Humane Community Development: An "Inside-out" Approach to Dog Population Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sonja van Tichelen

EU Regional Director

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

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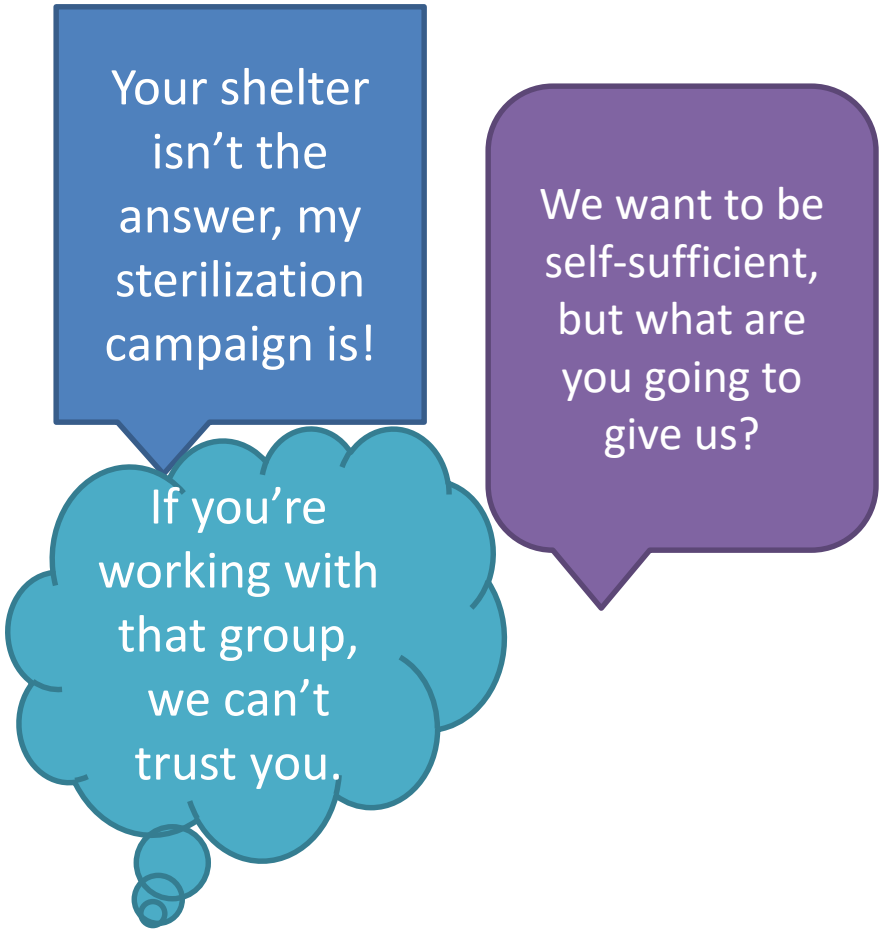
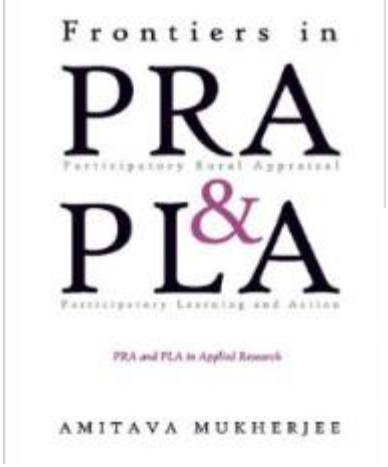
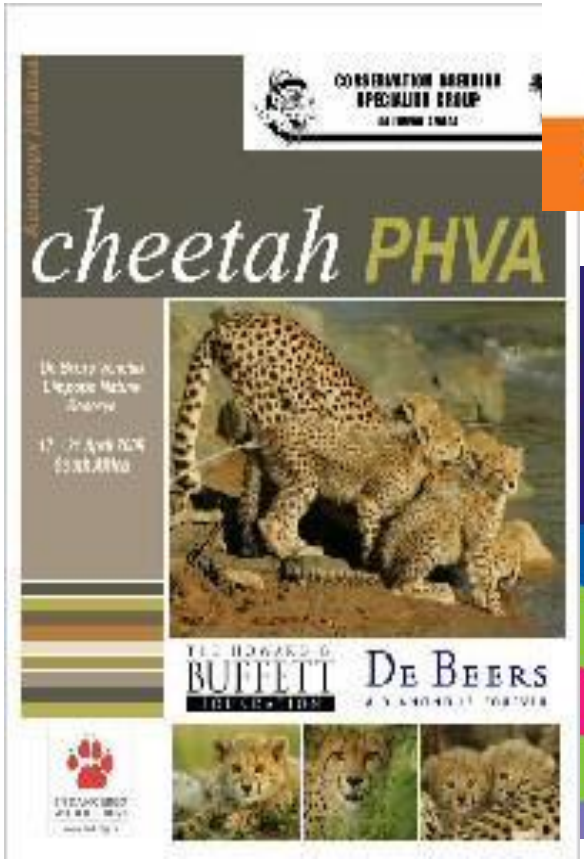
Challenges to sustainable, effective DPM

