

# NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF UKRAINE RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF SERVICES IN TIMES OF WAR AND POST-WAR RECOVERY

**Presentation of the Assessment report results, by**  
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November 2022



**ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES**  
BY JOINT EFFORTS

The Congress  
  
Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# THE SURVEY

A survey on needs and priorities of local authorities related to the provision of services, in times of war and post-war recovery was conducted in close co-operation with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC).

It is developed as part of the project “Strengthening local democratic governance in Ukraine”, implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, within the Priority Adjustments to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2022.

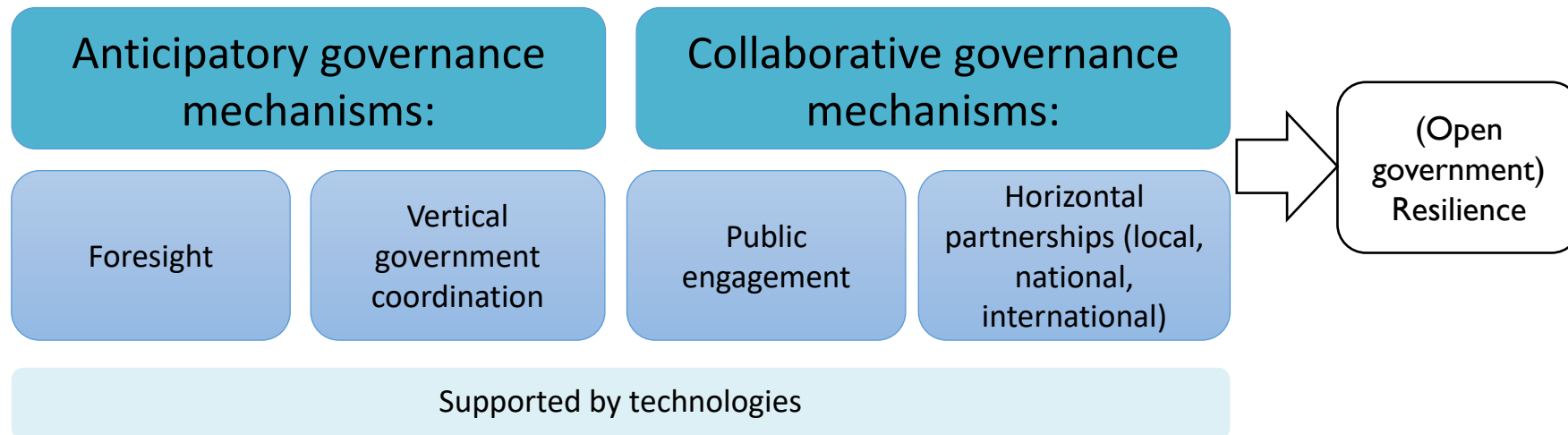
The report will serve as a basis for further support to be provided to Ukrainian local authorities and their national associations, to support their recovery and reconstruction.

# PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

- Theoretical framework
- Methodology
- Local Public Authorities (LA)'s **priorities** for public service provision in need of external support
- **Needs** based on supportive practices and challenges to public service provision in implementation and planning stages
- LA role in national resilience and recovery: resistance, legitimacy and collaborative governance
- Recommendations

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Survey questions addressed resilience and supportive governance mechanisms according to this framework:

