



The Geography of IDP Social Networks:

From the Transnational to the Translocal

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The Geography of Social Networks

- + With the goal of better understanding how forced migrants' social networks are implicated in livelihoods in order to improve provision of services and outcomes:
 - + What role do geography and space play in the ways that forced migrants develop and use social networks?
 - + What is the spatial structure of the social networks of forced migrants?
 - + What is the impact of the spatial structure of social networks on livelihoods of forced migrants?
 - + In what ways do men and women construct and use social networks differently and what is the impact?

Data and Methodology

- + Two social network surveys
 - + IDPs from Abkhazia living in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, & Zugdidi
 - + Both collective centers and private accommodations
 - + A panel study of IDPs from South Ossetia
 - + R1 – 23/5-26/6/09; R2 – 17/12 – 20;/12/09; R3 – 21/6 – 28/7/11
 - + Half living in new settlements & half started in collective center
- + Multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) for IDPs from Abkhazia
 - + Visualizes & describes the social relationships
- + Social network mapping
- + Simple summary statistics

Conceptualization of Role of Geography & Space in the Development of Networks

- + Merging of :
 - + How people use space where they are located
 - + Where & how people spend time influence development of new ties
 - + What is the function of the social interaction
- + The merger conceptualizes how spaces of interaction influence livelihoods & development of bridging and bonding ties – likelihood of managing livelihoods
 - + Bonding within group, often strong ties, less integration
 - + Bridging across groups, often weaker ties, more integration
 - + Analysis of how space/place is formative of productive new ties that assist with livelihood

Spaces and Places of the Everyday: Networks & Livelihoods

Bonding Ties & Strong Ties

Home spaces and shared spaces in CC and new settlements dominated by access to other IDPs

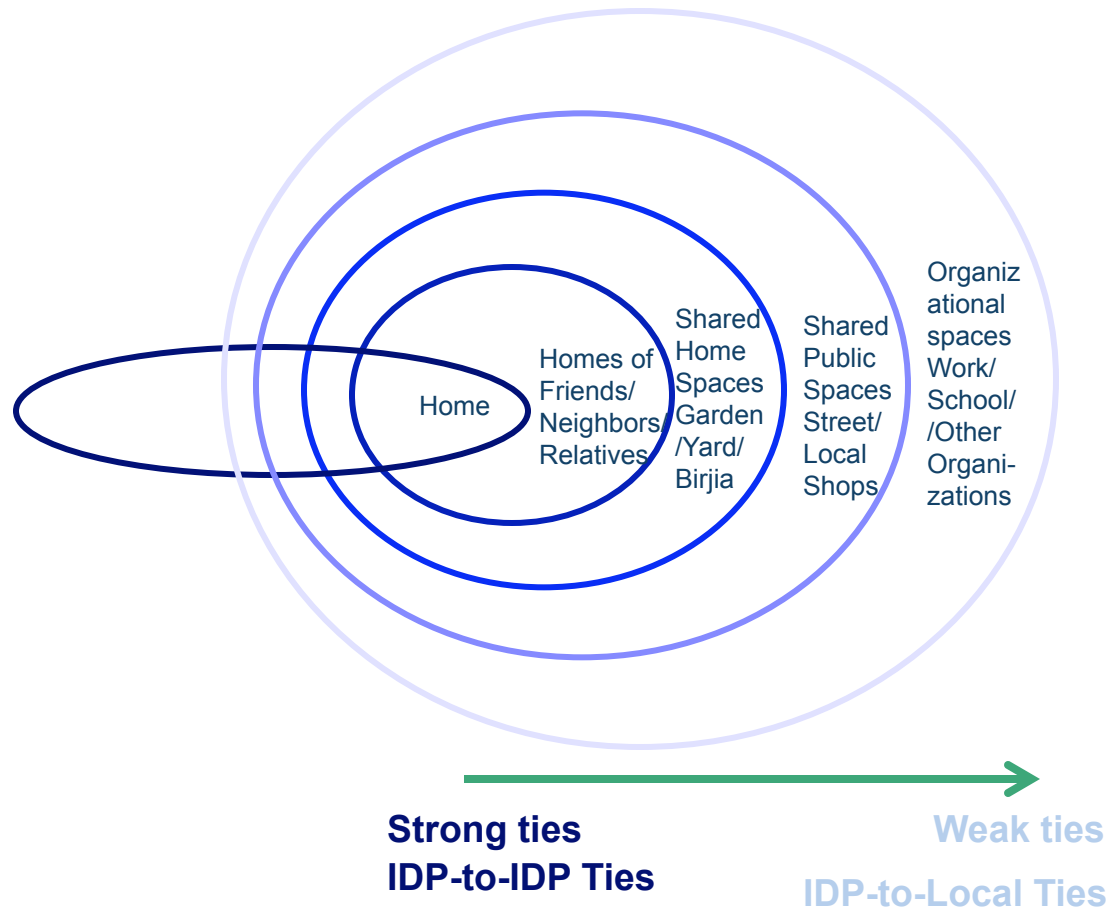
+ Household, emotional, & social support