- Passionate disagreement
- Mistrust between NGOs and governments
- Lack of funding and dependency on external aid
- Simple answers to complex issues
- Local solutions needed







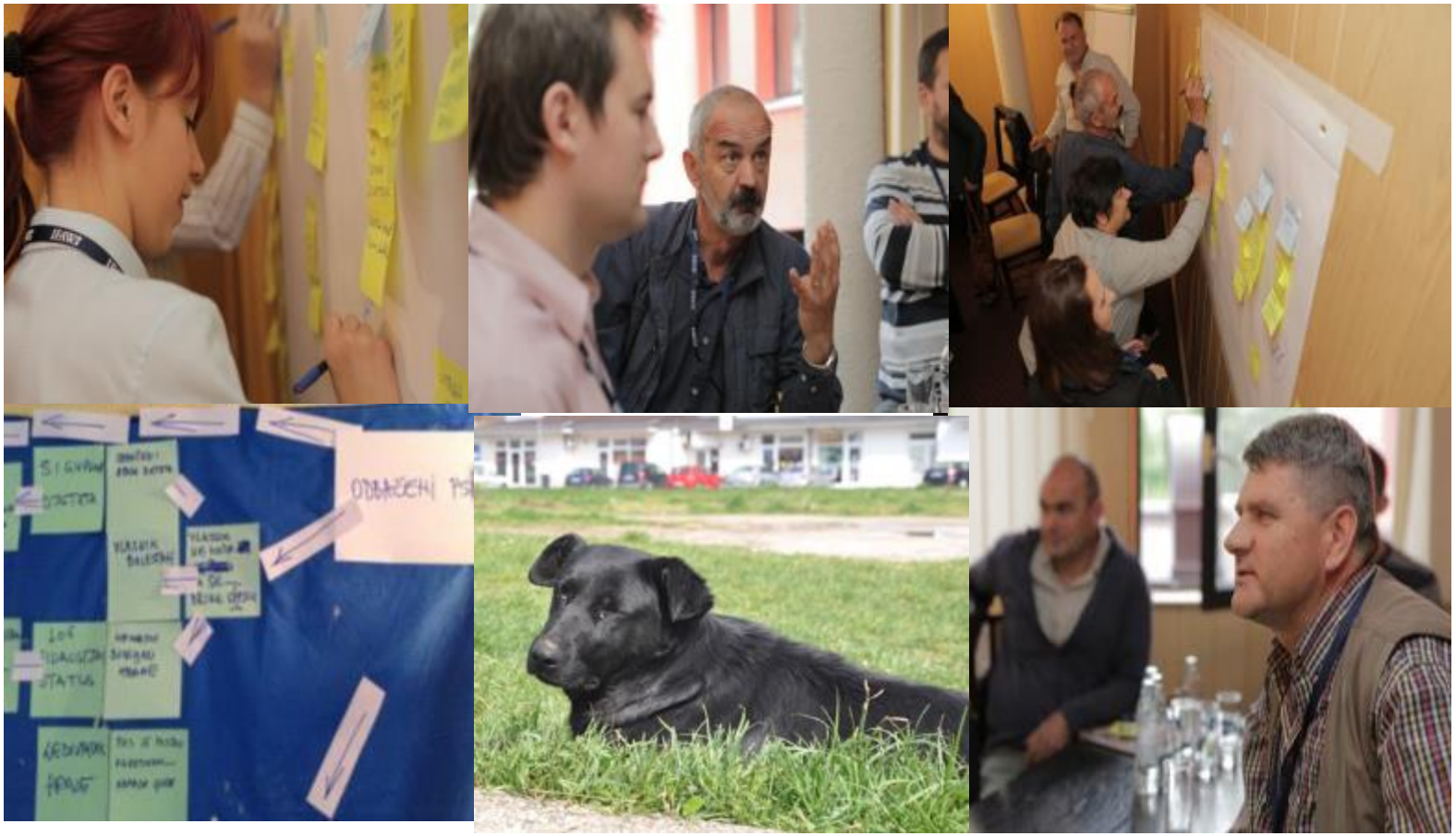
Key Messages for Social Mobilization and Community Engagement in Intense Transmission Areas

