



Kosovo Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

Request to implement gender-responsive budgeting obligations in the Medium-term Budget Framework and 2027 Annual Budget

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. We understand the budget limitations faced by municipalities and wish to emphasise that GRB does not necessarily require allocating *more* budget, but rather better allocating *existing* resources.

To ensure GRB implementation and improve transparency and accountability in public financing, through its [Budget Circular](#), the Ministry of Finance, has required submission of a GRB Annex together with 2027 budget allocation requests and Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF) planning documents.

The Kosovo Women's Network (KWN), a network of 103 diverse women's rights organisations, **urges every municipality to submit this GRB Annex with its annual budget request and MTBF submission**, as well as to publish these on the municipality's website in line with UN [Sustainable Development Goal 5, indicator 5.c.1](#) guidance, towards transparency and accountability. In accordance with the Law on Gender Equality and the best practices for GRB outlined in the curriculum of the Kosovo Institute for Public Administration, the GRB Annex should include:

- **Gender analysis:** An analysis of the specific needs of diverse women and men in the municipality related to each directorate/sector (e.g., labour, social services, sports, education, agriculture, culture, 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.
- **Objectives in each sector** towards advancing gender equality the 2027 Annual Budget expenditures, focusing on addressing inequalities identified through the gender analysis.
- Budget for activities towards achieving these objectives, as included in the 2027 Annual Budget.

Additionally, in line with best international practices towards GRB we would highly recommend clearly linking planned activities and budgets to existing municipal programs, objectives, expected results, activities and budgets. In the absence of programmatic budgeting, this can make clear to taxpayers how annual budgets will contribute to achieving municipal programs' commitments towards gender equality across different sectors.

Medium-term Budget Framework

Municipalities should integrate GRB into their MTBF. The MTBF should serve as the strategic planning instrument that links identified gender equality priorities with medium-term budget allocations and expected results. The MTBF should include:

- **Gender Analysis:** An analysis of the specific needs of diverse women and men in the municipality related to each directorate/sector (e.g., labour, social services, sports, education, agriculture, culture, 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.
- **Objectives:** Clear gender equality objectives based on the analysis of the needs of women, men, girls, and boys in each sector. Objectives should describe the change the municipality seeks to achieve over the medium term.

- **Indicators:** Specific, measurable indicators that can track progress towards achieving each objective. Indicators should be sex-disaggregated whenever possible and aligned with municipal and national policy objectives.
- **Baselines:** A sex-disaggregated baseline value for each indicator, showing the current situation before implementation of planned interventions. Baselines provide the reference point against which progress can be measured.
- **Targets:** Realistic annual and medium-term targets indicating the expected level of improvement during the MTBF period.
- **Budget Allocations:** Dedicated resources linked to each objective and expected result, demonstrating how planned expenditures will contribute to achieving gender equality outcomes.

For example, if a municipality identifies low participation of girls in sports as a challenge, the MTBF could include an objective to increase girls' participation in municipal sports programmes; a baseline showing current participation rates; annual targets for improvement; indicators measuring participation; and corresponding budget allocations for facilities, equipment, training, and outreach activities. This does not necessarily require more budget expenditures but perhaps reallocating some expenditures that previously have tended to benefit boys more, as an affirmative action foreseen by the Law on Gender Equality,

Integrating objectives, indicators, baselines, targets, and budget allocations within the MTBF will strengthen accountability, facilitate monitoring of results, and ensure compliance with the requirements of the Law on Gender Equality and GRB obligations.

Key Gender Equality Allocations

To support more gender-responsive allocations in the MTBF and the Annual Budget, in line with legal obligations, based on our research, KWN recommends that all municipalities budget 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 State Protocol for Treatment of Sexual Violence Cases. These social workers should focus and specialise on managing gender-based violence cases. Funds can be taken from other budget categories for these crucial expenses.
- **Directorate of Education:** As needed, 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 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.
- **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 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. Further, 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 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 respond 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; health; spatial planning, public transport, and environmental considerations; and pre-university education, among others. We welcome a meeting to discuss these recommendations and to provide further evidence supporting them, based on our research, as needed. We remain available to review draft MTBFs and GRB Annexes to support their development if you should like to utilise our expertise. We also welcome your response as to which of the aforementioned recommendations you plan to implement.

Sincerely,
Igballe Rogova
Kosovo Women's Network (KWN)