Bridging Ties & Weak Ties

Shared public & organizational spaces generally more integrated

+ Economic support

Non-local network members?



Key Findings: Time, Space & Gender

+ Time:

- + Importance of national and international context around displacement
- + Bonding ties important early in displacement relative to bridging ties

+ Space:

- + Networks of IDPs from Abkhazia spatially dispersed not so for those from South Ossetia
- + Critical for bonding ties and developing importance for bridging ties
- + Slow development of use of shared and organizational spaces

+ Gender:

- + Men and women have different geographies and use networks differently – men more local, women more dispersed (IDPs Abkhazia)
 - + Generally men's networks economic, female networks social, emotional

IDPs from Abkhazia: key characteristics of social networks of survival

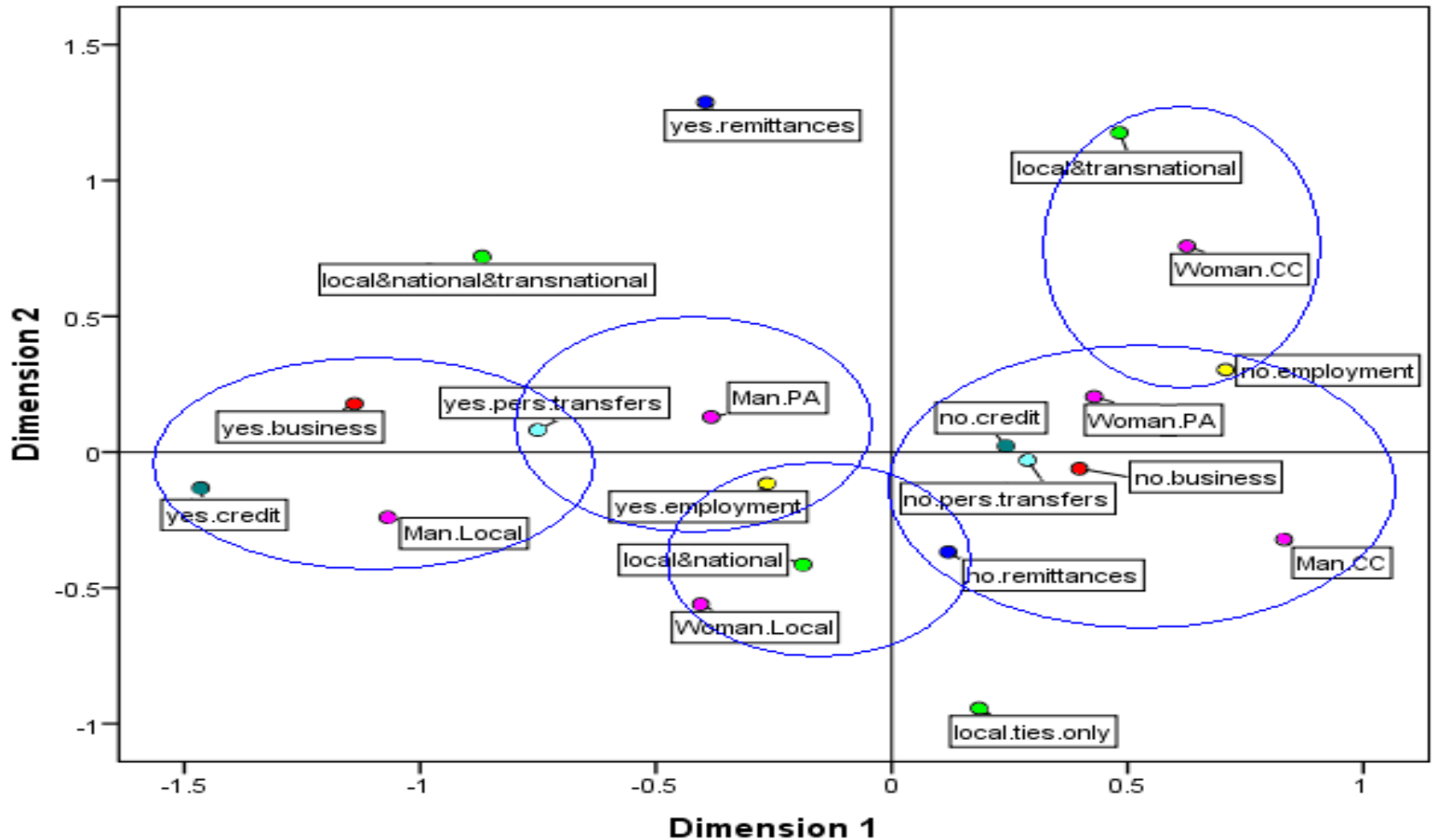
- + Often indistinguishable from local population in size, density and composition – evidence of protracted displacement
 - + EXCEPT the spatial distribution of those in the network
 - + More abroad: 11% living abroad v 7% of local population networks
 - + More in same neighborhood
 - + Gender
 - + Male networks
 - + focused on economic support
 - + Local and shared home (men in CC), public spaces (men in PA)
 - + Female networks
 - + more dispersed and focused on emotional support
 - + Home spaces

