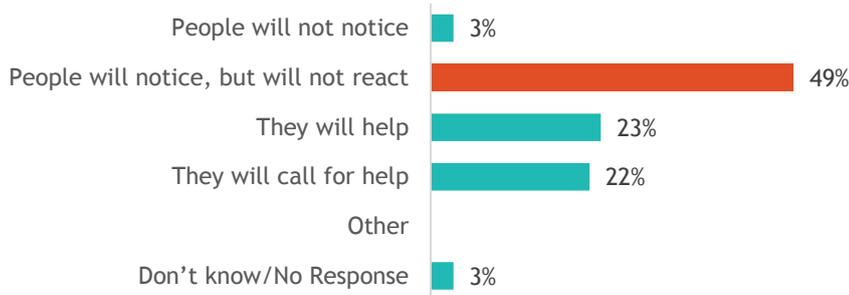


Figure 79. According to your opinion, what is the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that may happen to a woman in this area?

When presented with a series of statements on violence, similar to findings of other zones, it stands out that in total 51 percent strongly or partly agree that “Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves,” which displays a highly problematic finding. Even more problematic is the agreement on perceiving violence as affection by 18 percent of the women and girls who took part in this survey. The 29 percent agreement on violence being a matter which should be kept private and in the family further exacerbate the overall serious picture.

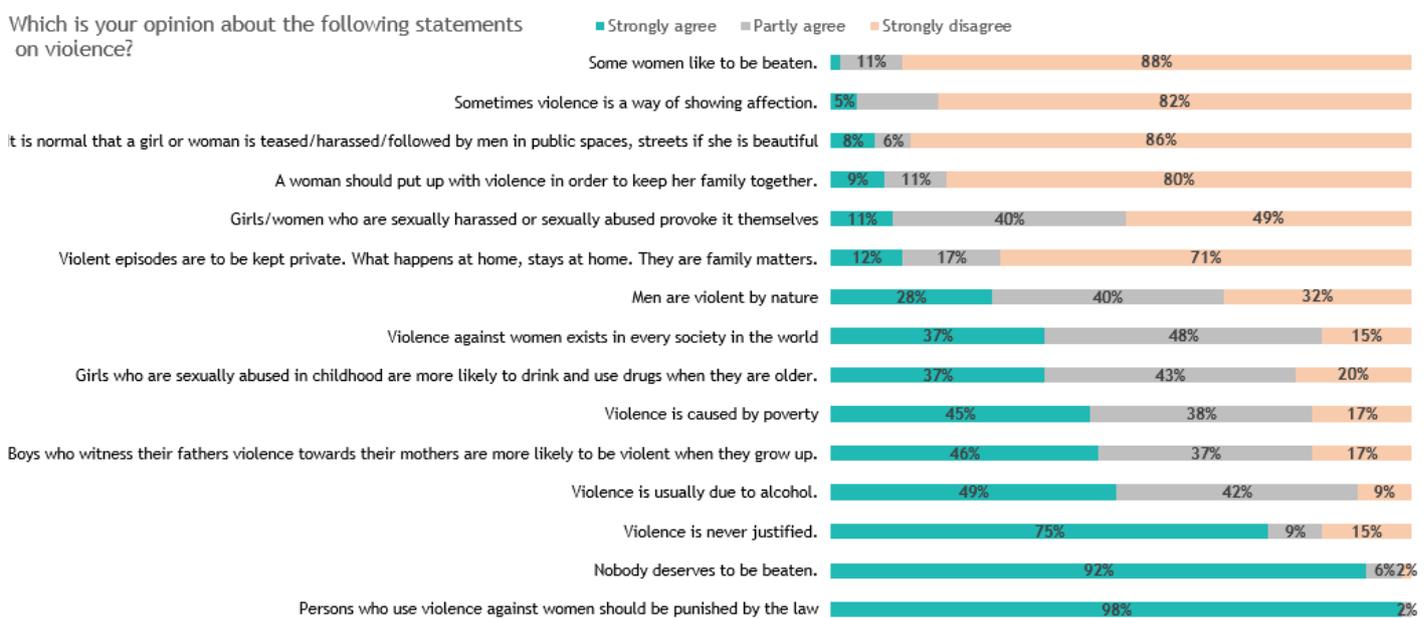


Figure 80. Which is your opinion about the following statements on violence?

The majority of respondents reports to have received information about forms of violence against women through various different forms of media and social contact. Again, as in the Center, it positively stands out that 69 percent received information from schools.

The situation appears also to be similarly to the Center in regard to the workplace and nonprofit organizations where more than half of the respondents state to never have received information about violence from these sources.

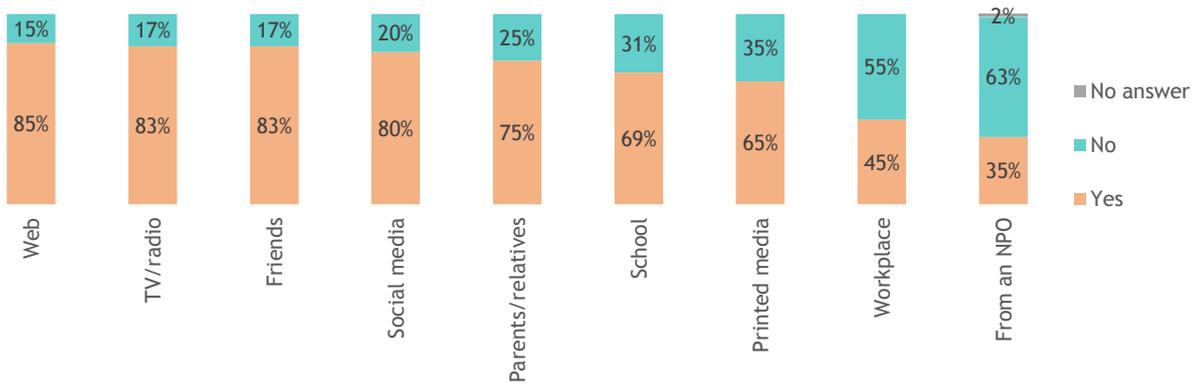


Figure 81. Have you ever received information about any form of violence against women and girls through?

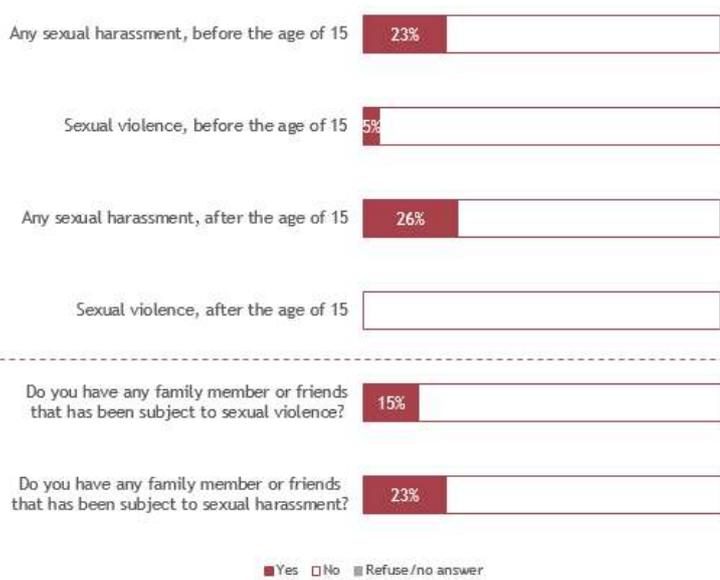
Compared to other areas it stands out that over half of the respondents in this area report that both kinds, physical and verbal, violence is most common. Followed by 37 percent who perceive verbal incidents as more prominent. The vast majority believes that girls are most prone to be subjected to dangerous incidents.



Figure 82. Which kind of violence happening in this area are usually more common(left) and which groups of individuals are more in danger in this neighborhood (right)

A number of 26 respondents reported to have been at risk or have been exposed to any sexual harassment, before and after the age of 15. More than a quarter of them (26%), have reported cases of sexual harassment after the age of 15. None of the women and girls reported sexual violence after the age of 15, however, five percent did so before reaching the age of 15. Almost one in four (24%) of the respondents stated to have a friend or family member who has been subjected to sexual harassment, whereas only 15 percent reported the same in regard to sexual violence. Comparative data shows more reported cases from Shkozet and fewer from the City Center, portraying this neighborhood as a sort of middle ground between the others two regarding the severity of the situation.

**Have you ever been in risk or exposed to:**



**N=26** →

**Who did this to you?**

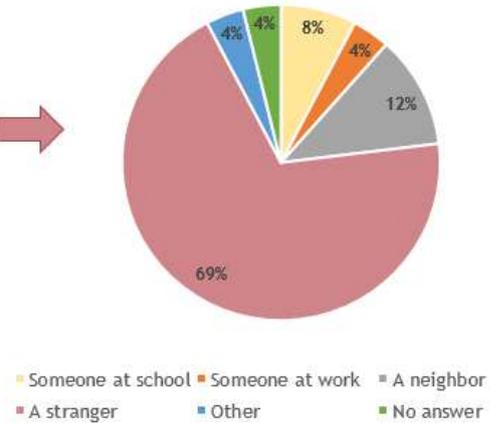
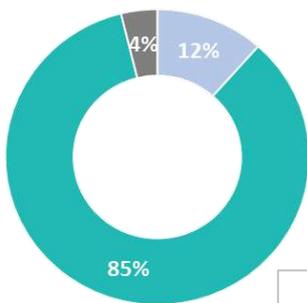


Figure 83. Have you ever been at risk to (left) & who did this to you? (right)

When respondents who reported sexual harassment cases were asked whether they ever asked for help, the vast majority (85%) responded with no similar to the previous analyzed zones in this report. Among the reasons of non-reporting, half did not know where to ask for help underlining previous results of this study which put forward the question if help lines and other services are present, function and advertised sufficiently in Durres. The three cases who did seek help, received assistance from their family and the police.

**Have you ever asked for help related to that?**

**N=26**



- Yes
- No
- No answer

**If yes, where exactly**

|               | Number of cases |
|---------------|-----------------|
| To my family  | 1               |
| To the police | 1               |
| To the police | 1               |

**How did they react?**

**THREE CASES they provided assistance**

**If No, why?**

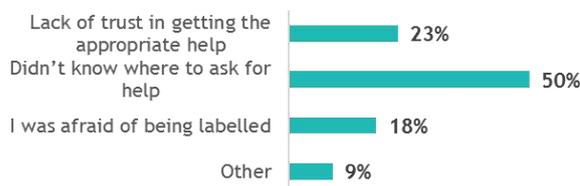


Figure 84. Asking for help

Compared to other findings of this report it stands out positively that only 29 percent would do nothing if they were verbally harassed, the majority would report it to the police. The great majority would also report to the police should they become subjected to physical or sexual attacked (86%). Asking the family for help and confronting the perpetrator is in both kinds of incidents mentioned by several respondents. It again stands out that few would report to a helpline or to another service provider.

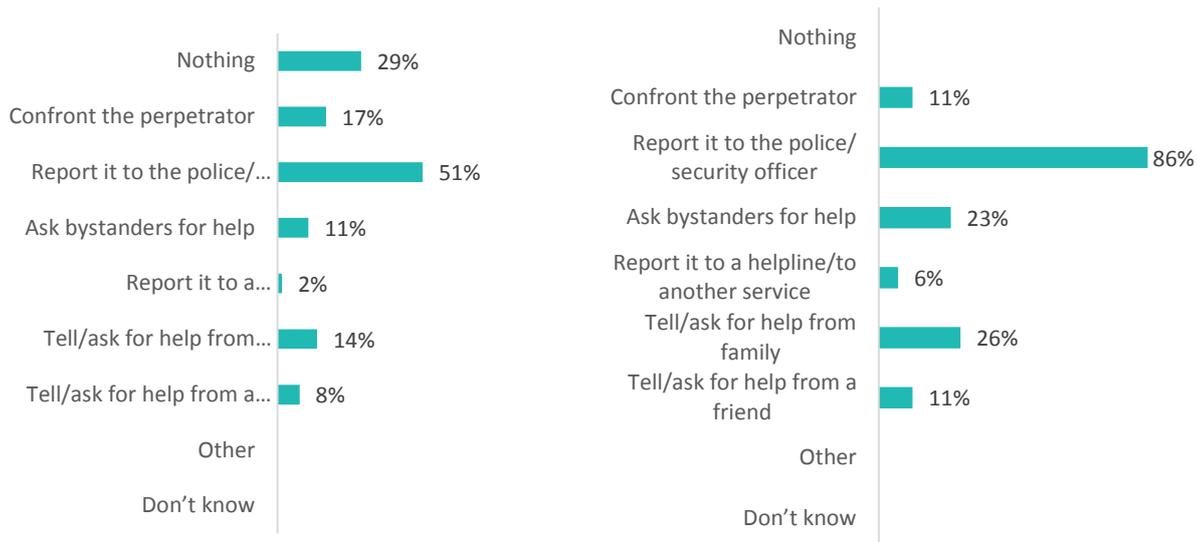
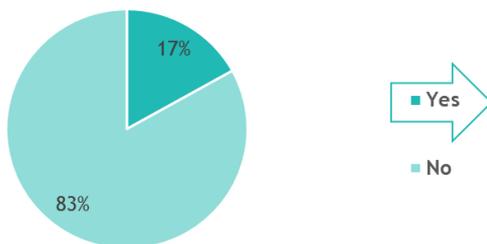


Figure 85 Reactions to verbal street harassment (left) & direct physical or sexual attack (right)

Only seventeen percent of the respondents knows another woman who has been harassed in public and reported it to the police or another institution. Out of these 11 cases, five related to verbal harassment and four to physical ones. The experiences with the police recording the incidents vary.<sup>38</sup>

Do you know a woman who was harassed on the street and reported an incident (to the police, NGO ect)?



What was the nature of the incident?



What was the police response?

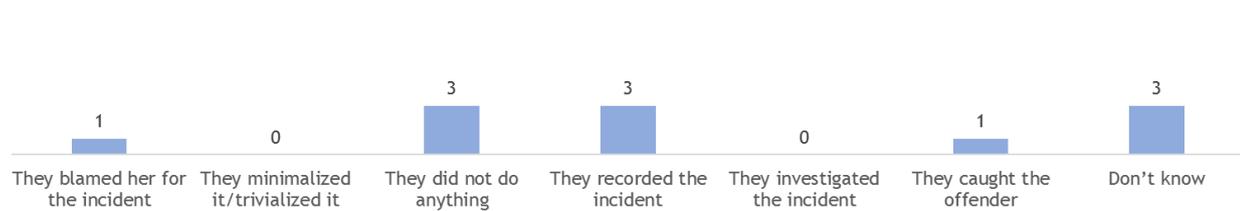


Figure 86. Incidences reporting

It stands out that nearly half (49%) do not report cases due to lack of knowledge where help can be received or cases can be reported. This issue has been amplified by several findings and urges for improvements in regard to information distribution where women can seek help in case of sexual harassment or violence. Around one in three women and girls feel too ashamed or fear to be judged should they report incidents. This finding highlights the issue that sexual motivated crimes are still heavily stigmatizes when falling victim to it. One in four is too afraid to approach the police putting the lack of trust into this institution in the foreground yet again.

<sup>38</sup> Due to the small number of cases, the statistical significance is not high enough to draw conclusions out of these incidents.

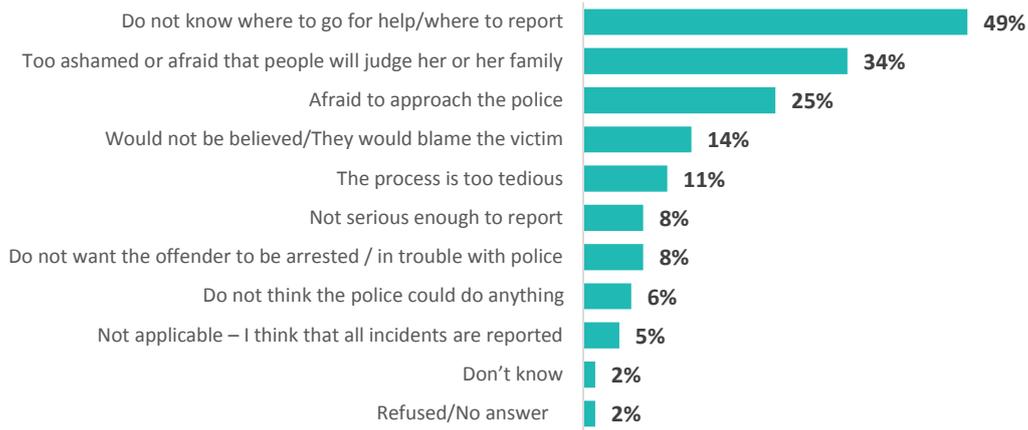


Figure 87. Why many women do not report cases of violence to the police?

### 4.3.3 DURRES SHKOZET

Most of the respondents surveyed in Shkozet, on average visited the neighborhood every day.

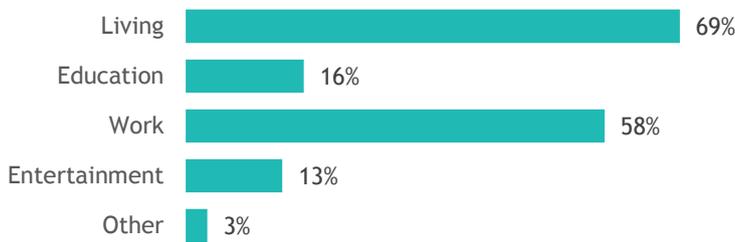


Figure 88. What are the reasons to visit this neighborhood?

Differently from the findings of the center area where most of respondents (60%) used the zone for entertainment related reasons, in Shkozet entertainment is the least chosen reason (13%). The majority of the respondents (69%) are frequenting and spending time in this neighborhood because they live in it. Shkozet is known as a neighborhood in which there is an existence of a lot of factories, enterprises and offices, which explains that more than half of the respondents (58%) frequent the area for work, too.

### Safety of Neighborhoods



Figure 89. What do you think about free spaces between buildings and streets in this neighborhood?

Findings show that according to the majority of the respondents Shkozet is a neighborhood with almost no free space left (49%) or limited space (24%). As partly stated above, in this area there are a lot of factories, enterprises, clubs, restaurants and gambling betting. There is a very limited number of green spaces and children playgrounds.

As in the Stadium area, the lighting infrastructure in Shkozet appears to be better on health care facilities including entrances of the hospitals, health centers and pharmacies (4% rate it as very good and 70% good) than in the center area. The level of lighting at entrances of the stores as in the other areas in Durres as well as Tirana, are rated as the most adequate.

Respondents stated that the lighting conditions are mostly poor at entrances of homes and bus stations where around half of the respondents reported there was not lighting at all or the lighting is poor. Compared to that, less than one third reported the same for streets.

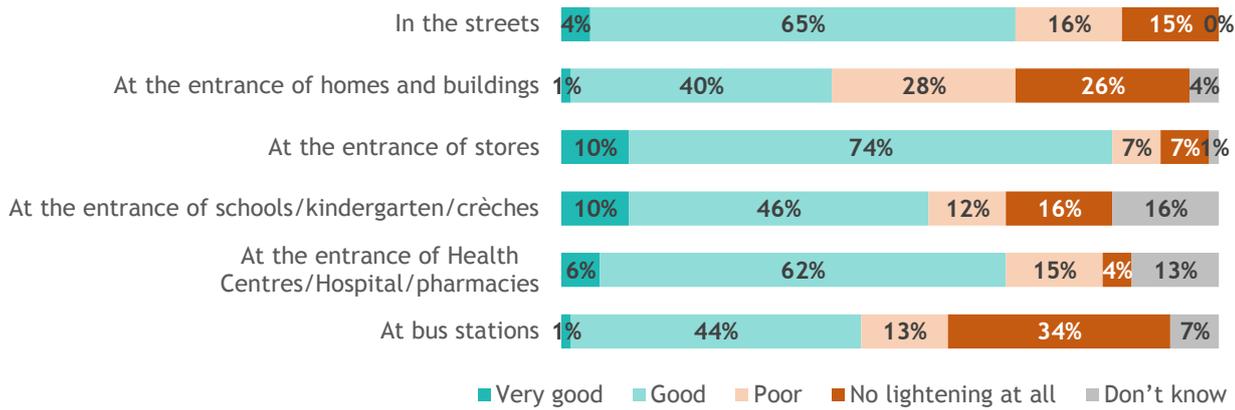


Figure 90. How is the lighting in this neighborhood?

The vast majority of the respondents, (79%) think that the lighting system is not managed or distributed evenly, whereas in the Center of Durres 20 percent less reported the same. This suggest that light management is in a poorer state in this area.

Conversely, a positive 20 percent shift can be found in regard to Police patrolling, 73 percent expressed agreement that Shkozet is often patrolled by the Police, whereas only 53 percent reported the same in the Center.

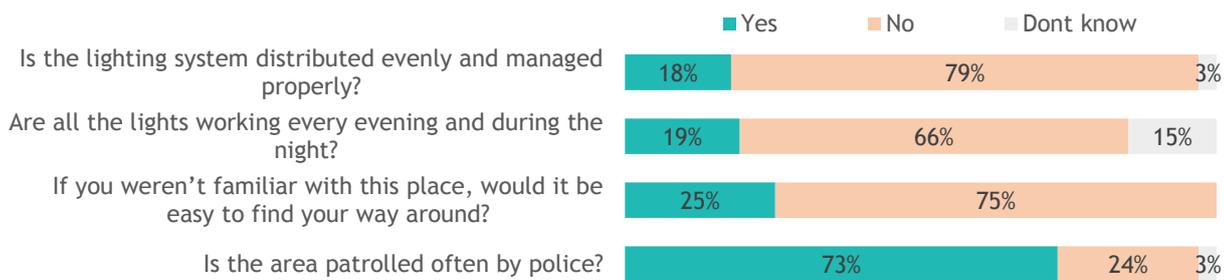


Figure 91. Provide some information about the following questions regarding this neighborhood.

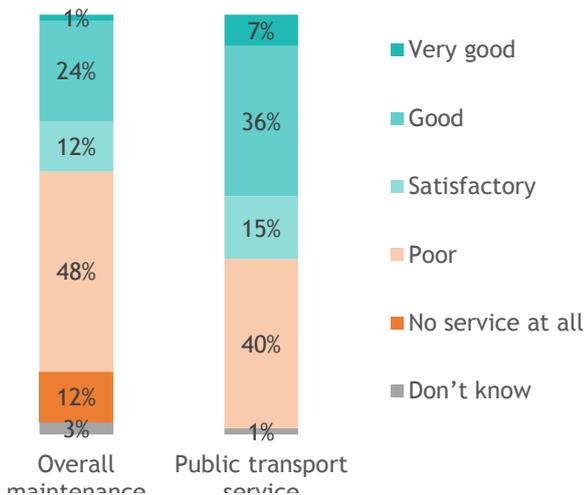


Figure 92. Evaluation of Public Services in the Neighborhood

Following the evaluation of the public services, an alarming number (60%) perceives the overall maintenance of services as poor or as entirely lacking. Regarding public transportation service only 43 percent have assessed it as good or very good, similarly to the respondents in the Center (44%). The majority of the respondents are using the public transportation in Shkozet often.

### Personal Safety

When analyzing factors affecting the personal safety, similarly to the Center, 63 per cent of the respondents think that being alone or unaccompanied can affect the safety. Being a woman is a factor that affects the personal safety according

to more than half of the respondents (60%), followed by clothing (51%). Being a certain age, on the contrary is not considered as a factor that might affect the personal safety for 55 percent of the respondents.

Same as in the Center of Durres, 40 percent of the respondents consider the sexual orientation as a factor affecting the personal safety. Even though respondents did not highlight this issue in the Stadium area, the fact that it was mentioned as a prevalent issue in two neighborhoods of urban Durres, creates the impression that there may be a need to take action to support the LGBTI community when it comes to matters of safety and security, not limited to, but especially in these areas.