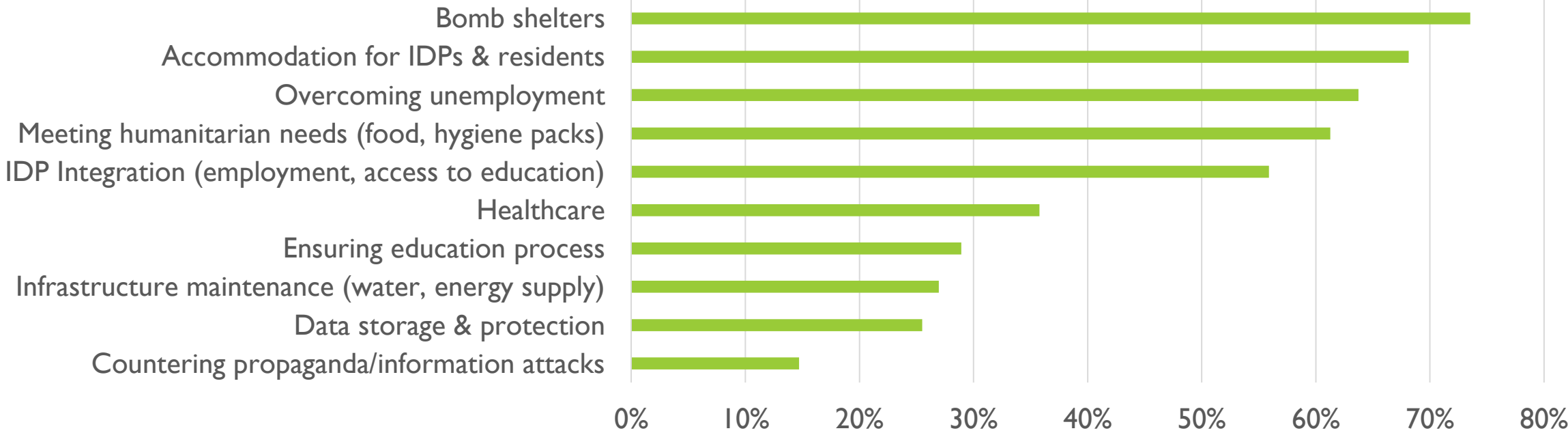


# METHODOLOGY

- Survey initiated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Association of Ukrainian Cities
- 7 Interviews and 2 Focus Groups (LA, Associations, Parliament committee, and Min Regio reps)
- Online survey via AUC, Association of Hromadas, Congress Delegation
- Data collection: July – September (survey 30.08.2022 – 20.09.2022)
- 241 responses (16% LAs in UA), among them:
  - Rural 53% (128)
  - Urban 47% (113) Liberated hromadas & hromadas outside combat area – 204, under occupation or at the frontline – 37. Unless mentioned, all data refers to 204 hromadas
- Results are driven by urban and rural communities of 50,000 and fewer residents
- Desk review of LA coping practices

# LA's PRIORITIES FOR EXTERNAL SUPPORT

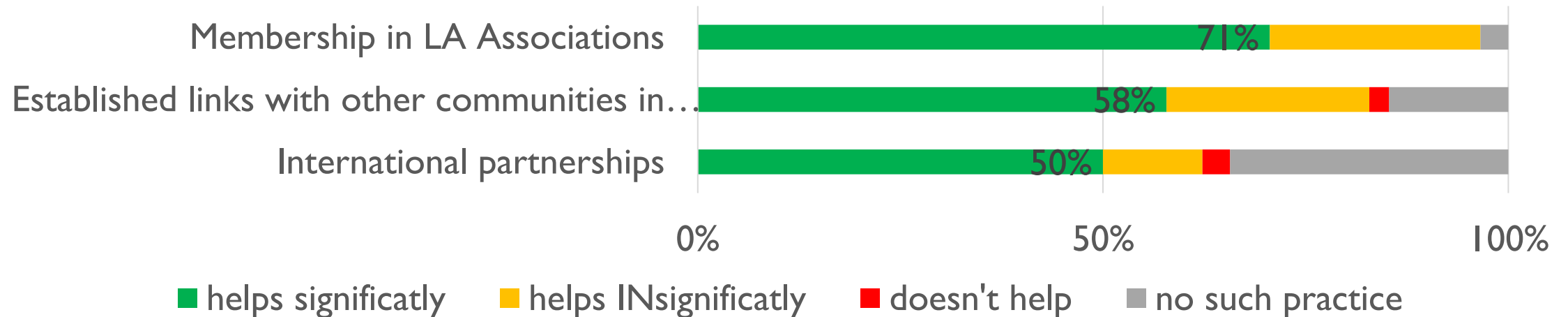
Question: Regarding which of the following challenges does the local authority in your community need external support? 1 - needs the least support, 5 - needs the most support; irrelevant. Graph shows a sum of answers 4 and 5.