IDPS from Abkhazia: Alter's Residence by Respondent's Status and Housing Type: Geographical Structure

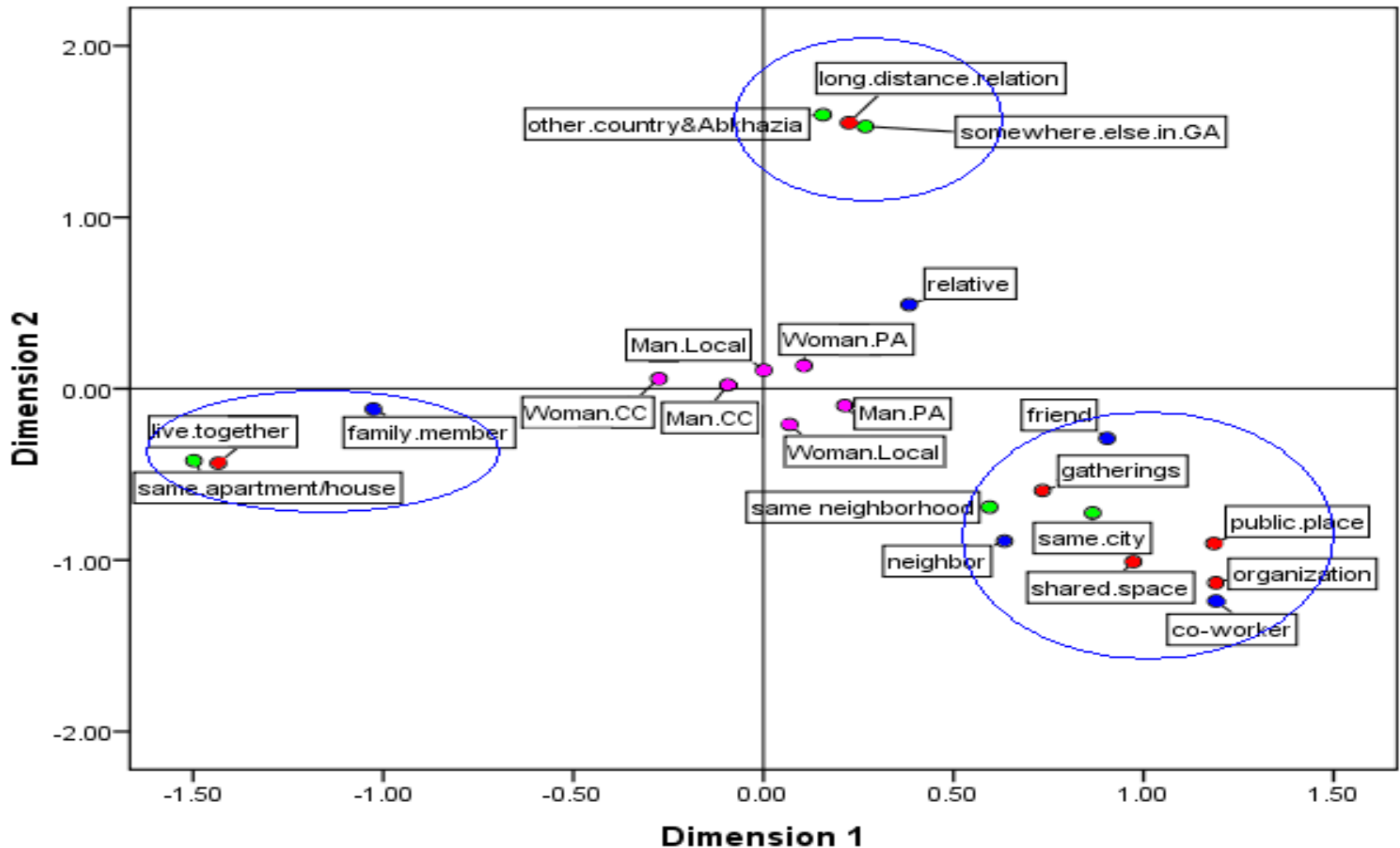
Alter's Residence	Respondent's Status			Respondent's Housing Type			
	Local Population	IDP	Total	IDP in PA	IDP in CC	Total	
Same apartment	27.2%	27.6%	27.5%	25.3%	29.8%	27.6%	
Same neighborhood	9.3%	16.3%	13.9%	13.8%	18.6%	16.3%	
Same city/ town/village	37.5%	27.2%	30.8%	31.1%	23.5%	27.2%	
Somewhere else in Georgia	17.4%	15.2%	16.0%	16.7%	13.8%	15.2%	
Abkhazia	0.2%	2.2%	1.5%	1.8%	2.6%	2.2%	
Russia	3.7%	8.3%	6.7%	8.6%	7.9%	8.3%	
CIS	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	1.3%	0.3%	0.8%	
Other foreign country	2.7%	1.8%	2.1%	0.8%	2.8%	1.8%	
Unknown country	1.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	
Total N	408	775	1183	383	392	775	
Chi-Square=			37.63***	Chi-Square=			17.27*

*** p<0.001, * p<0.05

Geographic Diversity of Networks Matter: Livelihood & Access to Finances



Focus on Role of Geography: spaces of interaction for IDPs from Abkhazia



Geography of Social Network of IDPs from South Ossetia, in percentages

	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
	Respondent's Location		Respondent's Location		Respondent's Location	
Alter's Residence	Verkhvebi	Other Sites	Verkhvebi	Other Sites	Verkhvebi	Other Sites
Same apt/cottage	25%	29%	21%	20%	21%	17%
Same building/neighborhood	25%	35%	30%	36%	22%	39%
Same city/town/village	24%	7%	19%	7%	24%	7%
Somewhere else in Georgia	24%	21%	30%	32%	33%	35%
Another country	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%
Buffer zone	2%	6%	0%	3%	0%	0%
Total N	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