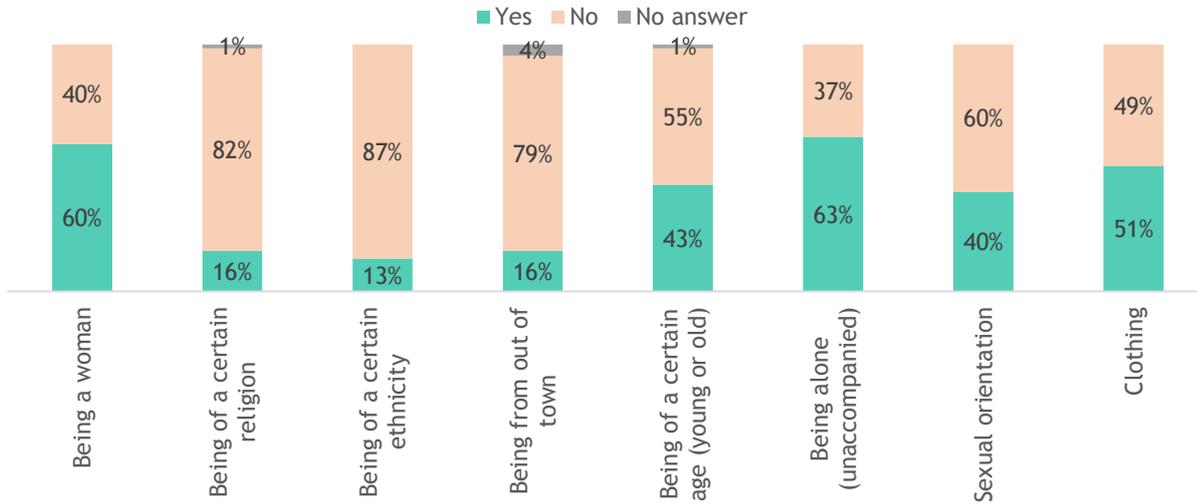
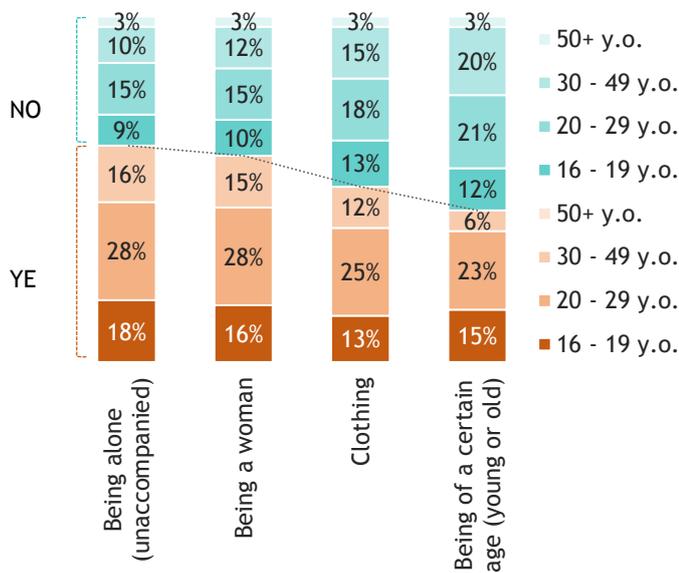


Figure 93. Do you think any of these factors affects your personal safety in this area?



When looking at the above data disaggregated by age, it becomes apparent that younger women and girls are more likely to experience the most prevalent factors which impact safety as significant.

Similar to other areas in Durres and Tirana verbal sexual harassment, suggestive staring as well as sexual comments appear the most prevalent issues in this neighborhood. Data further revealed that a significant number mentioned following or deliberately blocking the path of a woman or girl. This finding in conjunction with higher perceived likelihood (compared to the center area) of threatening, as well as physical and sexual attacks, creates a serious impression of the overall safety and security environment of women and girls frequenting this neighborhood.

Figure 94. Factors that affect personal safety in the area by age

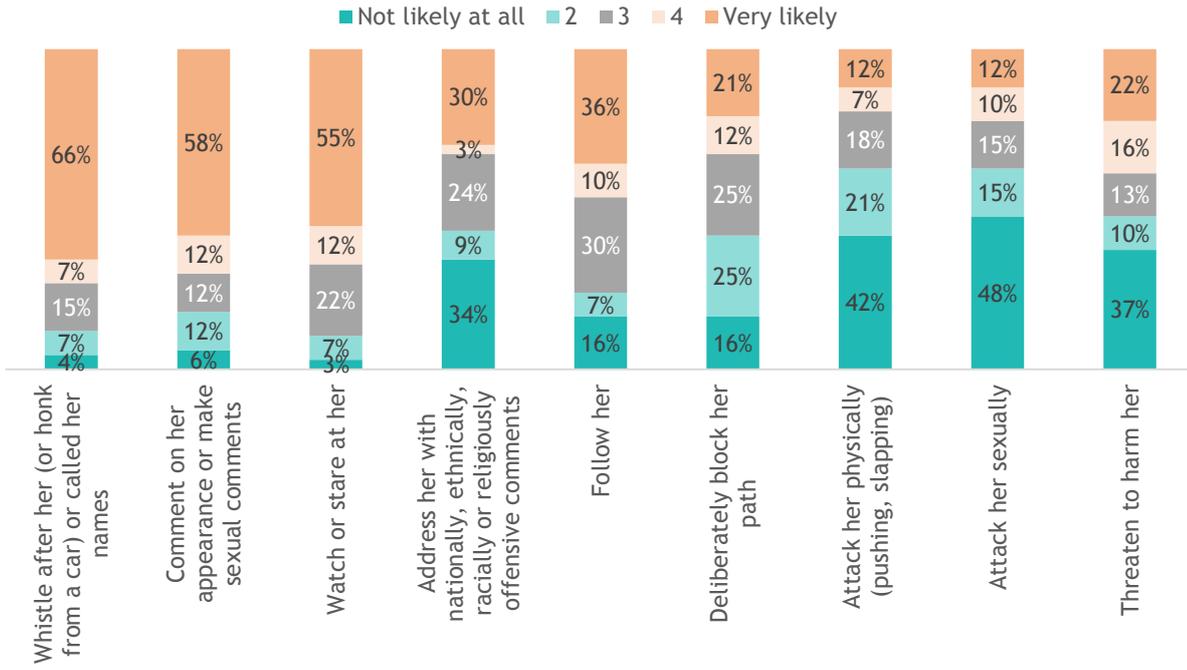


Figure 95. How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood?

Similarly, to other zones where this study was conducted, the most common perceived factors that contribute to feeling unsafe are men dealing or taking drugs (87%), poor lightening and crowded public transportation (85% and 81% respectively). Poor overall maintenance as well as garbage, appear also as prominent issues contributing to unsafe feelings in this area (76% each).

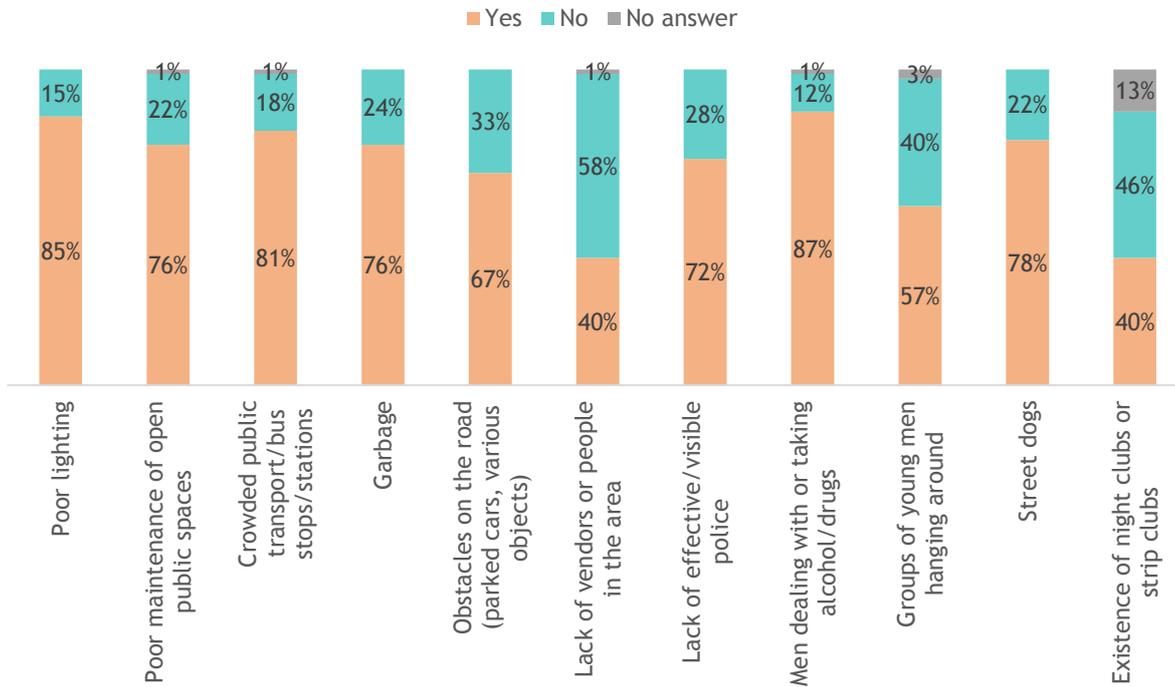


Figure 96. Do any of these factors affect your personal safety in this area?

### General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence

When asked about common reaction of people witnessing incidents that might happen to a girl or a woman in the area, findings indicate that more than half of the respondents (54%) think that people will notice such incidents but will not react. Unfortunately, this appears to be a trend which can be observed in all other discussed areas so far. Nearly one third of the respondents have a more positive attitude in this regard, with 30 percent calming that witnesses would call for help.

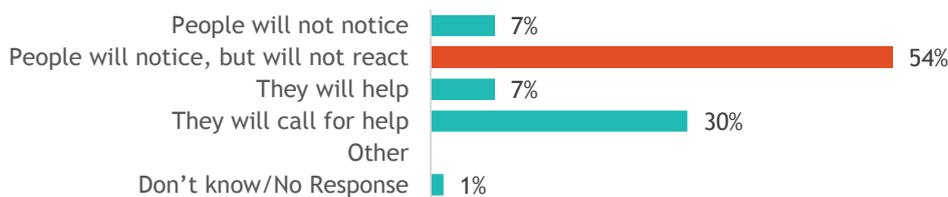


Figure 97. According to your opinion, what is the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that may happen to a woman in this area?

When presented with a series of statements on violence, it can be observed that similar to other areas in which the survey was implemented, that agreement is high with the statement “Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves”. The fact that this agreement seems to be strongly present in Durres and Tirana, suggest that victim blaming is a serious issue in both municipalities which is in need to be addressed.

Furthermore, the 14 percent agreement that some women like to be beaten is highly problematic as well as the high acceptance that men are violent by nature. It appears, as in other groups, that violence toward women, exercised by men, have been normalized by some part of the Albanians Society which urgently should be addressed as well as general outdated mentalities. It should however not be left aside that in this group of respondents as well as in others, the agreement that violence is never justified and should be punished is nearly total.

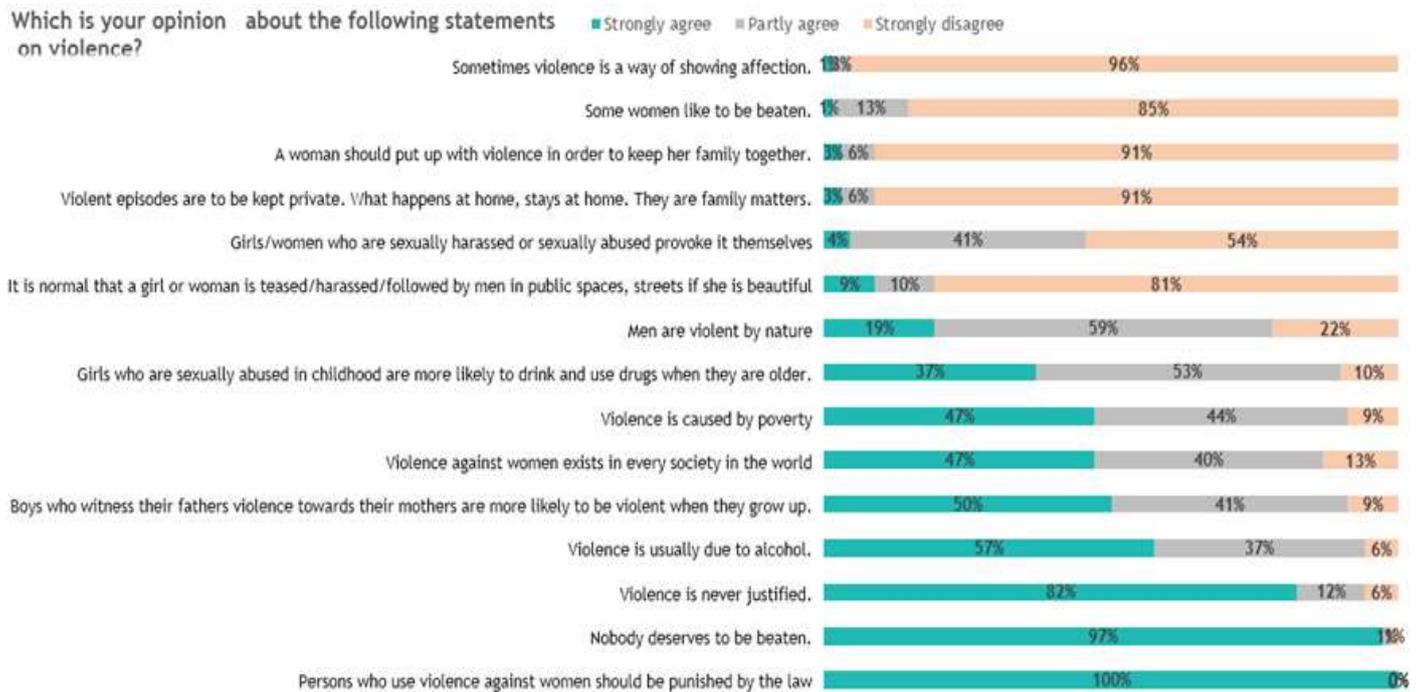


Figure 98. Which is your opinion about the following statements on violence?

As in the other study areas analyzed, it appears that the great majority of respondents in Shkozet have received information about violence against women, mainly through different types of media but also through social contacts and at school. Workplace and non-profit organization are less likely to be providers of such information.

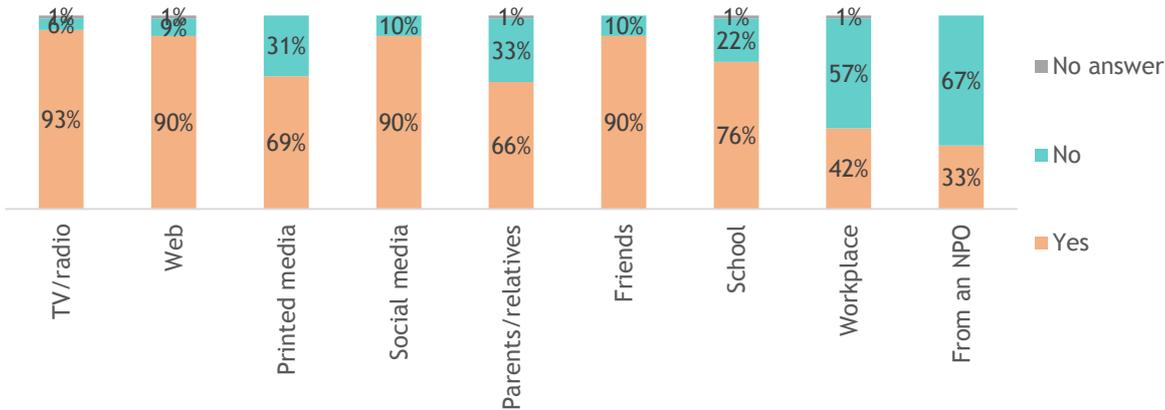


Figure 99. Have you ever received information about any form of violence against women and girls through?

Alarming, 61 percent perceive that verbal *as well as* physical violence are most prominent in this neighborhood which displays the highest number in this regard compared to all other neighborhood of the three municipalities in which this study was conducted. Compared to the Center of Durres this portrays a more than twice fold number.

As in all other areas, the vast majority of the respondents (81%) think that girls are the group of individuals who are more in danger in this neighborhood.

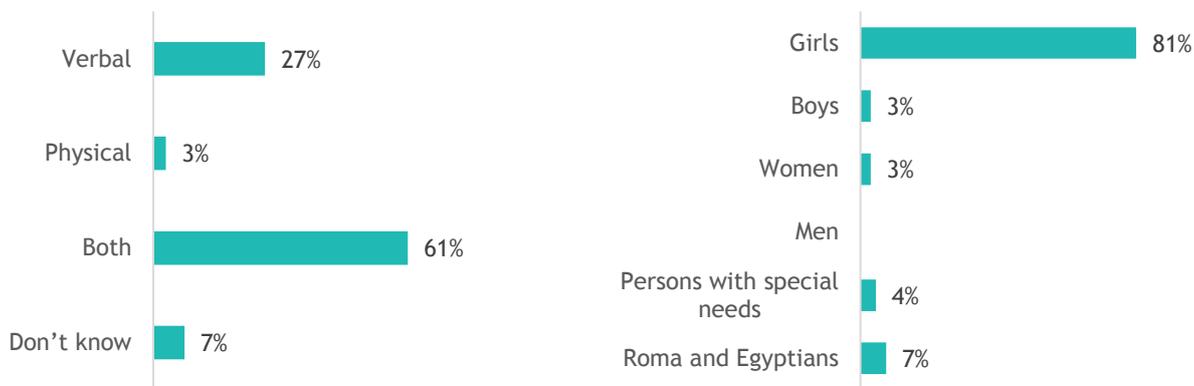


Figure 100. Which kind of violence happening in this area are usually more common (left) and which groups of individuals are more in danger in this neighborhood (right)

Findings indicate that solely 16 women declare to have been subjected to sexual harassment or sexual violence before and after the age of 15. Sexual harassment is most prominent after the age of 15 (18%). Sexual violence was only reported by two respondents. Out of these 16 cases the majority reported that the assaulting person was a stranger or that the incident happened in a school environment. Nearly one in four respondents of this group however report to know a woman who has been sexually harassed, another 12 percent know women who has been subjected to sexual violence.

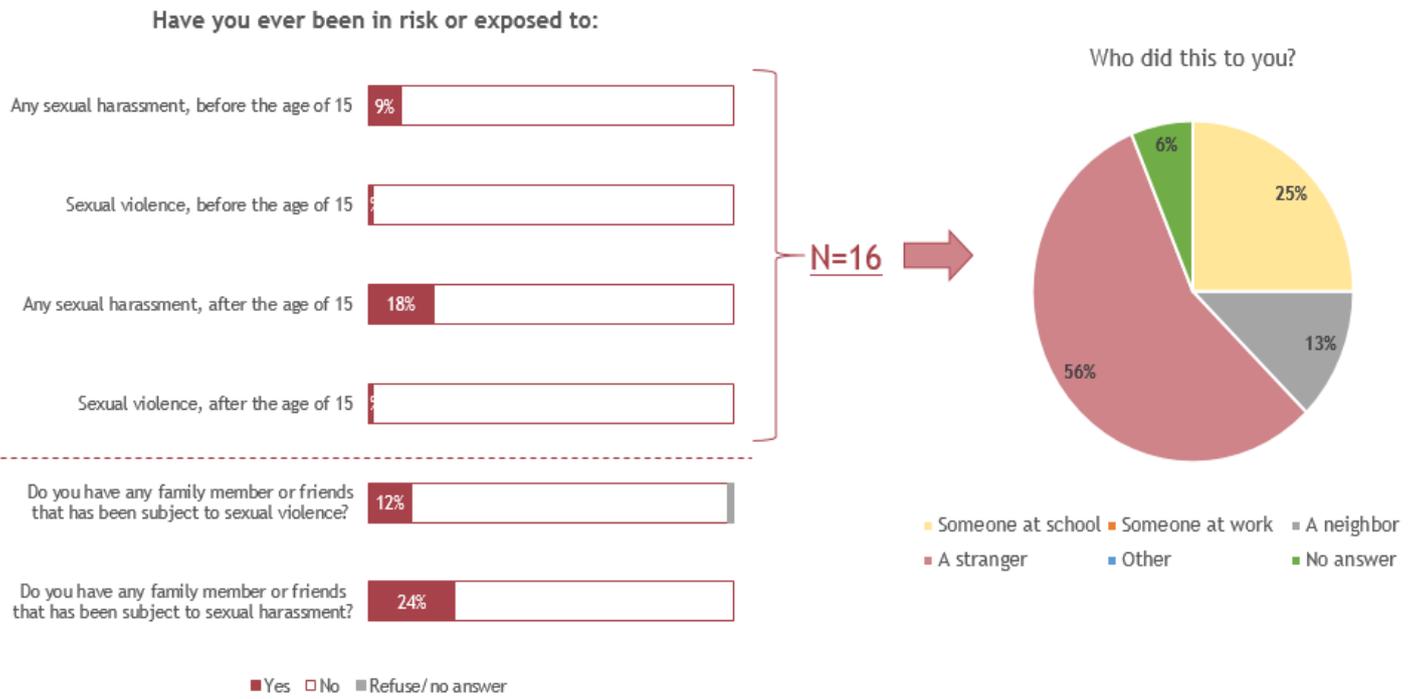
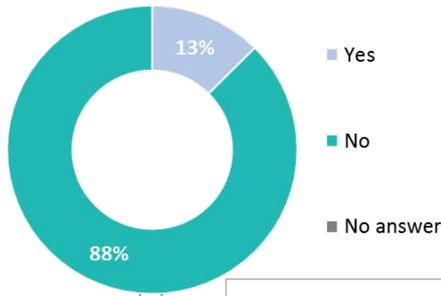


Figure 101. Have you ever been at risk to & who did this to you?

When respondents who reported sexual harassment, cases were asked if they ever asked for help related to that, the vast majority responded with no. Among the reasons on non-reporting, the fear of being labeled appears most prominent.

Have you ever asked for help related to that?

**N=16**



If yes, where exactly

|              | Number of cases |
|--------------|-----------------|
| To my family | 2               |

How did they react?

| Reaction                                    | Number of cases |
|---|-----------------|
| They provided assistance                    | 1               |
| They did not provide me with any assistance | 0               |
| They were judgmental                        | 1               |

If No, why?

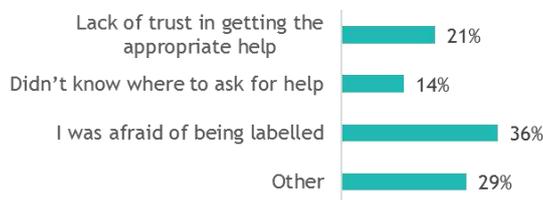


Figure 102. Asking for help

When asked about reactions when witnessing cases of verbal or physical harassment opinions appear to differ. What stands out positively when compared to other areas in regard to verbal harassment, that only 28 percent would not react. More than one quarter each would either report the incident to the police or ask the family for help. The great majority would report physical or sexual attacks to the police and 31 percent would ask the family for help. Considering the high number who mention turning to their families, might indicate that many women and girls still prefer to keep these kind of incidents private issues.

