



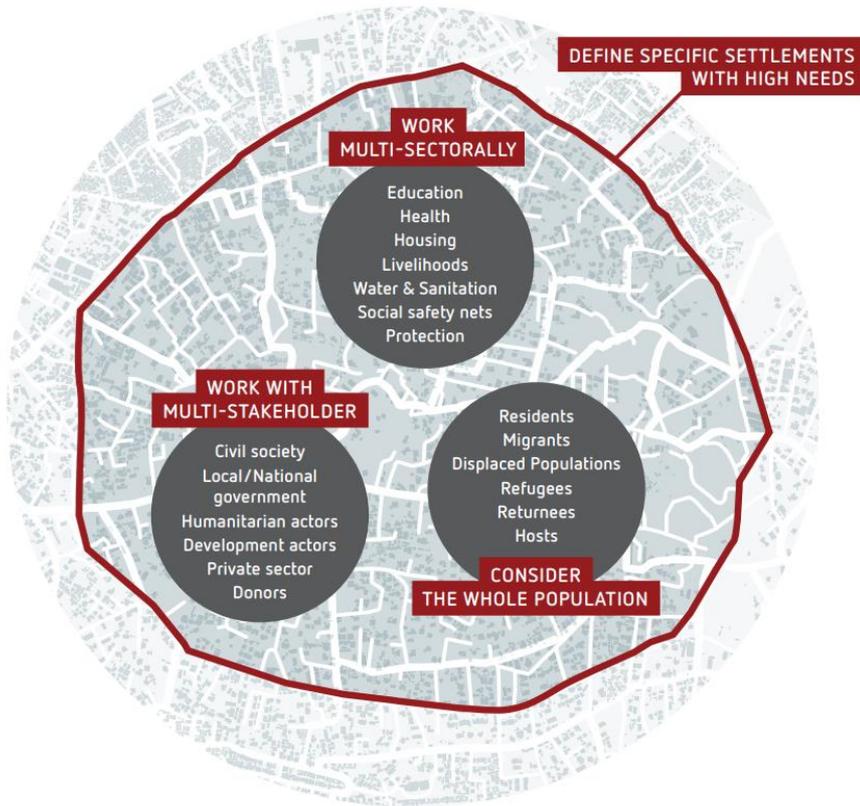
Capacity & Vulnerability Assessment

September 2021



AGORA

What is AGORA?



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Background

- Due to hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) 90,000 people fled to the Republic of Armenia, of which an estimated **36,989 remain displaced**
- Those residing in Armenia have had considerable humanitarian needs ranging from shelter, food, health, education, and livelihoods
- Host communities have experienced stress in their capacity to provide basic services such as energy and utilities, education, healthcare, security services, etc.
- Compounded by the COVID-19 epidemic in Armenia, the displacement crisis added additional stress on government, host communities and institutions and their capacities to address the essential needs of host communities and people in a refugee-like situation

Intended Impact

- This **Capacity & Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)** intends to inform the integration of the **humanitarian-development nexus** in addressing the aftermath of the 2020 shocks in Armenia, through **providing evidence to support targeting the recovery efforts** led by UNDP Armenia and the programming of the Early Recovery Working Group
- The information on services access gained from household (HH) level and service providers aims to support **context-relevant programming** in the specific regions that experienced the heaviest influx of people in refugee-like situation
- The institutional focus of the CVA is geared toward informing interventions aimed at longer term structural change to ensure service provision for all people residing in Armenia



Specific Objectives

To identify capacity gaps in the provision of public services in the following eleven sectors:

- **Housing**
- **Energy and Utilities**
- **Waste Management**
- **Education**
- **Healthcare**
- **Employment**
- **Administrative Services**
- **Social Services**
- **Security and Justice Services**
- **Emergency Services**
- **Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding**

Methodology: Household Survey

- Two structured surveys were developed: a **HH** level survey on access to services and a service provider **key informant survey** to assess service provisions
- For HH surveys, a **total of 1807** (1202 host and 605 refugee-like situation) surveys were accomplished through a stratified random sample
- The research was stratified by both geographic and demographic strata, including **urban** and **rural** host communities, as well as **refugee-like populations**
- The household surveys conducted in Kotayk and Syunik marzes generated findings generalizable with a 95% level of confidence, and a 7% margin of error
- Household surveys conducted in Yerevan generated findings generalizable with a 95% level of confidence, and a 5% margin; refugee-like populations in Yerevan were maintained at a 95% level of confidence, and a 7% margin of error

Methodology: Geographic Coverage

- The study took place in **Kotayk** and **Syunik** marzes, as well as the administrative region of the capital city of **Yerevan**
- Both urban and rural environments were explored, as well as the significantly denser Yerevan landscape

Strata	Kotayk	Sample Size per Strata	Syunik	Sample Size per Strata
Urban	137,900	196	93,200	196
Rural	116,000	196	44,100	196
Refugee-like Population	11,571	196	6,222	196

Yerevan	Host Populations	Refugee-like Populations
Populations	1,084,000	26,567
Sample Size	392	196



Methodology: Geographic Scope



Methodology: Key Informant Survey

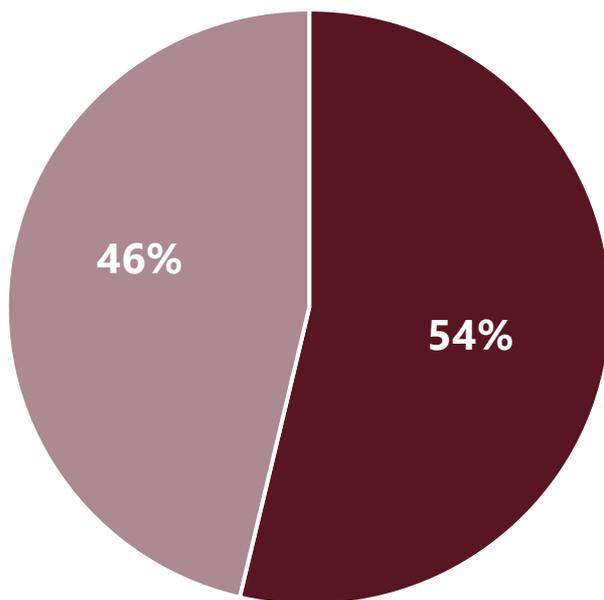
- In total, the key informant survey covered **318** purposefully sampled service providers across the **11 assessed sectors**
- The key informant surveys consisted of two parts: **general cross-sectoral** questions and **sector-specific** questions
- Cross-sectoral questions provide **indicative descriptions** of the trends, behaviours, experiences/ opinions of the respective service providers across sectors; sector-specific data are indicative and summarize these findings per sector

Limitations and Challenges

- Select survey questions rely on extended recall times (requiring households to recall events prior to the hostilities around NK and the COVID-19 pandemic), which might negatively affect the accuracy of the related findings
- The number of service providers interviewed per sector varies due to time constraints and non-response from some providers
- For this reason, some sectors are over or underrepresented in the findings, and the findings are only limitedly comparable

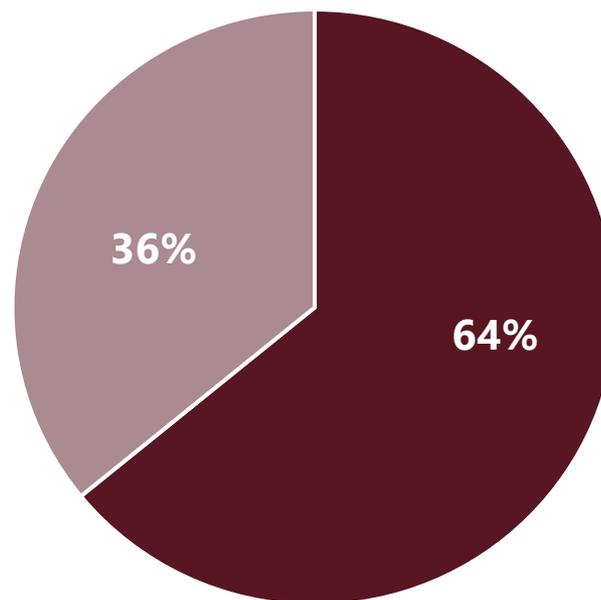
Gender of the head of HH

Host HHs



■ Male ■ Female

Refugee-like HHs



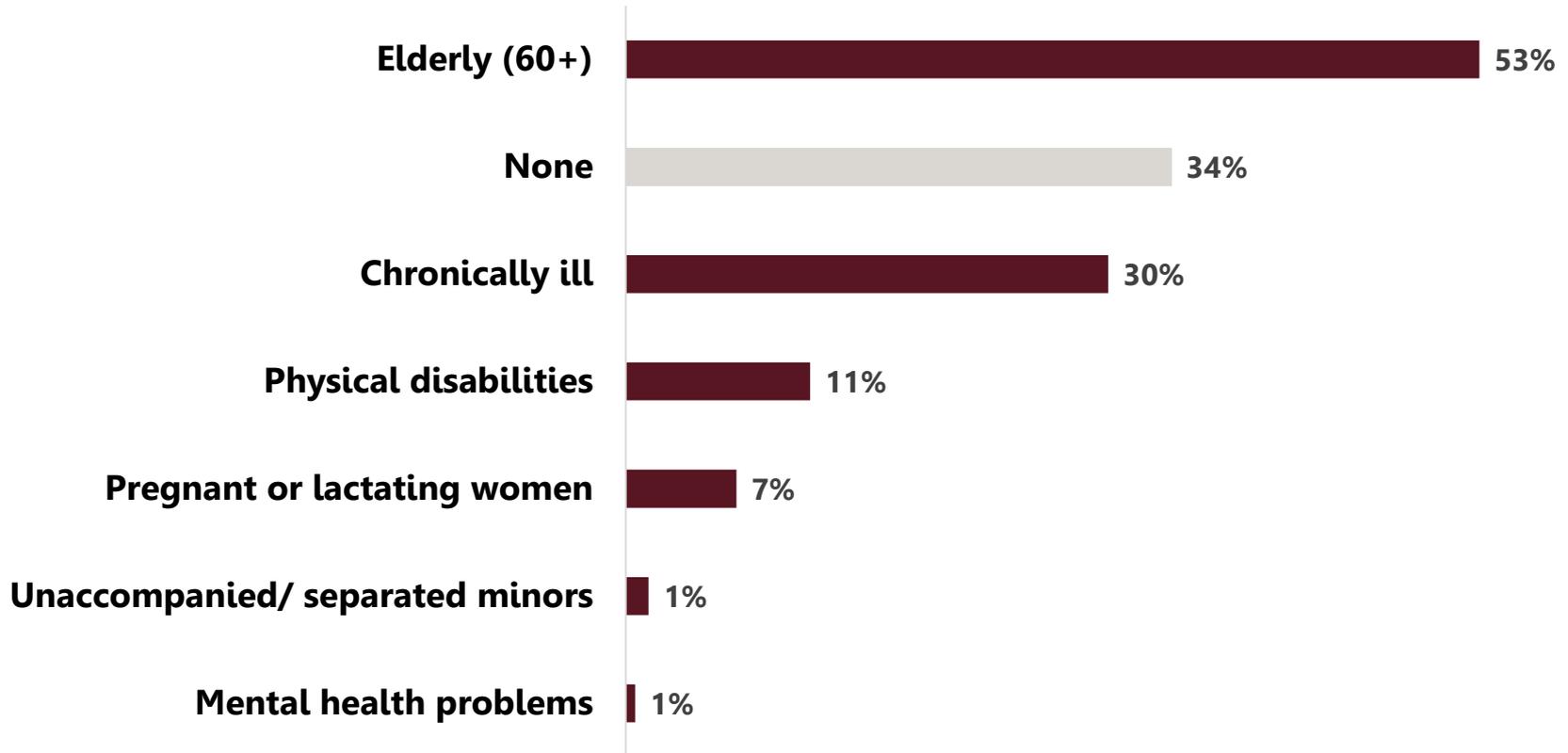
■ Male ■ Female



Demographics



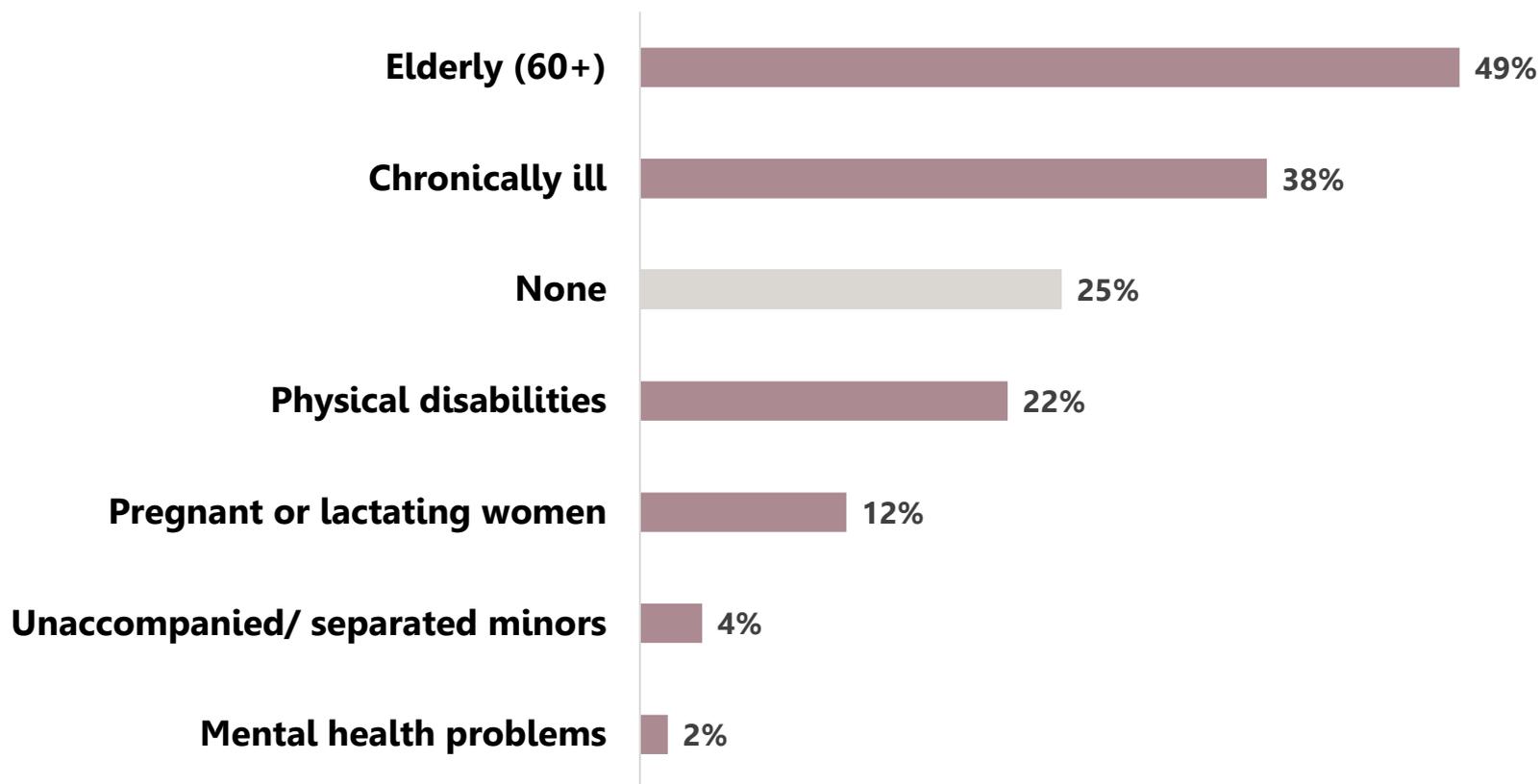
% of Host HHs reporting having at least one member with one of the following vulnerabilities