Note: N = 204 (liberated and rear communities at the time of the survey)

## ENHANCE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS TO RESPOND TO WAR-TIME CHALLENGES

*Question: Which of the following helps your community respond to the challenges of the war times and how significantly? Options: helps significantly, helps Insignificantly, does not help, there is no such practice.*

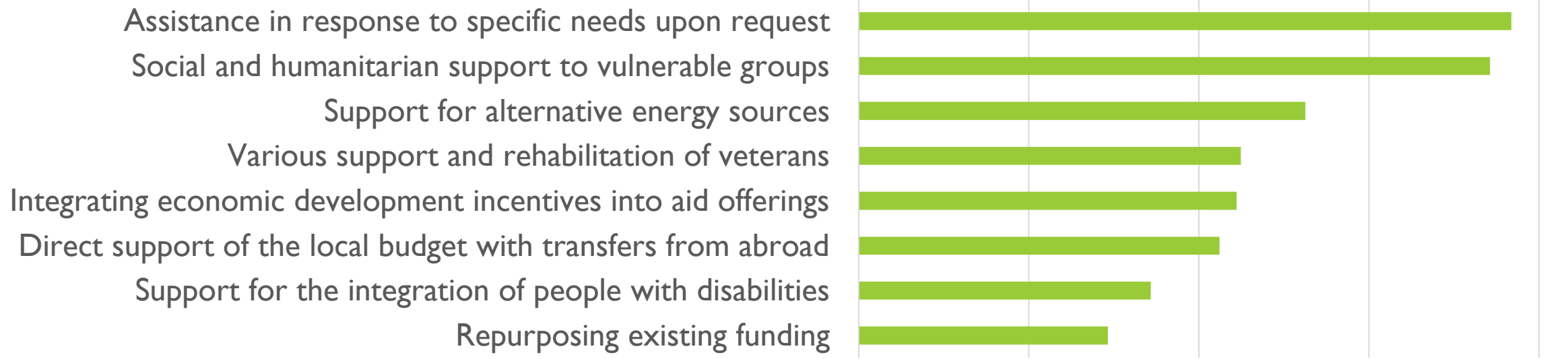


- *New international partnerships since the invasion: 35%*
- *Mechanisms mainly based on personal contacts, but also twinning agreements and proactive stance of partners*

*HOW: facilitate 1<sup>st</sup> contact, build capacity to know how to find, language training*

# ENSURE LOCAL OWNERSHIP & NEEDS-BASED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

*Question: From the perspective of your community, what forms of international aid would you recommend strengthening?*



LAs request: fast (39%) and flexible (31%) donor reaction to their needs

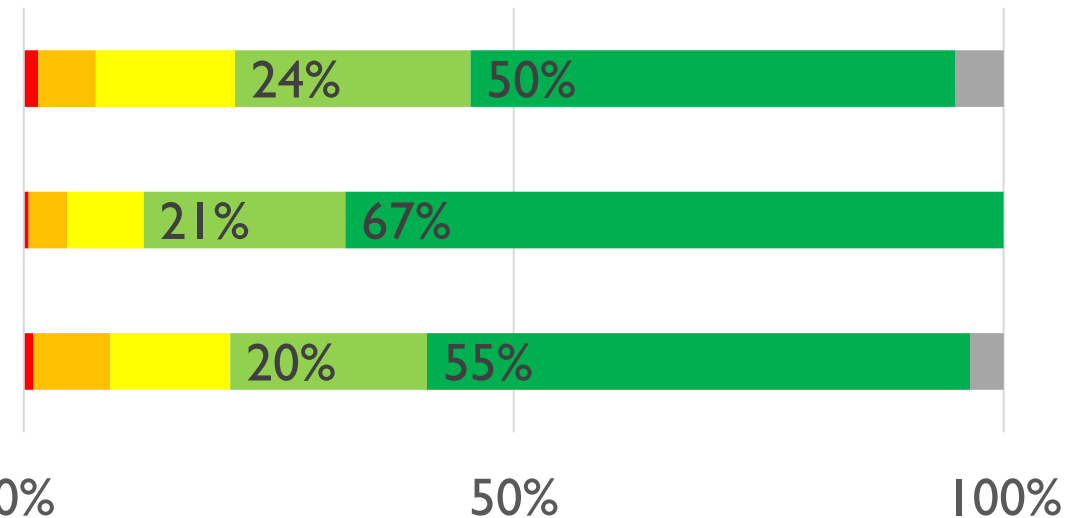
N = 198 (liberated and communities outside combat area)