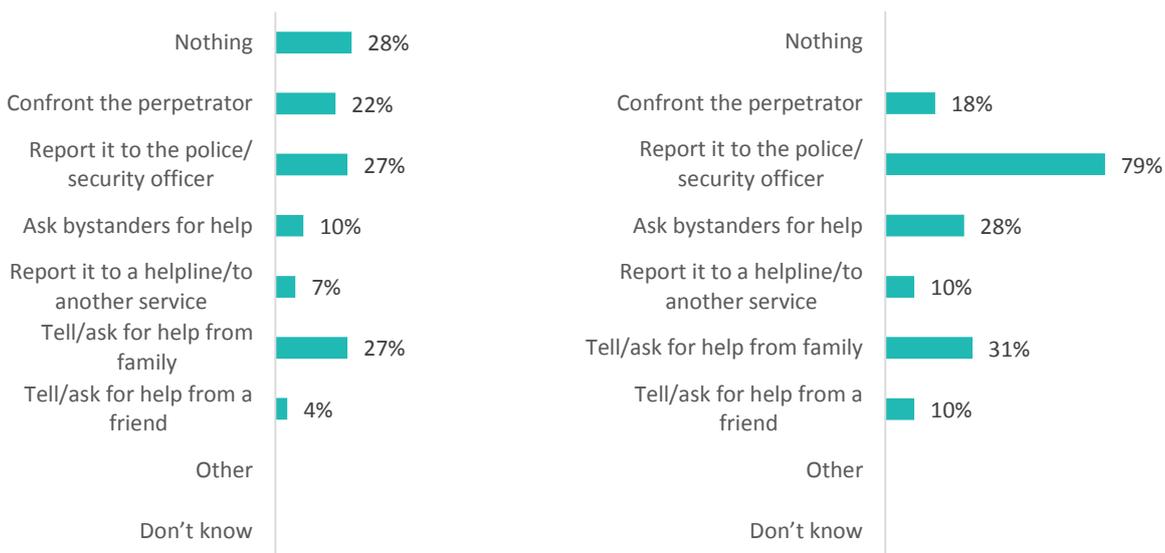
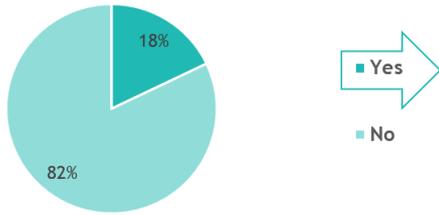


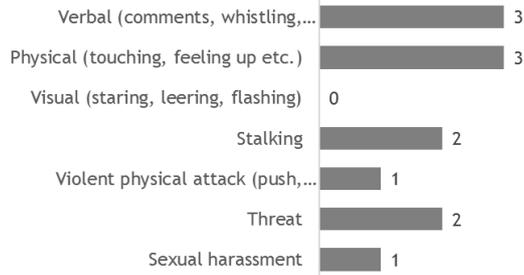
Figure 103 Reactions to verbal street harassment (left) & direct physical or sexual attack (right)

Few women frequenting the Shkozet area report to have knowledge of a women who has been harassed and reported this incident to the Police. Numbers vary when it comes to the nature of incident and police reaction. In regard to five out of 12 cases respondents reported that the Police did not take any action.

Do you know a woman who was harassed on the street and reported an incident (to the police, NGO ect)?



What was the nature of the incident?



What was the police response?



Figure 104. Incidences reporting

Data revealed that also in this neighborhood the majority of women do not know where to turn for help or where to report a case of violence (54%). Around one in three women feels ashamed or is afraid to be judged. Moreover, 31 percent are afraid to approach the Police. These findings portray a highly problematic picture as they not only highlight the issue of victim stigmata, but also the lack of trust into the one institution which should provide safety and security for all people.

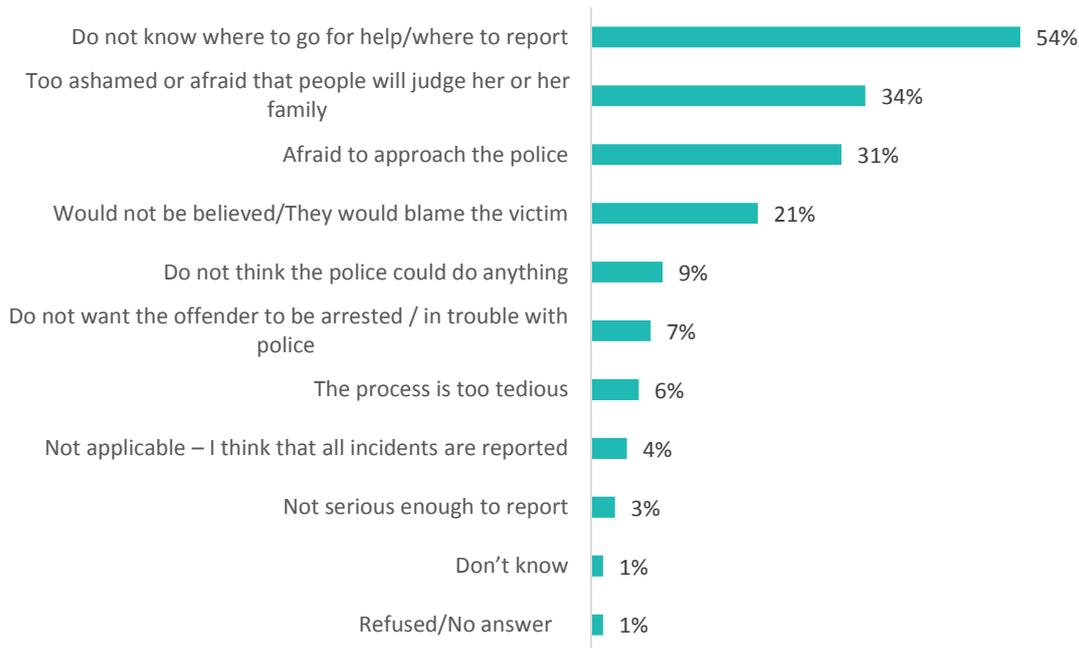


Figure 105. Why many women do not report cases of violence to the police?

#### 4.3.4 QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

##### 4.3.4.1 Semi-Structured Interviews with Stakeholders

The semi structured interviews conducted with municipal as well as NGO stakeholders in Durres broad forward the following findings:

##### General assessment of municipality/neighborhoods & Exploration of prevalent safety and security issues

Since the territorial reform the municipality of Durres has become larger and some difficulties arose to effectively distribute municipal resources across the whole area. This becomes apparent especially in regard to financial and human

resources. Peripheral neighborhoods urgently require infrastructure improvements and additional street lightening, outdated mentalities and early marriages remain an issue.

Nonetheless, general living standards in urban Durres are perceived as good. The number of people asking for social help/social benefits is one of the lowest in Albania<sup>39</sup>. Specific problematic areas in some parts of the urban municipality are entrances of the buildings and secondary roads without sufficient lighting. Secondary roads often lack sufficient lighting due to frequent theft of cables. These cables are then unable to be replaced until the next annual municipal budget is approved.

According to the police, there are not many cases where women or girls report happenings related to GBV in public spaces. On the other hand, NGO stakeholders have put forward the concern that there is a lack of shelters for the victims which do exist.

### **Exploration of prevalent issues in regard to GBV and GBD**

According to municipal stakeholders, even though occurring, GBV and GBD are not a highly prevalent in Durres. Even though the number of reported cases has increased (as in Tirana), this was explained with an increase of awareness of the opportunities for help and reporting. Women feel more confident than in the past to report if they fall victim to GBV and GBD. Contacts and information about responsible NGOs are well known, women in general know that they can call the Police in such cases, according to the municipality.

Municipal stakeholders are in general highly satisfied with the police work in Durres. Every neighborhood has one police coordinator assigned and response usually happens promptly. The Police is seen as a key player for fighting GBV and increase safety for women and children. The criminal code disposition regarding GBV has been recently amended (2017, within the realms of the justice reform in Albania) and the punishments for committing such crime have increased, this is said to have a positive impact as well.

The Director of Social Service in Durrës Municipality expressed concerns that only physical violence is recognized and reported, the other forms of GBV like verbal street harassment and others are not recognized as a form of GBV by the community. The lack of shelters and housing opportunities for victims is pointed out strongly. In connection to that it was also pointed out that Durrës is the second highest rated city when it comes to the number of protection orders.<sup>40</sup>

As mentioned above there is no shelter for abused or violated women, however there is a mechanism in place, a child protection unit, which address this issue to an extent.

### **Existing plans, initiatives, policies in municipality/neighborhoods**

NGOs and the social department of the municipality have conducted awareness raising, lobbying, organized meetings and seminars for women to learn about GBV. A free local helpline for women who experienced GBV, is established from an NGO and is supported also from municipal' budget and its number is printed on flyers and posters.

Furthermore, there are investments planned to improve roads and infrastructure in urban as well as rural Durres. Lastly, the three years Local Gender Action Plan (2018-2020), which is based on the European Charter for Equality between Women and Men in Local Life was approved from Municipal' Council in May 2018.

### **Recommendations for Possible Improvements**

The following recommendations for improvements in Durrës have been put forward by municipal and NGO stakeholders:

- Further improvements of the street infrastructure
- Street lighting of secondary roads
- More green areas

<sup>39</sup> <http://open.data.al/sq/lajme/lajm/id/261/titull/Treguesit-e-Ndihmes-Ekonomike-ne-Shqiperi>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.kld.al/component/k2/raport-mbi-situaten-e-ceshtjeve-gjyqesore-per-dhunen-ne-familje>

- Improve the public transport (schedules and stations)
- Inclusion of awareness raising against GBV and GBD in secondary schools and high school's curricula (in cooperation with the central government)
- Establishment of a shelter for victims and follow up procedures on reported cases
- Free Legal and psychological assistance for victims of GBV
- General awareness raising on GBV and GBD

#### 4.3.4.2 Focus Groups

According to female participants in the Focus Group Discussion conducted in Durres, GBV and GBD issues remain big concerns. Sexual harassment in their opinion is a phenomenon that is happening everywhere. The overwhelming part of these sexual harassments are perceived as coming from boys and men who sit at the café, bars or betting points in the city of Durres.

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*“In rural zones sexual harassment is more common, but this does not mean it does not happen in the city center. It is happening everywhere, the harassing is just more elegant in the Center and more vulgar in the rural areas.” -Female Participant Durres*

---

In their opinion, factors which foster or amplify GBV and GBD are especially men and boys who immigrate to Durres from other parts of Albania, where outdated mentalities are still more prominent in society. According to the focus group participants those men are then more likely to harass women and girls in Durres. Moreover, certain clothing choices are also pointed out as causes associated with harassment.

Male participants mentioned the phenomenon of sexual frustration in men as one of the main causes of sexual harassment. They also explained that in their experience many men use inadequate vocabulary when actually having the aim to make a compliment; women and girls then perceive this as sexual harassment. Participants also pointed out that lack of communication with the parents when boys become adolescents and the rejection of psychological help for boys and men, foster ill mentalities and pose a serious problem according to focus group participants.

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*“One of the key reasons is sexual frustration. Next is the mentality. Part of the young generation grows according to the old generation's mentality” - Male Participant, Durres*

---

A large number of male inhabitants consuming marijuana on the streets as well as poor lighting are mentioned as main causes of women feeling unsafe. According to the participants, only the very Center of Durres is well maintained in regard to lighting. Most of the girls living in Durres are always accompanied after 8 PM, mainly by their parents due to the lack of trust in public transportation or using taxis.

---

*“I have seen a case, where a boy went close to the girl and he forced her to get into a car, meanwhile she was refusing and saying no. He grabbed her by pulling the hair and saying, come here, get in the car. No one intervened.” -Female Participant Durres*

---

Sexual harassment in the streets is often not reported by girls and women in the city of Durres, the main reason for that is the lack of trust in responsible institutions and their ability to treat such cases with professionalism. Turning to their families instead is seen as the only option to be taken serious. The situation becomes more concerning in cases of sexual violence within family relations. Intimate partner violence or marital rape are almost not at all considered as forms of violence which need to be addressed according to the actual legislation and this is mainly related with the traditional harmful mentality and gender stereotypes regarding the marital relations and “duties” of wives towards their husbands.

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*“A week before a woman came to the police station to file a report against her husband for sexual violence. Police officers made fun of her and were laughing at her.”*  
*- Male Participant, Durres*

---

Focus group participants reported that TV is a source of information when it comes to cases of harassment or sexual violence. However, often times a case is reported and discussed without any kind of follow up what has happened to the victim. Media in general is perceived as not paying enough attention to these issues in general.

Another important finding brought forward by the focus group discussion, is that sexual harassment in public spaces is perceived differently by different ages.

Younger women expressed to be more concerned and intimidated by street harassment (name calling/being teased, being followed, etc.). Whereas 1-2 older respondents (1/4<sup>th</sup> of the FG of women) pointed out something very different. They mentioned other spaces, such as work settings, or elevators, apartments buildings and halls to be of bigger concern when it comes to sexual harassment.

One participant mentioned that age and the type of public space is a factor which affects the individual perception of safety.

---

*“I consider those words in the streets, being stared at, etc. not dangerous. I can handle them now because I have more confidence at this age. I see as much more problematic becoming a prey inside public institutions. Sexual harassment of women inside institutions is very common. I see it everywhere I enter because due to my work I have to enter various public institutions. And that is a serious problem! Not the words, whistling, being stared at in the street.”*

*Female Participant, Durres*

---

#### **Recommendations put forward by the Focus Group Participants**

- Awareness raising of the population and institutions about GBV
- Measures needs to be taken by law enforcement authorities to impose higher fines or penalties as for other criminal offenses when committing sexual harassment and violence
- Monitoring of public areas through the use of security cameras
- Encourage discussion with residents of Durres about issues such as sexual harassment
- Invest more in public education and awareness in the country, not only in Tirana and Durres.
- Creating a union for girls working in hotels or as waitresses to provide an option to turn to, should they face sexual harassment/violence while working.

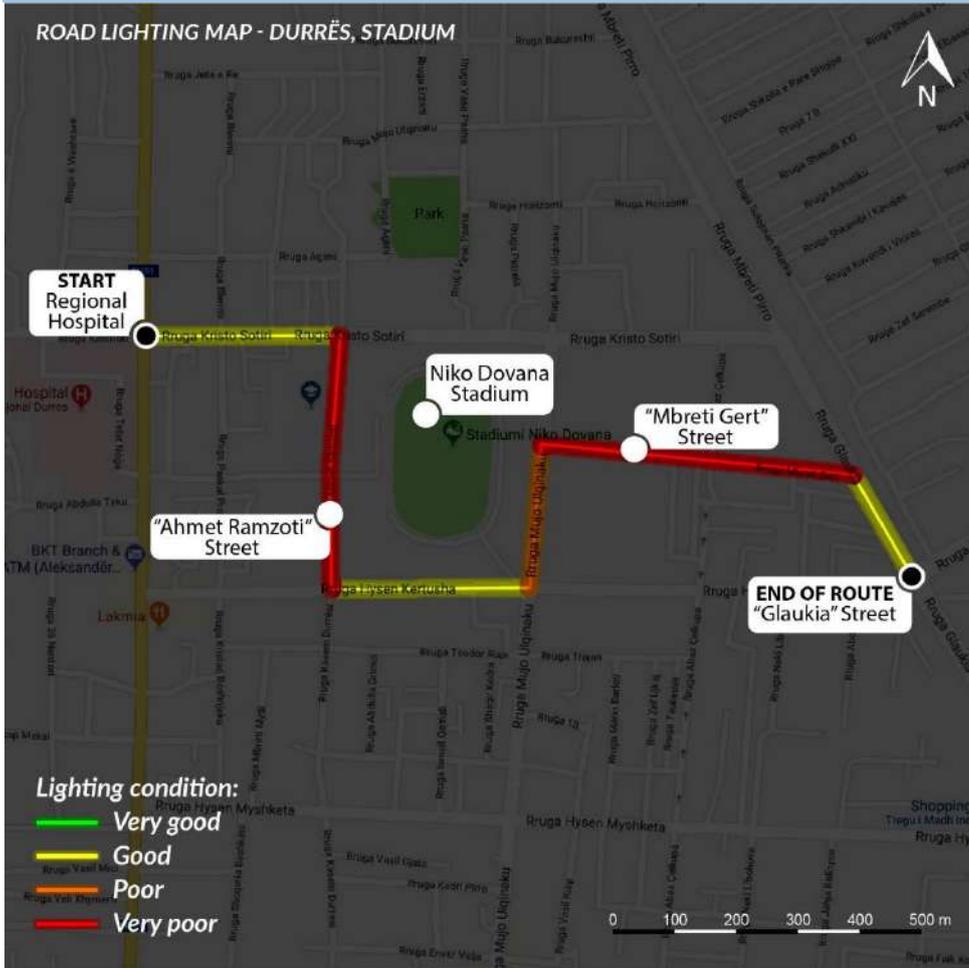
#### **4.3.4.3 Safety Audit Walks**

Based on data from the Safety Walk in the center of Durrës, the participants share an overall good impression on the Taulantia street during the day. The area has plenty of street signs, police presence and movement. Walking around the main boulevard also makes women feel safe. However, in the evening, the participants report to have seen many more men than women outside, especially in the surrounding bars. Further, they report to have witnessed young men that were hiding in corners and seemed to consume drugs/alcohol, which made them feel unsafe.

The majority of participants state that at night it is easier for the perpetrators to hide in alleys, behind trees or behind parked cars (in the dark) in some long streets near the center which have no or insufficient street lights and a long line of parked cars, behind which perpetrators could easily hide and not be seen as the street is not illuminated. Lack of lighting, lack of visibility and hiding spots appear to be the three main factors that affect women’s safety in the neighborhood.

Due to such findings, the safety in this area becomes questionable. Below findings of the structured observation in other areas of Durres display an even more problematic situation.

4.3.4.4 Structured Observations



Two of the structured observations took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 in the Stadium area of Durrës. They started at the regional hospital and ended at "Glaukia" street. The first walk took place during the day at 3:00pm and the second one in the evening at 10:00pm.

The results of the observations showed that two of the most dangerous streets in this area appear to be Ahmet Ramzoti" street and "Mbreti Gert" street (featured with red color in the map on the left). Both of the streets severely lack lighting and proper maintenance. During the night they appear in complete darkness and various places where someone could hide, like trash containers, high grass and bushes can be found and defined as very unsafe.



Bushes and high grass in "Ahmet Ramzoti" street



*Insufficient light and low maintenance in "Glaukia" street (above and below)*

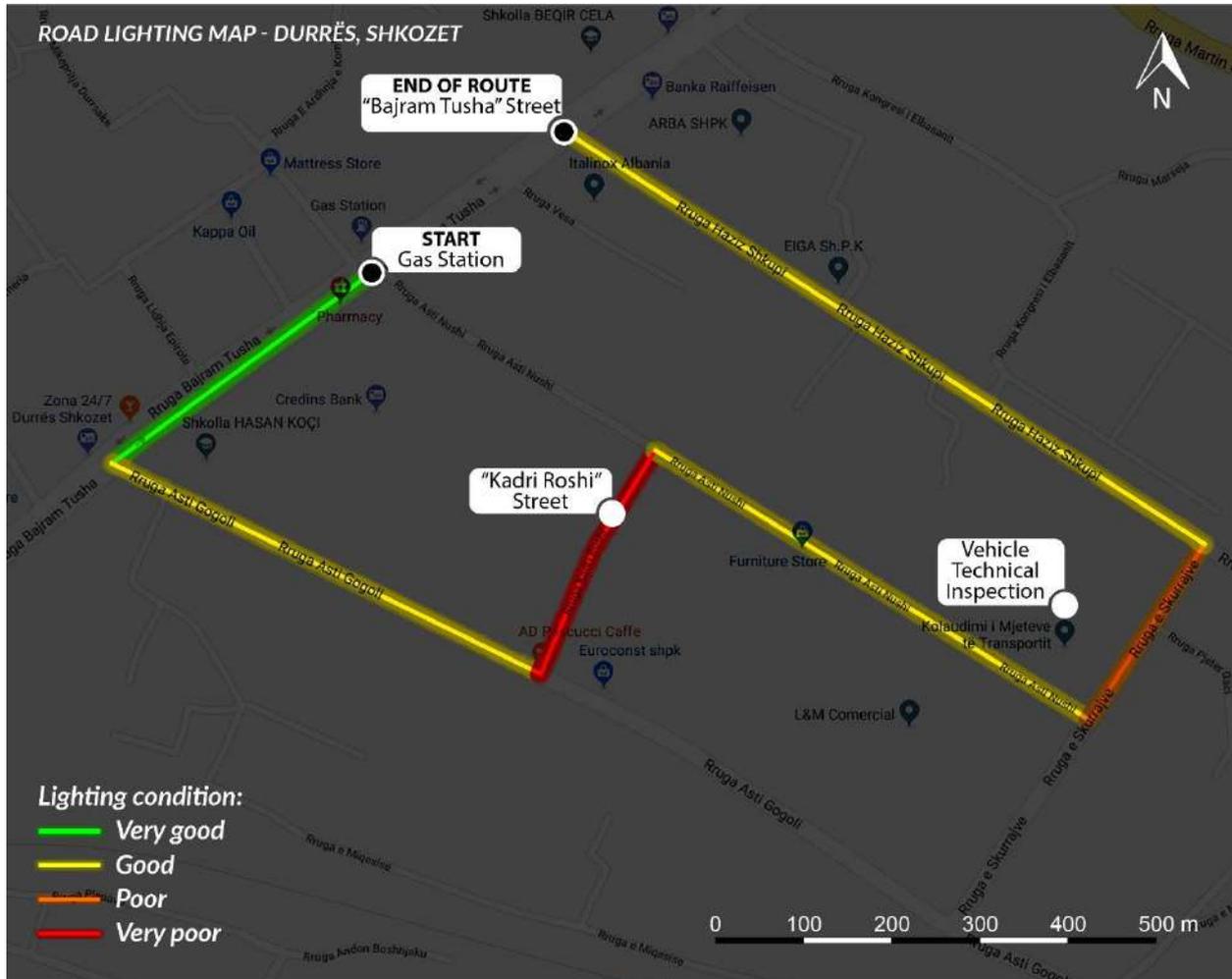




*Insufficient light in "Mujo Ulqinaku" street*

The below structured observation took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. It started at the gas station situated in “Bajram Tusha” street and the itinerary was completed with ending again on the main road. The first walk took place during the day at 11:00am and the second one in the evening at 9:00pm. Based on the observations in general this area can be described as not well maintained and partly very unsafe

The most problematic street appears to be “Kadri Roshi,” as shown in the photo below on the next page. As seen in the image there are many bushes and abandoned buildings where someone could hide without being seen.



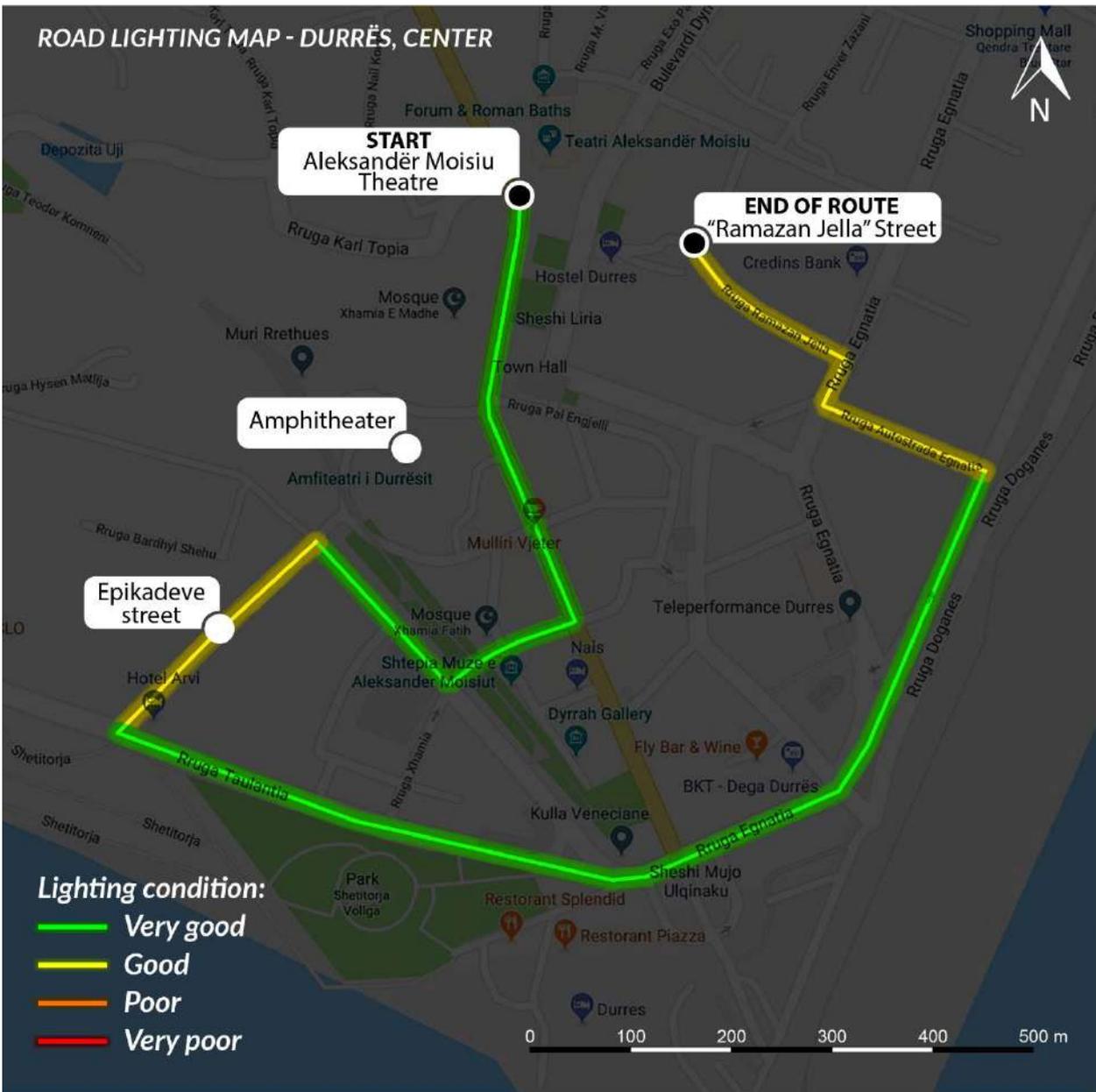


*“Kadri Roshi” street*

During the night the most frequented street was “Asti Nushi” but as shown in the photo below there was a lack of maintenance and poor lighting.