Demographics



% of refugee-like HHs reporting having at least one member with one of the following vulnerabilities



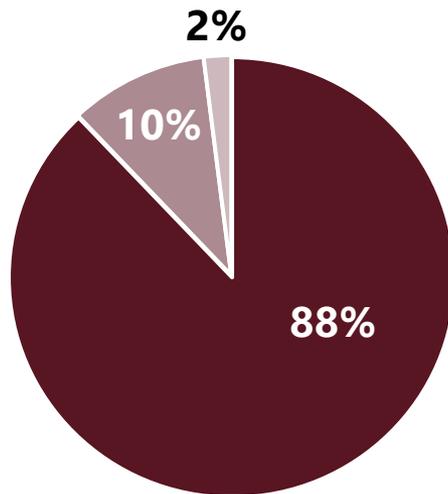
Key Findings: Housing

- Findings suggest that housing conditions generally remained consistent for host HHs; the majority **(88%)** reportedly resided in their own apartments before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and hostilities in and around NK
- Conditions appeared more varied for refugee-like HHs, as **49%** were renting their apartments, while the rest were living in their own apartments, with host families, or in collective centers.



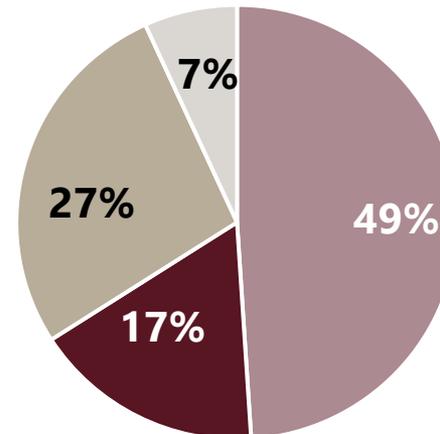
Current living situation for host & refugee-like HHs

Host HHs



- We own our apartment/house
- We rent our apartment/house
- Other

Refugee-like HHs



- Staying in rented/paid accommodation
- Staying in own house
- Currently residing with hosting households
- Currently residing in a collective center (or hostel/hotel, etc)

Key Findings: Utilities

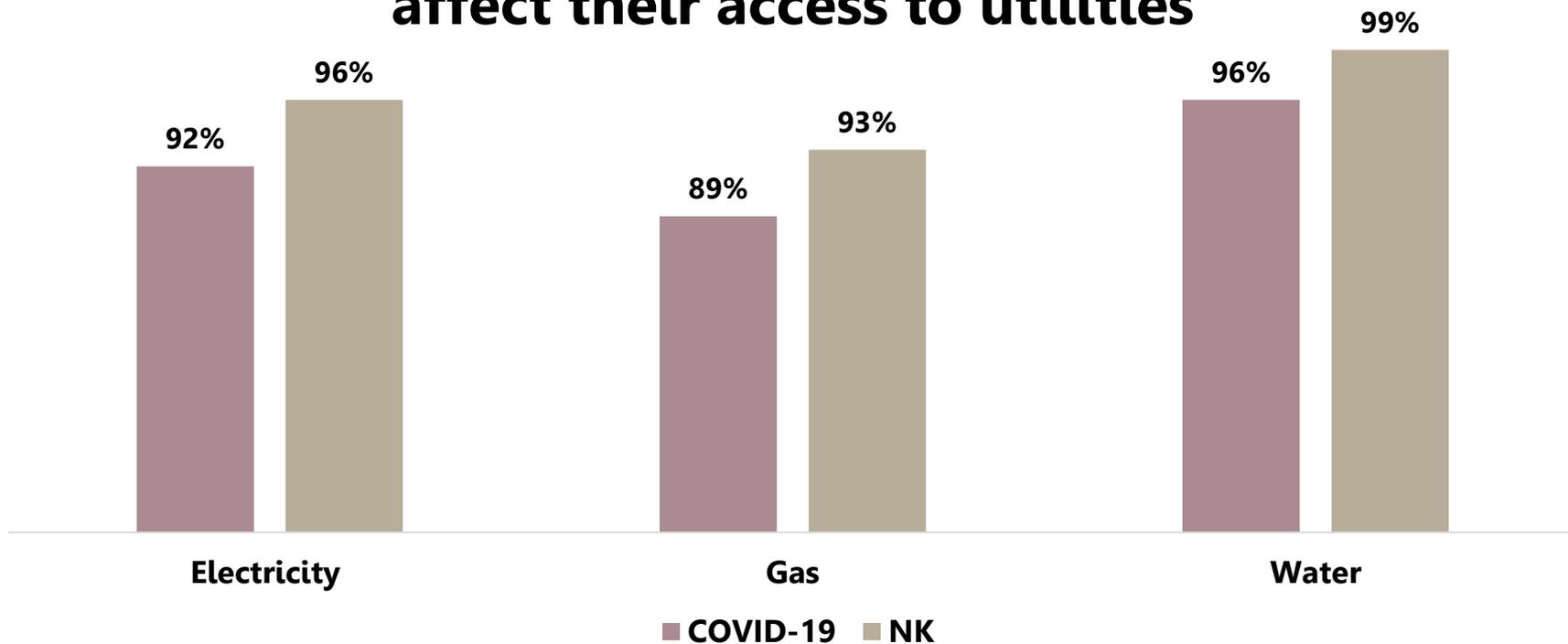


- The majority of HHs stated that they were **entirely satisfied** with utilities (more than 80% satisfaction level)
- Findings suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic and the hostilities in and around NK have not considerably impacted access to utilities among host HHs; **over 90% of host HHs** had access to utilities, compared to **70% of refugee-like HHs**
- In the sewerage sector, the most relevant challenges identified by service providers were **clogging in pipes** (11 respondents) and **the need for street network substitution** (14 respondents)
- Overall, service providers in all four sectors commonly stated that both COVID-19 and the hostilities in and around NK **did not affect their ability to deliver services**



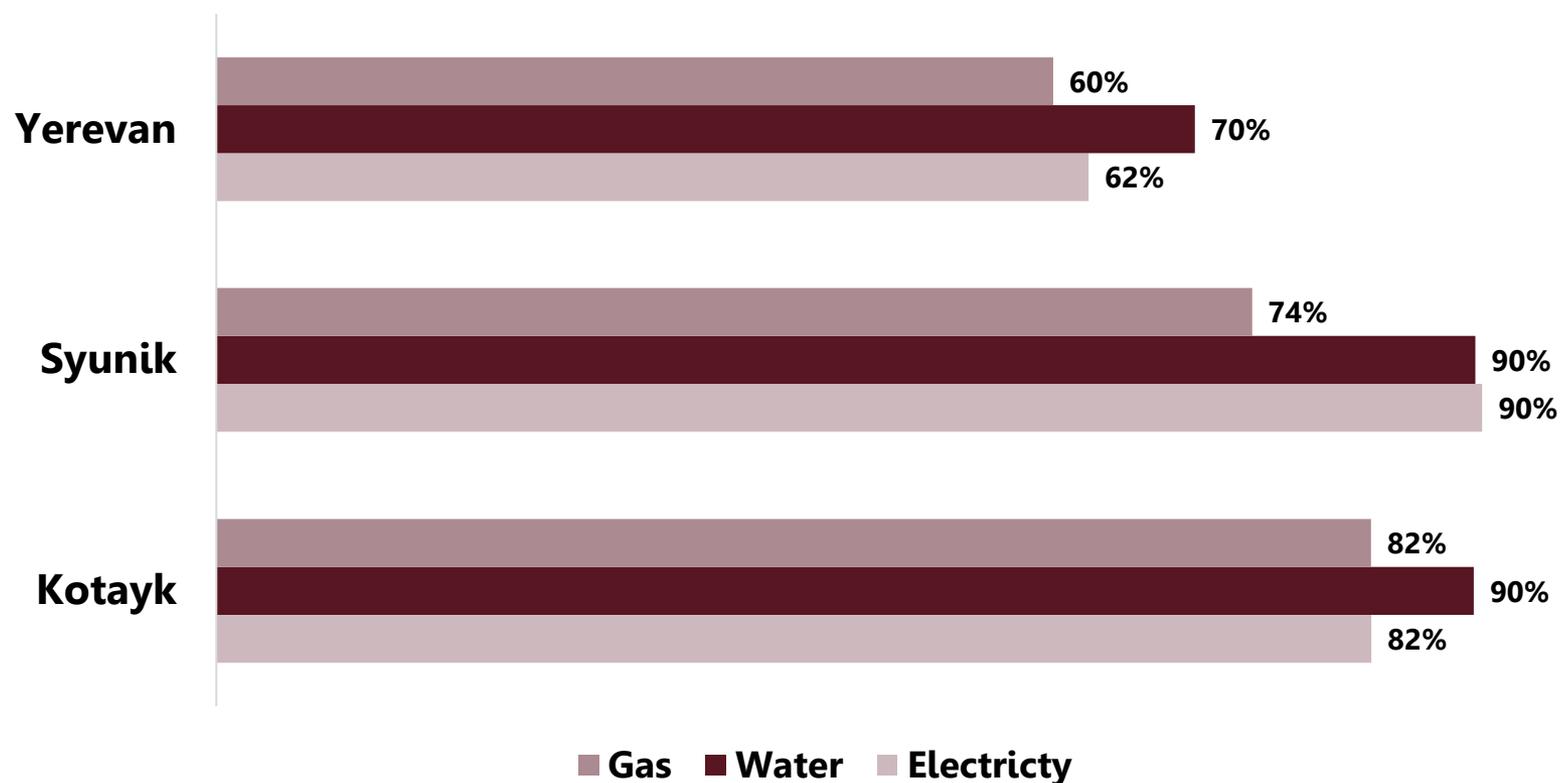
Host Community Access to Utilities

% of host HHs reporting that COVID-19 and the hostilities in and around NK did not affect their access to utilities



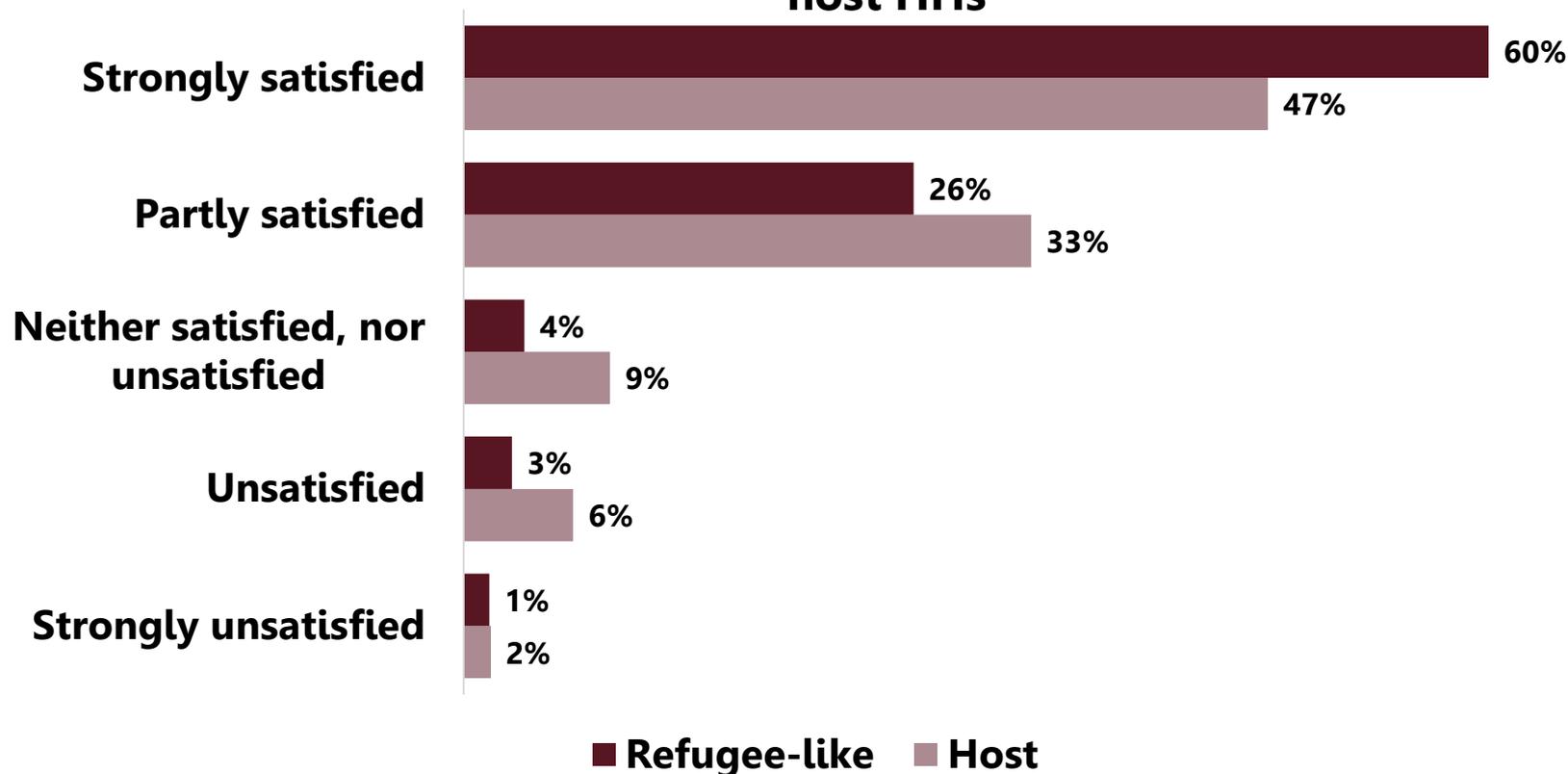
Refugee-like HHs Access to Utilities

% of refugee-like HHs reporting having had access to utilities since arriving in Armenia, by region