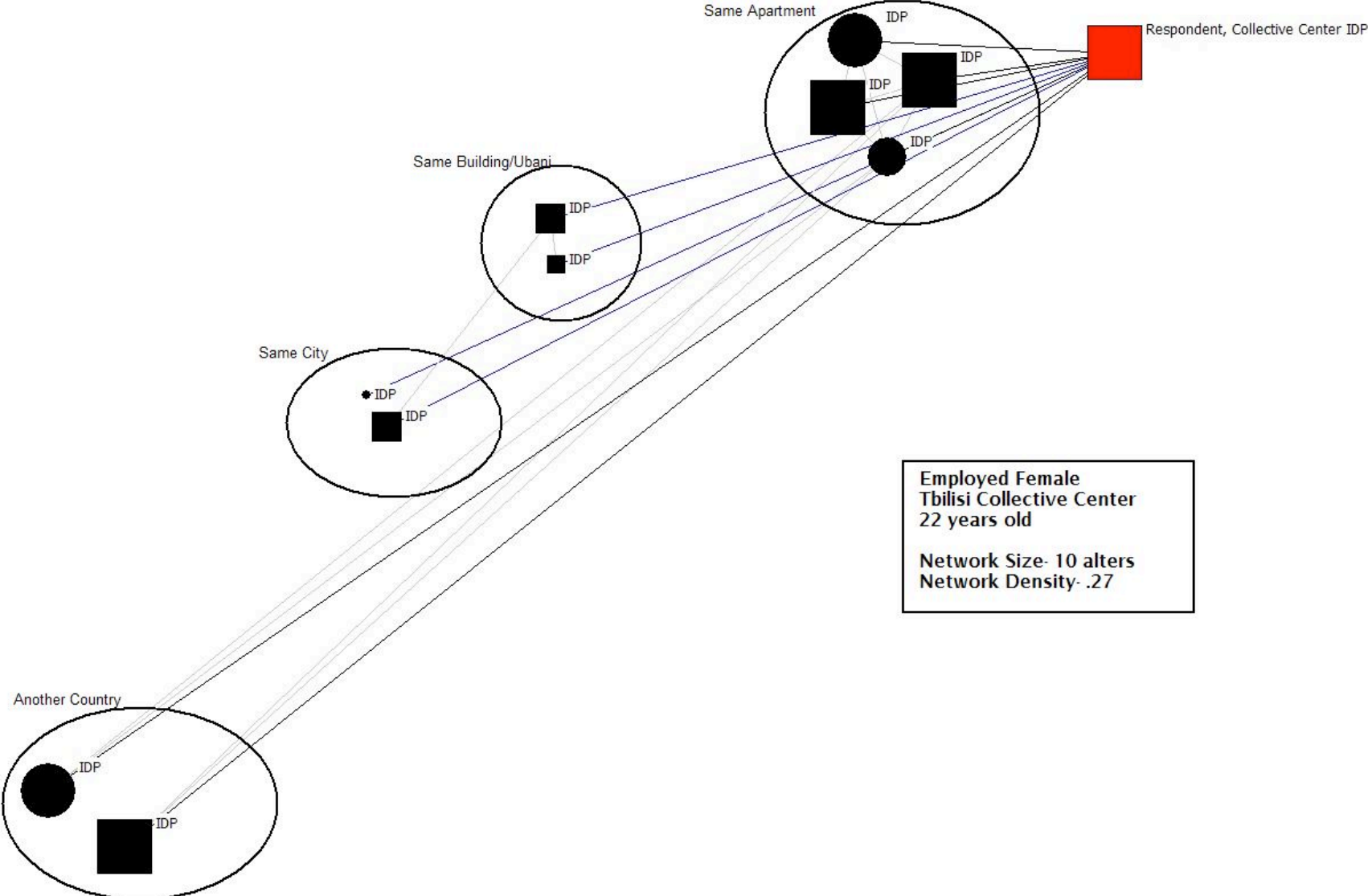
Pearson chi2(5) = 29.5073 Pr = 0.000

Pearson chi2(5) = 21.0932 Pr = 0.001

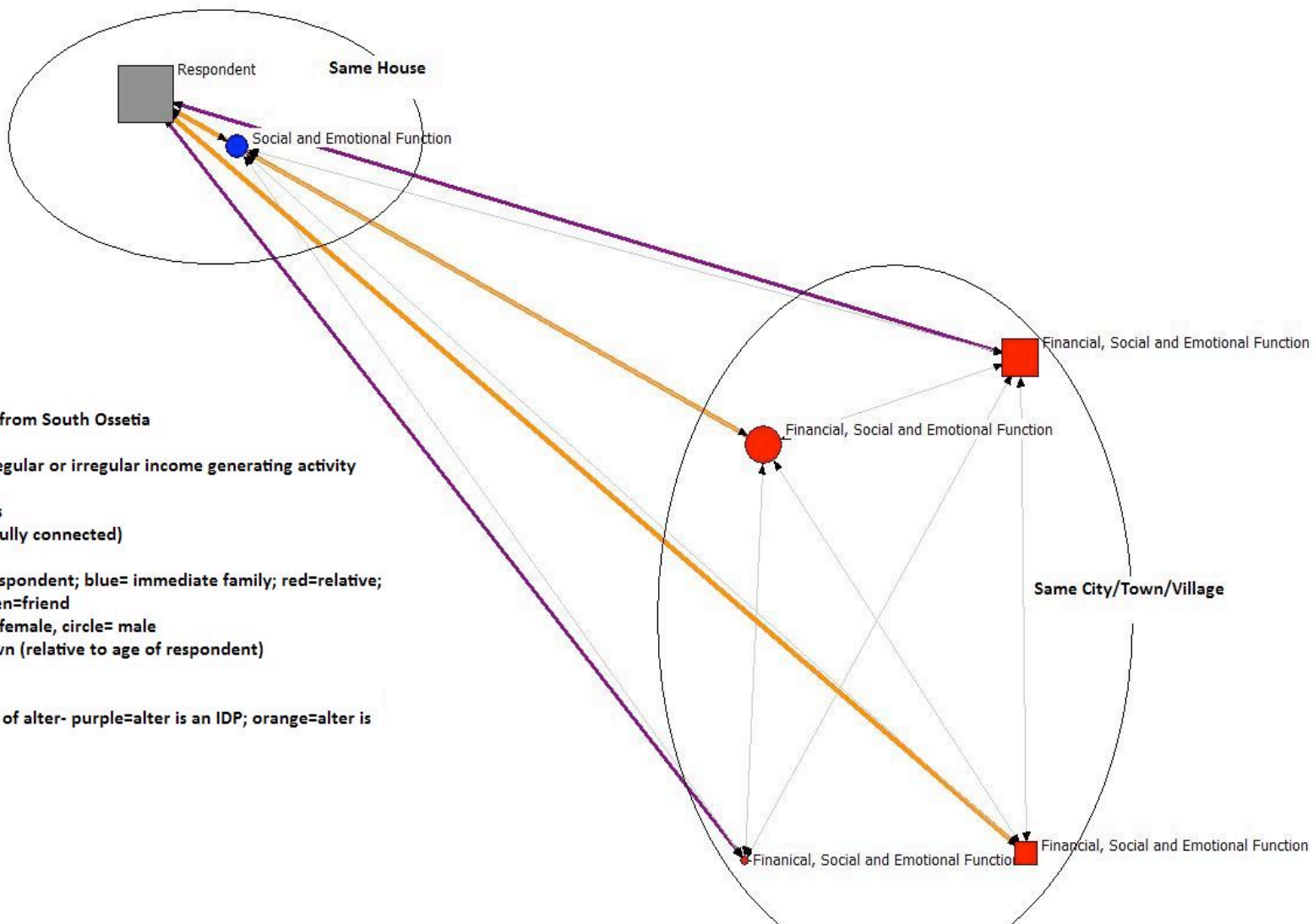
Pearson chi2(4) = 29.5496 Pr = 0.000

Other Sites are Tserovani, Mtekhi, Tsmindatskali

Geography of Social Network of IDP from Abkhazia



Spatial Structure of Networks for IDPs from South Ossetia R1: Verkhvebi



Round 1- Female IDP from South Ossetia

Location: Verkhvebi

Does not engage in regular or irregular income generating activity

Network Size: 5 alters

Network Density: 1 (fully connected)

Node Color: gray= respondent; blue= immediate family; red=relative;