## KEEP UP INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH MILITARY ADMINISTRATIONS & CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-3 in the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

1. Information exchange between LA & central authorities is sufficiently coordinated
2. Information exchange between LA & RMA is sufficiently coordinated
3. Information exchange between LA & DMA is sufficiently coordinated



■ 1 fully disagree ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 fully agree ■ Don't know

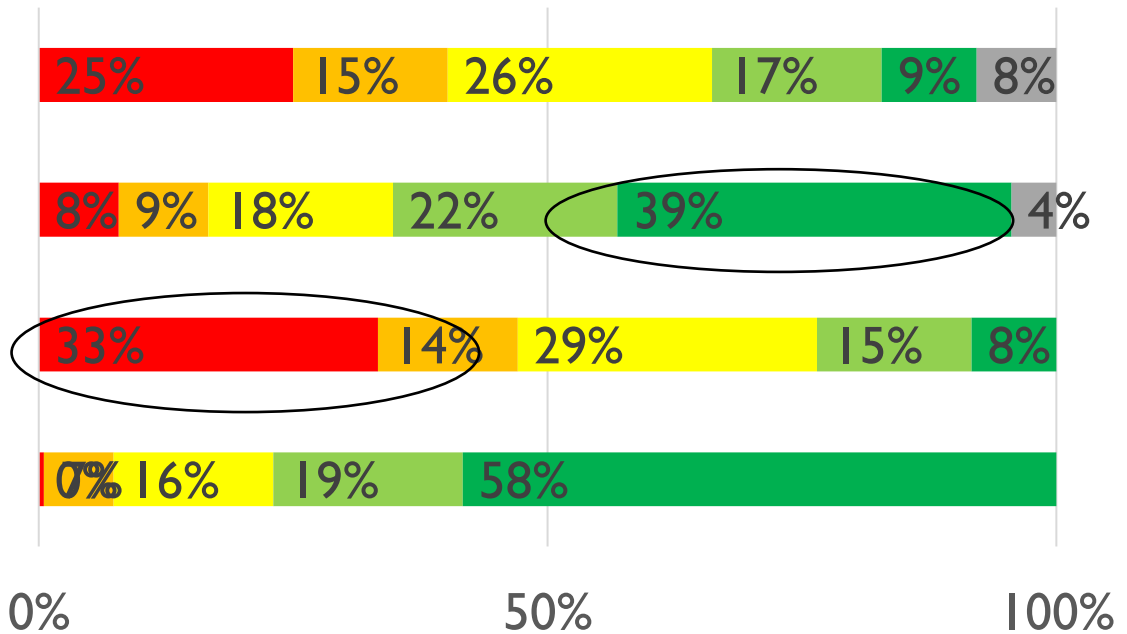
N = 204 (liberated and communities outside combat areas)

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-3 on the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

# SAFEGUARD SUBSIDIARITY: DECISIONS AFFECTING LA POWERS REQUIRE MORE JUSTIFICATION

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-4 in the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

- 1. In the conditions of war, there is an unjustified attack on the powers of LAs
- 2. Closure of access to registers limits the LA ability to exercise their powers
- 3. Budgetary restrictions on LAs are justified at the time of war
- 4. Closing open data is justified at the time of war



■ I fully disagree  
 ■ 2  
 ■ 3  
 ■ 4  
 ■ 5 fully agree  
 ■ Don't know

N = 204 (liberated and communities outside combat areas)

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-3 on the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