Sewerage satisfaction level

Reported satisfaction with sewerage services in the 30 days prior to data collection, by % of refugee-like populations and host HHs

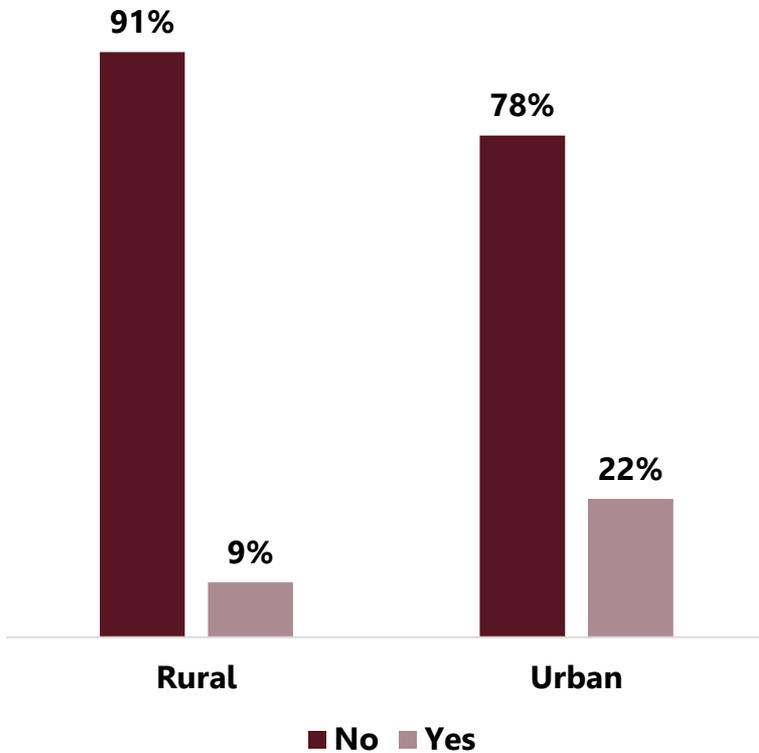


Key Findings: Waste Management

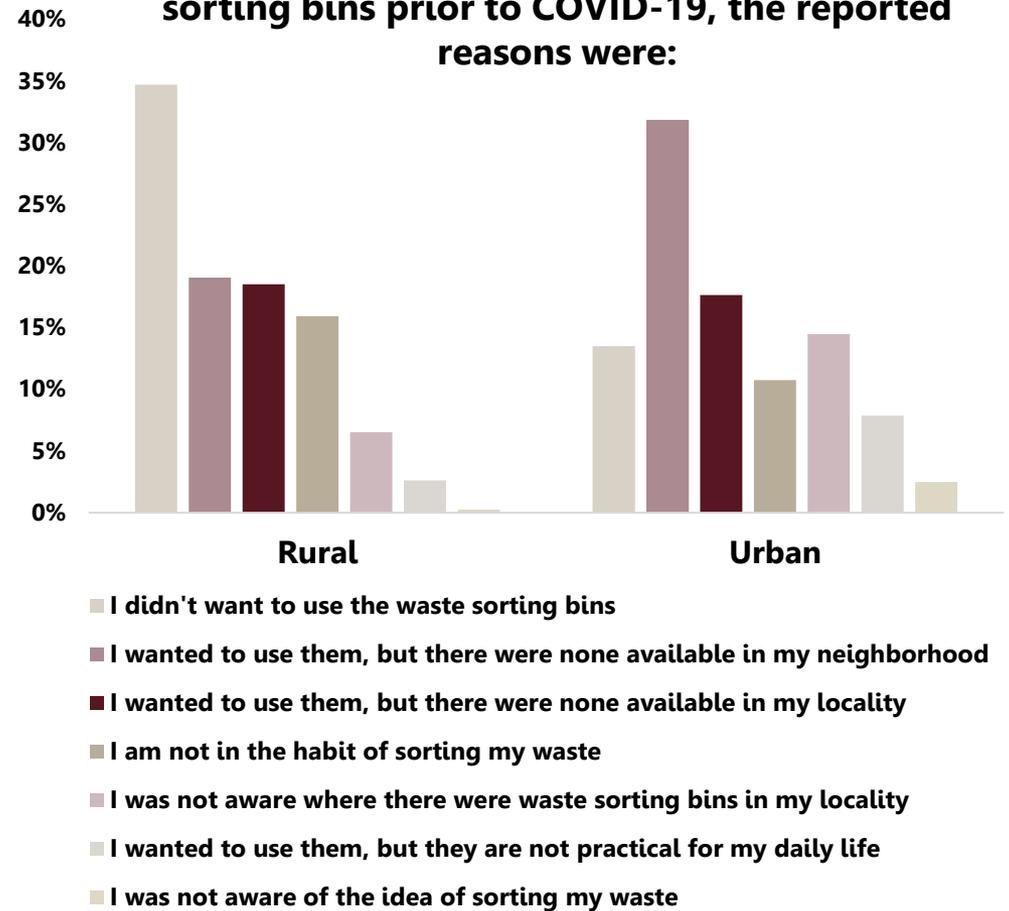
- **74%** of Kotayk's rural HHs reported using a **garbage truck** as their primary mechanism for waste disposal
- Across all the regions **waste sorting bins are generally not available**
- According to waste management service providers, **payments by the HHs** and **business entities** as well as **service supply** to the HHs are the most acute challenges
- **Lack of financial resources** and **old/outdated equipment** were the most reported reasons for the existing challenges, the latter was particularly reports in Kotayk

Waste Management: Host HHs

% of urban and rural host HHs reporting their use of sorting bins prior to COVID-19

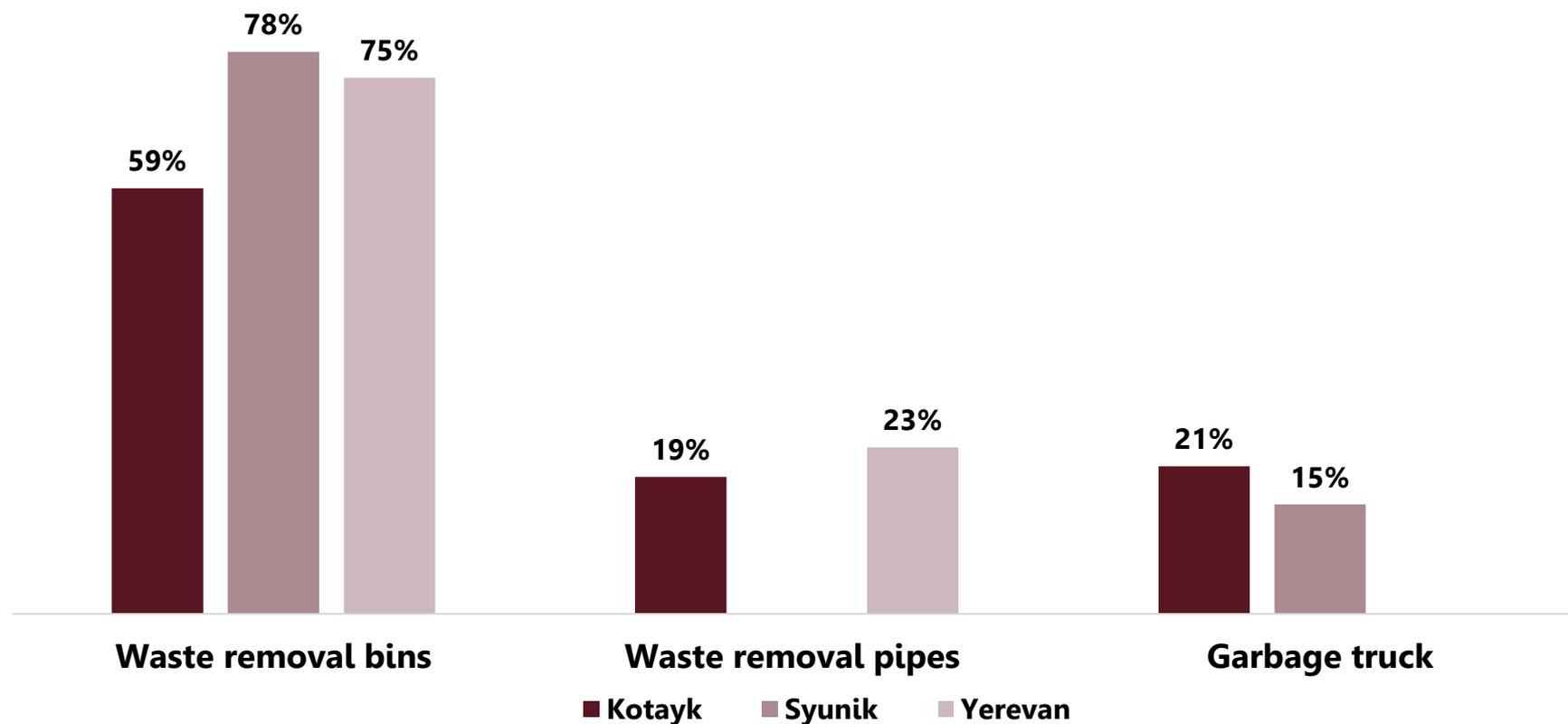


Among host HHs reporting not having used sorting bins prior to COVID-19, the reported reasons were:



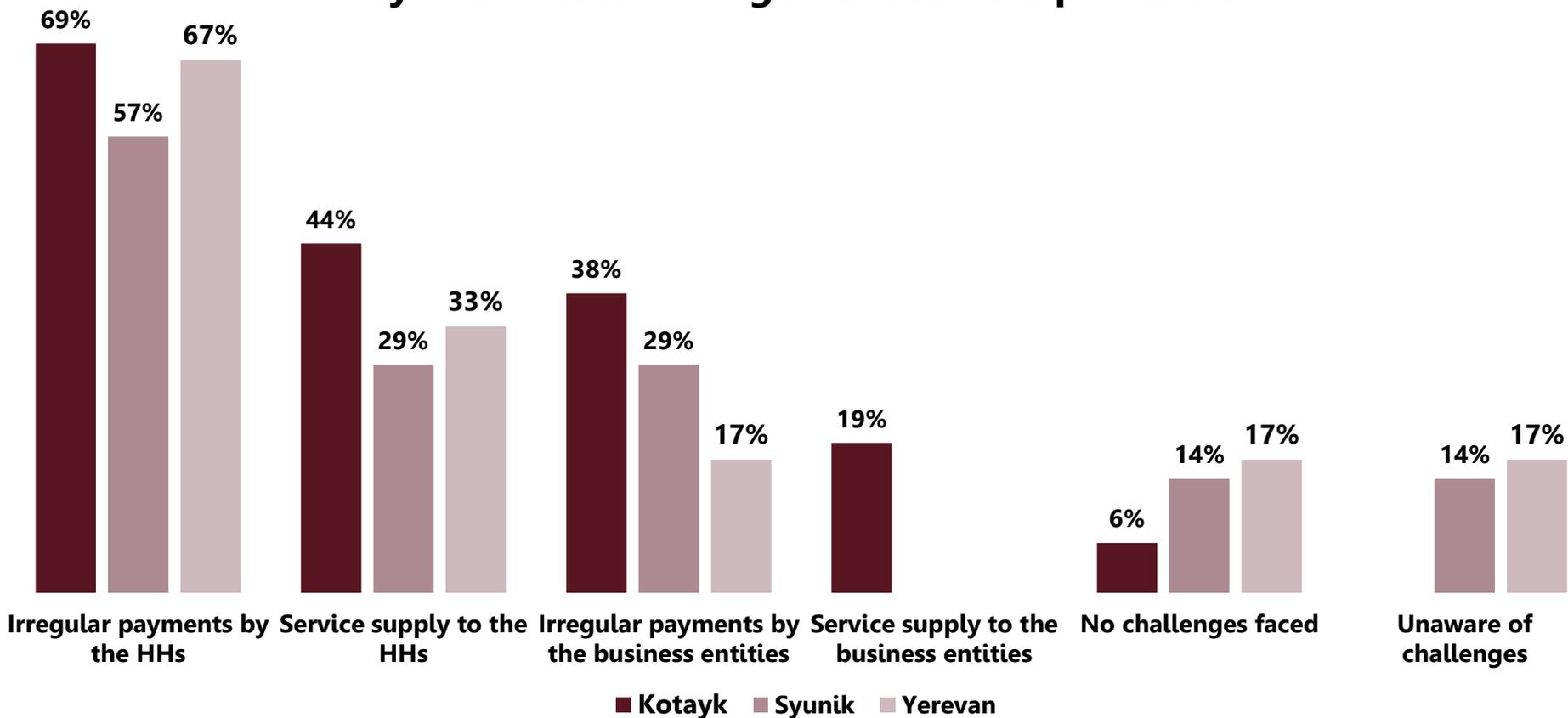
Waste Management: Refugee-like HHs

Type of waste removal services used by refugee-like HHs in the 30 days prior to data collection



