



Kosovo Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

Implementation of KWN Strategy 2015-2018 Semester Report to KWN Members

September 2017

The Kosovo Women's Network (KWN), together with its member organizations, has made significant progress towards implementing its *Strategy for 2015-2018* during the six-month period of 1 January 2017 – 30 June 2017, achieving to implement approximately **76%** of its strategy. Thus, KWN is on track to implement its strategy by 2018, following continued work as well as pending funding for some areas, as outlined below. This document summarizes key areas of progress made on each overall objective (bold), specific objective (bold and numbered, such as 1.1), and expected result (bold and numbered, such as 1.1.1) from the KWN Strategy, during this period, as shown by progress on strategy indicators.

Sustainable women's movement exists in Kosovo

Progress has been made towards this overall objective as shown by the fact that:

- More women and men registered as KWN individual supporters, totaling 75.
- More young women and men undertook initiatives, demonstrating capacities of future generations to carry on the movement, including their active involvement in organizing the International Women's March, One Billion Rising, March Don't Celebrate (8 March), and efforts to seek Justice for Zejnepe.
- KWN and KLGE members remained active.

1.1 Solidarity among women-led organizations in Kosovo enhanced.

- 20 new partnerships, coalitions, and joint initiatives were undertaken by women-led organizations, totaling 39 since 2016, supported by KWN.

1.1.1 KWN members informed of other members' initiatives, KWN activities, funding opportunities and other information.

- 48 new stakeholders participated in KWN bimonthly and annual meetings, totaling 908, including 10.5% from minority ethnic groups and 2.7% with disabilities.

1.1.2 More young women and men activists involved in the women's movement

- 625 young (<30) women and men were involved in the women's movement, during this period.

1.1.3 Strengthened inter-ethnic understanding and cooperation among individuals and civil society groups in Kosovo and Serbia

- 7 new interethnic initiatives were undertaken (including between members) in 2017, totaling 41

1.2 The organizational capacity of KWN and its members towards better advocacy and long-term sustainability of the network improved

- At least four new advocacy initiatives were carried out by KWN members, supported by the Kosovo Women's Fund (KWF), which succeeded in achieving their aims, totaling 79.

1.2.1 KWN, members and their work more visible to potential partners, women activists internationally, and potential supporters

- Media covered issues important to women and girls 51 times (involving KWN), totaling 393.
- Diverse KWN Facebook followers increased by 6,452, totaling 14,918.
- KLGE Facebook Followers increased to 1,693.
- Page views of the KWN website www.womensnetwork.org increased to 90,430.
- KWN website sessions increased to 29,000.
- Website users increased to 19,000.
- Instagram followers increased to 680.
- Twitter followers increased to 595.
- Kosovar Women's Voice newsletter readers increased to 295.
- Positive feedback was received on the website, social media, and newsletter, attesting to quality.
- 14 new stories were published about KWN members in the newsletter, totaling 89 such stories.

1.2.2 More members more able to fundraise, plan effectively, run organizations, and undertake effective advocacy initiatives

- Overall, 260 diverse people have attended KWN capacity building workshops during this period, including 21% under age 30; 7% from minority ethnic groups; 3% with disabilities; and 26% from rural areas.
- 27 grants were given through KWN Kosovo Women's Fund (KWF), totaling 78.
- 10 KWN members' KWF projects were completed successfully, totaling 93.
- The quality of project applications to KWF improved, as evaluated by Grant Review Committee, following KWN mentoring during this period.
- 1,628 final beneficiaries' rights and interests were supported, protected and promoted through KWF, totaling 15,560.
- 6 policy changes that contributed to women's and girls' rights resulted from members' KWF-supported advocacy initiatives, totaling 15.

1.2.3 KWN staff capacities increased

- 15 capacity building opportunities were attended by KWN staff members during this period.
- The quality of staff performance improved, as evaluated during annual staff reviews.

1.3.2 KWN has sufficient funding for continuing its key operations.

Still to Be Implemented Relating to this Objective

- Continue organizing bimonthly and annual meetings, seeking to involve in particular more participants from minority ethnic groups, with disabilities, and from rural areas.
- Actively reach out to and encourage more people to become KWN individual contributors.
- Continue to involve more, diverse people in planned KWN capacity building workshops, particularly reaching out to women from minority ethnic groups,
- Continue supporting KWF grant recipients in implementing successful initiatives, as well as in furthering implementation of the KWN Code of Conduct.
- Publish more stories about KWN in the newsletter and KWN success story booklets.
- Expand the readership of the KWN newsletter, Instagram, and FemAct Facebook page.
- Continue to ensure media coverage of issues important to women and girls.
- 1.3.1 Institutions aware about the importance of tax deductions for supporting the important work of women's rights groups improved, through advocacy.