September 2014

unicef
unite for children

World Health Organization

Humane Community Development



Local partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Local partner is necessary to ensure local tailoring, mentoring and communication

Stakeholder groups

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HUMANE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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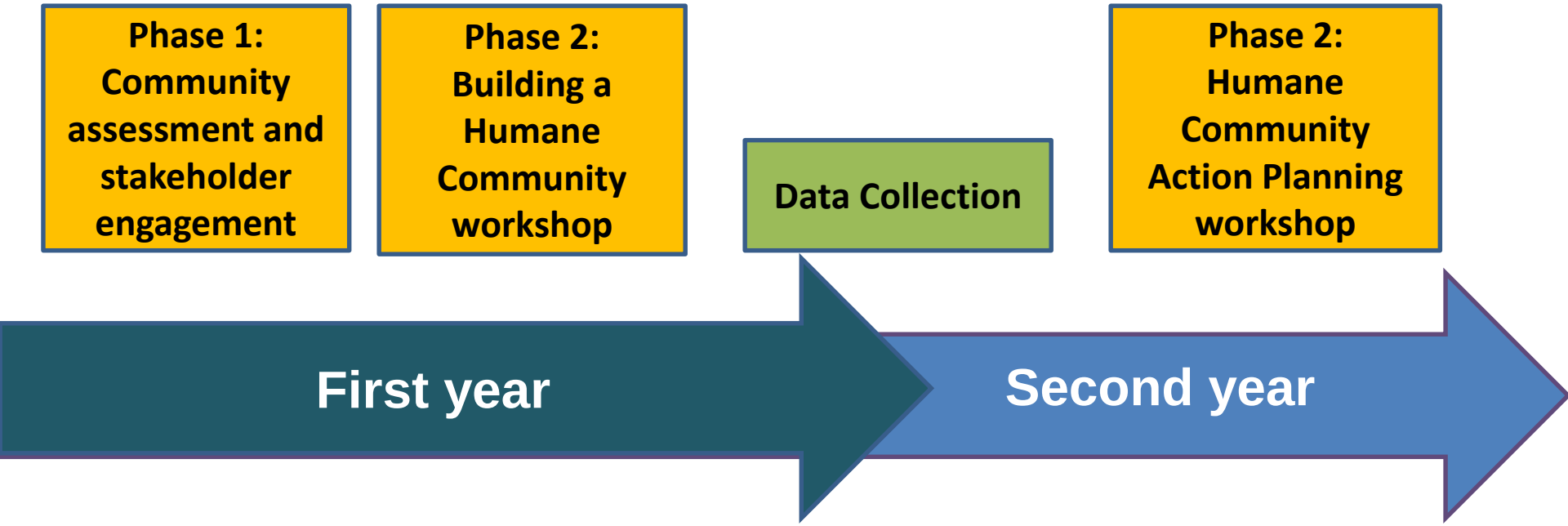

Building A Humane Community Workshop

- Being heard, sharing perspectives
- Root cause exploration
- Test assumptions and dispel myths
- Commitment to proceed

Community Data Collection

Action Planning Workshop

- Review group accomplishments
- Share community data
- Prioritize problems
- Identify practical solutions