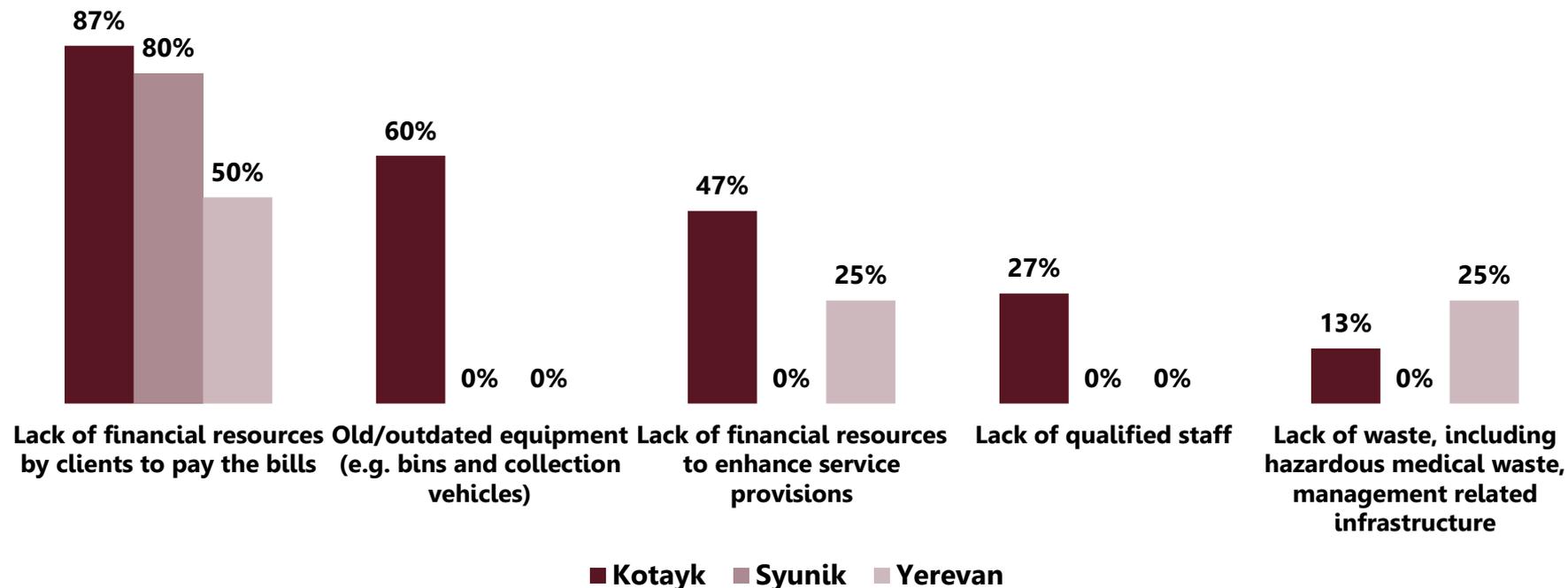
Waste Management: Service Providers

Most commonly reported challenges to waste management, by % of waste management service providers



Waste Management: Service Providers

According to those service providers who reported challenges with waste disposal service provision (83%), the reasons for these challenges are

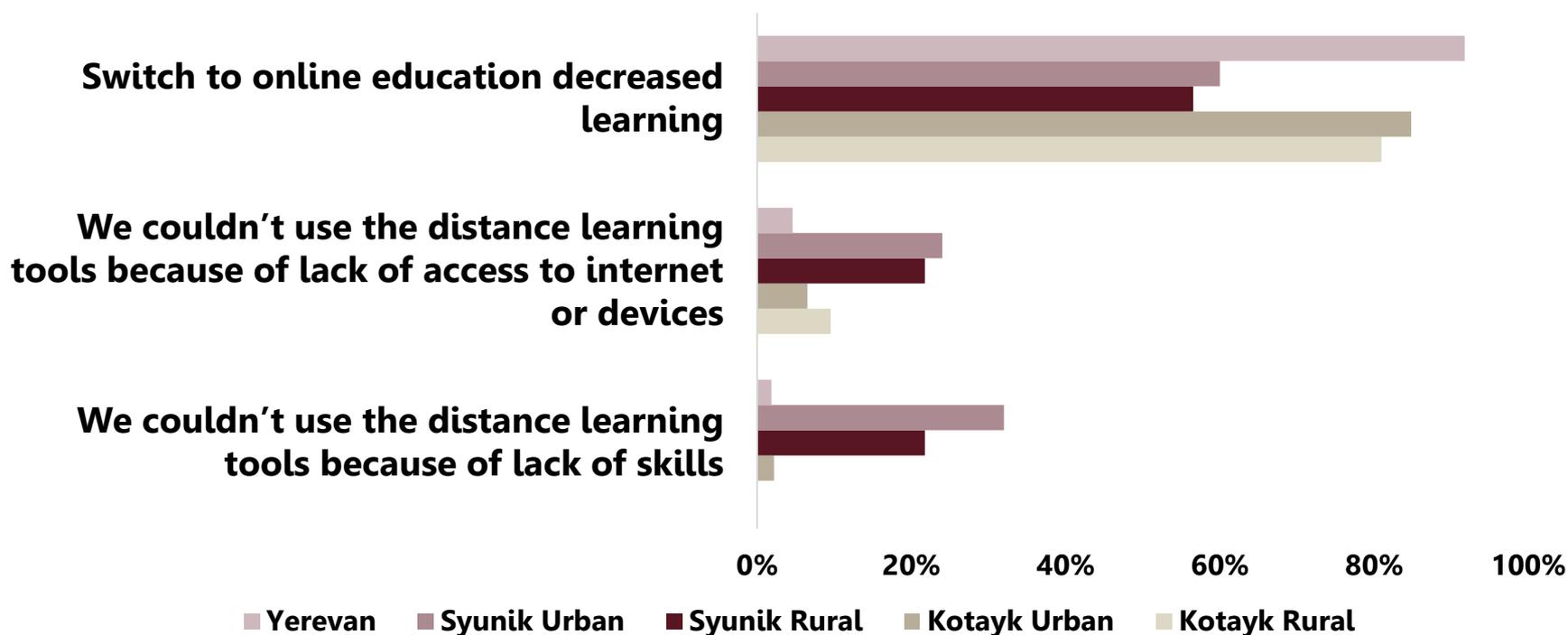


Key Findings: Education

- Both urban and rural host community HHs in Syunik commonly reported being **unable to use distance learning tools** due to either a **lack of skills** or a **lack of internet access**
- **23%** of refugee-like HHs reported having faced challenges in accessing education upon their arrival to the RA
- In Kotayk and Yerevan, refugee-like HHs most commonly reported challenges with **enrollment** as a main education-related challenge, while in Syunik, the most commonly reported challenge was an **inability to access distance learning equipment**
- The main challenges identified by the service providers were the **limited availability of technological equipment**; a **lack of qualified staff**; and **limited quantity of pupils/students attendings educational facilities**

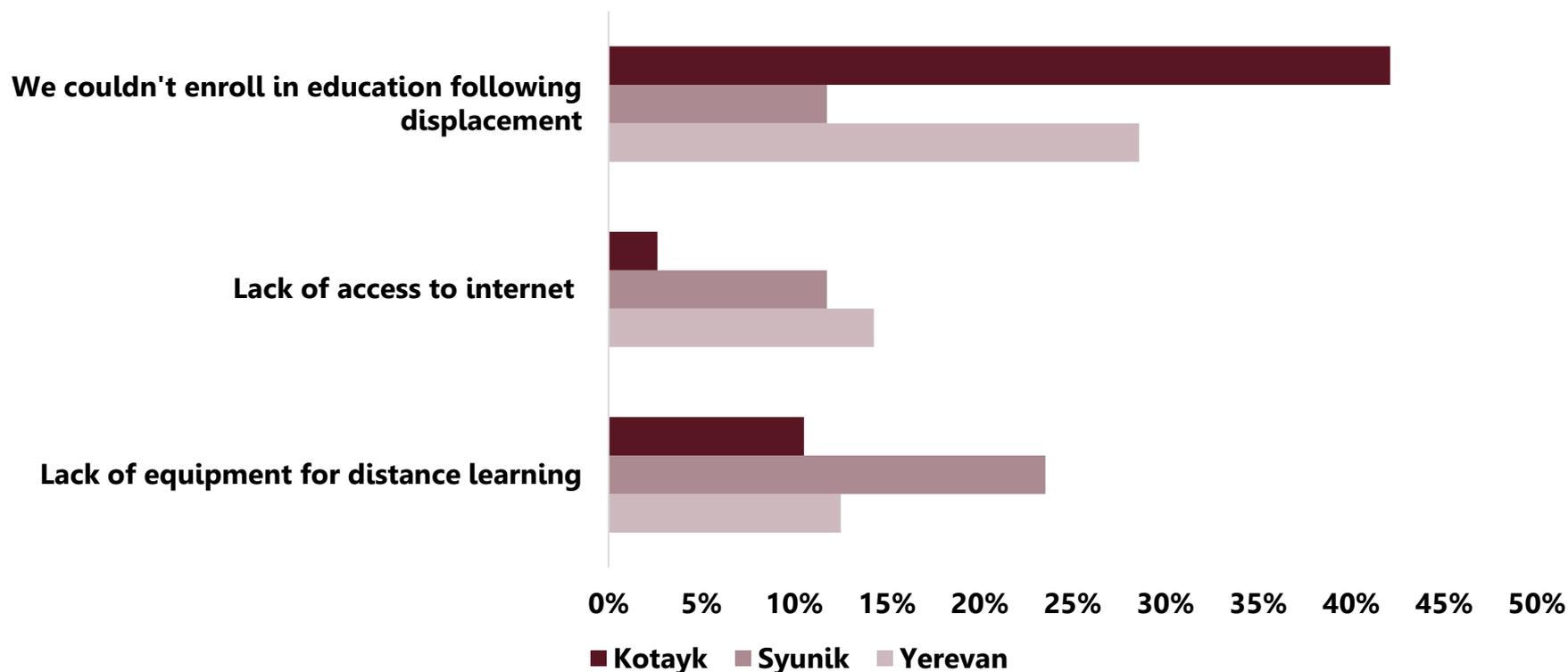
Effect of COVID-19 on Education: Host HHs

Reported effects of COVID-19 on access to education, by % of host HHs reporting their access to education had been affected (25%)



Effect of NK on Education: Refugee-like HHs

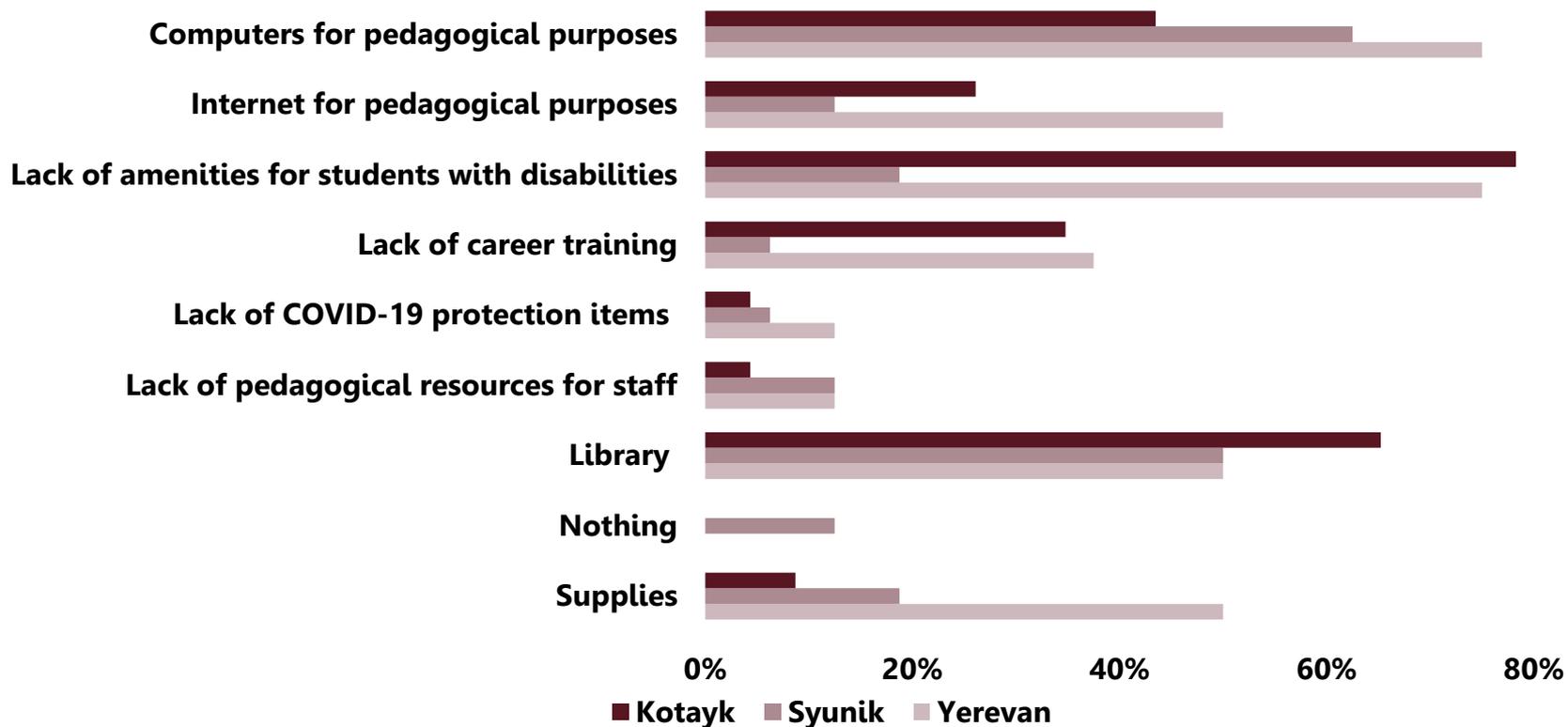
Reported effects of the hostilities in and around NK on access to education, by % of refugee-like HHs reporting their access to education had been affected (23%)



