



Budgeting for Social Welfare

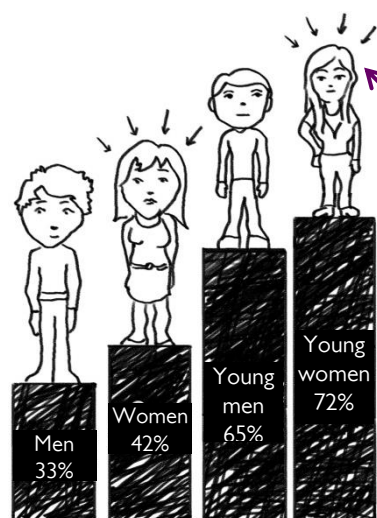
Where do your taxes go?

We all pay taxes... on salaries, on food, on transportation... where does all this money go?

Since Kosovo is a democracy, we have the right to make our voices heard in deciding how **our** money, the state's money, is spent. It's important that the state spends its limited resources in a way that benefits everyone, including women and men of different ages, ethnicities, abilities and locations.



Recent research by the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) has shown that there are ways that the government can spend its resources more effectively, to benefit both women and men.¹ For example, unemployment is **high** in Kosovo, but it's **much higher** for women than for men. And it's **even higher** for young women.



However, right now Employment Centres and Vocational Training Centres, funded by the government, consistently have spent **more resources** on men than on women because more men benefit from their services. As the graph illustrates, the state is not assisting as many women to find employment as it is men.

In fact, 40% of persons employed by these centres are men ages 25-39. Did you know that women ages 40-54 comprise only 3% of persons employed and young women (ages 15-24) only 6%!



The government has stated that its priority is to increase employment in Kosovo. But the government cannot achieve this important goal if it does not focus on employing women especially.

We can change this! Ask employment centres to use our resources to employ a more equal share of women and men!!

What can the government do?

1. Vocational Training Centres can offer more skills training in work that women can do and that is in demand by the labour market. Employment centres can more actively seek to register women and find them jobs.

2. Research shows that many women cannot work in Kosovo because they have to take care of people at home. The government can spend money to create more preschools and centres for the elderly and persons with disabilities. This will help meet EU standards² for childhood education; enable more women to go to work instead of stay at home, and **create** thousands of jobs for women and men at day care centres, decreasing unemployment. Ask parliamentarians and officials to build **more preschools and care centres!**



According to Census data, 55.8% of economically inactive women in Kosovo don't work **BECAUSE** they have to look after their home or family.

¹ Want to read more? Read our newest research: <http://www.womensnetwork.org/documents/20151203094304881.pdf>. Cartoons by Dagmar Donners.

² The European Commission in the Barcelona Objectives encourages improved availability of childcare.

3. We in Kosovo are spending a lot of our tax money on building stuff, especially roads. However, most of our money is supporting the employment of men on public works projects. In its capital expenditures, the government can make sure that both women and men are employed by these projects, by contractually requiring companies to ensure a percentage of workers are women.

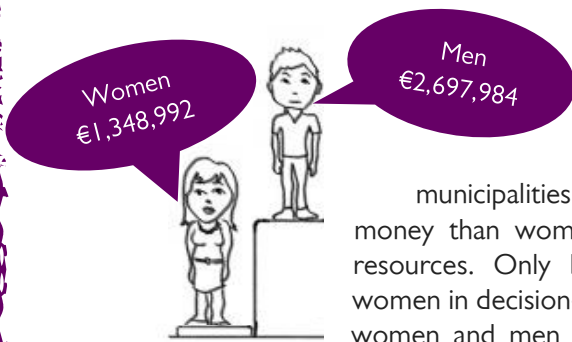


These are just a few small things that the Government can do to make sure that our tax money benefits both women and men.

How equal do you think other expenditures in Kosovo are?

How much money are women and men officials making?

In the parliament, men will receive two-thirds more of the overall budget than women parliamentarians because men comprise 66% of the parliament. Did you know that once wages and salaries are considered, on average, parliamentarians make approximately €2,810 per month? That's nearly **eight times** the wage of the average Kosovar (€360/month).



If we think about decision-making positions in ministries and municipalities, men hold most of these positions, so they tend to make more

money than women and receive more of the state's resources. Only by increasing the percentage of women in decision-making positions can we ensure women and men benefit from state resources.

This also can contribute to making sure that both women and men benefit from other policies as more women will participate in making those policies, ensuring the needs of women are considered too!

Have you ever wondered how much is being spent on **per diems** for officials? Actually **nobody knows** exactly because less than half of Kosovo's institutions have been **transparent** with this information! However, NGO FOL has estimated that at least €3,305,026 was spent on per diems in Kosovo in 2014. Can you think of any other ways how you would prefer for this money to be spent?

Who receives pensions in Kosovo?

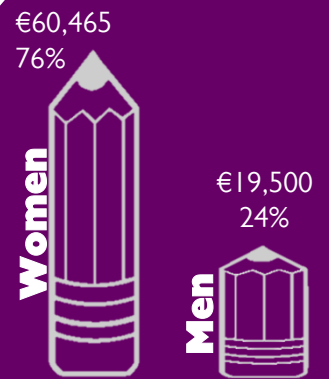
More women receive Basic Pensions than men, comprising 68% of recipients. However, women consistently benefit less from Contributory Pensions than men (88% of recipients) because women were less likely to be employed during their working age years. Since Basic Pensions (€75 per month) amount to less than Contributory Pensions, most women receive less in pensions than men. The government is increasing Contributory Pensions, but it could **increase** Basic Pensions as well towards improving the living conditions of elderly persons who depend on this pension, particularly women.

What can YOU do?

Take a look at your budget and ask officials to provide information as to whether the money they spend is benefiting **both** women and men. For example, you can ask: to what extent do women and men, girls and boys, benefit from education scholarships? From **agricultural** subsidies? From small grants to businesses? From culture and **sports** programs? How about new infrastructure projects (who will use them most?)? ... You can talk to municipal assembly members and contact parliamentarians, asking similar questions. Ask that they request that public institutions provide gender disaggregated data that will inform their budget decisions.

All of these things we're talking about here are called **gender responsive budgeting**. It's a legal requirement now in Kosovo, according to the Law on Gender Equality. It's also very important: for **accountability** in spending, **transparency**, and a **more equal** society!

Scholarships



More young women receive scholarships from universities of Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, and Prizren in 2014/2015.