*“Asti Nushi” street*



The above structured observation took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. It started at Aleksander Moisiu theatre and ended at "Ramazan Jella" street as shown in the map above. The first walk took place during the day at 9:00am and one in the evening after 8:00 once it was dark outside.

Compared with the two other areas the results of the observations showed that this zone is the safest and the most maintained one. "Epikadeve" and "Ramazan Jella" street were the only ones that revealed to have insufficient lighting, which can be seen in the photos below.



*Insufficient lighting in “Epikadeve” street*



*“Ramazan Jella” street*

#### 4.3.5 RECOMMENDATIONS SPECIFIC FOR DURRES

- Municipality of Durrës must consider the results of this study in all actions that will undertake to improve the infrastructure or maintenance of these public spaces, as well as of Durrës in general.
- A specific roundtable can be organized with the presence of different stakeholders to make visible the findings from this survey, as well as to request their support for improvement women’s and girls’ safety in Durrës.

- Urgent intervention is needed to improve lighting system as well as to ensure that the lighting system is managed properly during the entire year. Intervention is some streets such as in: “Epikadeve” street, “Asti Nushi” street, “Ahment Ramzoti” street, “Mujo Ulqinaku” street, “Mreti Gert” street, “Kadri Roshi” street, “Glaukia” street, as well as of “Skurajve” street are in need to be prioritized.
- Since the municipality of Durrës is the main responsible institution at local level to coordinate the referral system against DV, it should require from police to increase the level of controls and patrolling in all neighborhoods of the city and not simply in main ones. These patrolling must be with high frequencies especially during evening and late hours in night. In addition, protection of the personal data when reporting cases of sexual harassment or violence can be required from police, as well as from other members of the referral mechanism.
- Data and statistics on cases of sexual harassment and violence must be recorded as part of data and statistics of other forms of VAWG.
- Municipality of Durrës, must take all needed measures to allocate and/or ensure the budget for capacity building activities focused especially on local administrators of all administrative units (as planned in the Gender Action Plan 2018-2020). These capacity building activities must have a very strong focus on sexual harassment and sexual violence as well as on identification, referral and recording of such cases from them. Particular attention should be paid on avoiding gender stereotypes and victims’ prejudices.
- All state institutions, especially the ones of education, health and social services must be equipped with camera which can monitor the incidence of public spaces happening inside (especially in case of schools) as well as around them.
- Information on existing services as well as their contact numbers must be spread all over the city, especially in bus stations, health clinics and schools. Specialized NGOs (although in small number) must collaborate with state institutions for such purpose. In the meantime, they must improve their public relations and must ensure that their services will be available and accessible for all groups of victims, despite their personal characteristics such as age, disability, dependency, sexual orientation, etc.
- Creating a union for girls working in hotels or as waitresses to provide an option to turn to, should they face sexual harassment while working, can be also very important.
- Municipality must take all needed measures also to ensure the specialist services which are still missing (i.e. emergency sheltering) for the treatment of cases of VAWG and DV, including cases of sexual harassment and violence. The free legal support provided to victims of domestic violence must be enhanced also for other victims of different forms of violence, including sexual one.

## 4.4 Fier

### General Information



Figure 106 The four urban zones of Fier in which the study was conducted

A total of 200 street interviews were conducted in the city of Fier and were equally distributed into the four regions of the city (50 interviews per region). Female respondents who took part in the study were of different age groups. Two focus group discussions were conducted, one with women and one with Roma women, with an age of 16 + y.o. Eight structured observations, two per each region were conducted, one during the morning and one during the night hours per each zone. Further, a safety walk comprised of eight participants was conducted, with a random selection of the area. Five semi-structured interviews were also conducted with four

representatives of Local Government and one representative of an NGO.

Data collected showed that the respondents visited the neighborhood every day, mostly because of being inhabitants of the area or for work purposes. A small number of participants visited the area to attend their education or for entertainment. Focus Group discussions revealed that the lifestyle of the participants has many limitations, especially for the Roma women who did not go out after work.

### Safety of Neighborhoods

**Free space:** According to the majority of the respondents, there is no free space in the neighborhoods and even the existing ones are considered as insufficient. Focus Groups' participants reported the occupation of free space, especially in regard to sidewalks, from cafes and bars. The neighborhood where Roma participants mainly live, called "Drize" (also known as "Ish Azotiku") particularly lacked parks, green spaces and children playgrounds.

**Lighting:** Quantitative and qualitative data of this study indicate that the lightning system is not managed properly, as

well as not equally distributed. The level of lighting is good at entrances of stores, other facilities like health care centers, education or public transportation have a poor level of lighting, indicating that the local government is not taking the appropriate measures for the maintenance of public service points. Other qualitative findings revealed from Focus Groups discussions, structured observations or safety audit walks, show that in some particular areas the streets lighting conditions are serious (For more detailed information please refer to the lighting maps under the subchapter of

#### Four Urban Zones

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| In the streets                          | 11% |
| At the entrance of buildings            | 67% |
| At the entrance of stores               | 17% |
| At the entrance of schools/kindergarten | 28% |
| At the entrance of Health Centres       | 26% |
| At bus stations                         | 25% |

Figure 107 Combined percentage of respondents who have rated lighting as poor or entirely lacking. Colors indicate the most severe issues.

the structured observations).

**Police patrolling:** The data shows that more than 100 respondents think that their respective neighborhood is patrolled often by the police. Such finding is not backed up by participants of Focus Groups' discussions who have different opinions. During the hours in which safety audit walks and structured observations were conducted police patrolling was observed only twice during the day and not at all during the night.

**Public services:** Less than half of the respondents think that the overall maintenance of public services or public transportation service is poor. Focus Group discussions revealed however general perceived lacks of infrastructure in

public spaces. Moreover, findings from the Roma women who participated in Focus Groups indicate the lack of basic infrastructure in their neighborhood as well as lack of water irrigation. Pictures taken during the structured observations show the existence of abandoned buildings, stalled construction sites and damaged sidewalks.

**Personal Safety**

*Affecting factors:* Facts like being a woman, being unaccompanied or clothing choices were considered by most of respondents and participants of the Focus Groups as factors that affect their personal safety. Additionally, participants from focus group discussions stressed the high number of bars in their neighborhood with mainly male clientele as a factor contributing to feeling unsafe.

*Likelihood of incidents:* The majority of the respondents and focus group participants think that forms of verbal sexual harassment like making comments on the appearance, whistling or staring are more likely to happen compared to forms of physical violence.

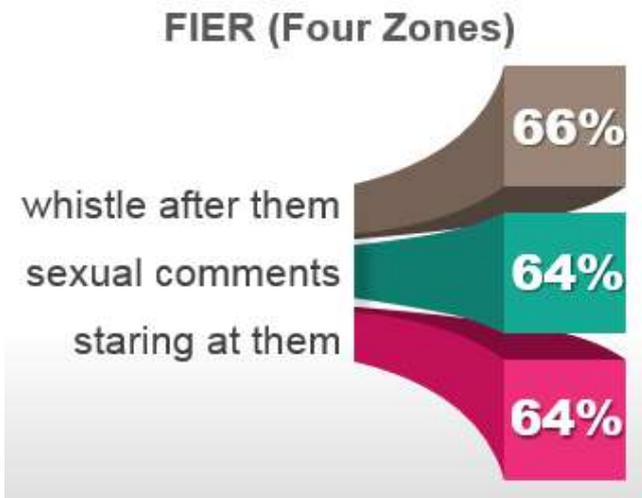


Figure 108 Likelihood of verbal sexual harassment happening to a woman frequenting the respective neighborhoods

*Unsafe feeling:* Quantitative and qualitative findings indicate that poor lighting, men dealing or taking drugs and lack of visible police officers have a significant impact on feeling unsafe. Additionally, participants from focus groups claimed that going out at night and the lack of public transportation were the main factors that made them feel unsafe.

*Common reaction:* The majority of respondents think that the common reaction of a bystander witnessing an episode of harassment or violence is that they will notice but will not react to help.

**General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence**



**Out of all respondents in 'Fier' (four zones) 18% strongly agree and 43% partly agree**

Figure 109 Girls/Women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves. Showing only: Strongly agree & Partly agree by respondents

*Information about violence against women and girls:* Almost all respondents had received information about violence against women and girls through TV, radio and friends. There were respondents who had received the information through school, social

media, family and printed media. A limited number of respondents had received the information through an NGO. Roma participants had almost no information about violence against women and girls and some of them did not even have a TV in their houses. Further, they thought that domestic violence is something personal, a private matter, not to be discussed.

*Reporting sexual harassment and violence:* One fourth of the respondents reported to have been at risk or exposed to

sexual harassment and violence before and after the age of 15. Most of these reported cases were caused by a stranger. 12 out of 50 respondents asked their families for help, their teacher and only one of them the police. The remaining respondents did not ask for help



**Only 12 out of 50 women in Fier urban area have asked for help**

Figure 110 Women who experienced cases of sexual harassment or violence and asked for help

mainly due to the lack of trust in the authorities or fear of being labelled. As in Tirana and Durres, victim blaming and feeling ashamed appears to be a prevalent issue. In some cases, women did not have clear information on where to ask for help.

Such findings which are also mentioned in focus groups, highlight the lack of trust women have in the police, mainly because of corruption reasons and nepotism. They claimed that sexual harassment episodes might even happen with police officers.

#### 4.4.1 THE FOUR URBAN ZONES

##### Safety of Neighborhoods

Nearly all of the respondents of Fier, frequent the urban zones of Fier mostly for living reason (57%), work (40%), education (12%) and entertainment related reasons (8%).

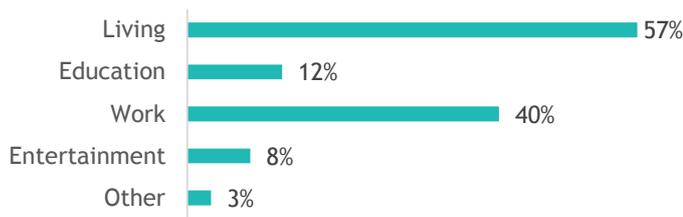


Figure 111. Reasons for frequenting this neighborhood.

In terms of safety of the neighborhood, when asked about their opinion on free spaces between buildings and streets in the city, only 19 percent think they are sufficient and 81 percent consider the free spaces as limited and almost no free space left.

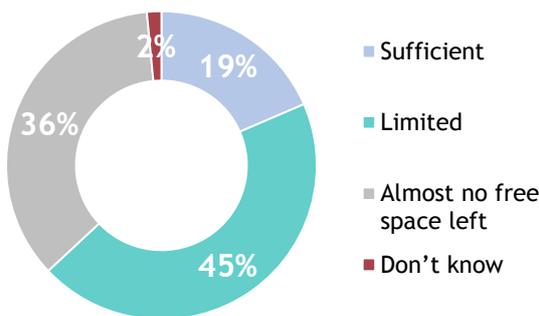


Figure 112. What do you think about free spaces between buildings and streets in this neighborhood?

In the context of lighting, the findings of the survey show that according to the 89 percent of the respondents the lighting conditions are very good or good in the streets, followed by 79 percent for the lighting in at the entrances of the stores and 69 percent at the entrances of the schools and kindergarten. What stands out are, the 67 percent of the respondents who state that lightening condition is poor or entirely lacking at the entrances of the homes and buildings and 56 percent thinks similarly for the lighting infrastructure at bus stations.

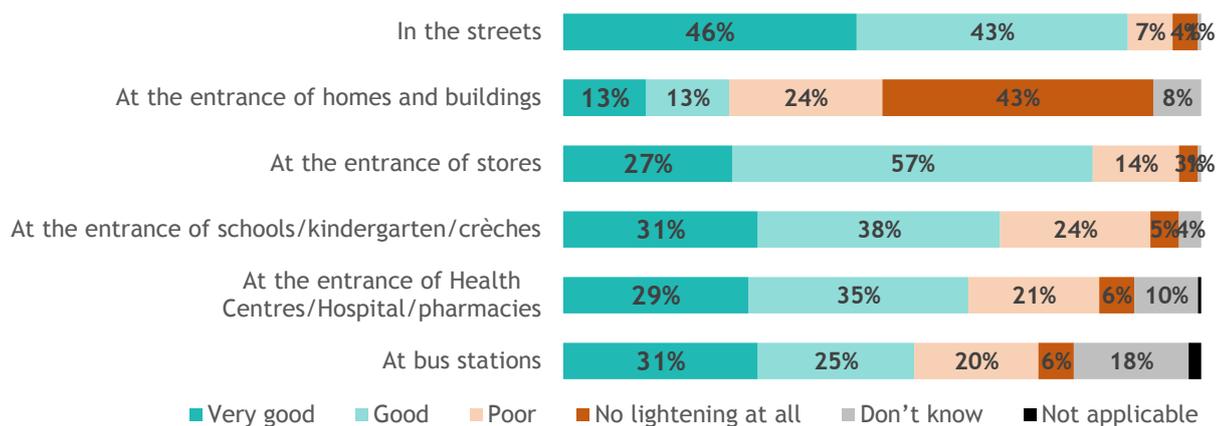


Figure 113. How is the lighting in this neighborhood?

When asked to provide some information about neighborhood, more than half of the respondents (59 percent) state that the lighting system is not distributed evenly nor managed properly. On a positive note, around two thirds actually perceive lighting to be working during evening and night hours. More than half perceive the Police as patrolling often

(53%), however another 40 percent claim the opposite. Police patrolling might be more frequent in some parts of urban Fier than in others.

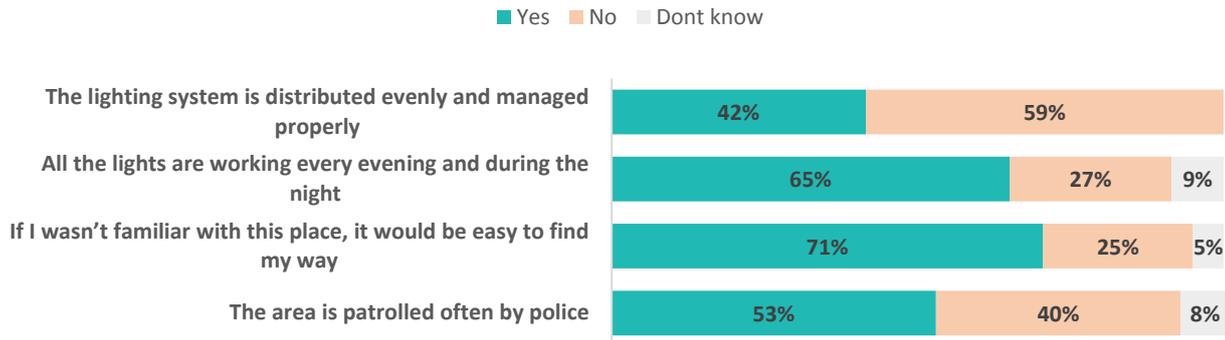
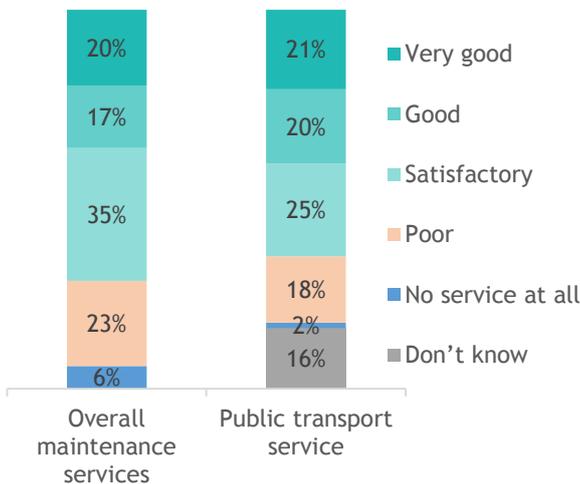


Figure 114. Provide some information about the following questions regarding this neighborhood.

On the evaluation of public services, findings indicate that 37% of the respondents have assessed the overall maintenance services as good and very good. In a similar way, 31% have evaluated the public transport service (21% as very good and 20% as good). A number of respondents also perceive those two matters as satisfactory resulting in only 26 percent and 20 percent who perceive those services as negative.



The data results below show that among factors affecting the personal safety of girls and women being alone (unaccompanied) and the simple fact of being a woman are most prevalent, as in the other municipalities in which this study was conducted (72% and 67% respectively). Meanwhile clothing or being of a certain age are also mentioned as factors that have an impact on personal safety (62% each). Interestingly respondents think that facts like sexual orientation or being of certain ethnicity and of a certain religion does not affect the personal safety in the neighborhood to a great extent.

Figure 115. Evaluation of Public Services in the Neighborhood

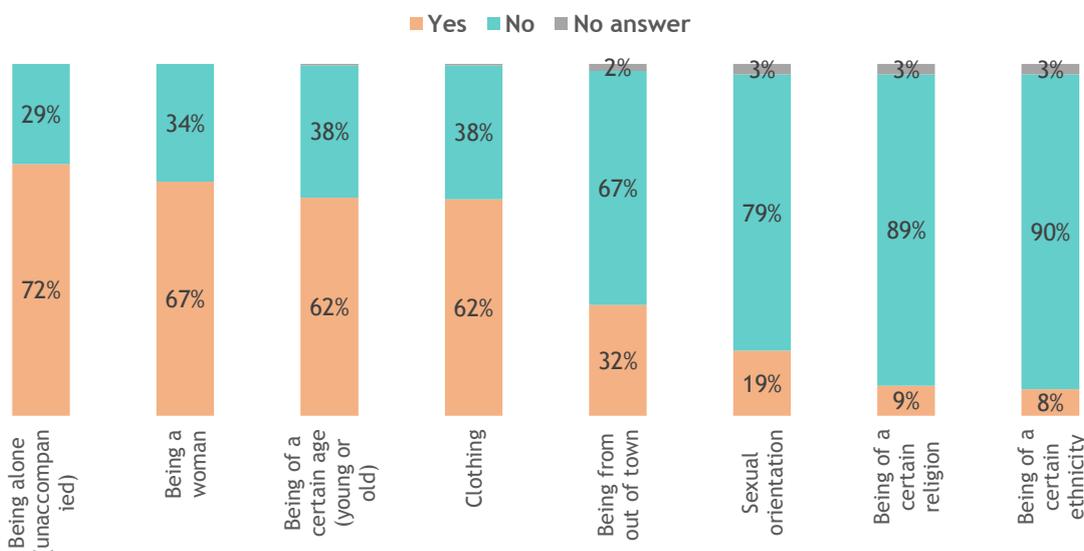
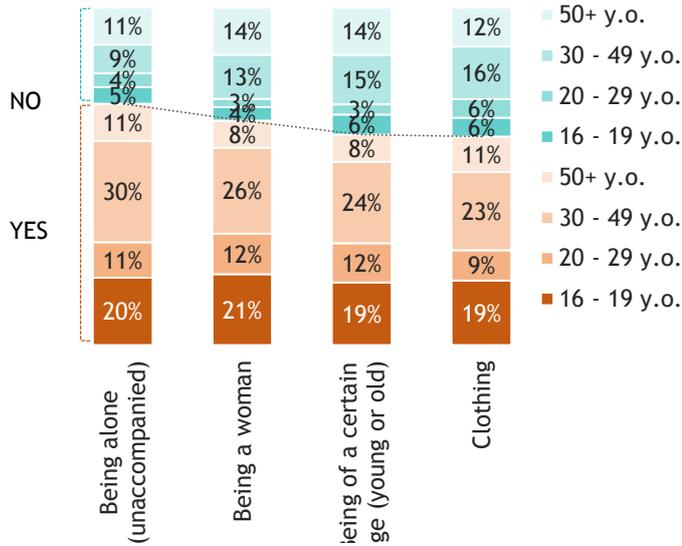


Figure 116. Do you think any of these factors affects your personal safety in this area?

**Personal Safety**



When looking at the most prevalent factors influencing personal safety disaggregated by age, it becomes apparent that younger girls and women feel more affected by those factors.

When asked about the likelihood of the incidents which may to happen to a woman or girl in urban Fier, findings show that forms of verbal sexual harassment are more likely to happen than physical harassment, as in the other municipalities. Sexual comments, suggestive staring and whistling or honking after a women or girl are mentioned nearly by nearly two out of three respondents. Following or deliberately blocking the path of someone, is reported as likely or very likely to happen by 36 and 32 percent of the respondents respectively. Significantly fewer report that physical or sexual violence is likely to happen.

Figure 117. Factors that affect personal safety in the area by age

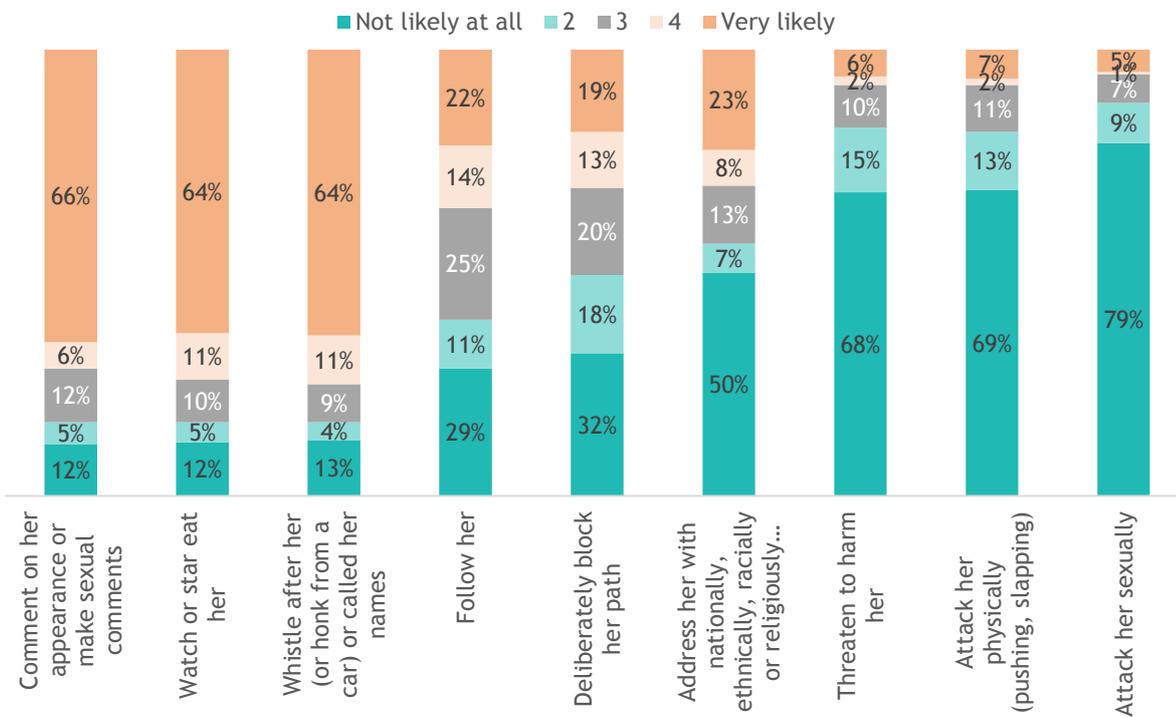


Figure 118. How likely are the following factors to make you feel unsafe in this neighborhood?