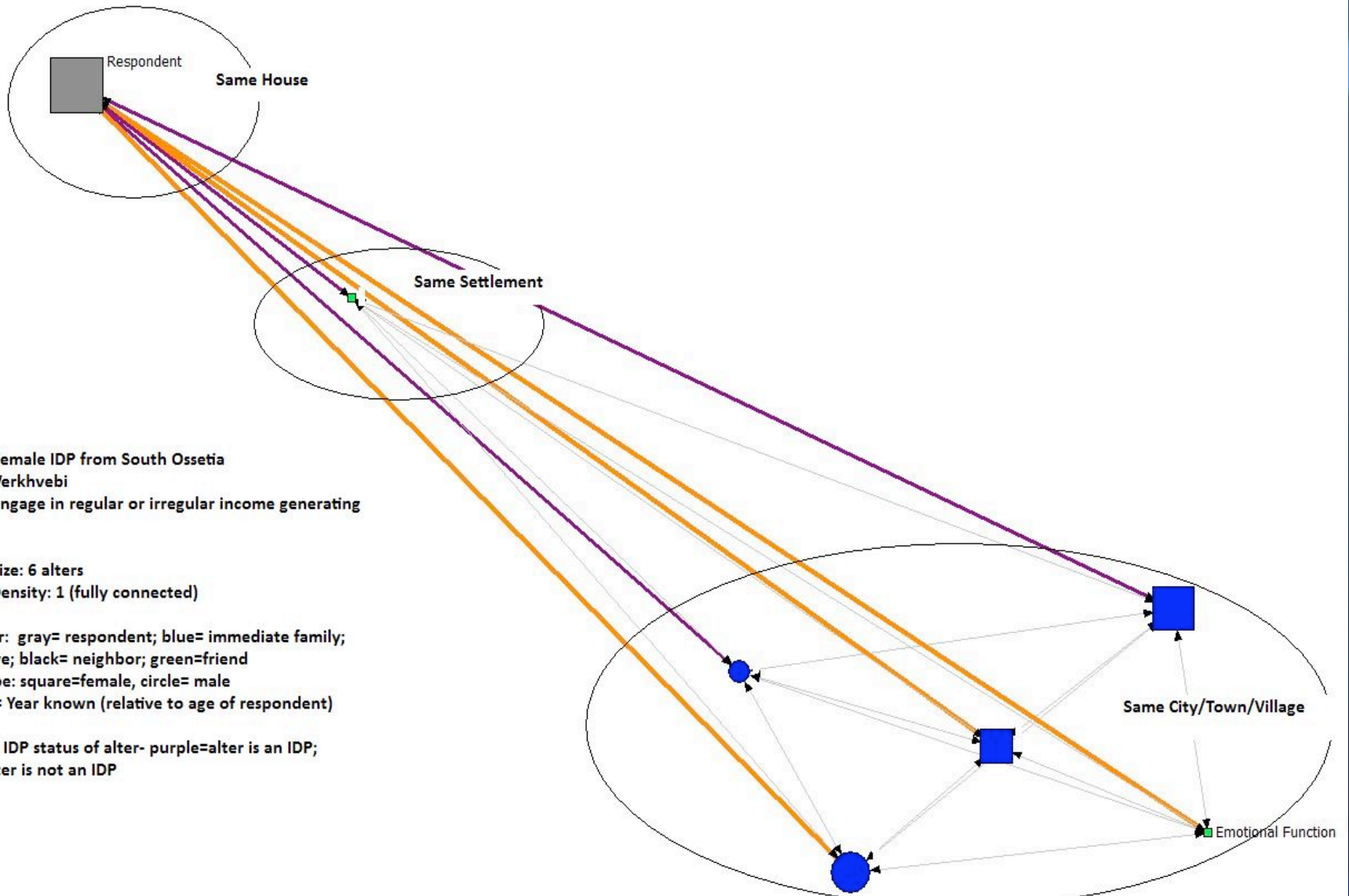
black= neighbor; green=friend

Node Shape: square=female, circle= male

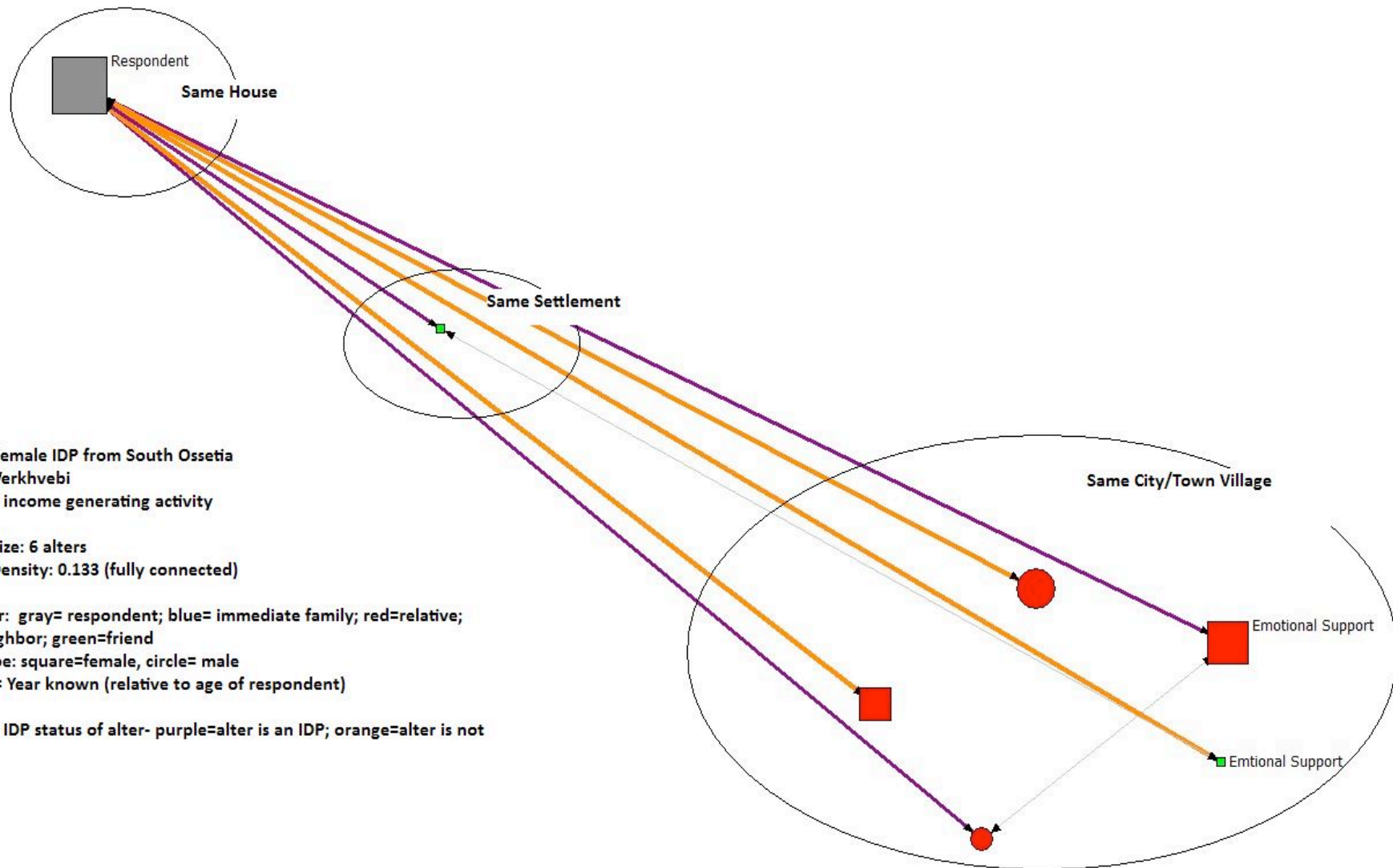
Node Size= Year known (relative to age of respondent)

Line Color: IDP status of alter- purple=alter is an IDP; orange=alter is not an IDP

Network Spatial Structure IDPs from South Ossetia R2



Spatial Structure of Networks for IDPs from South Ossetia R3



How do IDPs from South Ossetia develop new network ties? Dominance of Bonding Ties; Emerging Bridging Ties

- + Over time, home spaces remain fairly dominant in terms of generating new social ties; new bonding ties
 - + Round 1 – 100% of new ties for CC residents
 - + Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of new ties for the other sites
 - + Round 3 – dropped significantly to 10% in Verkhvebi and 44% in Tserovani
 - + All rounds family/kin most important generators for new ties
- + Organizational spaces and bridging ties – work and study gain importance
 - + Slowly through rounds
 - + Round 2 all but Mtekhi report new ties from work
 - + Round 3 all but Mtekhi report new ties from school

What does this all mean for IDP livelihoods?

- + Evidence shows that being in an urban environment creates the space for new social ties creation – bridging ties
- + Transition from bonding to bridging ties – most evident in urban spaces
- + Geography of the network matters
 - + IDPs from Abkhazia – time and space dispersed network good for livelihoods in the sense of access to economic support
 - + IDPs from South Ossetia – translocal – meaning more than one space in a locality creates opportunities for bridging ties