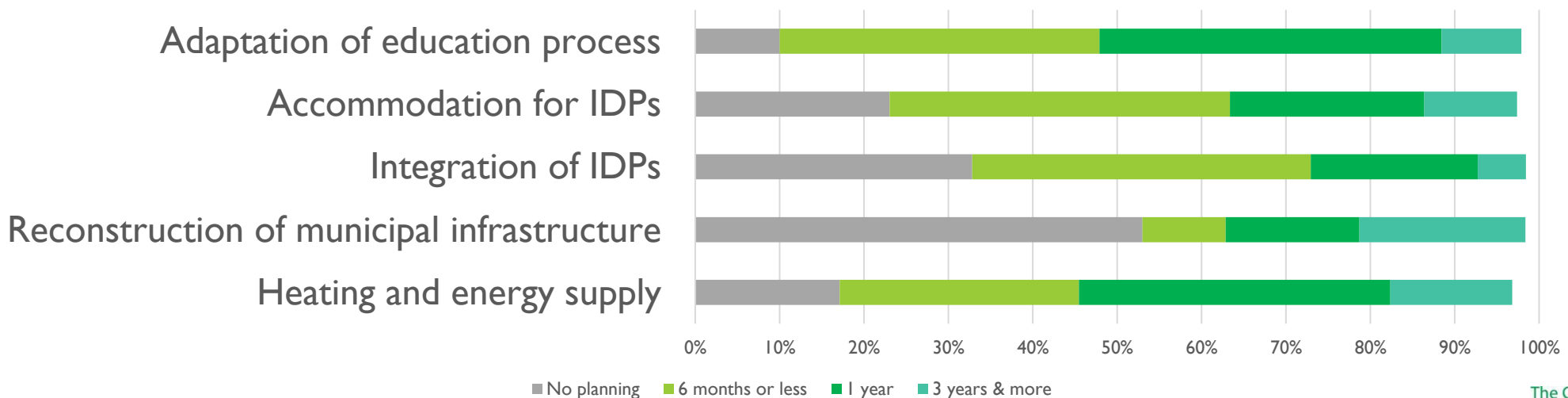
# STRENGTHEN **FORESIGHT** TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Majority of LAs (92%) had emergency plans and 69% found them helpful
- Scenario planning was helpful for 50%

## BUT

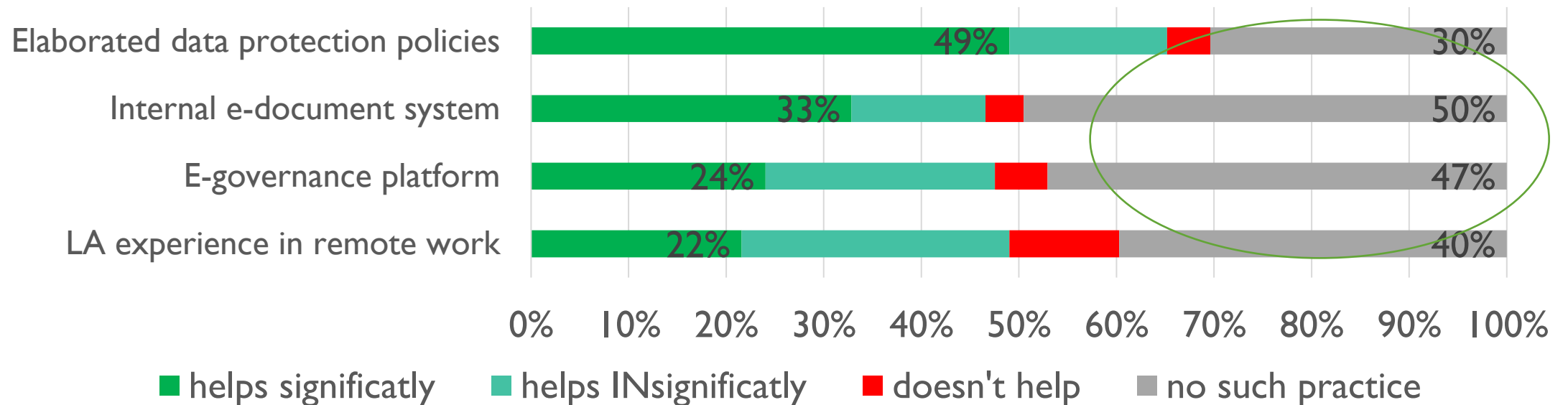
- Short planning horizon into the future: 6 months (ca. 40%) → *NEED for capacity-building*

Question: *For what time period does the local authority do planning regarding the following issues?*



## STRENGTHEN LA CAPACITY FOR E-GOVERNANCE TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Question: Which of the following helps your community respond to the challenges of the war times and how significantly?