In terms of factors that contribute to the unsafe feeling in these neighborhoods, the great majority of the respondents (93 percent) consider men dealing with or taking alcohol or drugs as factor that makes them feel unsafe. In similar way respondents have answered regarding to groups of men hanging around (89%), poor lighting and the lack of visible police officers (66%), and obstacles on the road (62%). What can be considered as an interesting finding of this study is that 79 per cent state that street dogs contribute to the unsafe feeling more than a number of other factors.

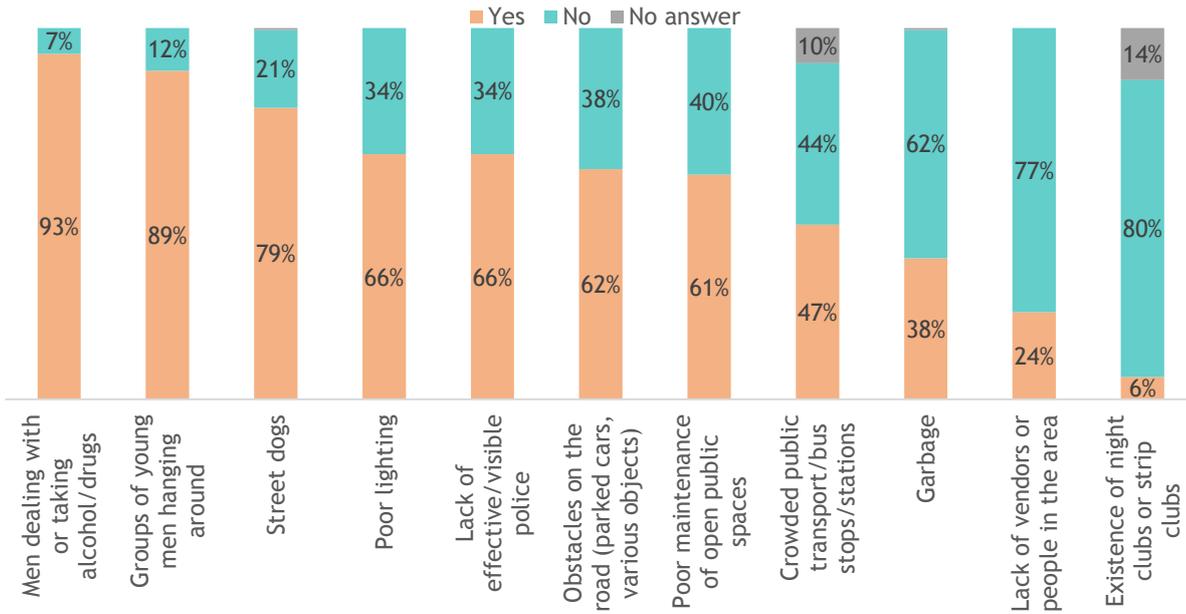


Figure 119. How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood?

### General Impression about Sexual Harassment and Violence

An astounding number of respondents (70%) claim that the most common reaction of the people witnessing incidents that may happen to a woman in this area is people will notice but will not react. Only 25 per cent of the respondents think that people witnessing such incidents will help (14%) or they will call for help (11%). This finding highlights the grave lack of social empathy and engagement in this part of society

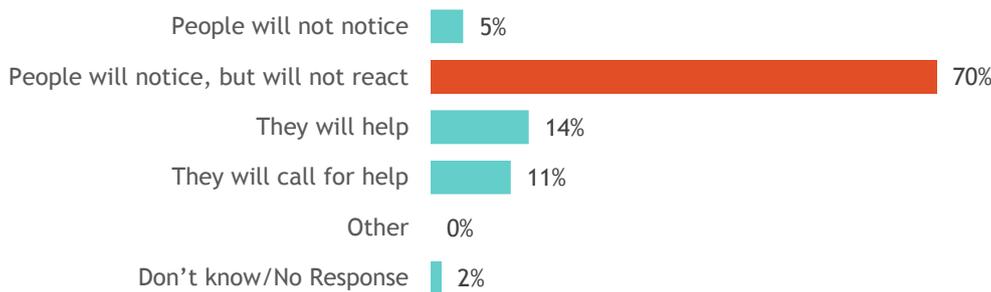


Figure 120. According to your opinion, what is the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that may happen to a woman in this area?

Date revealed another alarming finding in urban Fier, when respondents were presented with a series of statements on violence and were asked to either agree or disagree. Sixty-one percent either strongly or partly agreed that women who are sexually harassed or abused provoke it themselves. This finding in conjunction with the findings that one third agrees that violence should be kept private within the family, as well as 14 percent supporting the statement that women should put up with violence to keep the family together, indicate that victim blaming and stigma of being a victim of such incidents are serious issues in the municipality of Fier. Furthermore, a startling number of 91 percent agree that men are violent by nature.

Which is your opinion about the following statements on violence?

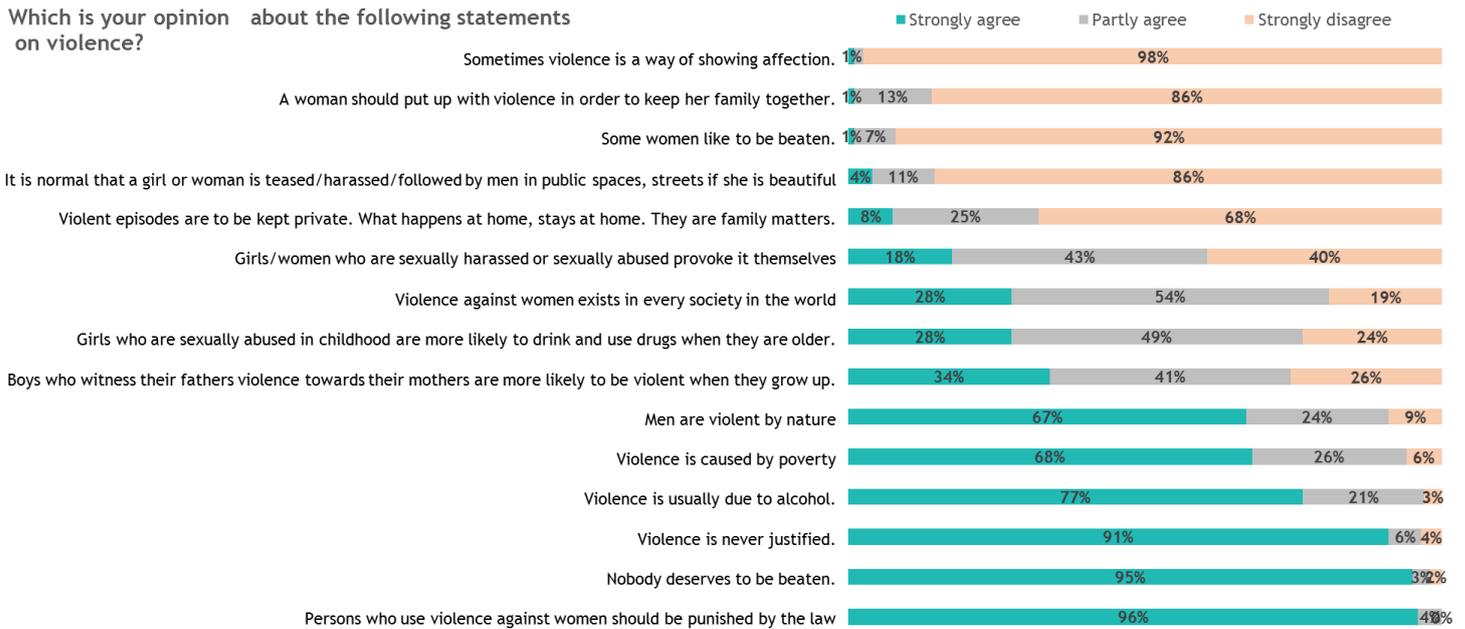


Figure 121. Which is your opinion about the following statements on violence?

Findings indicate that almost all the respondents (94%) have received information about forms of violence against women through TV/radio, 83% through friends, 78% through parents and relatives. Only 35 percent have received information through a non-profit organization, which may be explained through the fact that there is currently only one social NGO operating in Fier, portraying a picture of an ill-developed civil society.

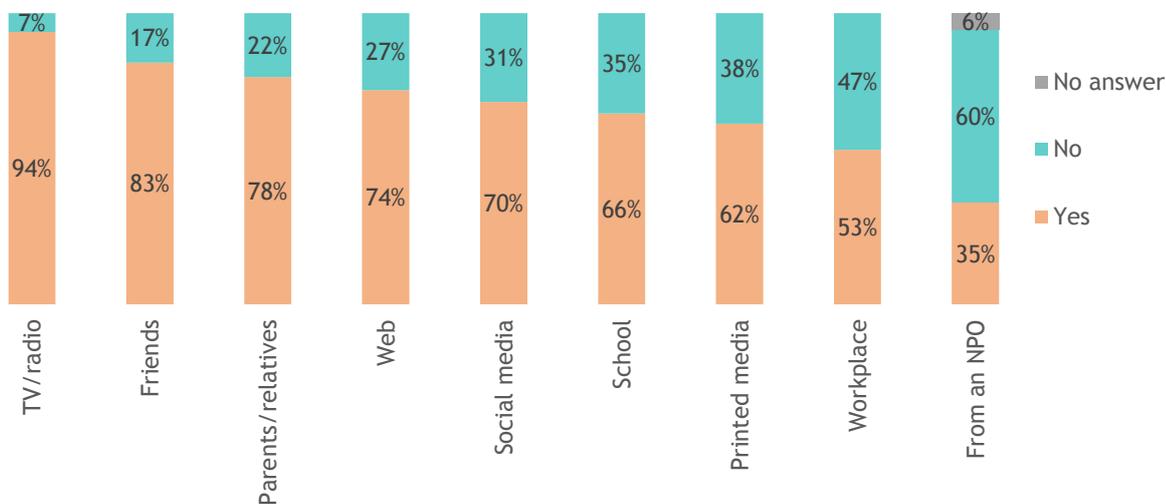


Figure 122. Have you ever received information about any form of violence against women and girls through?

As shown in the figures below, almost half of the respondents (49%) declare that violent episodes happening in urban Fier, are usually verbal. However, 36% of the respondents answered that both forms of violent episodes, verbal and physical, are common. The majority have answered that girls are the group of individuals that are most prone to be in danger (80%).

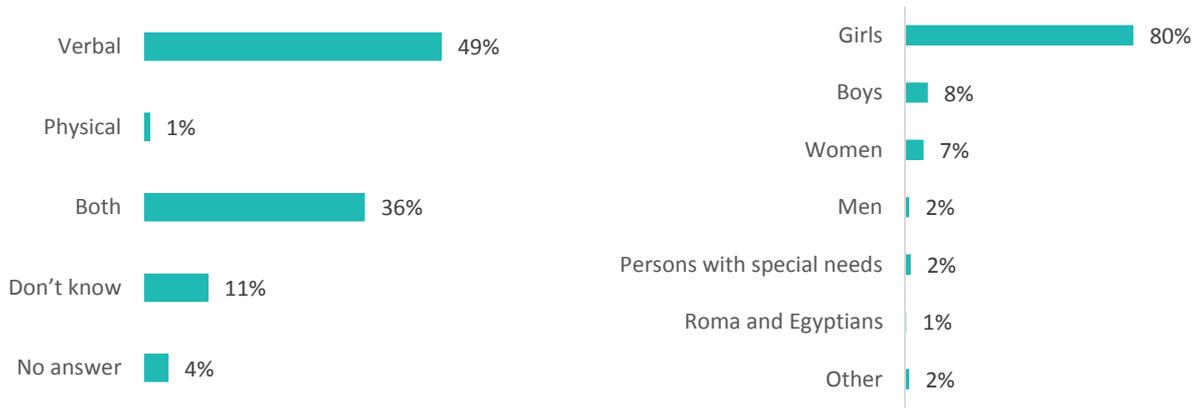


Figure 123. Which kind of violence happening in this area are usually more common(left) and which groups of individuals are more in danger in this neighborhood (right)

A total number of 50 respondents of Fier have been at risk or have been exposed to sexual harassment or violence before or after the age of 15. Most common are sexual harassment after the age of 15 (25%), however also 15 percent has experienced it before the age of 15. Sexual violence is only mentioned by two percent of the respondents. The majority reports that the perpetrators have been strangers, what however stands out is that 14 percent mention that these incidents have happened at school.

Nearly one third mention to have a family member or a friend that has been subject to sexual harassment and five percent of them have a friend or family that has been subject of sexual violence.

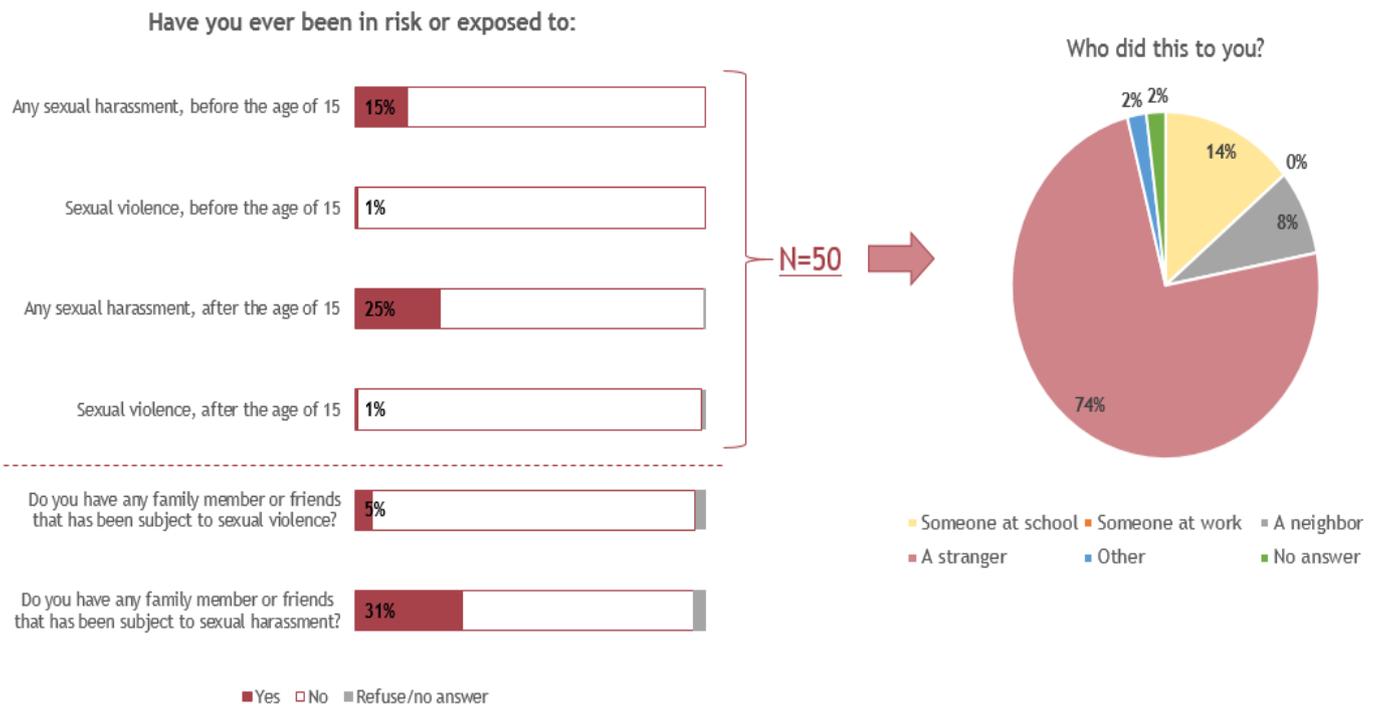


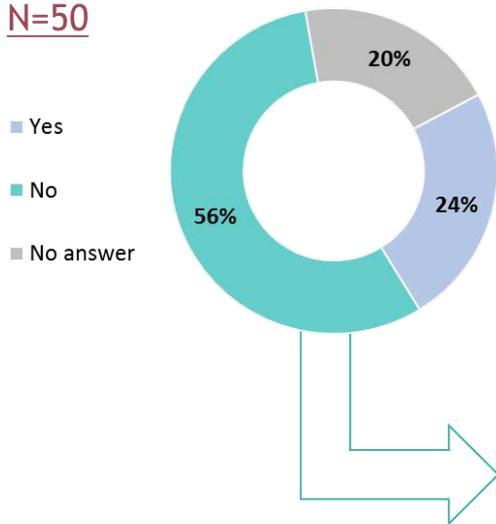
Figure 124 Have you ever been exposed to... (left) & Who did this to you? (right)

More than half of the respondents who have been at risk or exposed to sexual harassment or violence declared that they did not ask for help due to the lack of trust in getting the appropriate help or didn't have information where to go asking for help. Another 29 per cent of these respondents have chosen not to ask help because of the fear of being labelled. Whilst this is certainly a problematic finding, compared to other municipalities, this displays the lowest number of respondents who did not ask for help.

The other 24 percent who chose to ask for help turned to their families (9 cases), to their teacher (2 cases) and to police (1 case). All of these 12 cases were provided with assistance.

### Have you ever asked for help related to that?

N=50



#### If yes, where exactly

|               | Number of cases |
|---------------|-----------------|
| To my family  | 9               |
| To my teacher | 2               |
| To the police | 1               |

#### How did they react?

**ALL CASES**  
they provided  
assistance

#### If No, why?

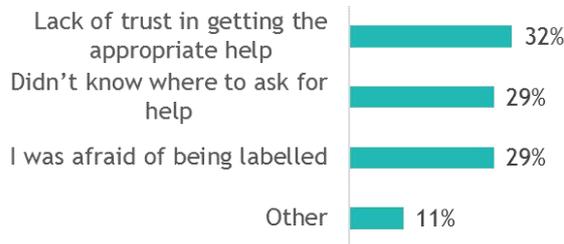


Figure 125. Asking for help

When asked how inhabitants of Fier would react in case of experiencing verbal street harassment, the majority stated that nothing would be done, 29 percent would turn to their family for help and another 25 percent who would report it to the Police. In the case of physical or sexual attacks, 83 percent would report it to the police. The difference in their reaction can also be seen in terms of asking someone for help, more people would also ask for help or confront the perpetrator in regard to this kind of incident. The low number who would report to a helpline or service may point toward a lack of knowledge and the lack of existence of such specialist services in Fier.

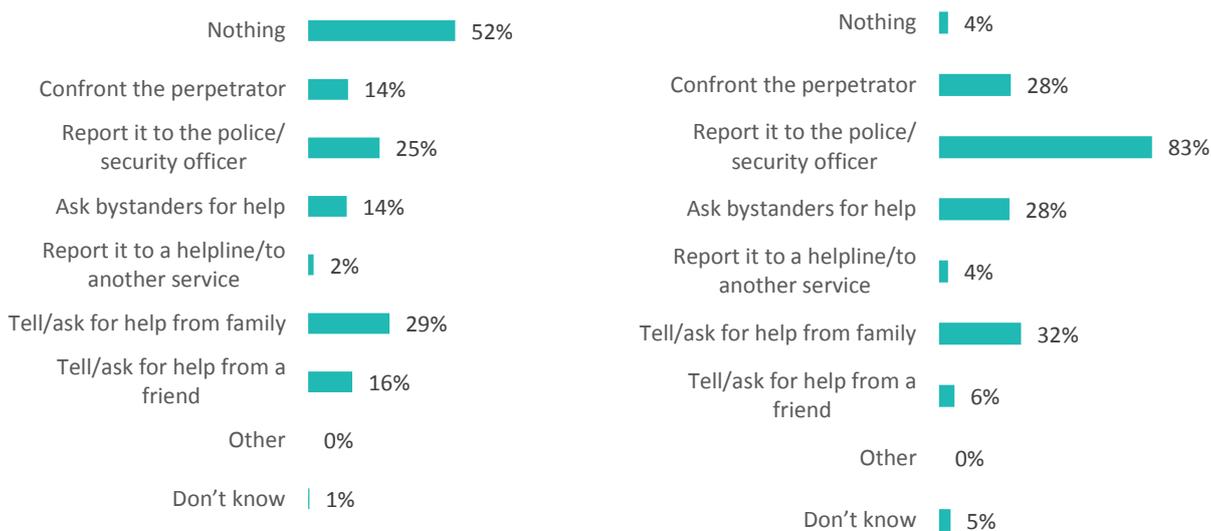
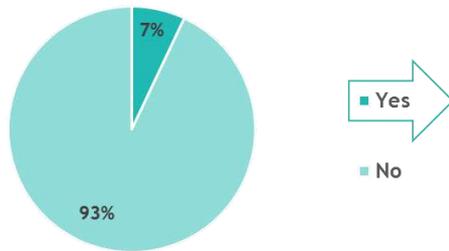


Figure 126 Reactions when witnessing verbal harassment (left) and physical or sexual attacks (right)

Only seven percent of the respondents in Fier state to know a woman who has reported a case of harassment to the Police or another institution. Verbal and sexual harassment were the most common nature of these incidents. Police responses appear to have varied, however, eight cases declared to not know how the Police reacted indicating that this may be a topic that is not discussed openly.

**Do you know a woman who was harassed on the street and reported an incident (to the police, NGO ect)?**



**What was the nature of the incident?**



**What was the police response?**

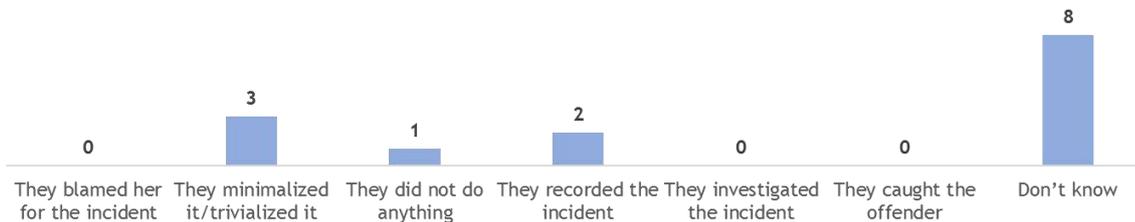


Figure 127. Incidences reporting

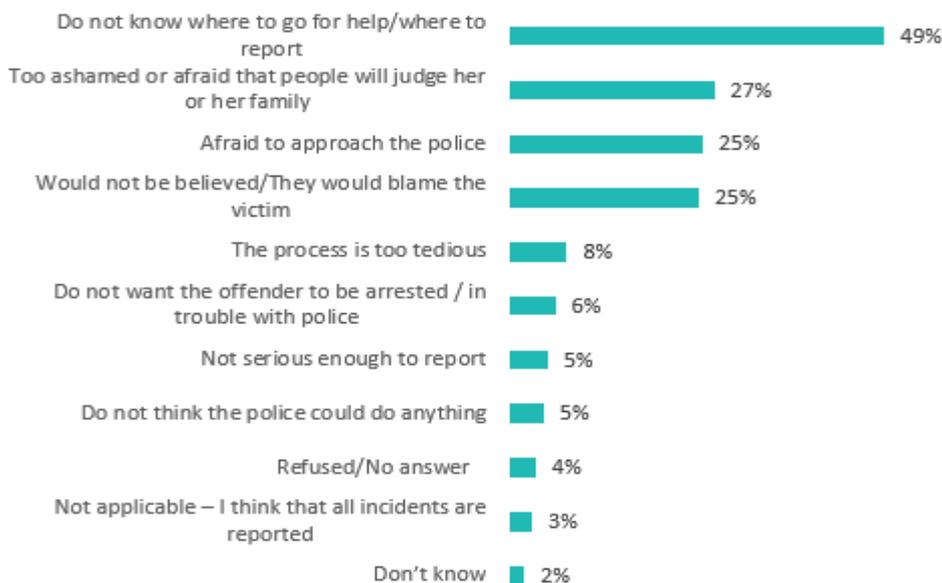


Figure 128 Why many women do not report cases of violence to the police?