Education: Service Providers



% of education service providers (n=47) reporting education facilities lack the following resources:



Education: Service Providers



% of education service providers (n=47) reporting the following main challenges in the field of education, per region:

	Kotayk (n=23)	Syunik (n=16)	Yerevan (n=8)	Overall
Lack of qualified staff	30%	56%	50%	43%
Limited availability of technological equipment	65%	63%	75%	66%
Limited quantity of pupils/students	52%	31%	38%	43%
No challenges faced	0%	6%	0%	2%
Student/teacher ratio	26%	6%	25%	19%



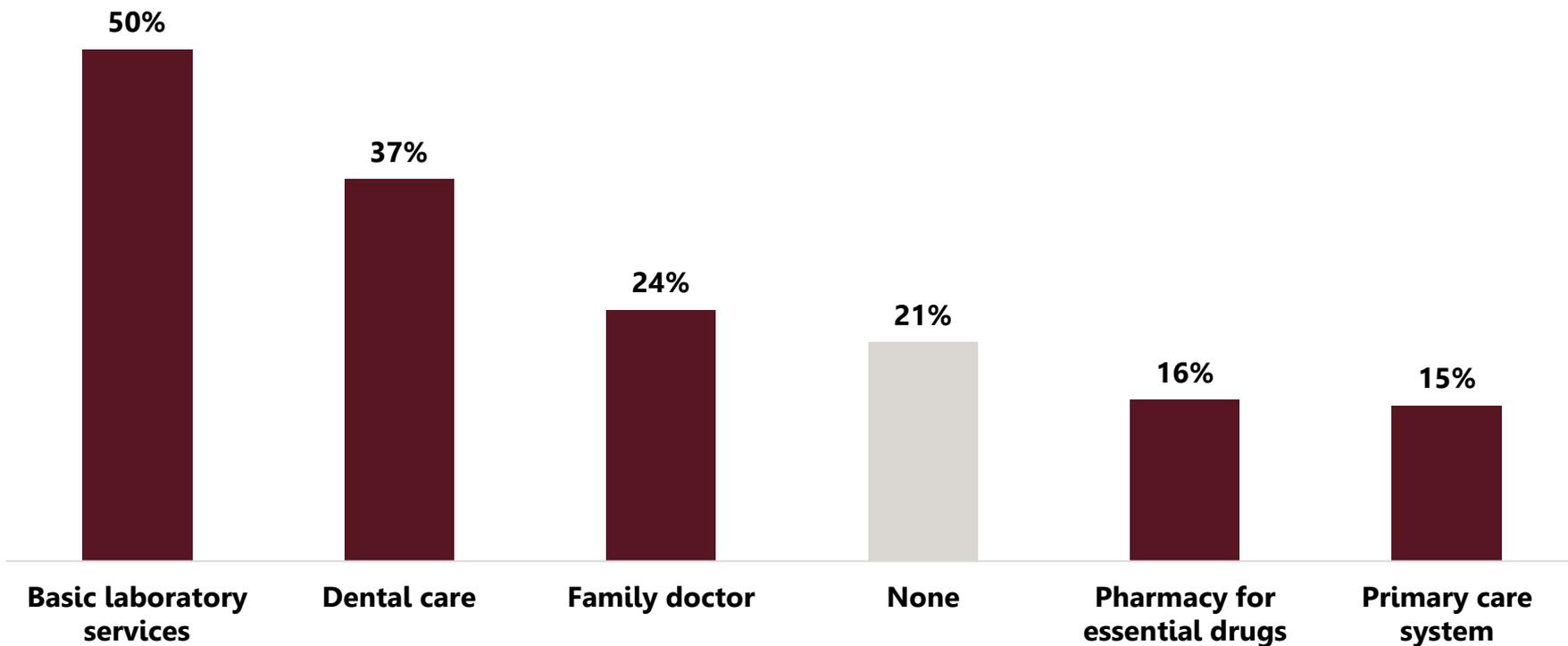
Key Findings: Healthcare

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the most used healthcare services by the host HHs were **pharmacies for essential drugs, primary care, and basic laboratory services**
- **48%** of host HHs reported that the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect their access to healthcare
- **43%** of host HHs reported that the hostilities in and around NK had not affected their access to healthcare
- **40%** of refugee-like HHs reported not accessing healthcare services during the hostilities in and around NK
- According to medical service providers, healthcare institutions commonly experienced a **lack of doctors** and **medical personnel** during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as during the NK hostilities
- Service providers reported a **lack of medical supplies** and **qualified staff** as two key resources lacking in medical facilities

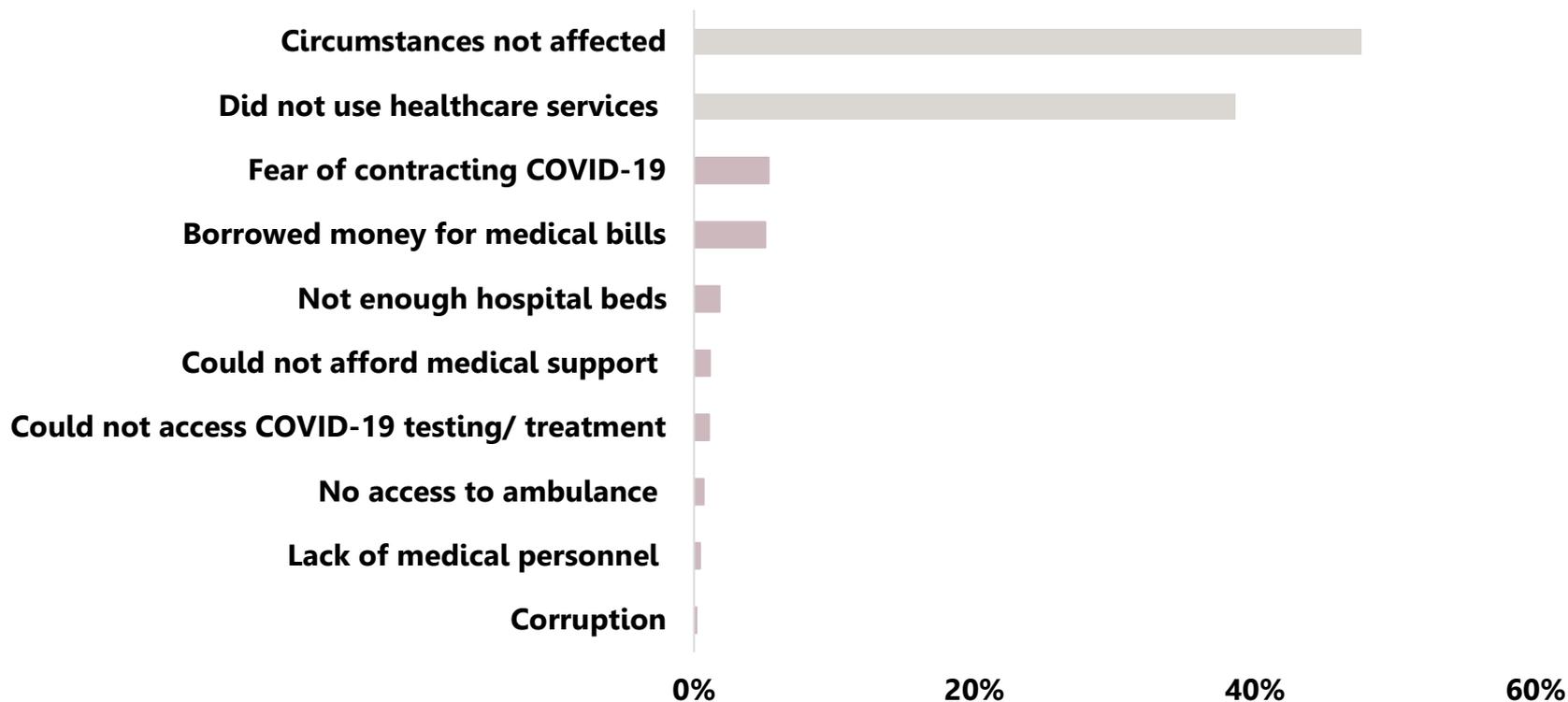
Healthcare: Host HHs



% of host HH members reporting having used the following medical services prior to COVID-19 (February 2020)

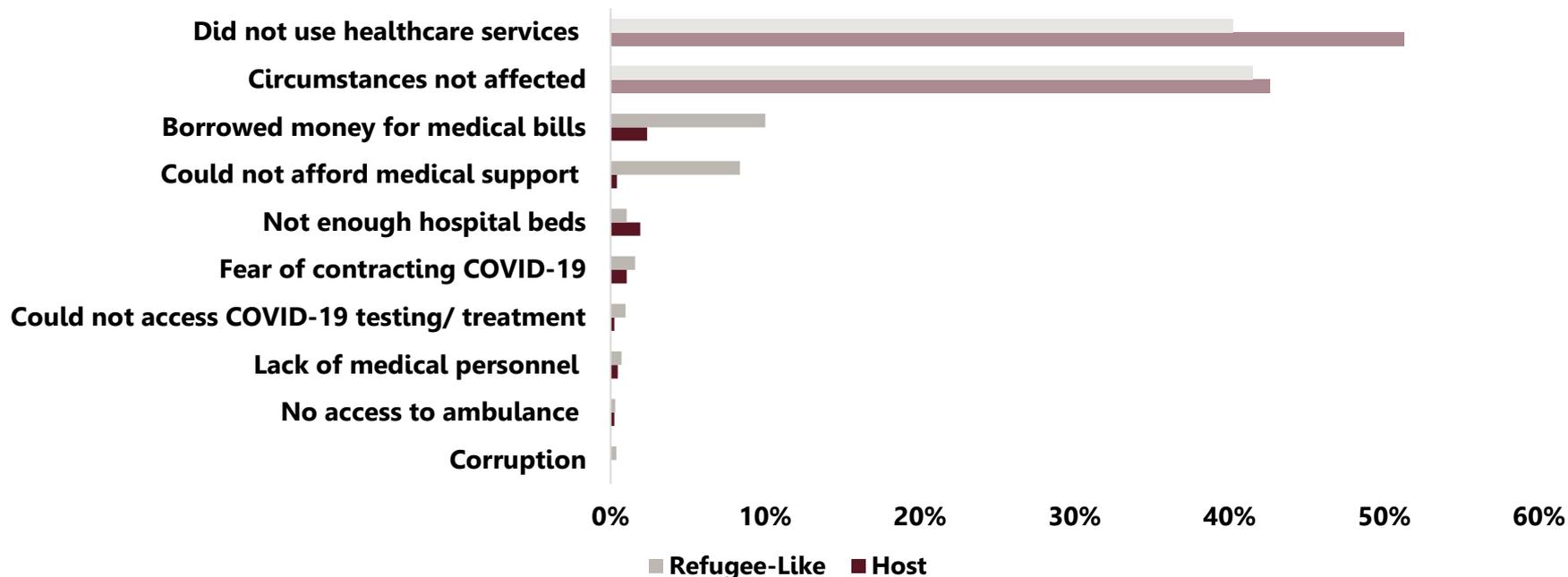


Reported effects of COVID-19 on access to healthcare (March-June 2020), by % of host HHs



Effect of NK of healthcare provisions

Reported effects of the hostilities in and around NK on access to healthcare (September-December 2020), by % of host and refugee-like HHs



Healthcare: Service Providers

% of healthcare service providers (n=37) lacking the following resources in healthcare facilities, per region

	Kotayk (n=20)	Syunik (n=12)	Yerevan (n=5)	Overall
Ambulances	5%	8%	0%	5%
Lack of qualified staff	20%	58%	80%	41%
Medical supplies	65%	42%	80%	59%
Medicine	5%	8%	60%	14%
Nothing	5%	0%	0%	3%
Personal protective gear (PPG)	10%	8%	20%	11%
Doctors	10%	8%	20%	11%
Hospital beds	5%	0%	20%	5%
Medical personnel	20%	0%	20%	14%

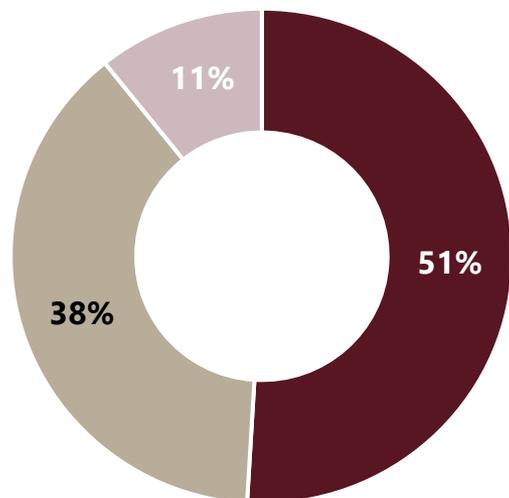


Key Findings: Employment

- The majority (89%) of host HHs reported that their employment status had not been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- **97%** of host HHs reported that the hostilities in and around NK had not affected their employment status
- **75%** of host HHs who engage in agricultural activities did not receive any agricultural support or training
- Only **13%** of refugee-like HHs were **employed** at the time of data collection, whereas **44%** were **looking for a job** and **43%** were **unemployed and not looking for work**
- The hostilities in and around NK reportedly affected the employment status of over half of refugee-like HHs (**53%**), the majority of whom reported having **lost their job due to displacement (79%)**