Women participate actively in politics and decision-making at municipal and national levels

- The number of women elected to the parliament (without the quota) increased from 13 to **21** (of 38 women). KWN sought to contribute to this through an online campaign during this period: "Vote for Women".
- **67** public policies changed to reflect women's priorities during this period, totaling 136.
- **25** municipalities and ministries are applying (some aspects of) gender responsive budgeting, following KWN advocacy
- **188** more, diverse women participated in politics and decision-making at municipal and/or national levels via KWF and the Kosovo Lobby for Gender Equality (KLGE), totaling at least **2,086**, including 22% under age 30, 12% from minority ethnic groups, 3% with disabilities, and 35% from rural areas.

2.1 Women's participation in politics and decision-making in municipal and national levels increased and improved as per the Law on Gender Equality (50%).

- 47 more, diverse women citizens participated in politics and decision-making processes via members' KWF initiatives, totaling at least 884.
- 44 more meetings were held between CSOs and officials, totaling 556.
- The quality of women's participation improved, demonstrated by the issues discussed between women and officials.

2.1.1 KLGE established and functioning in 25 municipalities and at the national level

- **28** municipalities have functioning KLGE groups and the nation-wide KLGE group exists.
- The **strength** of KLGE members has improved, following KLGE networking meetings held during this period.
- At least 534 women have been involved in KLGE.
- Further reporting on KLGE achievements will be presented in December, following the planned fall meeting.

2.1.2 Capacities of women in politics to advocate for women's priorities furthered

- 148 mentoring sessions provided to women in politics.

2.4 Institutionalization of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Kosovo improved

- **27** budget documents reflect an improved gender perspective (11 national, 15 municipal), following KWN support and advocacy.
- At least **44** officials have shown the political will to try carrying out GRB independently.

2.2.1 Capacities of targeted officials for carrying out GRB enhanced

- **33** officials were mentored in carrying out GRB, totaling 134.
- **45** officials attended workshops, totaling 240.
- Officials gained new knowledge and capacities, as shown by monitoring.

2.5.1 Concrete recommendations for improved GRB presented to relevant officials towards institutionalizing GRB.

- Updated versions of GRB booklets were republished to be used by the Kosovo Institute for Public Administration in a new curriculum for public servants on GRB - *A Practical User's Guide: Gender Responsive Budgeting at the Local Level*, and *A Practical User's Guide: Gender Responsive Budgeting at the Central*. Two others have been drafted (forthcoming).

Still to Be Implemented Relating to this Objective

- Increase the number of women elected to municipal assemblies, through advocacy and awareness-raising.
- Continued expansion of KLGE and its membership.
- Continued mentoring for women in politics, particularly via KLGE.
- Additional efforts via KLGE and KWF to involve more women in politics and decision-making, particularly women with disabilities and from minority ethnic groups.
- Publish reports with recommendations to institutions related to GRB, including two planned to be published in fall 2017.
- Additional officials to be mentored on implementing GRB responsibilities.
- Additional advocacy for budget documents to reflect an improved gender perspective.

Women have access to and are accessing affordable, quality healthcare

- 58 more, diverse women accessed healthcare, supported by KWF (via members Bliri and Foleja), totaling 3,622.
- 3 new actions were taken by officials to address issues preventing women's access to quality healthcare, totaling 4.

3.1 Public officials and health institutions held more accountable for addressing violations of women's right to healthcare

- 22 women and men took actions to hold officials/institutions accountable, supported by KWF, totaling 94.

3.1.2. Research exists documenting violations of women's right to healthcare

- Completed in 2016.

3.1.3. More public officials, women, girls, and men are aware of women's right to healthcare and violations of women's right to healthcare

- 8 meetings held between KWN/its members and public officials in which women's rights were discussed, totaling 23.

3.2. More women access quality healthcare

- 58 women received healthcare as a result of KWN and its members' support via KWF, totaling 3,807.

3.2.1. Women and girls more aware of their right to healthcare and the importance of accessing healthcare

- 560 women are more aware of their right to healthcare, totaling 5,364.

3.2.2. More women advocate for their right to quality healthcare

- 24 women were involved in advocating for their right to quality healthcare, totaling 1,563.

Still to Be Implemented Relating to this Objective

- 3.1.1 Capacities of women's rights groups for documenting violations of women's right to healthcare improved.
- Initiating strategic litigation to support women in realizing their right to health, following rights violations.

Women and girls live a life free from gender-based violence (GBV)

4.1 Implementation of the domestic violence legal framework, including institutional response in assisting persons who suffered violence improved (to be measured in fall 2017)

4.1.2. Institutions and other actors aware of the extent to which the domestic violence legal framework has been implemented

- 5 meetings held between KWN and its members and officials to raise awareness, totaling 51.