Nearly half of the respondents declared that the most common reason why women do not report incidents, is the lack of knowledge where to get help. Around one in four respondents also mention the fear of being judged, being afraid to approach the police as well as the fear of victim blaming. These findings are in line with the results from the other two municipalities and highlight the importance of addressing phenomena such as victim blaming and stigma of women who fall victim to sexual harassment or violence.

## 4.4.2 QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

### 4.4.2.1 Focus Groups

The findings of the focus groups conducted in the city of Fier corroborate the findings of the quantitative study regarding the lack of infrastructure and street lighting or an insufficient number of public spaces.

Non-Roma Women and girls as well as Roma women and girls are afraid to go outside unaccompanied at night. They usually go outside with their husbands and none of them feel comfortable to make use of Taxis. Most of the daily life of

Roma participants consist of going to work at the market and returning home around 2 o'clock PM and remain inside after that.

---

*“I never go out alone. I always take my husband with me. “  
-female Roma participant, Fier.*

---

Female participants feel unsafe due to presence of groups of boys that consume marijuana in the neighborhood or at the entrance of their buildings. The majority of the bars in Fier are dominated by the male clientele and participants consider this a factor that contributes to the unsafe feeling when walking in the neighborhood. The majority of the participants, including Roma women, declared that they have never frequented a bar alone.

---

*“The sidewalks are occupied and we have to walk among the chairs where men are sitting.”  
-Female participant, Fier*

---

An issue which seems to stand out in Fier is the large number of abandoned buildings or stalled construction sites which foster environments where sexual harassments and violence are more prone to happen.

---

*“In my neighborhood called Ekonomia, near to our buildings, there is a construction site that is unfinished since five years. A lot of things are happening there. “  
-Female participant, Fier*

---

Roma participants in need of help turn most commonly to the leader of their local community. Approaching the Police for help or reporting incidents was only mentioned as an option in aggravated situations.

Female participants express that the most widespread forms of sexual harassment are sexual comments, unlikely Roma participants who stated that this is not an issue in their neighborhood.

Furthermore, female participants perceive that being a non-resident of Fier or being in poor economic conditions is a predisposition for sexual harassment.

---

*, “An unprotected[poor] woman that has no support is more likely to be harassed. Someone that has money and power is not harassed. “  
-Female participant, Fier*

---

Interestingly, when comparing findings between the group of female participants and Roma participants, it can be observed that in regard to most topics and issue the opinions are alike. This is apart from Roma women participants who were reporting that they had solely received information on domestic violence but not about any other forms of GBV or GBD by any kind of stakeholder.

Participants of the focus groups propose the following recommendations:

- Improve lighting conditions and expansion of public spaces.
- Taking measures for abandoned buildings and stalled construction sites
- Improve the public transportation system
- Setting up more parks and playgrounds for children

- Roma participant highlighted that there is a dire need for more job opportunities and housing as well as general improvement of the infrastructure.

#### 4.4.2.2 *Semi Structured Interviews*

From the qualitative information received from Stakeholder Interviews in Fier, the following information and most prevalent issues were broad forward:

##### **General assessment of municipality/neighborhoods & Exploration of prevalent safety and security issues**

Regarding to the municipal stakeholders the general living standard has improved in Fier, however not to a great extent for the low incomes families. Poverty remains a pressing issue and most of the cases of domestic violence are reported to come from low income families. There is a lack of possibilities for employment and single women often do not feel safe. Moreover, the lack of a shelter and a functioning support system for women who fell victim to violence is highly problematic.

On the other hand, increased Police patrolling as well as improvements in the public transport system in the past three years have had a positive effect on urban Fier.

##### **Exploration of prevalent issues in regard to GBV and GBD**

Some of the municipal stakeholders insisted that the only form of displayed violence in Fier, is domestic violence. Even though awareness has been raised, there are still a lot of cases of domestic violence which are not reported. Many women and girls don't have information about the institutions that may help them.

Conversely, regarding to other municipal stakeholders and the only NGO active in Fier, there seems to be indeed an issue with GBV and GBD in Fier. Those stakeholders agree on domestic violence being a big issue, however also pointed out that this is not the only form of GBV which is experienced in Fier; the most displayed form of GBV and GBD is physical and psychological violence as well as street harassments.

There are no police stations and health centers that can be easily reached within urban Fier. The Police stations do not offer a psychological service or support. A big issue is that GBV is a phenomenon that is kept secret in Fier.

##### **Existing plans, initiatives, policies in municipality/neighborhoods**

According to municipal stakeholders, the social services cooperate with the Police and sometimes exchange information and documentation related to cases of GBV. Moreover, in urgent cases the municipality helps with housing in Vlora or Tirana. Fier also exchanges experience with the municipalities of Patos and Roskovec regarding cases of GBV.

Improvement of infrastructure and street lighting are planned in the near future. A consulting plan was developed, for paying the expanses of protection orders and assisting personnel who direct those victims to respective responsible offices.

The only NGO stakeholder pointed out that last year a project funded by the UN women, allocated a special fund to Fier Municipality to be used on cases of violated women. This project is lacking follow up activities and should be followed up prior to making new plans based on the recommendation of this study.

##### **Recommendation of Possible Improvements**

The following recommendation for improvements were put forward from Municipal and NGO Stakeholders;

- Improvement of the infrastructure and the street lighting in secondary roads
- Public transport improvements
- Security camera installments
- Raising awareness about GBV and GBD to remove the stigma of these kinds of topics
- Establishment of a shelter for victims
- Providing supportive service for victims
- Providing psychological service for victims

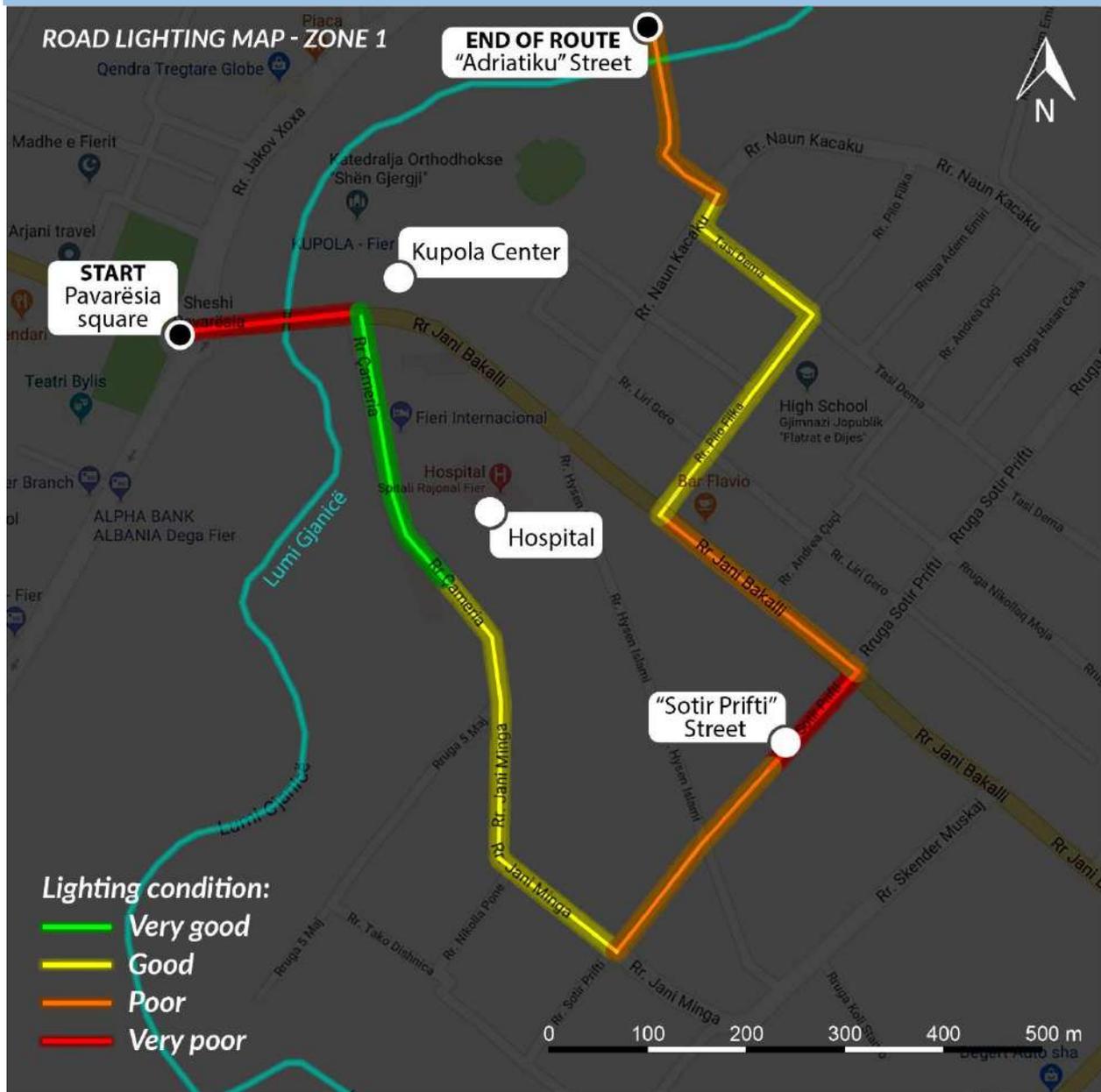
#### 4.4.2.3 Safety Walk

Based on the findings from the Safety Walk in Fier, nearly all of the participants shared the same reactions about the studied neighborhoods. They report to have observed major differences between the area next to the Train Station and the “Kastriot Muca” neighborhood in terms of street conditions, lighting and safety.

Streets are well maintained, clean, and have sufficient street lights in the “Kastriot Muca” area. On the contrary, the area near the Train Station provides shocking first impressions, and has a serious lack of street lights and is not well maintained. In however both cases, the participants felt fairly safe walking in areas which were frequented by a high number of people. However, there were many corners and building entrances observed which had no lighting which made them feel unsafe. Further, the areas have a lot of bars frequented by men only, who occasionally stand by the street and have the tendency to stare and flirt.

Such findings highlight common fears which women experience while walking down the streets. A lack of street signs in both areas was observed, as well as a lack of police presence during the night. The nearest police station is one hour away from these locations.

#### 4.4.2.4 Structured Observation



Structured Observation in Fier, Zone 1

The above displayed structured observation in Zone 1 of Fier took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. It started at Pavaresia square and ended at "Adriatiku" street. The first walk took place during the day at 9:00am and the second one in the evening at 10:00pm. The most problematic areas appear to be the red and orange segments in "Jani Bakalli" and "Sotir Prifti" streets. The first one, despite it being a main road and being frequented by many inhabitants, a complete absence of street lights was noted. The lack of lighting made it very difficult to obtain clear overview of the surrounding areas and identifying a person's face from far.

"Sotir Prifti" street ends in a stairway which is surrounded by walls and bushes in complete darkness which makes it easy for someone to hide without being seen. "Jan Minga" street was the one with the highest number of hidden corners and dangerous segments.



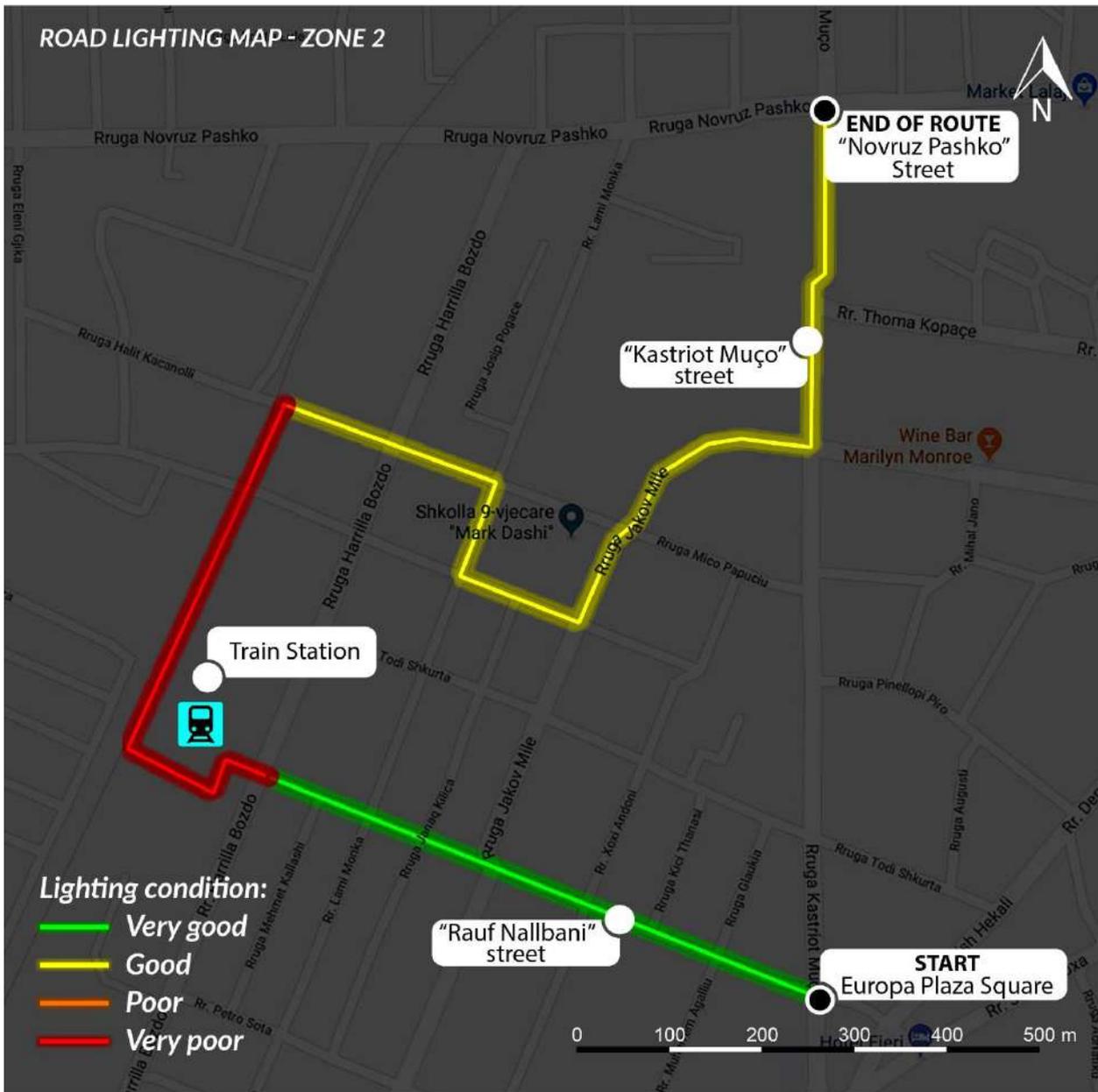
*Abandoned building construction in "Jani Minga" alley*



*Dark Alleys in "Jani Minga" street*



*Stalled construction site in "Sotir Prifti" street*



Structured Observation in Fier, Zone 2

The above displayed structured observation in Zone 2 took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. It started at Europa Plaza square and ended at "Novruz Pashko" street. The first walk took place during the evening at 6:00pm and the second one at 9:00pm. The general conditions of this area can be divided in three zones; the green part which was the best maintained and lighted segment, the red one which was the most unsafe, dangerous and dark segment, and the yellow segment with satisfactory conditions. In detail, the green segment shown in the map, "Rauf Nallbani" street, was the one with the best infrastructure, the most frequented zone with many people circulating during the afternoon. Following this road, starting from the train station and along the train tracks behind the most problematic area was observed which created a very unsafe feeling. The area was filled with bushes which made it very easy for someone to hide.

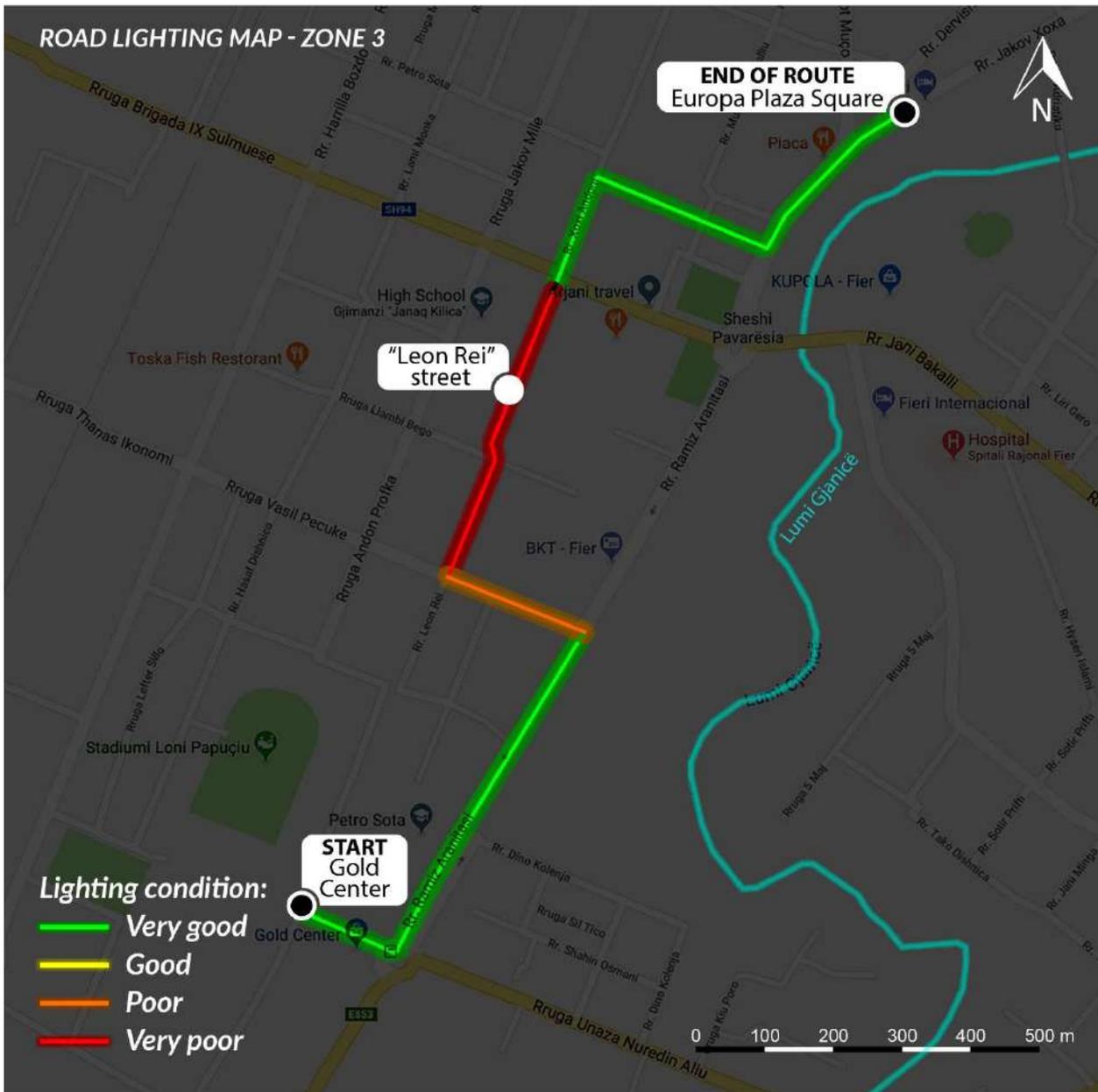


*"Rauf Nallbani" street*



*Train Tracks Area*





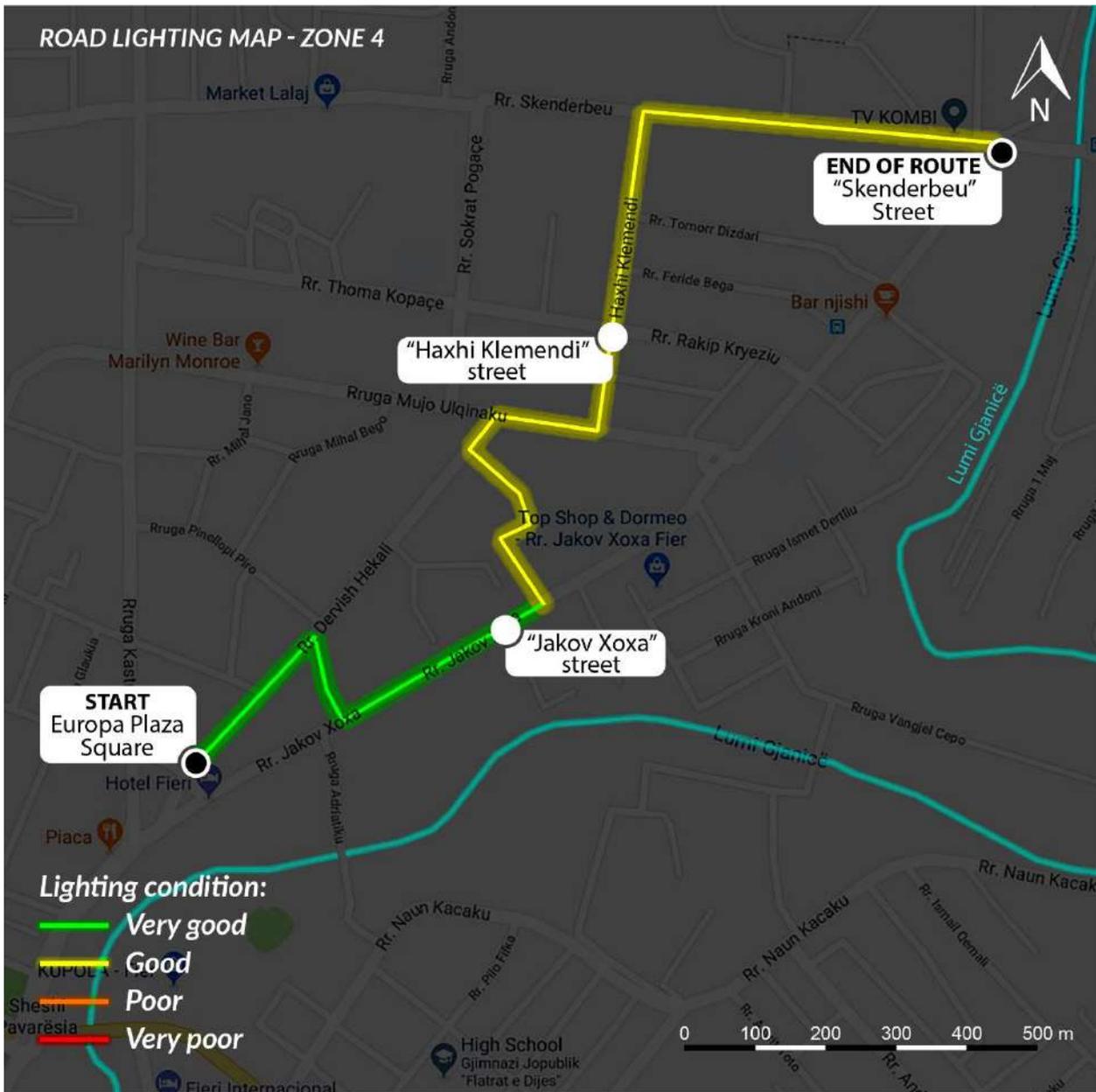
Structured Observation in Fier, Zone 3

The above Structured observation in Zone 3 took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June. It started at Gold center and ended at Europa Plaza square. The first observation took place during the day at 5:00pm and the second in the evening at 11:00pm. The results of the observation showed that "Ramiz Arانيتasi" street was characterized by a lack of infrastructure maintenance, damaged and dirty sidewalks. The most dangerous street in this area appears to be "Leon Rei" which by night was completely dark.