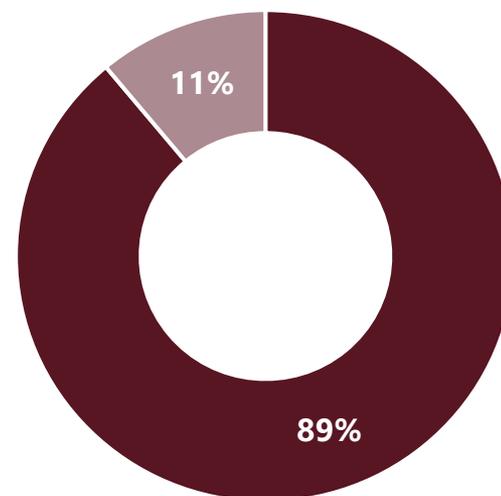
Employment: Host HHs

% of host HH survey respondents* reporting employment status at the time of data collection



- Unemployed, not looking for a job
- Employed
- Unemployed, looking for a job

% of host HH survey respondents reporting that COVID-19 affected their employment status

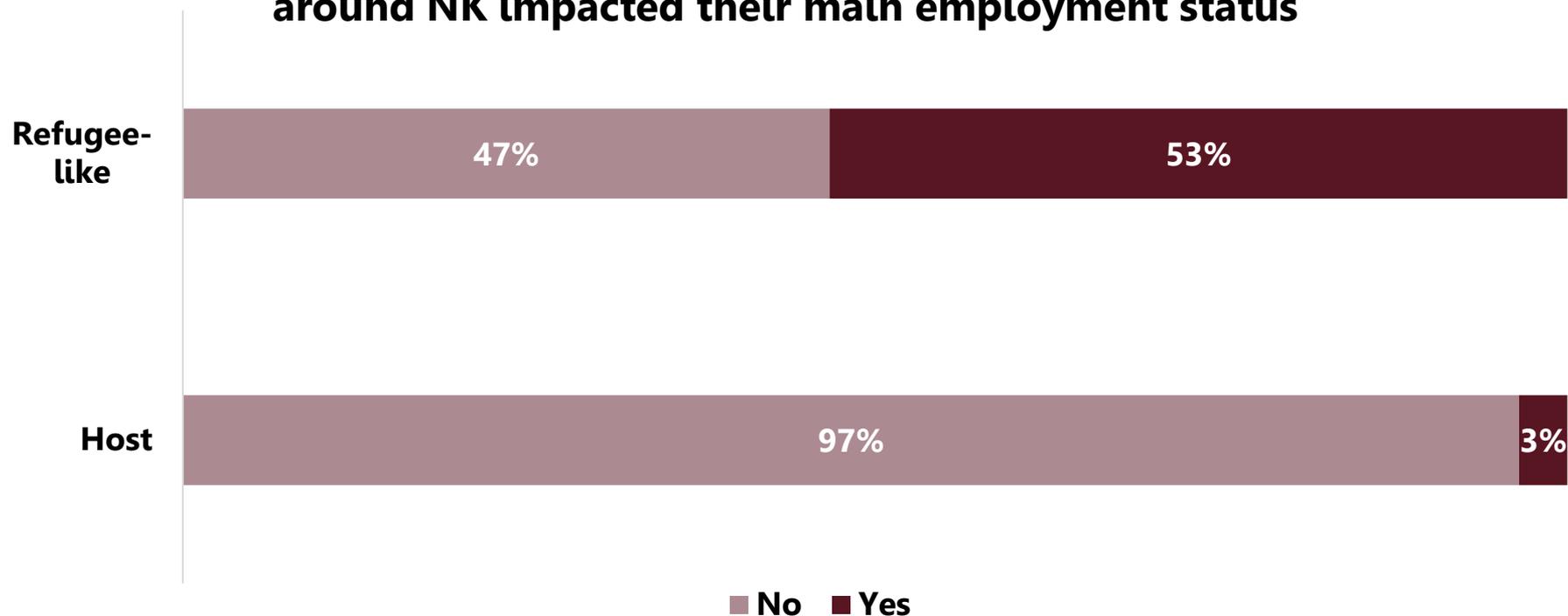


- No
- Yes

*This question was asked to respondents on an individual level

Effect of NK on employment status

% of host and refugee-like HHs reporting that the hostilities in and around NK impacted their main employment status

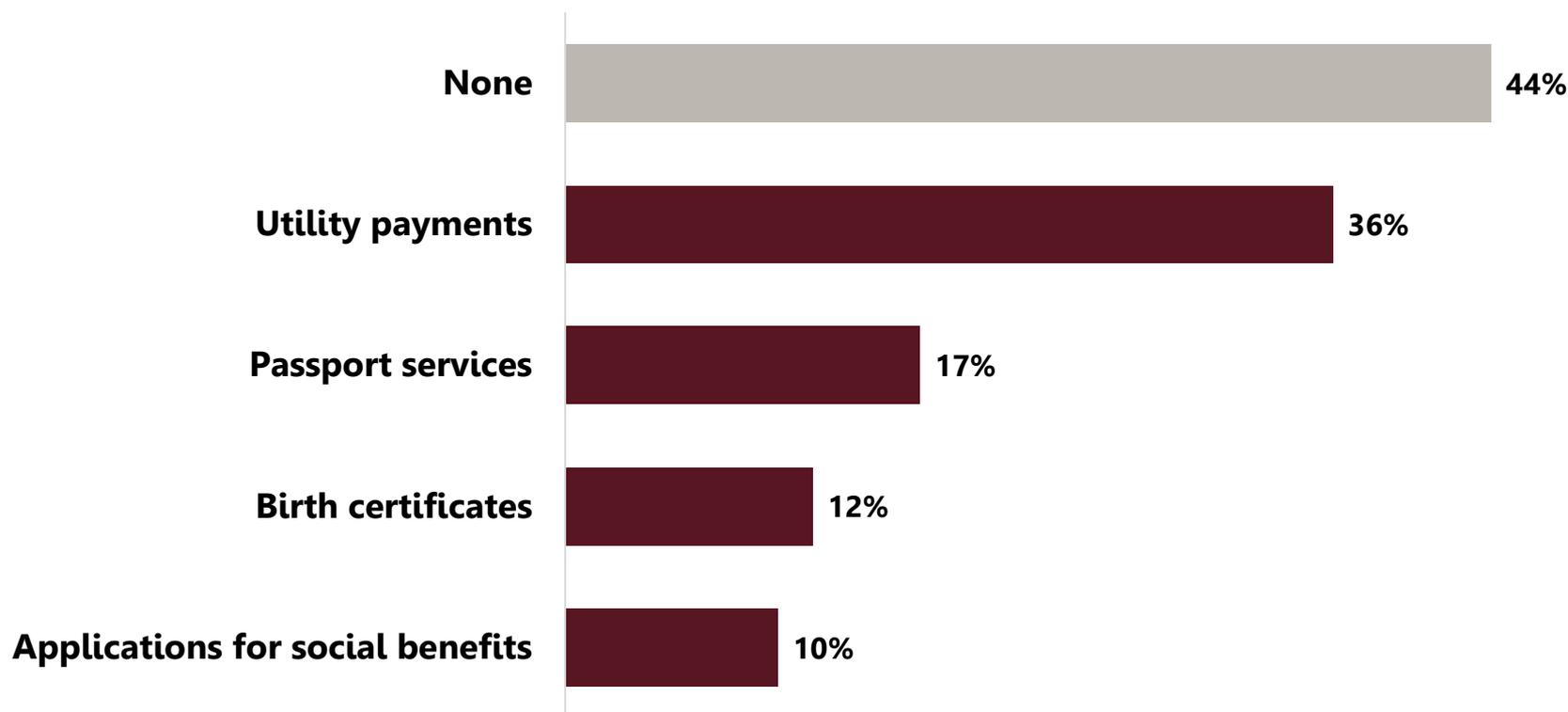


Key Findings: Administrative Services

- **98%** of host HHs reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had not affected their ability to access administrative services
- **92%** of refugee-like HHs reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had not affected their ability to access administrative services
- **27%** of service providers reported facing challenges in meeting the demand of administrative services, including the following:
lack of mobility for beneficiaries to access services and a **lack of institutional guidelines/ frameworks to deal with service provision remotely**

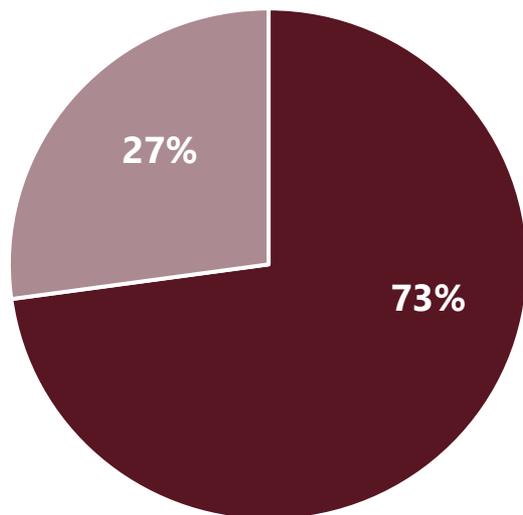
Administrative Services: Refugee-like HHs

% of refugee-like HHs reporting having used administrative services in the 30 days prior to data collection



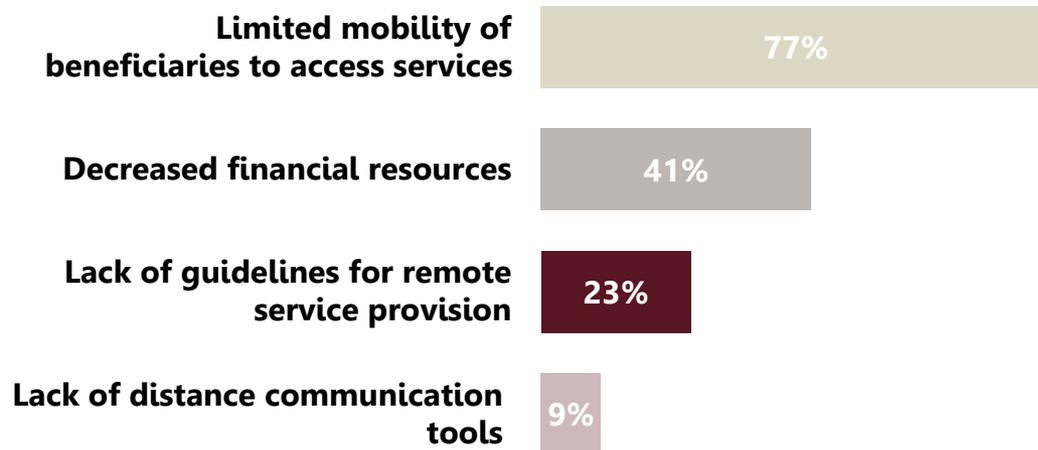
Administrative Services: Service Providers

% of administrative service providers (n=81) reporting COVID-19 has affected their ability to provide administrative services:



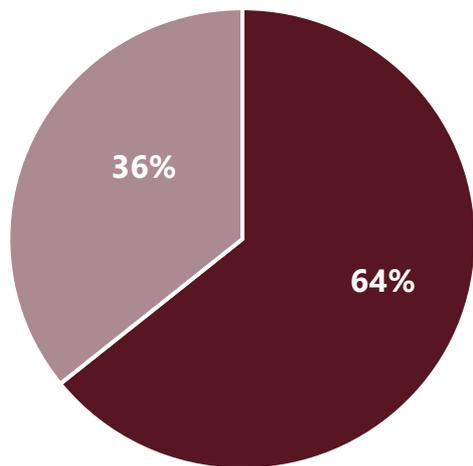
■ No ■ Yes

Among those service providers who were reportedly impacted, the most commonly reported impacts of COVID-19 on their ability to provide administrative services:



Administrative Services: Service Providers

% of administrative service providers (n=81) reporting that hostilities in and around NK have affected ability to provide administrative services:



■ No ■ Yes

Among those service providers who were reportedly impacted, the most commonly reported impacts of the hostilities in and around NK on their ability to provide administrative services:

Limited mobility of beneficiaries to access services

52%

Inability to meet the higher demand of services due to the influx of displaced populations

27%

Decreased financial resources

24%

Downsizing of staff/human resources

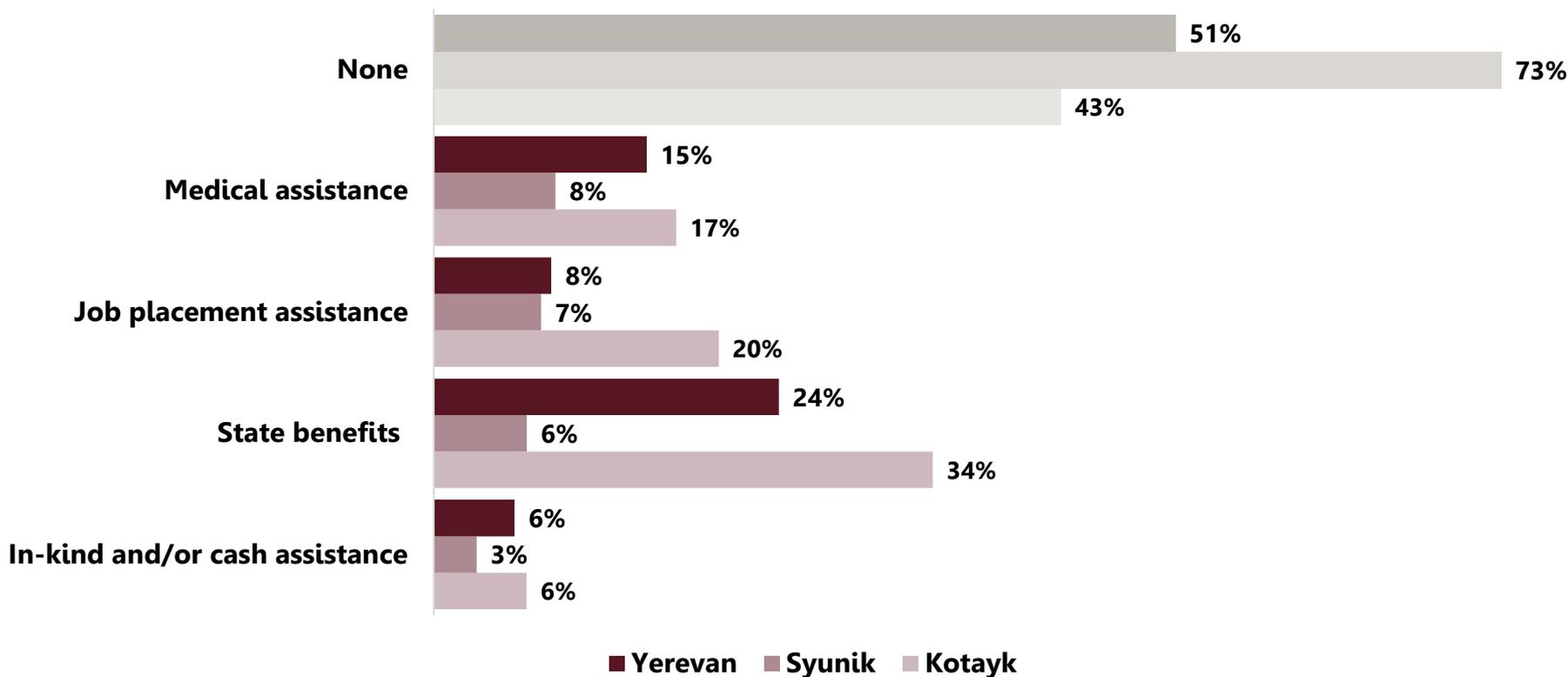
6%

Key Findings: Social Services

- **97%** of host HHs reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had not affected their access to social services
- **97%** of HHs and **94%** of refugee-like HHs reported that the hostilities in and around NK had not affected their access to social services
- Service providers highlighted two main challenges in delivering social services: the **lack of existing technology/infrastructure** and the **lack of financial resources**