4.1.3. KWN members engaged in advocating for the implementation of the legal framework on domestic violence

- 4 advocacy initiatives undertaken related to domestic violence, totaling 61.

4.2. Awareness of and attention to addressing gender-based violence improved among officials and citizens, including domestic violence, rape, and sexual harassment

- 2 of KWN's research recommendations implemented, following advocacy, totaling 4.
- 15 times information on GBV was covered in media as a result of KWN and its members' work, totaling 61.

4.2.1 More citizens informed about the legal framework on GBV and their rights

- Approximately 600 diverse women and men involved in awareness campaigns, totaling 1,050.

4.3. Improved policies and procedures for addressing sexual harassment exist

- One additional policy put in place for addressing sexual harassment, as a result of KWN and its members' work: namely the University of Prishtina approved the manual on *Policies Addressing Sexual Harassment at Public Universities*, a manual compiled by the Artpolis, whose initial advocacy efforts related to this received support from KWF.

4.3.1. Coordination established among women-led CSOs, public institutions, and other workplaces towards installing improved mechanisms for reporting and investigating cases of sexual harassment

- KWN and its members collaborated with 6 institutions/actors towards installing improved mechanisms for reporting and investigating cases of sexual harassment, totaling 15.

4.4. Institutional and public support for persons who suffered sexual violence during the war improved

- The extent to which the amendments pertaining to survivors of sexual violence in the Law on the Status and the Rights of the Martyrs, Invalids, Veterans, Members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, Civilian Victims of War and their Families has been implemented has improved, following KWN and its members' advocacy efforts, though further advocacy is required.

4.4.1. KWN and its members involved in processes towards ensuring institutional and public support for persons who suffered sexual violence during the war improved.

- KWN members have been involved in 3 processes during this period, totaling 10.

Still to Be Implemented Relating to this Objective

- 4.1 Implementation of the domestic violence legal framework, including institutional response in assisting persons who suffered violence, improved: additional activities planned in 2017-2018, particularly including awareness-raising, advocacy, and:
 - 4.1.1. Follow-up monitoring reports exist on the implementation of the domestic violence legal framework, as well as awareness about and extent of domestic violence: KWN has begun monitoring progress, in close collaboration with the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) and will publish a new monitoring report in December 2017.

- 4.1.3. KWN members engaged in advocating for the implementation of the legal framework on domestic violence: additional activities planned for fall 2017-2018.
- 4.2. Awareness of and attention to addressing GBV improved among officials and citizens, including domestic violence, rape, and sexual harassment: additional activities planned in 2017-2018.
- 4.3. Improved policies and procedures for addressing sexual harassment exist: continued advocacy planned in collaboration with members.
- 4.4. Institutional and public support for persons who suffered sexual violence during the war improved: continuation of monitoring service provision and advocacy.

Women and men have equal economic opportunities at home and in the public sphere

- KWN and its members have contributed to increasing the percentage of women property owners in Kosovo, by assisting women in registering their property. KWN has requested official data in order to measure overall impact, which will be reported in December.

5.1. More women secure employment

- 29 more women secured employment following KWN and its members' advocacy/support through KWF, totaling 304.

5.3. More women access their right to inheritance and property

- 72 women have claimed their right to inheritance and/or property as a result of KWN and its members' support during this period, totaling 104.
- 200 more people attended awareness-raising meetings on this topic, organized by Norma during this period, totaling 8,163.

5.5. The extent to which EU policies and programs involve a gender perspective improved

- 9 more EU policies and programs in Kosovo include an improved gender perspective following KWN and its members' advocacy, totaling 22.

5.5.1. Improve oversight from a gender perspective related to Kosovo's EU integration process

- A monitoring brief was produced monitoring gender mainstreaming related to Kosovo's EU Accession, to be published this fall, totaling 12 such briefs/reports published by KWN.
- Peer reviewers have assessed the quality of recommendations of very good quality, so far.

Still to Be Implemented Relating to this Objective

- 5.1.1. Institutions and key actors more aware of the extent of gender discrimination in the workplace in Kosovo and ways to address it.
- 5.1.2. More, affordable child care opportunities available.
- 5.5. The extent to which EU policies and programs involve a gender perspective improved through monitoring and advocacy.

Supporters

During this period, KWN has made progress on its strategy with support from the Austrian Development Agency, European Union, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, UN Women, the Promoting Private Sector Employment (PPSE) Program, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH, the Heart and Hand Foundation, Altrusa, and the important support of KWN member organizations, as well as individual contributors. For further information, please see the accompanying financial report.