*“Ramiz Aranitasi” street (above) Leon Rai Street (below)*





Structured observation in Fier, Zone 4

The above Structured observation took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. It started at Europa Plaza square and ended at "Skenderbeu" street. The first walk took place during the day at 10:00am and the second one in the evening at 8:00pm. In this area a large number of people were circulating in both main and secondary streets during morning and evening alike. In general, it can be described as safe, well maintained with good infrastructure and evenly lighted.



*"Jakov Xoxa" street*

#### 4.4.3 RECOMMENDATION SPECIFIC FOR FIER

- The Municipality of Fier must consider the results of this study in all actions that will undertake to improve the infrastructure or maintenance of these public spaces, as well as of Fier in general.
- A specific roundtable can be organized with the presence of different stakeholders to make visible the findings from this survey, as well as to request their support for improvement women's and girls' safety in Fier.
- Urgent intervention is needed to improve lighting system as well as to ensure that the lighting system is managed properly during the entire year. Intervention is some streets such as in: "Train" station, "Rauf Nallbani" street, "Leon Rei" street, "Ramiz Aranitasi" street, "Pavarësia" square, "Sotir Prifti" street, "Jani Bakalli" street, as well as of "Jani Minga" street are needed to be prioritized.
- Since the municipality of Fier is the main responsible institution at local level to coordinate the referral mechanism against DV, it should take all measures to ensure the effectiveness of such system. In the meantime, it should require from police to increase the level of controls and patrolling in all neighborhoods of the city and not simply in main ones. These patrolling must be with high frequencies especially during evening and late hours in night. In addition, protection of the personal data when reporting cases of sexual harassment or violence can be required from police, as well as from other members of the referral mechanism.
- Data and statistics on cases of sexual harassment and violence must be recorded as part of data and statistics of other forms of VAWG.
- Municipality of Fier must take all needed measures to allocate and/or ensure the budget for capacity building activities focused especially on local administrators of all administrative units. These capacity building activities must have a very strong focus on sexual harassment and sexual violence as well as on identification, referral and recording of such cases from them. Particular attention should be paid on avoiding gender stereotypes and victims' prejudices.
- All state institutions, especially the ones of education, health and social services must be equipped with camera which can monitor the incidence of public spaces happening inside (especially in case of schools) as well as around them.
- Information on existing services as well as their contact numbers must be spread all over the city, especially in bus stations, health clinics and schools.
- Municipality must take all needed measures also to ensure the specialist services which are still missing (i.e. emergency sheltering) for the treatment of cases of VAWG and DV, including cases of sexual harassment and violence.
- Specific measures must be taken also to create more job opportunities and housing for Roma community as well as general improvement of the infrastructure of their neighborhoods.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Sexual harassment and sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces is a widespread phenomenon which is manifested in different levels, from sexual remarks and unappreciated physical contact (touching) to more life threatening or serious manifestations, such as rape and femicide. Findings of this study reveal that it takes place in streets, in and around public transportation, schools and workplaces, public toilets, parks, etc. Findings from this scoping study in three Municipalities of Albania (respectively in municipalities of Tirana, Durrës and Fier) highlight that, as in other countries, Albanian women and girls are not safe in public spaces. They can be victims of different forms of sexual harassment and sexual violence happening almost everywhere in public spaces. Although with different frequencies, they vary mainly from infrastructure and maintenance conditions of these public spaces, but also from other personal factors, mainly of them rooted in old traditional and patriarchal mentality and on gender harmful stereotypes and practices that position differently women and men in society and that justify violent behavior.

Some of the main causes, which lead to this perception of lack of safety in public spaces among women and girls listed in the three municipalities relate to limited spaces between buildings and streets, crowded traffic, poor public transport services, insufficient lights in streets and/or in front of the houses especially during the evening and nights, existence of unlighted and not monitored alleys, or undergrounds, lack of safeguards from police patrolling, groups of men and boys using alcohol and drugs, poor general maintenance of different cities' areas, personal factors related with gender, age, ethnicity or sexual orientation, clothing, walking alone especially during evening or late hours in night, working in specific places such as in bars, casinos, sports bets, etc.

While discussion on some forms of violence especially violence against women and girls in family relations (or domestic violence) is transformed in a public discussion, the situation is not the same for other forms of violence against women and girls, including particularly for sexual harassment and violence. Although considered as crime in Albanian legislation, these forms of violence seem to continue not to be discussed and considered mainly as "taboo" or "private matters". As such, the level of awareness on the protection and existing responsible institutions where these cases can be reported and addressed seems to be very low, or almost inexistent for a majority of respondents, who do not trust the police authorities or other institutions and who prefer to discuss and/or address such cases only with family, relatives or friends.

Lack of information about- and poor interest in treatment of cases of sexual harassment and sexual violence seem to be identified also according to members of the referral mechanisms dealing with cases of domestic violence, existing in the three selected municipalities. In contrast with the situations of some forms of domestic violence cases (especially of physical violence), their reaction on addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence taking place in public spaces is slow, while the discussion and treatment of sexual violence between spouses or marital rape, seems to be almost inexistent especially between some professionals in some municipalities.

Poor information on the existing NGOs dealing with issues of VAWG and DV, the services they provide and their contacts, is identified in the three municipalities, despite the fact that the number of such NGOs is higher in Tirana.

Lack of trust in professionals and different state institutions, as well as low level of reporting of such cases mainly because of institutional' poor performance and low level of institutional efficiency is also noted from the majority of respondents and participants in this study.

### 5.1 General Recommendations and Most Important Issues

- ***Increase public awareness and education.*** There is an emergent need to undertake specific awareness activities focused on different forms of violence, especially on sexual harassment and sexual violence, and to increase public perception and attitude towards them. The cultural belief of victim's responsibility or the attitude of blaming women for what happen to them, must be challenged with concrete educational programs and with specific actions of protection and support of sexual harassment and sexual violence cases, as well as of the gender based violence and discrimination cases in general. These awareness activities and campaigns must be

organized from municipalities and other members of the referral mechanisms (such as police, health, judiciary, employment, education, etc.) in close collaboration with specialized NGOs and other interested stakeholders such as international organizations interested in these issues. Good coordination and share of resources lead to effective campaigns, which should last during the entire year and should be extended in years (and not being organized simply on specific days i.e. “16 Days of activism against VAWG”). Information on sexual harassment and sexual violence of women and girls in public spaces must also be part of the additional information and extra-curricular hours planned in elementary and high schools, in order to allow girls and boys to be familiar with these concepts and the ways of protection. This information can be provided by combining efforts and collaboration of the Educational Department with Albanian State Police, specialized NGOs etc. men and boys must be considered as partners and allies in these awareness activities (and not simply as perpetrators!).

- **Improve the general conditions and cities’ infrastructure.** The three municipalities involved in this study must take immediate measures to improve the overall conditions and maintenance of their cities. Lighting system must be installed in all primary and secondary streets and in all neighborhoods (and not simply in city’ center or in the main streets). Particular attention must be paid to light alleys, houses’ entrances, bus stations, entrances of schools, kindergartens, hospitals, health centers, etc. Light must be working during the evening and entire night and must be managed properly. The installment of specific signs and maps that show key institutions or main directions in each neighborhood, the timetables of buses in each bus station, etc., are also very important. Public spaces must be kept clean and specific measures must be undertaken also to avoid street dogs (they must be vaccinated, collected in specific animals’ care centers, etc. Dangerous corners, high bushes, stalled construction sites and abandoned houses must be removed (or very well-lit and cleaned).
- **Plan and budget for safe and gender responsible public services.** Municipalities must commit to, plan and budget for accessible, affordable and gender-sensitive public services including access to street lighting, sensitive policing, public transport, housing, etc. They must support also the existing services to prevent and redress violence against women in private and public spaces, and try to establish new ones. Policing should be sensitive, efficient and recognize the different levels of sexual violence facing women and girls in public and urban spaces. Public service providers must establish accessible and safe complaint and accountability mechanisms and means of redress for public services and service providers that violate rights of women and girls. They must involve women and girls in assessing how public services could be better delivered to vulnerable communities: how public transport, public sanitation and streets could be made safe for women, how police and court systems could be made sensitive and accessible to women, etc. This can be achieved by hearing women’s and community voices through participatory planning processes, as well as through correct implementation of the needed standards related to different services. Implementation of the existing legislation and of specific recommendations for its improvement also influences on increasing women’s safety and their protection from violence. In those municipalities where Gender Action Plans exists (respectively in Tirana and Durres), efforts should be focused on budgeting for the implementation of all actions foreseen in such direction, as presented specifically in objectives of these plans.
- **Assess, monitor, evaluate and plan concrete interventions to improve the safety of urban spaces.** All initiatives planned to intervene in a specific neighborhood for improving different conditions, must be based also on the perception and information provided from the women, girls, men and boys of different ages (and with different other characteristics) who may live or frequent this neighborhood for different reasons. The repetition of such study in all cities of Albania is needed in order to facilitate the municipalities future interventions. In addition, monitoring and evaluation of the interventions realized is also extremely important. Frequently meetings and observation missions to monitor and evaluate the investments made and the perception of the people for the safety of such spaces, must be undertaken on a regular basis. Results from these monitoring and evaluation missions as well as from specific perception studies must always guide additional interventions in these spaces to make them safer, new interventions in other spaces, as well as the process for making citizen’s services more effective and responsive.

- **Improve the capacity and skills of different professionals**, especially of the ones who are members of the referral mechanisms at local level (specifically Local Coordinators appointed from the municipalities, police officers, representatives of the social services, education, health etc.). One of the responsibilities of the municipalities who lead the referral mechanism at local level, is to identify and address the need of referral mechanisms 'members for different trainings and capacity building activities. These identified needs are usually addressed to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP), Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA) or to different donors who have supported (or are supporting) the establishment of referral mechanisms or the improvement of their effectiveness.

So far, in the three cities where this study was conducted (Tirana, Durres and Fier) the members of the referral mechanisms have received different trainings based on their requests. Following this model, in the upcoming trainings, the municipalities may request to MoHSP and ASPA to include specific trainings focused on sexual harassment and sexual violence in general, including cases that might happen in streets and public areas. (So far, police officers in some cities have received trainings on sexual harassment and sexual violence, with support of UN Women and ICITAP – similar trainings must be provided for other members of the referral mechanisms, without avoiding joined trainings of all members on how to proceed with cases of sexual harassment and sexual violence in a multi-disciplinary way.)

Overall, the improvement of the level of professionalism and skills of different professionals to deal with cases of sexual harassment and sexual violence through regular and unified capacity building activities is a necessity. This will lead to the increase of their effectiveness dealing with such cases in a multi-disciplinary way (i.e. as part of the referral mechanisms) but will also influence on building public trust in such institutions and as a result in increasing the level of reporting of violent behaviors and incidents. These capacity building activities are also part of Gender Action Plan recently approved in the Municipality of Tirana and Municipality of Durres. They can easily be introduced also as part of the training modules for different professionals which are planned to be prepared by MoHSP in close collaboration with ASPA, as part of the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020 (in both strategic aims 3 and 4 focused on VAWG and DV as well as on gender machinery and empowerment of gender equality employees in the country).

When provided from different NGOs, courses must be accredited from respective state structures and in collaboration with Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA). In addition, training on sexual harassment and sexual violence may be included as part of continuous training curricula in the Academy of Police and the responsible institution for continuous training of judges and prosecutors. Lastly, training and capacity building activities of different professional must be planned also as part of the new steps that the GoA is expected to undertake for addressing the needs of victims of sexual violence through the establishment of specific services for them (as requested also from GREVIO). The provision of such training is a necessity before the implementation of the needed services.

- **Improve the exposing data – collection systems**. Municipalities and other local government institutions must systematically collect data on sexual harassment and sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces as well as in family relations or at work. The existing data-base systems (i.e. data-base system of police, the one of municipalities for registering the DV cases – REVALB, data-bases of NGOs etc.) must be updated and enriched with new options to collect such kind of information and to easily extract it when needed. Making evident only the number of cases is not enough – specific information on type of violence, kind of support and services provided, institutions and organizations involved in solving the case, victim' needs and possible ways to support it, etc., must all be part of the same systems.

- **Build a vision of safe cities for women and girls.** Law enforcement agencies must implement existing laws on crimes such as sexual harassment and sexual violence and must allocate adequate resources to investigate and prosecute perpetrators. Educational programs and awareness campaigns must lead to increased level of professionals ready to support cases by challenging the gender harmful practices and old traditional mentality which blame women and justify men's violent behavior. Municipalities must commit to and enter into constructive dialogue with women's groups and advocates for safe cities for women to establish common visions of a city that is safe for women, by counting also on opinion and requests arriving from women and girls of different groups. Safety audits, safety walks and other participatory action research methods to generate data on specific areas of the city considered unsafe by women, must be taken prior to any intervention and their results must guide next steps towards building safe cities for women and girls.

## ANNEXES

### QUANTITATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

## Sexual Harassment and other forms of Gender Based violence in Urban Spaces in Albania– Questionnaire

Questionnaire Serial number

C.1 Area/Zone:

C.2 Municipality:

C.3 Region:

C.4 Exact address of the site:

C.5 Date of interview:     /     / 2018

Interviewing starting time:     Ending time: \_\_\_:\_\_\_     Interview lasted: \_\_\_\_\_ *min.*

Name of Interviewer

ID (interviewer):

### INTERVIEWER: READ THE FOLLOWING:

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is..... and I work for IDRA a research company. We are conducting a survey with women and girls in this neighborhood to learn how safe do people feel in this area, and which are some key issues to be improved for living in a safe neighborhood, especially when we speak for sexual harassment and violence. We are gathering the opinion of women and girls of different ages, education, employment status, etc. who live or spend a part of their day here in this neighborhood (to work, to get needed services, etc.). You have been chosen by chance to participate in the study. We want to assure you that all of your answers will be kept strictly secret. There will not be keeping any record of your name or address. You have the right to stop the filling the questionnaire at any time, or to skip any questions that you don't want to answer. There are no right or wrong answers. Your participation is completely voluntary but your experiences could be very helpful to other neighbors and particular to other girls and women living in your area. Findings from this survey will be taken into consideration while there will be concrete interventions to improve the conditions in this neighborhood. Filling of this questionnaire takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Thank you for your time!

## General Information

A1. **Gender:**  Female  Male → *close the interview*

A2. **Age:**  <16 y.o. -→ *close the interview*  16-19 years old  20-29 years old  
 30-49 years old  50+ years

A3. **Marital Status:**  Single  Cohabitant  Married  Divorced  
 Widow  Refuse/No answer

A4. **Who are you living with?**

- a) Husband/partner      b) Children      c) Siblings  
d) Parents      e) Parents of partner/husband      f) Other  
1) Alone

A5. **Education:**  Elementary  9 years middle school  High school  Graduate

Post Graduate

A6. **Employment:**  Unemployed  Student  Retired  Disability Benefits

Full-time employed  Part-time employed  Self-employed

A7. **Ethnicity:** Do you belong to a certain ethnic group (for example Roma, Egyptian etc):  
Yes  No  No answer

If Yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

A8. **Neighborhood:**  XXXX (A)  YYYYY (B)  ZZZZZZ (C)

A9. **On average, how often do you visit this neighborhood:**

- Every day  At least three times a week  At least once a week  
 At least once a month  Rarely (occasionally) → *close the interview*

A10. **Reasons for frequenting this administrative unit/ neighborhood:**

Living  Education  Work  Entertainment  Other \_\_\_\_\_

A11. **Since when / how many years?**

less than 1 year  1 – 5 years  more than 5 years

## Module B : Safety of Neighborhood

**B1. What do you think about free spaces between buildings and streets in this neighborhood? Are they:**

sufficient     limited     almost no free space left     don't know     no answer

| <b>B2. Which of these buildings and areas exist in this neighborhood?</b>         | yes | no | don't know | no answer |
|---|-----|----|------------|-----------|
| Factories/Enterprises   | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Offices   | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Storage   | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Residential houses  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Clubs/Restaurants   | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Children playgrounds  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Green spaces/Parks  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Empty spaces  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Streets with busy traffic   | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Gambling/sports betting   | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| Other(Explain):_____  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| <b>B3. Are there places where someone could hide without being seen, such as?</b> | yes | no | don't know | no answer |
| between trash containers  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| alleys or lanes   | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| abandoned machinery or utility sheds  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| recessed doorways or entrances  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| undergrounds/tunnels  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| construction sites  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |
| others _____  | 1   | 2  | 8          | 9         |

| <b>B4. When moving in and around this neighborhood, how easy would it be:</b> | <b>very easy</b> | <b>easy</b> | <b>hard</b> | <b>don't know</b> | <b>no answer</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| For someone to predict the route you will take?                               | 1                | 2           | 3           | 8                 | 9                |
| To escape to a safe place if you needed to?                                   | 1                | 2           | 3           | 8                 | 9                |
| To take alternative routes that are well lit?                                 | 1                | 2           | 3           | 8                 | 9                |
| To take alternative routes that are well travelled?                           | 1                | 2           | 3           | 8                 | 9                |

| <b>B6. How is it the lighting in this neighborhood?</b> | <b>very good</b> | <b>good</b> | <b>poor</b> | <b>no lightening at all</b> | <b>don't know</b> | <b>Not applicable</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| In the streets  | 1                | 2           | 3           | 4                           | 8                 | 9                     |
| At the entrance of homes and buildings                  | 1                | 2           | 3           | 4                           | 8                 | 9                     |
| At the entrance of stores                               | 1                | 2           | 3           | 4                           | 8                 | 9                     |
| At the entrance of schools/kindergarten/crèches         | 1                | 2           | 3           | 4                           | 8                 | 9                     |
| At the entrance of Health Centres/Hospital/pharmacies   | 1                | 2           | 3           | 4                           | 8                 | 9                     |
| At bus stations   | 1                | 2           | 3           | 4                           | 8                 | 9                     |

| <b>B7. Please, provide some information on the following questions regarding this neighborhood:</b> | <b>yes</b> | <b>no</b> | <b>don't know</b> | <b>no answer</b> |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| Is the lighting system distributed evenly and managed properly?                                     | 1          | 2         | 8                 | 9                |
| Are all the lights working every evening and during the night?                                      | 1          | 2         | 8                 | 9                |

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| If you weren't familiar with this place, would it be easy to find your way around? | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| Do you have friends or neighbors in the area you could count on in an emergency?   | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| Is the area patrolled often by police?   | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 |

| B9. Please, estimate the following public services for this neighborhood? | very good | good | satisfactory | poor | no service at all | don't know | no answer |
|---|-----------|------|--------------|------|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| Overall maintenance services  | 1         | 2    | 3            | 4    | 5                 | 8          | 9         |
| Public transport service  | 1         | 2    | 3            | 4    | 5                 | 8          | 9         |

**B9\_A. Do you use public transport service from this area to another part of the city?**

- Yes, often     
  Rarely     
  No, never     
  No answer

**B10. Do (you think) any of these factors affect your personal safety in this area?**

|                                       | Yes | No | No Answer |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|-----------|
| Being a woman                         | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Being of a certain religion           | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Being of a certain ethnicity          | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Being from out of town                | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Being of a certain age (young or old) | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Being alone (unaccompanied)           | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Sexual orientation                    | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Clothing                              | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Other                                 | 1   | 2  | 9         |

**B11. How likely are the following things to happen to a woman in this neighborhood?**

|   | Not likely at all |   |   | Very likely |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|-------------|---|
|   | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 |
| Whistle after her (or honk from a car) or called her names                          | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 |
| Comment on her appearance or make sexual comments                                   | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 |
| Watch or stare at her   | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 |
| Address her with nationally, ethnically, racially or religiously offensive comments | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4           | 5 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Follow her                                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Deliberately block her path               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Attack her physically (pushing, slapping) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Attack her sexually                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Threaten to harm her                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**B12. In this area, which factors contribute to your feeling unsafe in this neighborhood?**

|  | Yes | No | No Answer |
|--|-----|----|-----------|
| Poor lighting  | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Poor maintenance of open public spaces               | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Crowded public transport/bus stops/stations          | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Garbage  | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Obstacles on the road (parked cars, various objects) | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Lack of vendors or people in the area                | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Lack of effective/visible police                     | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Men dealing with or taking alcohol/drugs             | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Groups of young men hanging around                   | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Street dogs  | 1   | 2  | 9         |
| Existence of night clubs or strip clubs              | 1   | 2  | 9         |

**B13. According to your opinion, what is the common reaction of people witnessing incidents that may happen to a women in this area?**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| People will not notice   | A |
| People will notice, but will not react                                       | B |
| They would help(eg, asking women if they need help, drive away the harasser) | C |
| They will call for help (call the police etc)                                | D |
| Other  | E |
| Don't know/No Response   | Z |

**Module G: General impression about sexual harassment and violence**

| G1. Which is your opinion about the following statements on violence? | strongly agree | partly agree | strongly disagree | Don't know |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| Men are violent by nature   | 1              | 2            | 3                 | 4          |
| Violence is usually due to alcohol.                                   | 1              | 2            | 3                 | 4          |
| Sometimes violence is a way of showing affection.                     | 1              | 2            | 3                 | 4          |

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Boys who witness their father's violence towards their mothers are more likely to be violent when they grow up.    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| A woman should put up with violence in order to keep her family together.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Violence is caused by poverty  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Some women like to be beaten.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Violence against women exists in every society in the world  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Violence is never justified.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Girls who are sexually abused in childhood are more likely to drink and use drugs when they are older.             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves                                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Nobody deserves to be beaten.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Persons who use violence against women should be punished by the law   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| It is normal that a girl or woman is teased/harassed/followed by men in public spaces, streets if she is beautiful | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Violent episodes are to be kept private. What happens at home, stays at home.They are family matters.              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

| <b>G2. Have you ever received information about any form of violence against women and girls through?</b> | <b>yes</b> | <b>no</b> | <b>no answer</b> |
|---|------------|-----------|------------------|
| TV/radio  | 1          | 2         | 9                |
| web   | 1          | 2         | 9                |
| printed media   | 1          | 2         | 9                |
| social media  | 1          | 2         | 9                |
| Parents/relatives   | 1          | 2         | 9                |

|              |   |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Friends      | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| school       | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| workplace    | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| from an NPO  | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| Other: _____ | 1 | 2 | 9 |

| <b>G3. Please, classify the following actions at the appropriate column according to your understanding:</b> | Sexual harassment | Sexual Violence | None of these | Other | don't know |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|------------|
| sexual comments about a woman/girl's body parts or appearance  | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| whistling while a woman or a girl is passing-by  | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| sexually suggestive staring  | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| purposely brushing up against someone else on street/public transportation                                   | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| rubbing against another person in a sexual way   | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| Following/ stalking  | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| grabbing, pinching, slapping   | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| attempted rape/rape  | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| forced sexual initiation   | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation   | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |
| forced prostitution  | 1                 | 2               | 3             | 8     | 9          |

**G4. The violence episodes happening in this area are usually more:**

- verbal    
  physical    
  both    
  don't know    
  no answer

**G5. Which groups of individuals are more in danger here in this neighborhood?**

1. Girls

2. Boys
3. Women
4. Men
5. Persons with special needs
6. Roma and Egyptians
7. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

| G6. Have you ever been in risk or exposed to:  | Yes | No | Refuse/No answer |
|--|-----|----|------------------|
| any sexual harassment, before the age of 15  | 1   | 2  | 9                |
| Sexual violence, before the age of 15  | 1   | 2  | 9                |
| any sexual harassment, after the age of 15   | 1   | 2  | 9                |
| Sexual violence, after the age of 15   | 1   | 2  | 9                |
| Do you have any family member or friends that has been subject to sexual violence?   | 1   | 2  | 9                |
| Do you have any family member or friends that has been subject to sexual harassment? | 1   | 2  | 9                |

**G7. (If G6\_1 G6\_2 G6\_3 or G6\_4), who did this to you:**

- Someone at school                       Someone at work     A neighbor  
 A stranger                                       Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_)     no answer

**G11. Have you ever asked for help related to that?**     Yes                       No     no answer

**G11a. If yes, where exactly?** \_\_\_\_\_

**G11b. How did they reacted?**     They provided assistance

- They did not provide me with any assistance  
 They were judgmental  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**G11c. If No, why?**

- lack of trust in getting the appropriate help  
 Didn't know where to ask for help  
 I was afraid of being labelled

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**G12. What do you think, how would you react in case of.. [Tick all that apply].**

|  | experiencing verbal street harassment? | direct physical or sexual attack? |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Nothing                                    | A                                      | A                                 |
| Confront the perpetrator                   | B                                      | B                                 |
| Report it to the police/ security officer  | C                                      | C                                 |
| Ask bystanders for help                    | D                                      | D                                 |
| Report it to a helpline/to another service | E                                      | E                                 |
| Tell/ask for help from family              | F                                      | F                                 |
| Tell/ask for help from a friend            | G                                      | G                                 |
| Other                                      | H                                      | H                                 |
| Don't know                                 | Z                                      | Z                                 |

**G13. Do you know a woman who was harassed on the street and reported an incident (to the police, NGO ect)?**

|        |
|--------|
| 1) Yes |
| 2) No  |

**Table 14. What was the nature of the incident?**

|   |
|---|
| 1. Verbal (comments, whistling, humiliate, etc)                                     |
| 2. Physical (touching, feeling up etc.)   |
| 3. Visual (staring, leering, flashing)  |
| 4. Stalking   |
| 5. Violent physical attack (push, shake, slap, drag you, or throw something at her) |
| 6. Threat   |
| 7. Sexual harassment  |
| 8. Other (specify)  |
| 9. No answer  |

**Table 15. What was the police response?**

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| 1. They blamed her for the incident |
| 2. They minimized it/trivialized it |
| 3. They did not do anything         |
| 4. They recorded the incident       |
| 5. They investigated the incident   |
| 6. They caught the offender         |
| 7. Don't know                       |

**Table 17. Many women do not report cases of violence to the police. What do you think, what are the main reasons? (up to 3 responses)**

|   |
|---|
| A. Too ashamed or afraid that people will judge her or her family |
| B. Not serious enough to report                                   |

|   |
|---|
| C. Do not know where to go for help/where to report                 |
| D. Afraid to approach the police                                    |
| E. Do not think the police could do anything                        |
| F. Would not be believed/They would blame the victim                |
| G. The process is too tedious                                       |
| H. Do not want the offender to be arrested / in trouble with police |
| I. Reported to someone else (specify)                               |
| J. Other (specify)  |
| K. Not applicable – I think that all incidents are reported         |
| L. Don't know   |
| M. Refused/No answer  |

**General impression about safety improvement in area/neighborhood**

**E1. Are there public institutions that you know which may help in the area?**

yes  no  no answer

If yes, Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you feel about these institutions?