**NEED:** e-governance capacity-building for staff + equipment such as notebooks and printers (37%), automation of data exchange within a LA (23%), access/collection of data (18%) +

# SUPPORT DATAFICATION: SHIFT FROM OPEN DATA TO **USEFUL DATA**

## TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- 81% found public information channels (chatbots, social media channels)
- 52% found implementation of open data useful
- 78% of communities report collecting demographic data on IDPs
  - 32% of respondents reported using data from the Ministry for Social Policy
  - Some reported specifically using software “Social hromada”

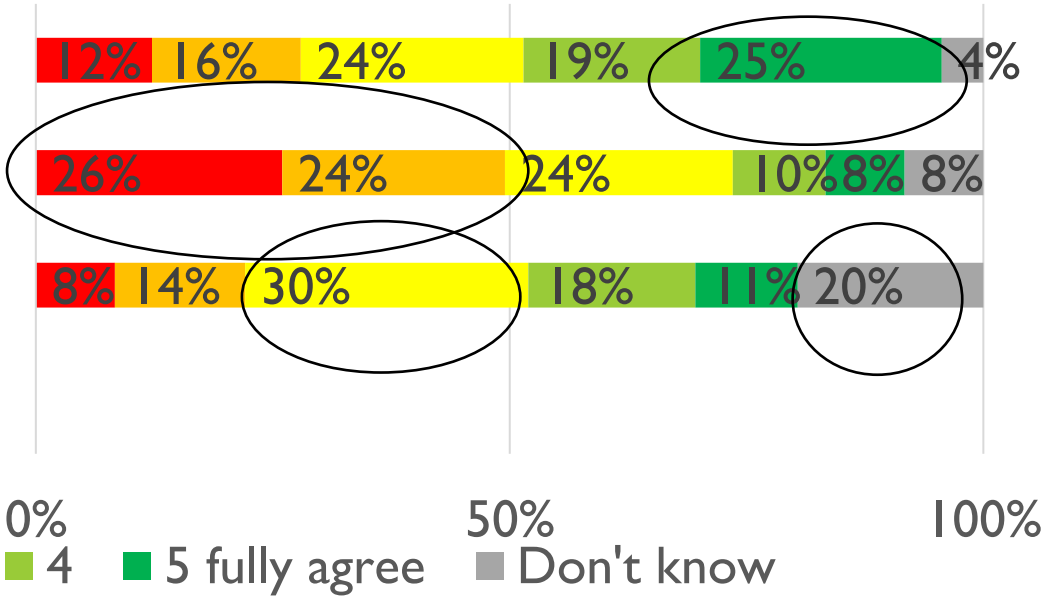
## TECHNICAL CHALLENGES

- Lack of equipment such as notebooks and printers (37%)
- Lack of automation of data exchange within a LA (23%)
- Lack of data (18%)
- Low data quality (9%)

# CO-ORDINATION ON STRATEGIC DECISIONS CAN BENEFIT FROM INSTITUTIONALISING FEEDBACK AND INFLUENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-4 in the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

- 1. LAs & central authorities coordinate on strategic decisions
- 2. LAs can influence decisions of central authorities
- 3. Central authorities respond to LAs' feedback about governmental decisions



N = 204 (liberated and communities outside combat areas)  
 Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (note: see statements 1-3 on the Figure). Choose one: 1 – fully disagree, 5 – fully agree, Don't know

# LAs: ACTORS OF DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE

## 2/3 PRESERVED NORMAL OPERATIONS

- 28% never halted operations
- 43% returned to normal operations in 2 weeks after the invasion or liberation
- 72% provide administrative services, and most – in full

## LEGITIMACY IN CRISES RESPONSE

- 80% held council meetings offline 1-3 months after the full-scale invasion
- 82% emergency decision-making guided by council and executive committee decisions