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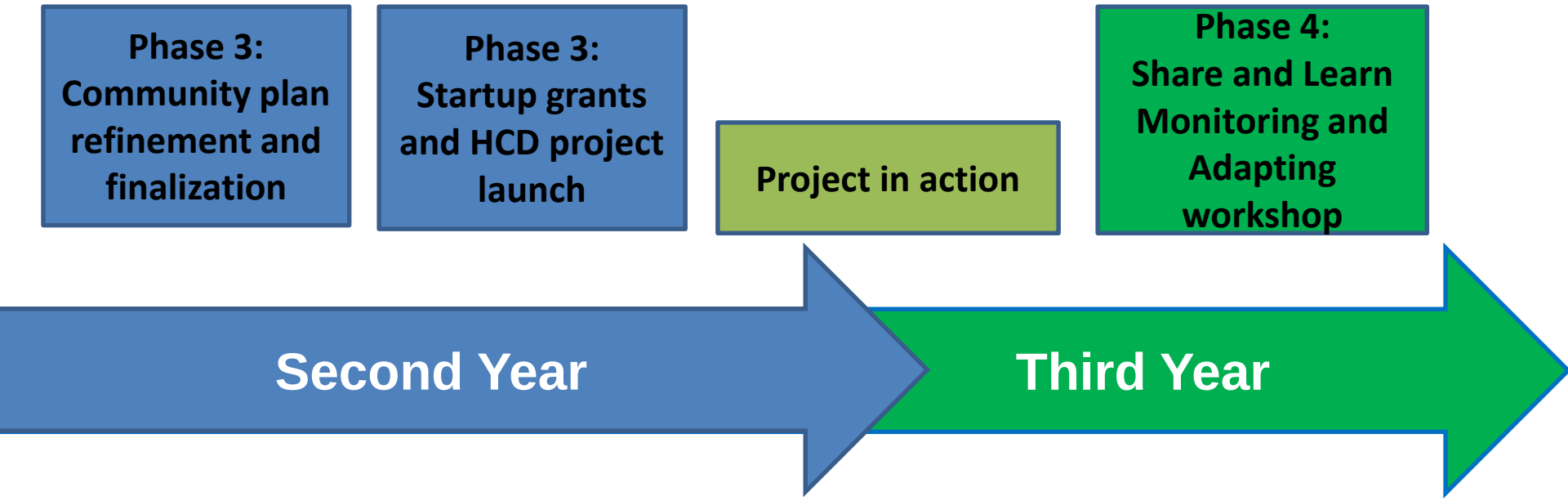

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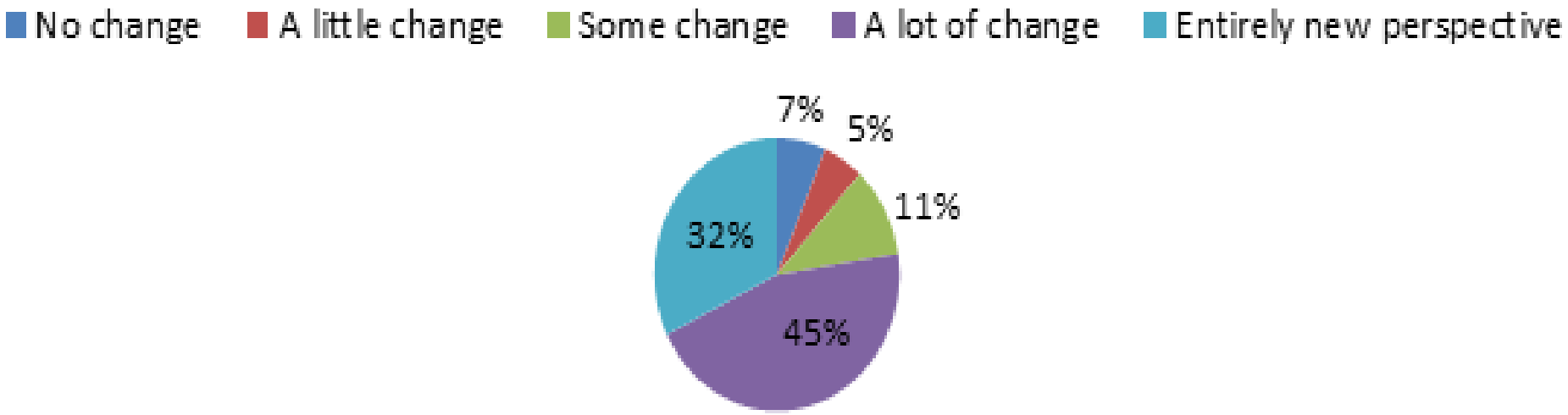
- ☑ **A framework that builds the <u>understanding</u>, <u>interpersonal relationships</u> and <u>commitment</u> in the community necessary to maintain a humane dog management strategy**

Ongoing projects

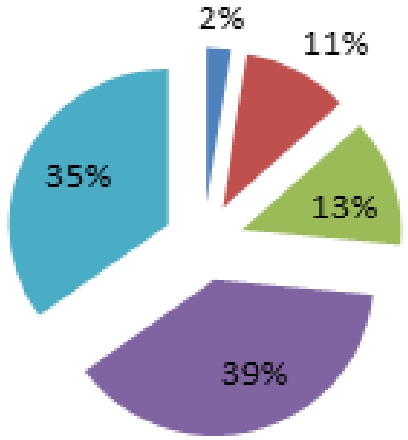
Bosnia

- Lopare: *End Year 1 implementation*
- Sanski Most: *Implementation*
- Jajce: *Implementation*
- Gradacac: *Implementation*
- Kljuc: *Workshop phase 2*
- Mrkonjic Grad: *Workshop phase 2*
- Trebinje: *Workshop phase 2*