Social Services: Refugee-like HHs

% of refugee-like HHs reporting having needed the following social services in the 30 days prior to data collection, per region

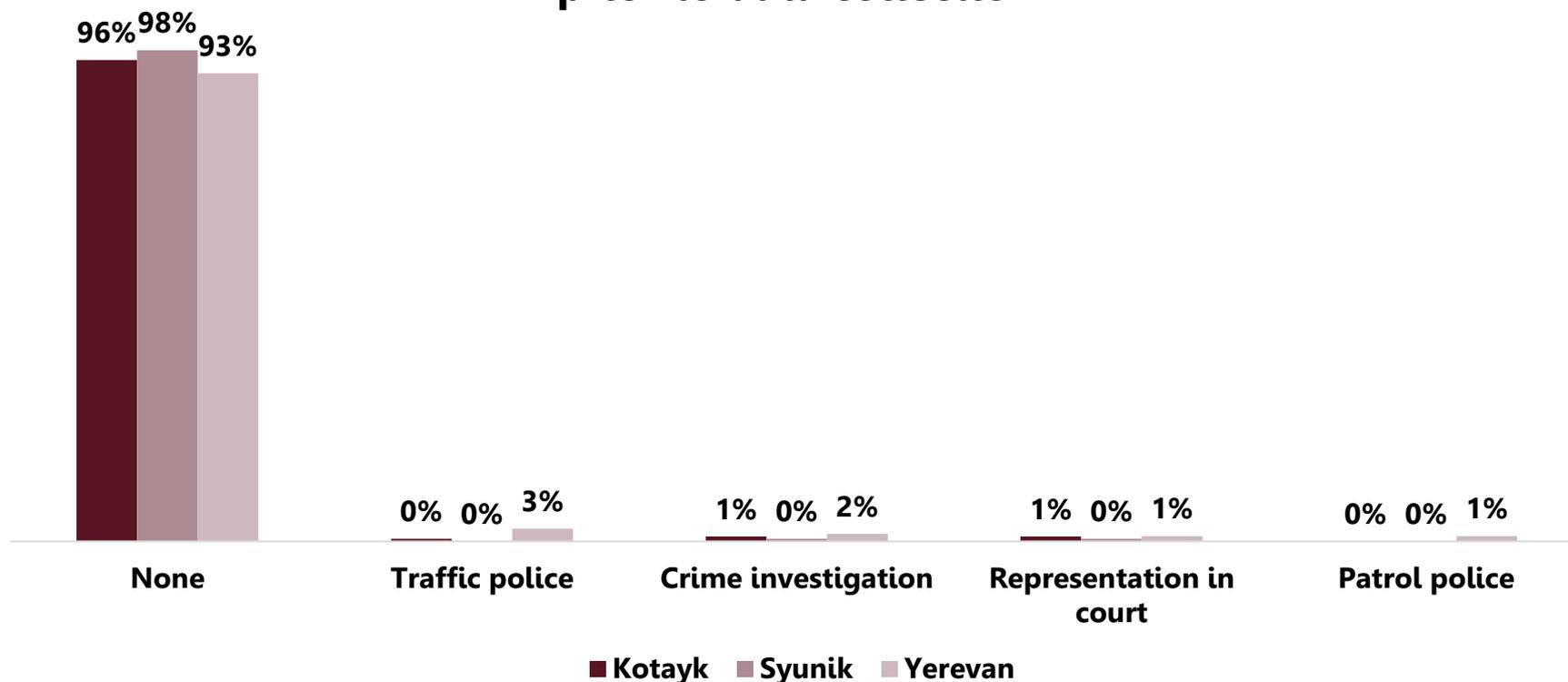


Key Findings: Security and Justice Services

- **98%** of host HHs reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had not affected their ability to access security and justice services
- **99%** of host HHs and refugee-like HHs reported that the hostilities in and around NK did not affect their access to services
- According to the majority of service providers, the hostilities in and around NK created challenges due to the **lack of institutional frameworks** and **delays in legal proceedings**

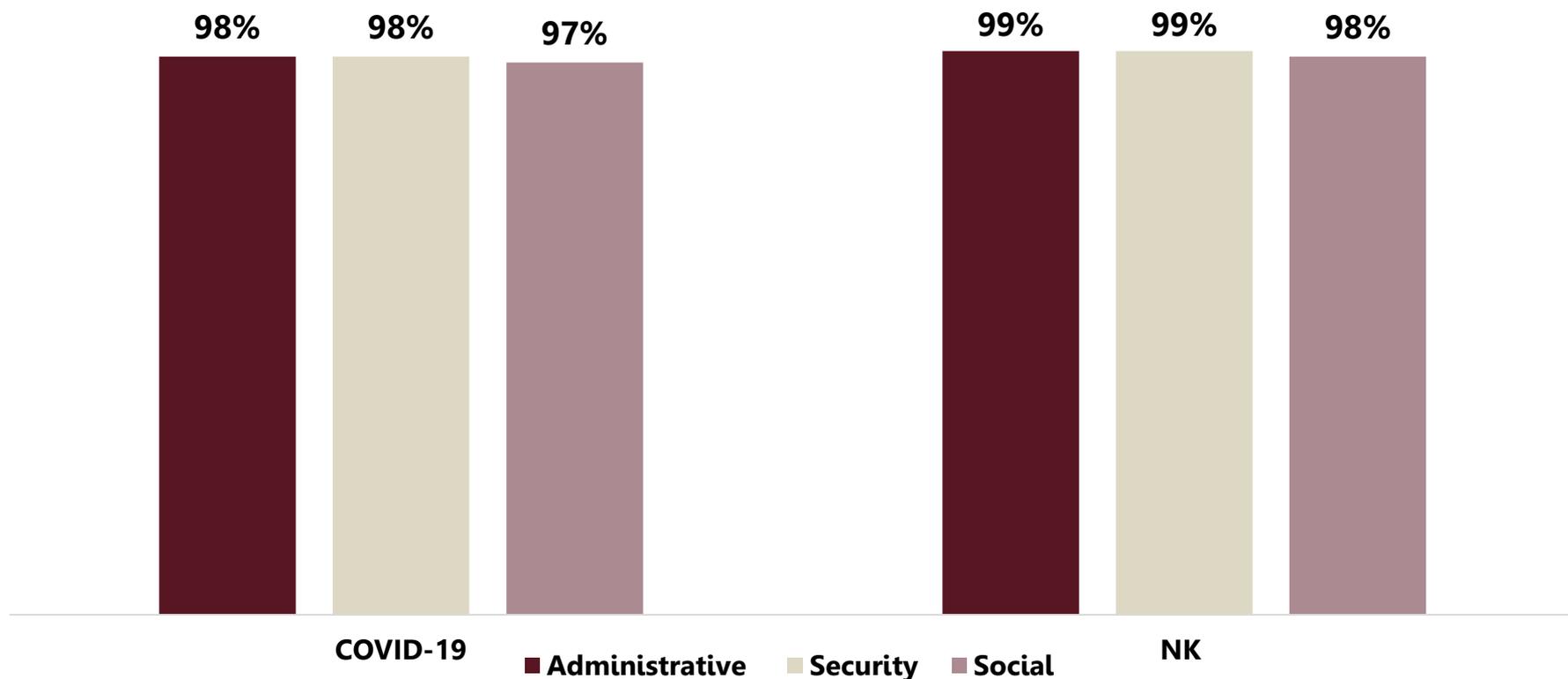
Security & Justice Services: Refugee-like HHs

% of refugee-like HHs households reporting needing the following types of security & justice services in the 30 days prior to data collection



Administrative, Security and Social Services

% of host HHs reporting COVID-19 and the hostilities in and around NK did not impact access to administrative, social, and security services



Key Findings: Emergency Services

- Both HHs and refugee-like HHs identified the following three risks as threats to their families and livelihoods: **natural hazards, COVID-19, and conflict escalation**
- Emergency services providers most commonly identified their top three risks as **anthropogenic, natural hazards, and climate change**
- In the past five years prior to data collection, some providers in Yerevan received training in the anthropogenic hazards, natural hazards, and climate change related hazards, whereas most service providers in Kotayk and Syunik reported not having received any training in the 5 years prior to data collection

Emergency Services: Host Communities

% of host HHs reported the following disasters to be a risk for their household and livelihood, per region

	Kotayk Rural	Kotayk Urban	Syunik Rural	Syunik Urban	Yerevan
Don't know	9%	13%	15%	16%	3%
Climate change related hazards	43%	21%	25%	29%	30%
Anthropogenic hazards	21%	13%	15%	18%	39%
Conflict escalation	73%	47%	60%	50%	46%
COVID-19	62%	54%	46%	47%	78%
Natural hazards	60%	63%	71%	58%	89%



Emergency Services: Refugee-like HHs

% of refugee-like HHs reporting considering any of the following disasters to be a risk for their household and livelihood, per region

	Kotayk	Syunik	Yerevan
Don't know	13%	16%	4%
Climate change related hazards	25%	24%	25%
Anthropogenic Hazards	14%	11%	33%
Conflict escalation	63%	54%	54%
COVID-19	50%	44%	84%
Natural Hazards	54%	60%	86%



Key Findings: Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding

- The majority of host HHs and refugee-like HHs reported not being interested in engaging in decision-making processes
- The types of resources that were identified by interviewed service providers to improve community engagement include trainings on **civic engagement mechanisms** (42%), **support to develop or improve upon interactive communication tools** (29%); and **trainings on conflict resolution and peacebuilding** (24%)



Key Findings: Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding

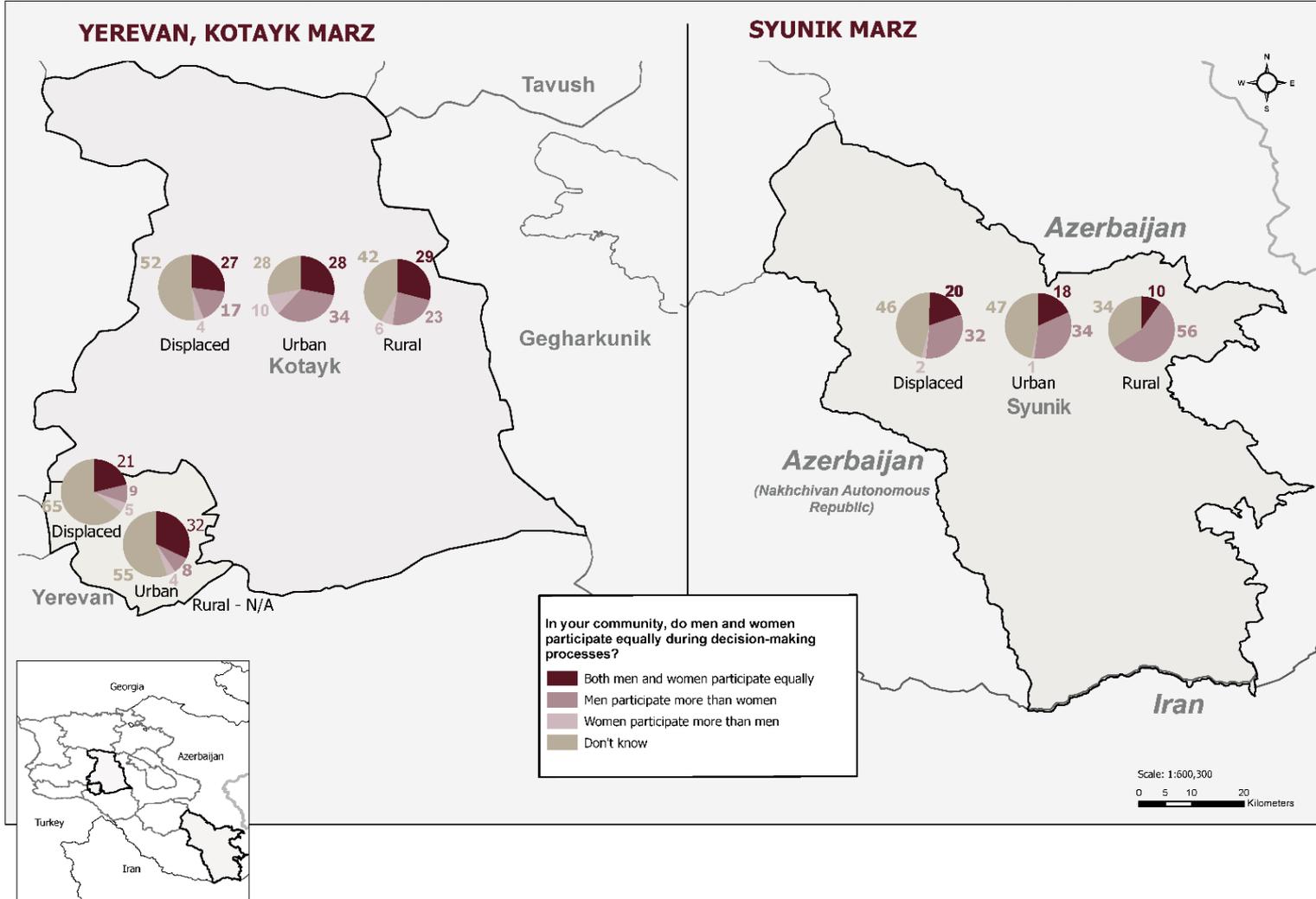
- In **Syunik**, 56% of rural HHs and 34% of urban HHs stated that **men participate more than women** in the decision-making process on a community level
- In **Kotayk**, 23% of rural HHs and 34% of urban HHs responded that **men participate more than women** in the decision-making process on a community level
- An overall **74%** of host HHs reported that **women have the same ability as men to make decisions on a household level**
- An overall **72%** of refugee-like populations noted that **women can equally engage in decision-making on a household level**