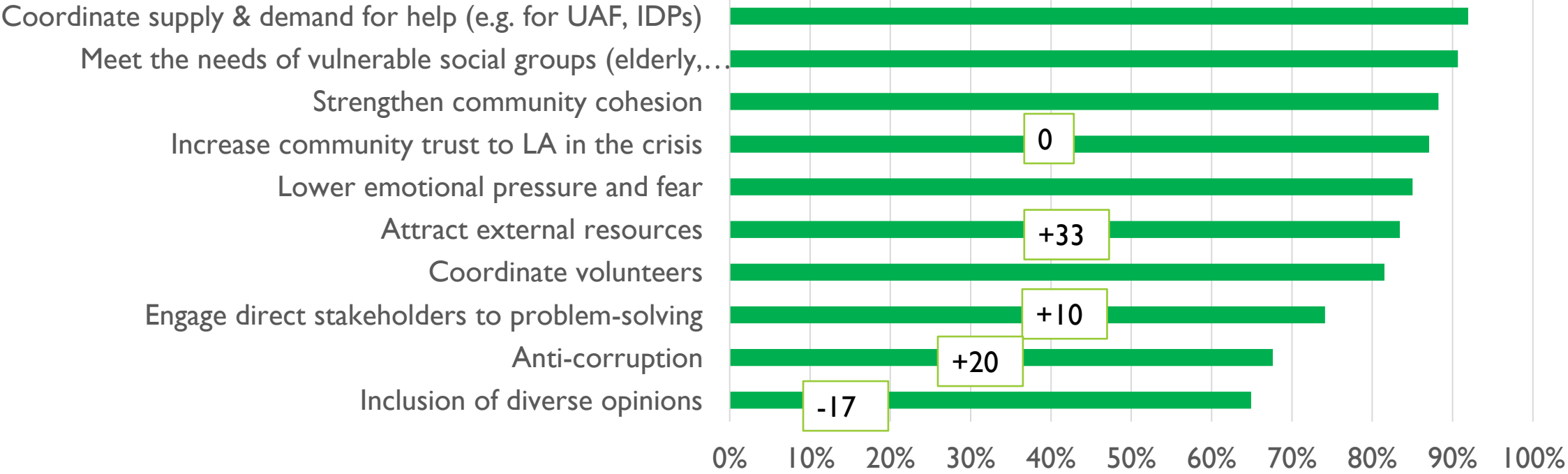


**CITIZEN TRUST:**  
63% Mayors and 60% Councils\*

\*Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation Public Opinion Poll. August 2022