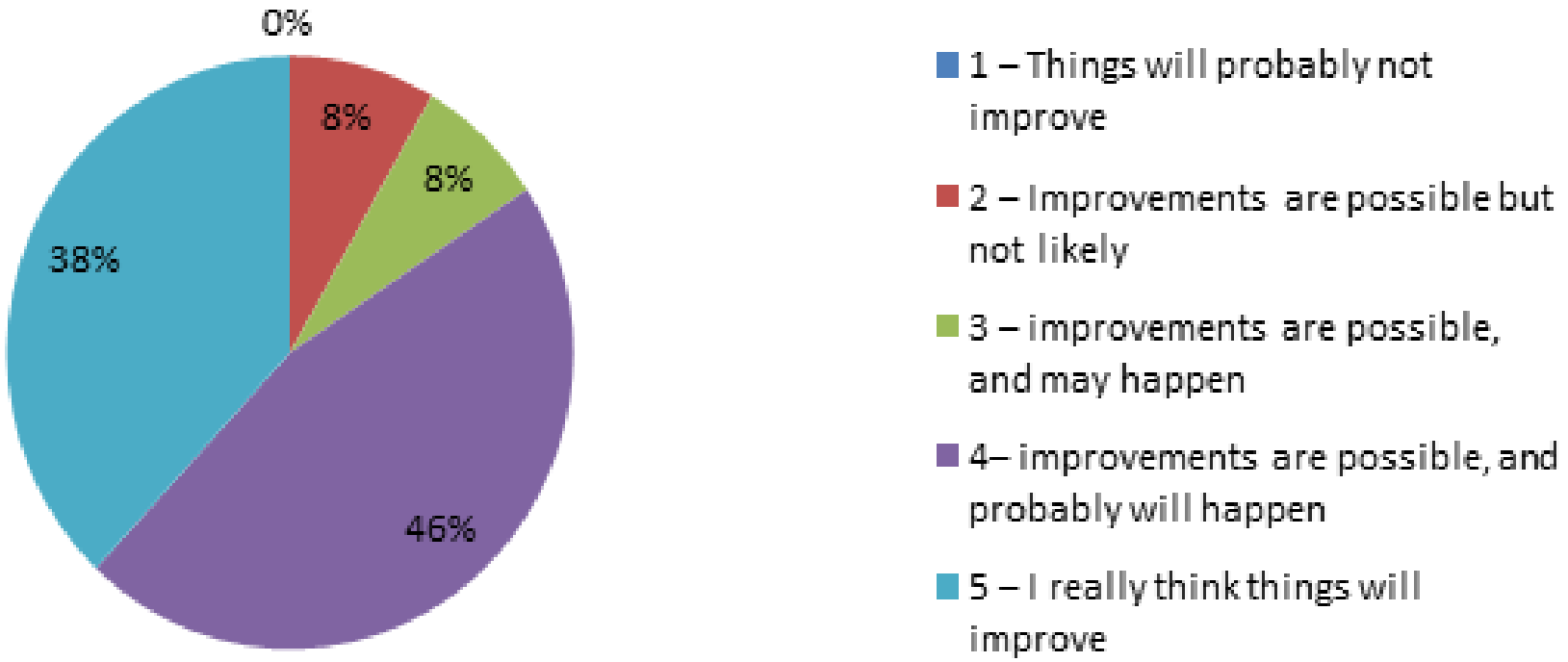
Compared to before the workshop, have your ideas changed about the problems with dogs? (n=83)



Compared to before the workshop, have your ideas changed about what needs to be done? (n=83)



How much confidence do you have that that the community will be able to improve the situation with dogs? (n=108)



Results: Strategies

The plan: Lopare

Goals

- Reduce dog attacks
- Improve care for dogs

Actions

- Creating the ‘hygiene service’: Firefighters
- Community dog sterilization
- Education and outreach
- Formation of “Happy Dogs” citizens’ group

Outcomes

- Over 900 dogs have already been treated or sterilized by local vets in upgraded facilities
- Over 1700 children have been engaged in education programs
- Over 265 participants representing diverse gender, age and status demographics have participated in the HCD process, including a wide array of local stakeholder groups

Additional outcomes

- Emergence of local leadership
- Humane values
- Less blaming of the government; more community accountability
- Different viewpoints no longer a stumbling block for finding solutions

Key Learning

Success lies in the energy and relationships between people. Relationships within the community, not with an outside agency, are the ones that matter most for long-term success.

Next steps

- Expansion within Bosnia as resources allow
- Creation of local networks and train-the-trainer approach for local coordinators in Bosnia
- Training program for new HCD mentors in process – end 2017