



Subject: Request to implement gender responsive budgeting obligations in 2026 municipal budget

Dear Mayors, Directors, and Gender Equality Officers,

Kosovo's [Law No. 05/L-020 on Gender Equality](#) requires gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) in the planning, approval, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of legislation, policies, programs, and budgets across all sectors. Failing to implement GRB as stipulated by this law is a legal violation that may lead to sanctions imposed by competent courts. More importantly, implementing GRB can contribute to more effective, efficient, impactful, and inclusive results amid limited budget expenditures. Thus, the Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers also has required submitting a GRB annex together with budget allocation requests for 2026 through its [Budget Circular](#).

The Kosovo Women's Network (KWN), a network of 102 diverse women's rights organisations, **urges every municipality to submit this GRB annex with its annual budget request** and publish it on the municipality's website in line with [Sustainable Development Goal 5, indicator 5.c.1](#) guidance, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability. In compliance with best practices for GRB outlined in the Kosovo Institute for Public Administration curriculum,¹ the GRB annex should include:

- An analysis of the specific needs of diverse women and men in the municipality related to each directorate/sector (e.g., social services, sports, education, agriculture, etc.).
- An impact analysis of how different women and men have benefited from previous expenditures and municipal services in the past, identifying any inequalities or unmet needs by gender and other factors like ethnicity and disability, for example.
- Based on these analyses, identify objectives in each sector towards advancing gender equality in the sector through 2026 municipal budget allocations, focusing on addressing any inequalities identified through the gender analysis. Establish indicators that will show whether these objectives have been achieved.
- Budget for activities that will achieve these objectives and include these allocations in the 2026 budget.

To support more gender responsive budget allocations in line with legal obligations, based on our research, KWN recommends that all municipalities consider budgeting for the following:

- **Directorate of Social Welfare:** Create a specific budget line for gender-based violence to support women and children experiencing violence in need of emergency services (e.g., clothing, medical supplies, toiletries). Increase the budget allocated to the Centre for Social Work (CSW) in the budget category "Salaries and Allowances" by approximately €12,000 to employ at least two social workers in the municipality in accordance with the requirements of the new State Protocol for Treatment of Sexual Violence Cases. These social workers should focus and specialise on managing gender-based violence cases.
- **Directorate of Education:** Budget for more childcare and early education centres, towards achieving the [EU Barcelona Objectives](#) and [National Development Strategy](#) commitments, reducing women's unpaid care work, and creating jobs. Budget to increase the number of psychologists in schools towards treating gender-based violence, sexual harassment, bullying, and gender-based cyberviolence affecting children and youth, as per the [National Strategy on Protection Against Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women](#). Increase the number of personal assistants in schools so that all children with disabilities who need one have an assistant, as per [Education Strategy 2022-2026](#). Include [sanitary napkins in schools](#) for girls as part of the budget allocation for hygiene products. Ensure that sanitary napkins are included as essential

¹ For a summary, see the [handbook](#) that is part of the curriculum.



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products among school hygiene supplies. Following the [example of Obiliq Municipality](#), which has committed to providing free sanitary napkins for students, teachers, and women in administration and healthcare, other municipalities should ensure that sanitary napkins are recognized as essential hygiene supplies in schools. This simple but impactful measure promotes gender equality, supports girls' education by reducing absenteeism, and affirms every student's right to dignity and health. Budget allocations for school hygiene must explicitly cover sanitary products to ensure accessibility for all girls.

- **Directorate of Health:** Allocate budget for providing healthcare services to all citizens based on the [essential list of medical supplies](#). Ensure adequate funding for [reproductive health services](#) including ensuring financing for midwives to serve women in rural areas. Ensure [sufficient staff for home health services](#), ensuring services are available on weekends. Establish counselling [services for women in menopause](#) as part of the Family Medicine Centres by increasing the budget line for primary healthcare.
- **Directorate of Agriculture:** For micro-grants, in line with the [Law on Gender Equality's](#) encouragement of using affirmative measures, in providing subsidies, remove minimum criteria related to property ownership and co-pay to provide improved access to vulnerable, rural women who do not meet the criteria but have clear opportunities for small business development.
- **Directorate of Public Services:** Budget sufficient resources for regular transportation to remote villages, enabling women and girls to access education, employment, and participate in decision-making processes.
- **Directorate of Urbanism:** Allocate a dedicated budget for constructing ramps, roads, and curbs that accommodate people with disabilities and parents with strollers as part of all planned infrastructure investments. The budget should also include provisions for installing additional lighting to enhance safety in both rural and urban areas; creating tactile paving for blind persons and individuals with low vision; developing secure bicycle lanes in both urban and rural settings; and installing bicycle racks in key locations to ensure safe parking. Furthermore, funds should be allocated to renovate, where necessary, and to provide free municipal spaces for small civil society organizations to conduct inclusive activities for men, women, boys, and girls, particularly in areas where such spaces currently do not exist.
- **Directorate of Sports:** Ensure equal budget allocations for both girls and boys, women and men to engage in various sports at the municipal level, taking affirmative measures towards gender equality in sport as per the Law on Gender Equality.

Implementing these recommendations can contribute to addressing gender inequalities and advancing the well-being of all citizens. It can help by including diverse perspectives and more effectively responding to the needs of diverse women and men, leading to improved governance, service delivery, social cohesion, and sustainable development. The municipality will see improvements in areas such as transparency, access to information, and integrity; social welfare; agriculture; healthcare; spatial planning, public transport, and environmental considerations; and pre-university education, among others, which can improve municipal scores on the [municipal performance grant](#), which can enable the municipality to receive an increased budget.

We welcome a meeting to discuss these recommendations and to provide further evidence supporting them, based on our research, as needed. We also welcome your response as to which of the recommendations you plan to implement.

Sincerely,
Igballe Rogova
Executive Director
Kosovo Women's Network