# LA<sub>s</sub> CONNECT TO SELF-ORGANISATION CAPACITY OF THEIR COMMUNITIES

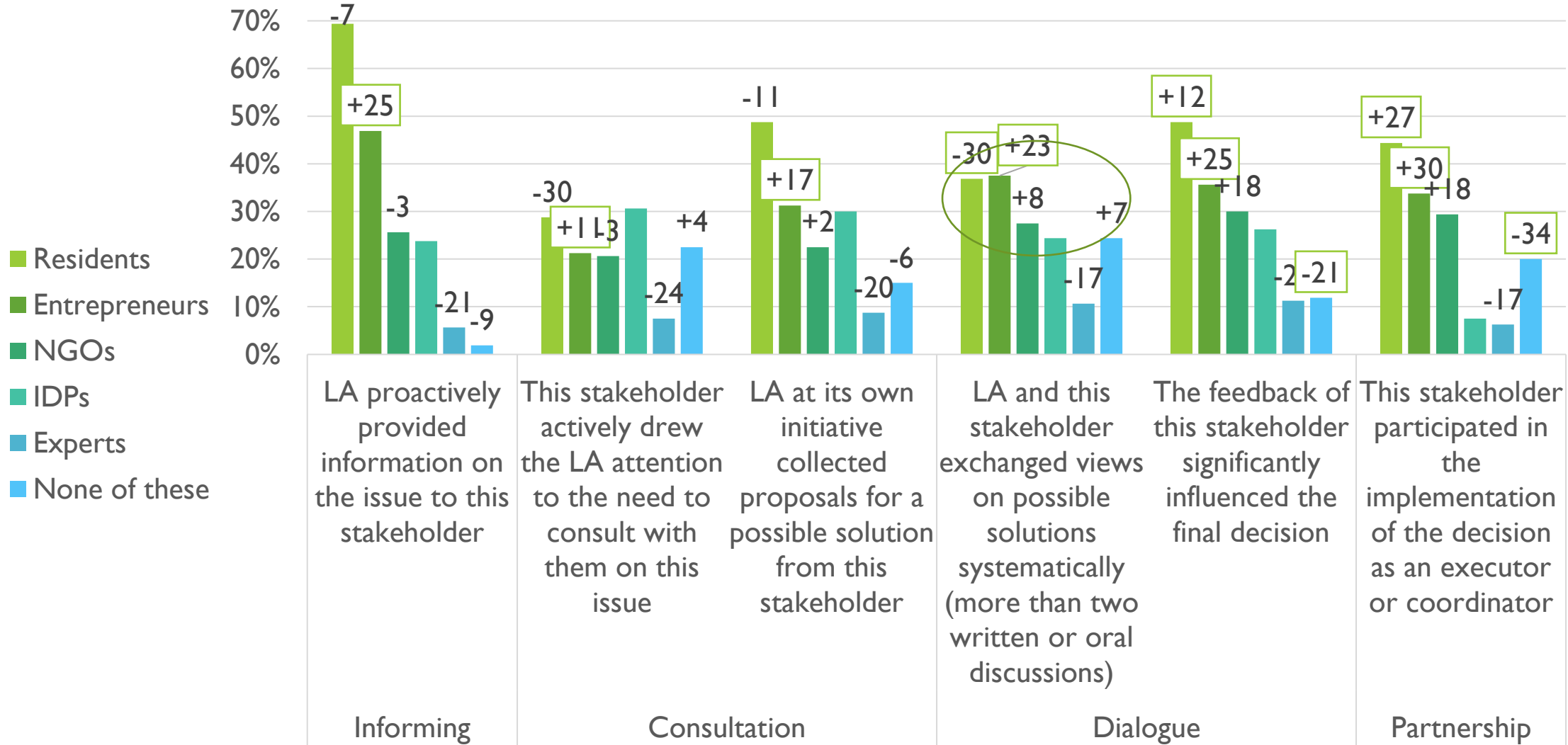
What was the purpose, with which LA in your community introduce initiatives on informing and/or engaging citizens or business after 24.02.2022? [Figures in boxes indicate change vs 2021, similar questions]



n opinions = 134, n needs of vulnerable groups = 150, n community cohesion = 153, n reduce fear = 147, n engage direct stakeholders = 143, n trust = 147, n anti-corruption = 139, n coordinate volunteers = 146, n attract resources = 145, n coordinate demand & supply = 149, n reduce chaos = 147



# LA<sub>s</sub> ENGAGE PUBLIC DEEPER & WIDER IN COMPARISON TO 2021



n = 160 (those rear and liberated communities, which confirmed having public informing and participation initiatives). Question: *Indicate which stakeholders and how were involved in solving the problem, you identified in the previous question. Multiple stakeholders could be selected.*

## CRITICAL ISSUES MANAGED IN COLLABORATION

*Question: Recall one of the most critical problems, to solving which you have involved the public or business in the conditions of war. What issue was it? Choose one.*

Providing IDPs with food and personal items	51%
Housing for IDPs	23%
Providing residents with food and personal items	13%
Organizing bomb shelters	6%
Psychological support for residents and IDPs	2%
Evacuation of residents	2%
Ensuring functioning of critical infrastructure (water, energy)	2%
IDP Integration (employment, school)	2%

Note: n = 160 (those rear and liberated communities, which confirmed having public informing and participation initiatives)

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide **demand-driven material support**: bomb shelters, IDP accommodation and integration, energy security
- Support **intermunicipal partnerships** (local, national, international): personal contact, humanitarian support and strategic collaboration beyond immediate needs
- Encourage **network-based collaboration Government - LA**: existing and new platforms
- Support **collaborative trends in local public participation** based on partnership thinking instead of client-service oriented: e.g. recovery grants conditioned on cross-sectoral partnerships