



Recommendations for 2022 Budget Appropriations

Introduction

The government has approved the draft budget for 2022. The Kosovo Women's Network and UN Women have several recommendations for the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo before it adopts the Law on Budget Appropriations for 2022, towards ensuring gender-responsive budgeting. Gender-responsive budgeting requires funds to be spent to address the potentially differing needs of diverse women, men, boys, and girls, identified through gender analysis. Law No. 05/L-020 on Gender Equality makes gender-responsive budgeting mandatory for public institutions in Kosovo, including municipalities, ministries, and other budget organizations. Further, the [Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020-2024](#) foresees equal access of men and women to the national financial, natural, and human development resources and opportunities, as well as full implementation of gender-responsive budgeting in all institutional policies, systems, and processes. The Government has committed to implementing gender budgeting also following the January 25, 2018 Kosovo Assembly Resolution on the Sustainable Development Goals, including [indicator 5.c.1](#) on gender budgeting; the Supplementary Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA) Framework for the assessment of gender responsive public financial management (GRPFM); as well as best practices in financial management, towards more transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient public spending.

Recommendations

- Insist on receiving and reviewing a thorough [Gender Impact Assessment](#) of the Law on Budget Appropriations for 2022, in line with Kosovo Gender Impact Assessment standards as required as part of the [Regulatory](#) Impact Assessment. Ensure it and the Law appropriately identify and address the needs of diverse women and men, thereby contributing to gender equality. Ensure **a gender analysis** of expenditures and resulting budget allocations address intersectional inequalities, such as the needs of diverse women and men with different abilities, age, ethnicities, and geographical locations. Ensure it and the Law appropriately identify and address the needs of diverse women and men, thereby contributing to gender equality.
- Request expertise and invite the Agency for Gender Equality and independent gender experts including WCSOs with expertise in gender-responsive budgeting, including KWN, to participate in the Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Transfers, and Committee for Human Rights, Gender Equality, Missing Persons and Petitions hearings on the draft Law on Budget Appropriations for 2022, to provide insight from a gender perspective prior to adoption. This is particularly important considering the insufficient public consultations that occurred regarding the draft law. The government is obliged to consult CSOs in a minimum of two weeks as per the [Regulation on Minimum Standards for Public Consultation Process](#).
- Ensure and monitor investing in care economy, which can create thousands of new jobs in Kosovo. Creating new childcare options creates more employment opportunities, allow more women to join the labor force due to increased availability. Improve children's educational outcome as well as contribute to state revenues.



- Ensure that the Law on Budget Appropriations for 2022 includes reference to budget performance indicators related explicitly to furthering gender equality through budget revenues and expenditures.
- Ensure sufficient funds are allocated to expand the availability of preschool education and childcare, including for rehabilitation of infrastructure and the employment of teachers. This will transform unpaid work into paid work, enable more women to become employed due more to accessible care, and increase employment rates. Indeed, recent studies in Europe evidence that care can create more jobs than construction and contributes more back to the state in terms of returns. Such investments would be in line with the [EU Barcelona Objectives](#) (which Kosovo is far from achieving) and the [National Development Strategy 2016-2020](#), and Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020-2024 activities on equal access to the pre-school education system. For further feasibility recommendations, see [Who Cares?](#) by KWN.
- Allocate resources for implementing the Istanbul Convention, including for hiring more social workers in order to handle heavy caseloads better (including of persons suffering violence); for vehicles and other materials to carry out their work; and for establishing emergency services for cases of sexual violence, presently non-existent in Kosovo.
- Allocate resources for hiring more labour inspectors (women and men), as well as for adequate capacity development in identifying and addressing gender-based discrimination at work as spelled out in the Kosovo Program for Gender Equality.
- Ensure the establishment of a permanent budget line for shelters for addressing gender-based violence (including sexual violence), including sufficient resources for rehabilitation and reintegration services in accordance with the Istanbul Convention commitments. Distribute the funds in a timely manner so all shelters have sufficient, consistent resources.
- Include a budget sub-line under the budget for the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology to establish a center for individuals with disabilities at the University of Prishtina, as well as to digitalize literature and print texts in Braille.
- Ensure government expenditures related to addressing COVID-19 are based on sufficient gender impact analysis, towards addressing the needs of diverse women and men. Invest more in related social infrastructure, amid other recommendations in KWN's ["The Pandemic knows no Gender"?](#)

KWN and UN Women remain ready to support gender-responsive budgeting.