Social Cohesion: Community decision-making processes

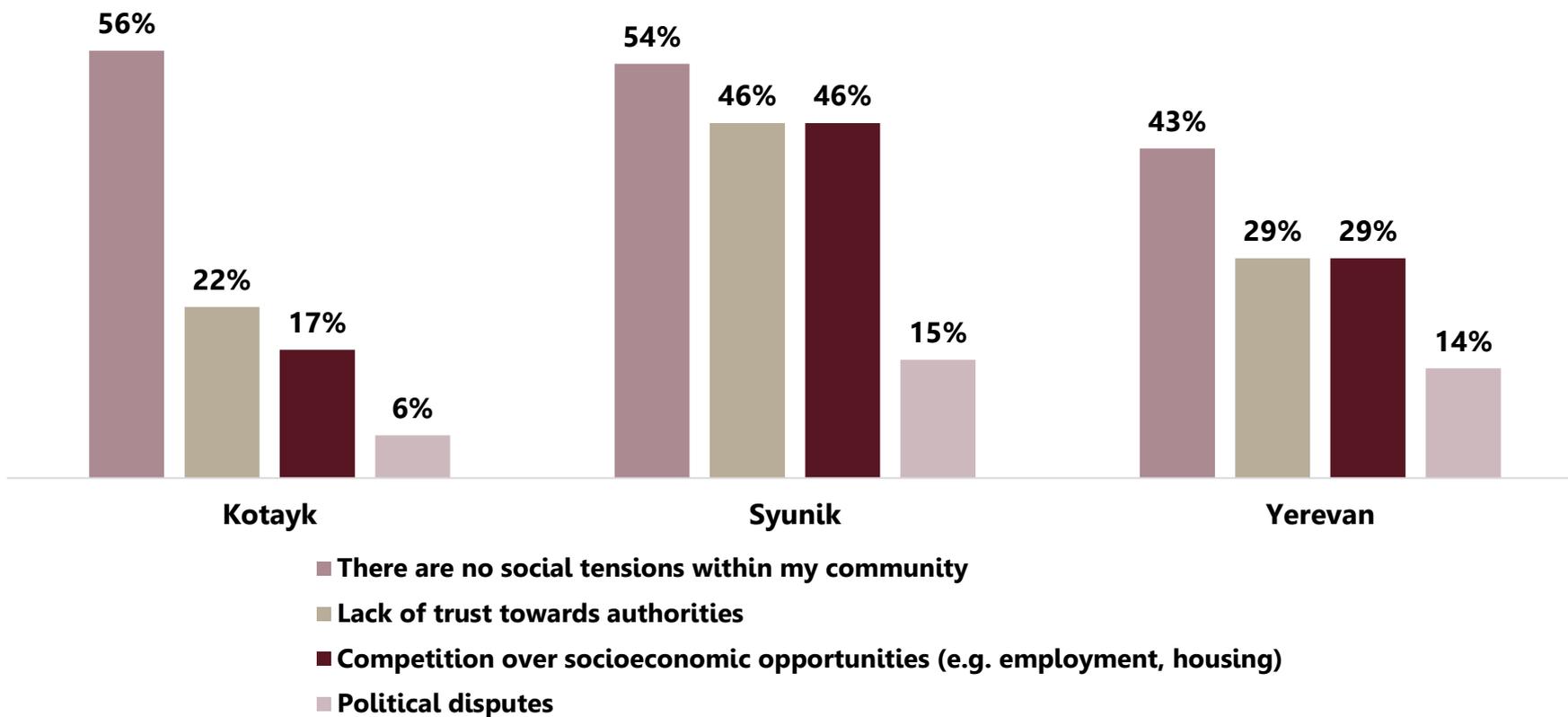


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Social Cohesion: Service Providers

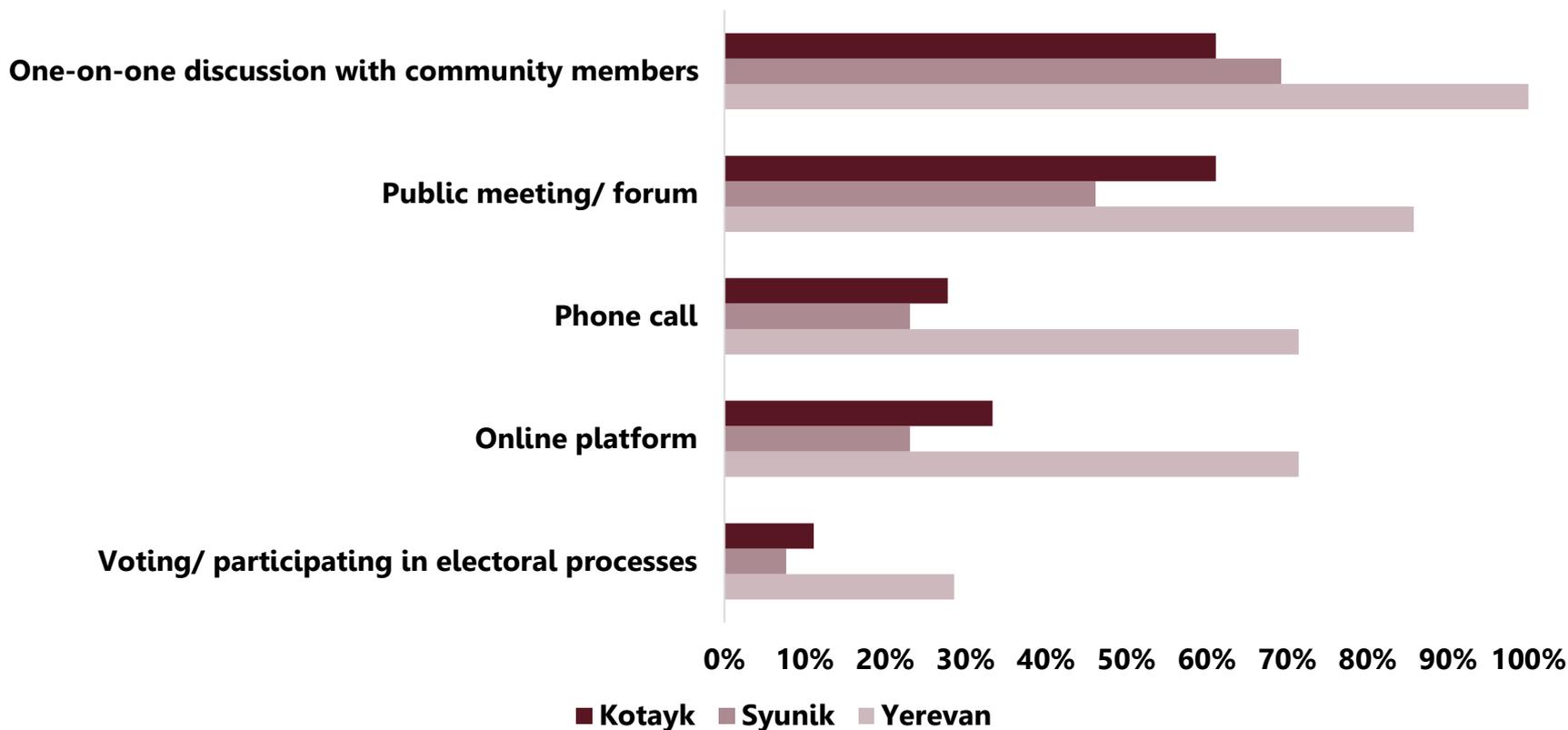
Reported key issues causing tensions in local communities, by % of service providers per region



Social Cohesion: Service Providers



Reported mechanisms that resolve tensions in their communities, by % of service providers per region



Social Cohesion: Service Providers



Reported types of resources needed for better community engagement, by % of service providers per region

	Yerevan	Syunik	Kotayk
More coordination with provincial authorities	0%	15%	6%
Unaware of better community engagement resources	0%	8%	6%
More coordination with national authorities	14%	23%	0%
Support to develop/improve interactive communication tools	14%	38%	28%
Gender inclusive trainings	29%	8%	6%
Training for facilitating electoral processes	29%	8%	17%
Training for conflict resolution/peacebuilding	43%	15%	22%
Training for efficient public expenditure/budgeting	43%	8%	22%
Training for civic engagement mechanisms	43%	31%	50%



CVA Recommendations

Employment Opportunities for Conflict-Affected People

- Livelihoods for refugee-like HHs in view of **existing skills and capacities (agriculture)**
- Benefits to both hosting and refugee-like populations to **avoid exacerbating tensions**

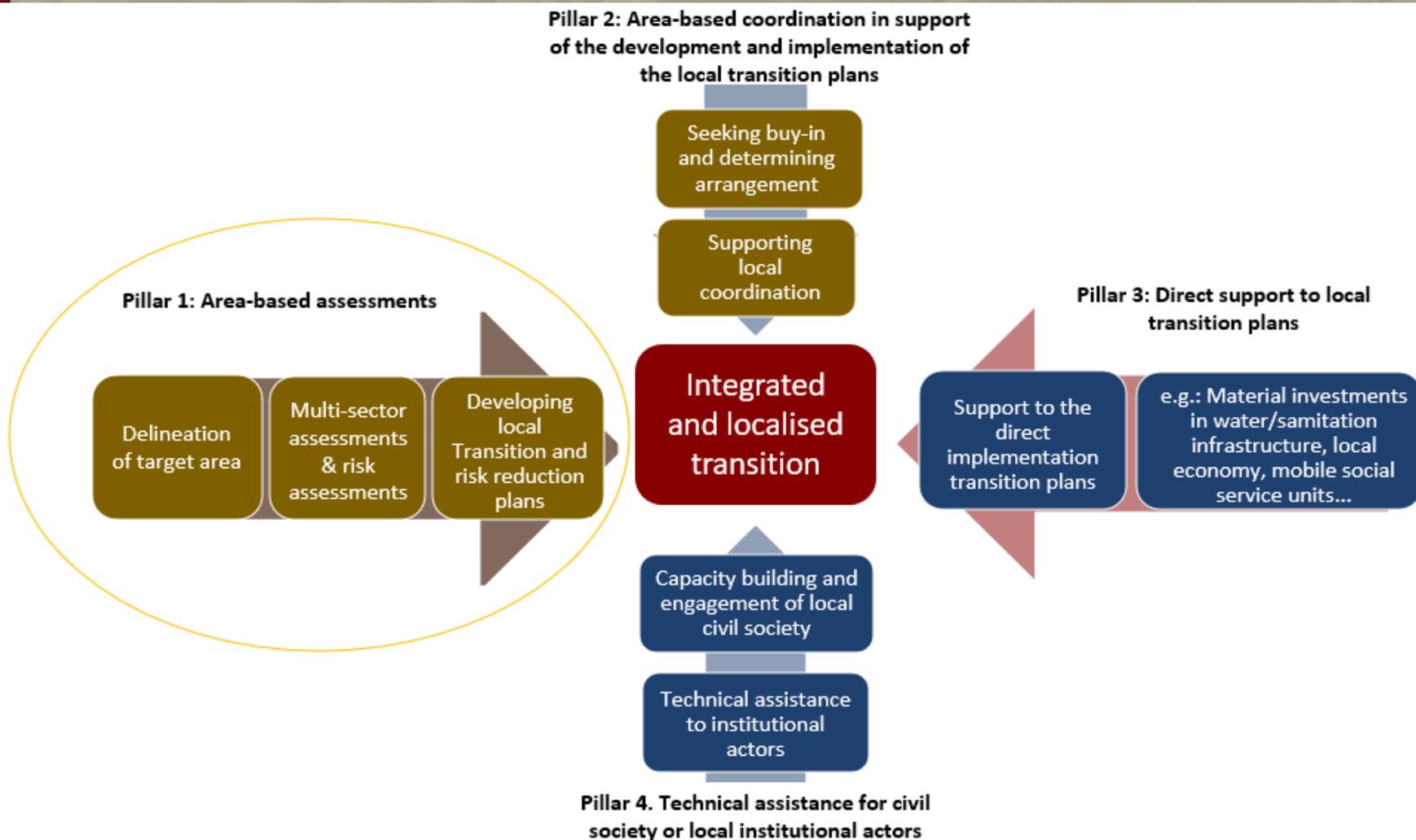
Inclusive Basic Services during the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Access to remote learning** including creative technological solutions to bridge digital divide
- **Basic healthcare resources and capacity**

Inclusive Governance and Response

- **Capacity building** for Local communities and service providers to prepare, protect, and prevent **area-specific hazards**
- Enhanced existing **community engagement mechanisms** for both host and refugee-like HHs with a **gender lens**

AGORA: 4 pillars





**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**