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**E2. What neighborhood situations /changes should happen to make you feel safer?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**E3. How could women's safety and feelings of safety in public spaces be improved?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FOCUS GROUP GUIDE

# Sexual Harassment and other forms of Gender Based violence in Urban Spaces in Albania– Focus Group Discussion Guide

On arrival – ask for following details of each participant, to be filled into a list. During the introduction round participants can just state their first name and age.

- First and last names
- Age
- Educational status (no schooling, primary, secondary, university degree, postgraduate)
- Economic activity (unemployed, part-time employment, full-time employment, informal sector, retired)
- Household/family status (married, divorced, separated, widowed, single, cohabit)
- Each participant needs to agree that the discussion is recorded for transcript purposes.

### Introduction

Good morning/afternoon everyone, thank you for joining us today. My name is XXX and I will be the moderator of this group today. The topic of today's Group Discussion is about girls and women's safety and GBV/GBD in public spaces in the municipality of XXX and specifically in the neighborhood/zone XXX. When we use the word safety, we mean in regard to being safe from being harassed, assaulted or attacked because you are a girl/woman in the neighborhood XXX. When we talk about GBV or GBD in public spaces we typically refer to concepts such as:

*Sexual comments about a woman/girl's body parts or appearance; whistling while a woman or a girl is passing-by; purposely brushing up against a girl/woman on street/public transportation; Following/stalking; attempted rape/rape; trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or even forced prostitution etc.*

The purpose of this FGD is to collect experiences, hear views and exchange ideas. The aim is to hear everyone's opinion, not reach a consensus or conclusion. We would like everyone to contribute, there are no wrong or right answers, we should show respect for each participant, everyone will be given a chance to speak and should you ever feel uncomfortable with any of the question or themes you are not obliged to answer. Findings and recommendations from this discussion will be very helpful for completing the survey for the women's and girls' safety in the specific areas of xxx in the xxx municipality and will be further considered in case of any intervention for the improvement of the neighborhood/area conditions.

This discussion will take approximately 1.5hrs and I would like to kindly ask to turn your phones on silent during the entire discussion' time. You know and have already agreed that the discussion will be recorded for the transcription purposes, but we would like to ensure you that all records from this discussion will be treated based on strict confidentiality' rules (respecting each participants' privacy).

### Opening Question

- Can you all please briefly introduce yourself to the group?

### Introductory Question

- In this neighborhood do you think GBV or GBD are in general an issue?
- What are the main types of violence and insecurity that are present in public spaces? (When I say public spaces that includes, streets, smaller pass ways, squares, bus stops, around your work place or school etc.)

### Key Questions

- Do you think that public spaces in this neighborhood are safe for women and girls of all ages and of all different groups to move about freely? (When I say all groups I am also referring ethnicity, religion, disability, economical situation, sexual orientation, occupation (i.e. waitress, women working during night shifts etc...))
- Are there some specific places which you think are particularly unsafe? Why are these places unsafe?
- What has influenced your views – your own experiences, others' experiences, media reports, stories, etc. Share some concrete experiences or stories of safety in this neighborhood/municipality.
- Do you take any precautions when you go out? For example, do you carry something for protection or avoid certain areas etc.
- Have you ever asked for help in an unsafe or dangerous situation? Did you go to the police? Did you approach anyone else for help? Did you feel the response met your needs? Why or why not? If you have not actually done this, who are you most likely to ask for help?
- What do you think are the three most important girl's/women's safety issues in the city/this area? Why?
- How could girl's/women's safety and feelings of safety in public spaces be improved? This could be by changes of policy, changes in design, changes in services, changes in (men's) behavior, etc.

### Ending Questions

- In your opinion, what is the most important thing that was said today?
- If you could talk to governmental officials, what would you recommend they change in order to make your area safer for women and girls?
- Is there anything you wanted to say and did not get a chance to say?

Thank you all for your contributions!<sup>41</sup>

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*41Guide Adapted from WICI, 2005 and SDDirect, 2011, UN Women Programme: From Communities to Global Security Institutions: Engaging Women in Building Peace and Security Inception Report: Baseline scope and methodology*

## STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

### Sexual Harassment and other forms of Gender Based violence in Urban Spaces in Albania– Guide for Semi-Structured Interview with Stakeholders

| Topic   | Estimate Time<br>(in min) |
|---|---------------------------|
| Introduction  | 2 min                     |
| PART I: General assessment of municipality/neighbourhoods & Exploration of prevalent safety and security issues | 10 min                    |
| PART III: Exploration of prevalent issues in regard to GBV and GBD  | 10 min                    |
| PART IV: Existing plans, initiatives, policies in municipality/neighbourhood                                    | 10 min                    |
|   | ~30 min                   |

**Introduction of Moderator and explanation of research background and objective.**

*This document contains proposed questions which aim to identify the most important information.*

*However, participants should be encouraged to add relevant information which they perceive as important even though they were not specifically asked for.*

*The interview (with previous retrieved agreement from the interviewee) will be recorded and complimented by key notes taken in written form by the interviewer.*

#### Introduction

- ▶ Thank you for agreeing to meeting today and to take part in this interview. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am conducting this interview for IDRA Research and Consulting who has been engaged by UN Women for this project.
- ▶ In the framework of the UN Women's Activity in Albania, we are cooperating with Fier/Tirana/Durres Municipality, regarding an initiative that UN Women proposes to undertake for growth of security for women and girls in public spaces in your municipality. This project is part of the UN Global initiative "Safe cities and safe public spaces", with the financial support of the Swedish agency SIDA, and is aiming at highlighting issues related to the safety of women and girls in the public environment and proposing concrete measures to be taken by the municipalities to improve the situation.
- ▶ UN Women in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana and a non-governmental organization developed in 2016 a pilot study on sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in urban public spaces in three districts of Tirana. This survey highlighted through questionnaires and interviews the main concerns of women and girls about these forms of violence in the streets, public transport, squares and other environments and drafted a series of recommendations for infrastructure interventions and other protective measures, some of which were taken into consideration by the Municipality of Tirana.
- ▶ Looking at the importance and results of this project, it was decided to extend the study in some other areas of Albania, including the Municipality of Fier/Durres.

Today we would like to ask you some questions in regard to Fier/Durres/Tirana (*needs to be adapted for each municipality*) municipality/neighborhoods and issues related to public safety, gender based violence and discrimination as well as already existing plans, initiatives, policies which you might know about.

*Introduction of participant (Name, Position, Organisation/sector they represent)*

|  |
|--|
| <b>PART I: General assessment of municipality/neighbourhoods, Exploration of prevalent safety and security issues</b>  |
| <p>Let's start, with some general information on the municipality:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could you please briefly tell me about your work in relation to the municipality of _____</li> <li>2. How would you describe the municipality/neighbourhood you are engaged with a few words when it comes to general living standard?</li> <li>3. How well developed is the infra structure of public spaces and public transportation?</li> <li>4. What do you think are in general the biggest issues or problems in this municipality/neighbourhood?</li> <li>5. What is positive about this municipality/neighbourhood?</li> <li>6. Would you consider this municipality/neighbourhood as safe, do you believe women and girls in general feel safe?</li> <li>7. Which neighbourhoods and or/areas are in your opinion the most problematic ones in regard to safety especially for girls and women? Why is it problematic, can you give me some reasons?</li> <li>8. Are there specific areas or public spaces within this area or neighbourhood which you think are most problematic? (E.g. squares, public transport facilities, specific streets or corners etc.)</li> </ol>   |
| <b>PART II: Exploration of prevalent issues in regard to GBV and GBD</b>   |
| <p>Thank you very much, now we will move on to the topic of GBV and GBD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do you personally think that gender based violence and gender based discrimination is a problem in this municipality?</li> <li>2. Do you think gender based violence and discrimination has increased or decreased in the recent years?</li> <li>3. In which neighbourhoods/areas, based on your knowledge and experience, do you think these phenomena are most prevalent?</li> <li>4. What types of GBV and GBD have you heard about in these neighbourhoods or areas? (<i>Give example if need be; sexual comments about a woman/girl's body parts or appearance, whistling while a woman or a girl is passing-by, purposely brushing up against someone else on street/public transportation, Following/ stalking, attempted rape/rape, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced prostitution etc.</i>)</li> <li>5. Are there institutions such as health centers, police stations or social community center in this neighbourhood which are easy to find and reach?</li> <li>6. Do you think improving community safety aspects such as more streetlights, increased police patrols etc. would help avoiding these phenomena?</li> <li>7. What measures would help to improve safety and decrease GBV and GBD in public spaces in this neighbourhood?</li> </ol> |
| <b>PART III: Existing plans, initiatives, policies in municipality/neighbourhood</b>   |

1. Are you aware of any existing policies or initiatives in place which aim at improving the safety and security in general in this municipality/neighbourhoods? Do you know how active and/or effective these initiatives are?
2. Are you aware of any existing policies or initiatives in place aiming at the reduction of occurrence of GBV and GBD?
3. What possibilities do victims of GBV and GBD have when searching for help/counselling?
4. Are there any municipal or social plans and/or initiatives planned for the future which aim at improving the neighbourhood(s) in regard to security and GBV and GBD?

#### PART VI: Exploration of Improvement Options

Now before we end, I would like to ask you about what kind of possible improvements should have the highest priority in the neighborhoods and/areas you pointed out as most problematic. Where 1 = low priority and 10 =high

| Improvement Options  | 1= Low Priority | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 = High Priority |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Improving the infrastructure of public spaces, including lightening, street maps, street signs pointing to the nearest police station etc. | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10                 |
| Raise Awareness of the phenomena of GBV and GBD in public but also for institution such as social actors and police                        | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10                 |
| Improve or create more possibilities for women and girls to receive help in cases of GBV and GBD   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10                 |
| Increased Police patrolling in problematic areas   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10                 |

Before we conclude this interview I would like to ask you to share any thoughts or information you might think are relevant for the overall topic and questions of this interview.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

## STRUCTURED OBSERVATIONS GUIDE

### Sexual Harassment and other forms of Gender Based violence in Urban Spaces in Albania – Structured Observation Guide

General data on the observation:

Month:  May  June

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Time:  07:00 – 09:00  11:00 – 13:00  15:00 – 17:00  19:00 - 21:00

Weather:  Sunny  Cloudy  Rainy

Neighbourhood:  XXX (A)  YYY (B)  ZZZ (C)

Specify the address: \_\_\_\_\_

**For the observer, what five words best describe the place?**

\_\_\_\_\_

(Document with pictures if possible)

1. Do you feel that the number of lights sufficiently lights the streets/ home entrances?

a) Yes                      b) No

**2. What is the lighting like?**

very good     good             satisfactory    poor

**3. Is the lighting distributed evenly?**  yes     no

**4. Are all the street lights working?**  yes    no (make a picture of the lights that do not work)

**5. Are you able to identify the face of a person 25 meters away?**  yes             no

**6. Is the lighting obscured by trees, bushes, structures, or a big poster?**  yes             no

Please explain/ make pictures: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. How is the lighting on pedestrian walkways and paths?**

very good     good             satisfactory    poor    there is none

**8. How is the lighting at the entrance of homes and buildings?**

very good     good             satisfactory    poor    there is none

**9. Are there cameras installed in business area?**

Yes \_\_\_\_?            NO \_\_\_\_\_?

10. Are there cameras installed in the entrance of palaces?

Yes \_\_\_\_? NO \_\_\_\_\_?

11. How many people can normally be seen circulating in this place?

i. During the morning: None some various many

ii. During the afternoon: None some various many

iii. During the evening (until 11:00 PM hrs): None some various many

iv. During the night (after 11:00 PM hrs): None some various many

12. Are you able to get a clear overview of the vicinity and surrounding areas, or would you say that the overall view is rather obstructed? yes no

If not, why?

bushes trees walls turning/dark corners other \_\_\_\_\_

(make pictures of them)

13. Are there places where someone could hide without being seen?

between trash containers abandoned machinery/utility sheds

alleys or lanes recessed doorways or entrances

construction sites undergrounds/tunnels

No there aren't any others: \_\_\_\_\_ (make pictures)

13. How easy would it be to find/escape to a safe place if you needed to?

very easy easy difficult impossible

14. How far away are a) emergency services/hospital b) police station?

(specify approximately by time) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Are there signs or maps identifying where you are? yes no

16. Are there signs indicating where to seek assistance in the case of an emergency/need?

yes no

(If yes, are they clearly visible? During the day: yes no At night: yes no)

17. What is your overall impression of the signage in this place?

Very good  good  satisfactory  poor

18. Are there any signals/signs that help in orientation or identifying where you are or where you want to go that should be added or changed? Which ones?

---

18. What is your general impression of the overall landscape situation / view of the area?

Very good  good  satisfactory  poor

19. How well is the place maintained?

Very well  well  satisfactory  poor

20. Does this area seem cared for? yes no Why? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Are there problematic and aggressive individuals walking around? Choose *one or multiple* of the following options:

- Yes, there are **a few** of drunk individuals walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are **a few** of drunk individuals walking around **during the evening**
- Yes, there are **a lot** of drunk individuals walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are **a lot** of drunk individuals walking around **during the evening**
- Yes, there are **a few** of homeless individuals walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are **a few** of homeless individuals walking around **during the evening**
- Yes, there are **a lot** of homeless individuals walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are **a lot** of homeless individuals walking around **during the evening**
- Yes, there are **a few** of drug addicts individuals walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are **a few** of drug addicts individuals walking around **during the evening**
- Yes, there are **a lot** of drug addicts walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are **a lot** of drug addicts walking around **during the evening**
- Yes, there are **a few** members of criminal gangs walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are **a few** members of criminal gangs walking around **during the evening**

- Yes, there are a **lot** members of criminal gangs walking around **during the day**
- Yes, there are a **lot** members of criminal gangs walking around **during the evening**
- No, there aren't any.
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

22. Are businesses like betting sites or nightclubs in this area?

- 1) None
- 2) 2-5 points
- 3) more than 5 points

22. Are there signs of intentional damage/intentional destruction in the area?  yes  no (make pictures)

23. Is this area covered with public transport?

- 1) Yes -- go to next question
- 2) No

24. How often (in minutes) is a bus passing this street?

- 1) every 5 min
- 2) every 10 min
- 3) every 20 min
- 4) rarely

23. How can you describe the safety for women/girls in the bus stations?

---

Make pictures (bus stations' conditions and locations)

24. Do taxi services enter the neighbourhood frequently?

During the day  yes  no

At night yes no

If no, is there any reason why? \_\_\_\_\_

**25. Are there in this neighbourhood/area spaces for entertainment activities?**

yes no \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is yes, choose one of the following options:

- night club cinema lounge bar
- casino theatre gym center
- strip club museums other

**26. Are there people in with disabilities or special needs who have trouble getting around?**

- elderly persons pushing a baby stroller
- persons in wheelchairs persons or using walkers?
- blind persons other

**28. Is there any municipal police patrol present in the area during the observation period?**

yes no

**27. Please count (and make pictures for some of them)**

- traffic lights small tunnels hidden corners
- cross-roads bus stations green spaces
- kinder playground dangerous street/paths
- facilities for people with disabilities
- night clubs
- points / sports betting
- street naming signs
- signs indicating police station
- anything else attract your attention related to safety

28. While observing the neighbourhood did you observe any kind of GBV or GBV discrimination like the examples points out below?

- sexual comments about a woman/girl's body parts or appearance*
- whistling while a woman or a girl is passing-by*
- purposely brushing up against someone else on street/public transportation*
- Following/ stalking*
- Attempted rape/rape*
- Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation*
- Forced prostitution*

Should you have observed any of the above determined behaviours please take notes in regard to how often and briefly describe the situation.

**IMPORTANT:** Should you have observed any of the above determined behaviours which endanger the women or girls physically or psychologically you are required to report to the Police.

## SAFETY AUDIT WALK GUIDE AND CHECK LIST

### Sexual Harassment and other forms of Gender Based violence in Urban Spaces in Albania -Safety Walk Guide and Checklist

Where a neighborhood or whole area is to be covered, a sheet should be prepared for each street or sub area visited. Make sure you remember to number each street/area on your map and the accompanying report below. And remember to give each street or sub area a red, orange/yellow or green sticker on your map.

| <p><b>Name of Area and street names:</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b></p> <p><b>Specific Location: Time and Day of Walk: Weather:</b></p> <p><b>Duration of Walk:</b></p> <p><b>Names of people who participated:</b></p> |  |                 |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Issue  | Questions to Consider  | Provide Details |
| First Impressions  | What is your first reaction to this place?   |                 |
|  | What three words best describe this area?  |                 |
| Lighting   | How well lit is the area? (Mark on the map where there is lighting and where it is dark)         |                 |
|  | Are there spaces which are poorly lit?   |                 |
|  | Does this make you feel safe/ unsafe? Why?   |                 |
| Maintenance  | How well maintained is the area?   |                 |
|  | Is there rubbish lying about?  |                 |
|  | Does the general state of maintenance of the area make you feel safe/ unsafe? Why?               |                 |
| Busy areas and isolated spaces   | Are there a lot of people using this area? What are they doing (e.g. walking, working, meeting)? |                 |
|  | Does this make you feel safe/unsafe? Why?  |                 |
|  | Are there places that feel empty and unsafe? Why is this?  |                 |

|                                      |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                      | Are there particular spaces where people could hide?   |  |
|                                      | Does this make you feel safe/unsafe? Why?  |  |
|                                      | Are there any safe pedestrian crossings, Children's playgrounds or green spaces?   |  |
| <b>Signage</b>                       | Is it clear where buildings/ bus stops are?  |  |
|                                      | Are there signs to tell you how to get to places e.g. bus stops, university campus buildings? Are these signs clear enough/well lit during the night?                          |  |
|                                      | Does this make you feel safe/unsafe? Why?  |  |
| <b>Intimidating groups of people</b> | Are there particular groups of people hanging around who make you feel unsafe? Who are they? What is their sex? (e.g. groups of young men, drug users, 'outsiders')?           |  |
|                                      | Why are they hanging around?   |  |
|                                      | Why do they make you feel unsafe?  |  |
| <b>Informal Formal Surveillance</b>  | Can you see police officers patrolling the area? Are the police officers, male or female?  |  |
|                                      | Does this make you feel safe/unsafe? Why?  |  |
|                                      | Where (or how far) is the nearest police station?  |  |
|                                      | Are there any other community services institutions in this area? Are these services well marked (clear signs, maps showing their existence, lights at their entrances...etc.) |  |
|                                      | Does this make you feel safe/unsafe? Why?  |  |
|                                      | Would you know where to go for help?   |  |
| <b>Other</b>                         | Are there any other things about this space that makes you feel unsafe?  |  |

(Adapted from Jagori 2010, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, 1998)<sup>42</sup>

<sup>42</sup> A Handbook on Women's Safety Audits in Low- income Urban Neighborhoods: A Focus on Essential Services, Jagori 2010; Cowichan Valley, Safety Audit Guide

## Safety Walk Report Card

The score card is used to gather views from participants at the end of the safety walk. Each participant should score their overall experience on the walk

### Key:

- 1 = Very unsafe
- 2 = Unsafe
- 3 = OK
- 4 = Quite safe
- 5 = Very safe

How does this area make you feel?

| Issue                                | Rate from 1-5 |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|---|---|---|
|                                      | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Overall sense of safety in the areas |               |   |   |   |   |
| Lighting                             |               |   |   |   |   |
| Maintenance                          |               |   |   |   |   |
| Busy Areas                           |               |   |   |   |   |
| Isolated Spaces                      |               |   |   |   |   |
| Signage                              |               |   |   |   |   |
| Intimidating Groups of People        |               |   |   |   |   |
| Informal/ Formal Surveillance        |               |   |   |   |   |

(Adapted from METRAC safety audit report card)<sup>43</sup>

## Safety Walk Tips

### What to take with:

- A Flashlight (if walk conducted at night)
- Paper and pen/ pencil, particular for Team Leaders and those noting observations | Checklists | Maps
- Red, orange and green stickers to mark safe/ unsafe areas on map
- Appropriate clothes including walking shoes
- Camera/ video camera
- Reflective vests/ tape (if possible)

<sup>43</sup>METRAC's Safety Audit Kit, Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC, no date).

- Tape recorders in case note taking appears in some cases too difficult

#### Tips for Staff of organisation leading the Walk :

- Provide **refreshments** and a time for socializing to create a friendly atmosphere that promotes dialogue and makes the participants feel welcome and at ease with the facilitators and with one another.
- Ensure that each participant has **safe transportation** to and from the audit.

#### Tips for Team Members:

- Take notes or use your camera to document positive features as well as problem areas.
- If it is difficult for you to take notes, use a **tape-recorder**.
- It is important to **talk to other women you meet within the group during the walk**. Introduce yourself and talk a little about yourself apart.
- **Write down all questions** even if there isn't time to find the answers immediately.

#### Tips for Team Leader

The team leader should encourage participants to:

- **Stay together** so that each person is listened to and heard.
- **Respect** what others have to say. Remember, each person's experience of an area is different. The goal of the group is to note each person's opinion about a particular area.
- Be mindful of all people. Speak loudly, simply and slowly.

(Adapted from WISE, 2005)<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> WISE, 2005, Women's Safety Audit Guide: Safety for Women, Safety for Everyone, Let's Act on It! Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (WISE)