GENDER CITIZENS' BUDGET: HOW PUBLIC SPENDING WILL AFFECT US

A Review of Kosovo's 2026 Budget

KEY CONCEPTS

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

It seeks to contribute to equality among women and men, using public resources. It uses the budget as an instrument for transforming social relations and not just a technical act of resource allocation. This approach is used to reform public financial management, through program budgeting, medium-term budget frameworks, and performance budgeting.

GENDER ASPECTS OF IMPACT

Gender impacts result from gender-responsive budgeting. Impacts can include improving citizens' wellbeing, increasing employment, reducing unemployment, reducing poverty, economic growth and better addressing inequalities.

GENDER CITIZENS' BUDGET

A Gender Citizens' Budget shows how the budget is intended to affect diverse women and men and which programs directly address gender inequalities, as a simplified, visually oriented and understandable version of the official budget.

GENDER INEQUALITY

Inequalities exist in all societies. Reliable, gender-disaggregated data is needed to identify inequalities in different sectors. Gender analysis involves examining the needs of diverse women and men. This data can be used to inform budget objectives. Later, further analysis can assess whether government programs have achieved their intended results towards equality.

IS GENDER BUDGETING OBLIGATORY?

YES!

LEGAL FRAMEWORK for GENDER BUDGETING

01 LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY

Requires gender-responsive budgeting by the government and all institutions.

02 BUDGET CIRCULARS

Require the government and all institutions to apply gender budgeting in budget planning and to submit a "Gender Annex" with their budgets

2026 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

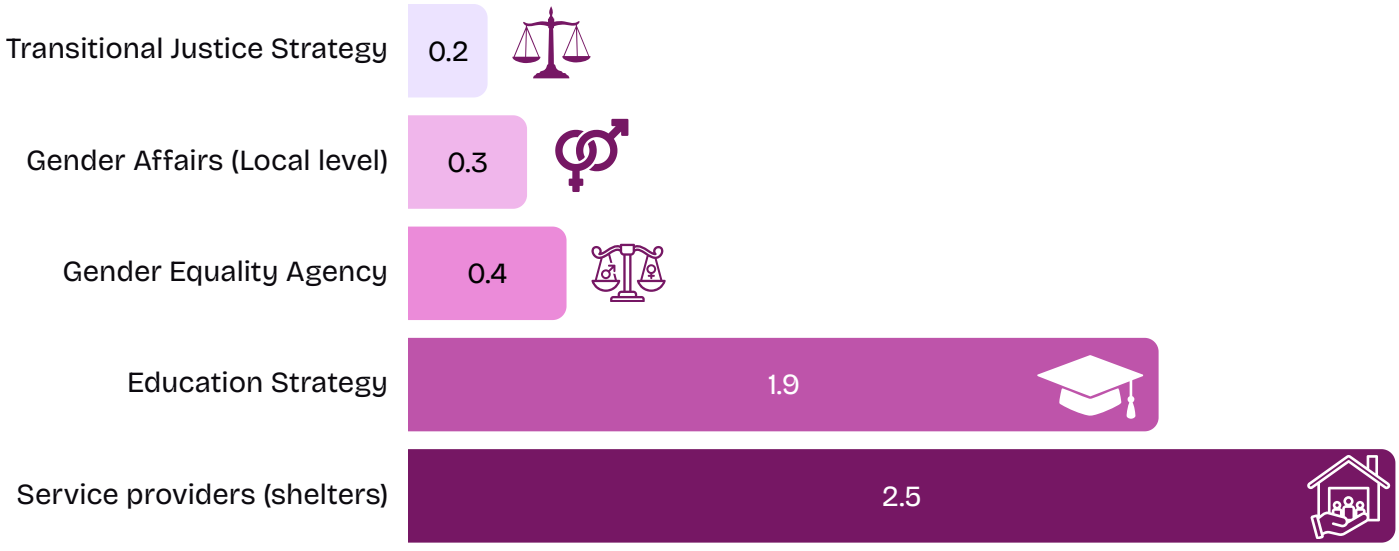
€4 billion
in Kosovo's total budget

ONLY
approximately
0.14%
for Gender Equality

An estimated €5 million relates to gender equality
(precise amounts can't be calculated)

An analysis of 21 documents, including the Budget Law, strategies and action plans, found only three documents include gender equality considerations with clear budget allocations for 2026: the Budget Law, the Education Action Plan, and the Transitional Justice Strategy.

In 2026, an estimated €5 million of the total budget was allocated to measures related to gender equality. Kosovo does not have a clear tracking system to show the precise amount; it may be more.



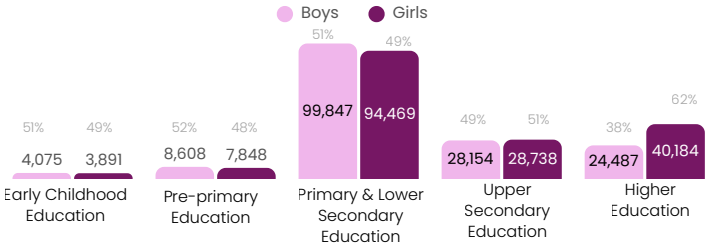
** Amounts allocated in total multi-year strategies; specific amounts for 2026 are unclear.*

EDUCATION STRATEGY

Supports gender equality from early childhood to higher education through inclusive education, gender-sensitive learning materials, violence prevention, career development and sex-disaggregated monitoring. Approximately €1.9 million is allocated for gender equality for 2026.

Data suggest that the number of newly enrolled students is decreasing. Girls and boys attend most levels of education rather equally. However, more girls are in university.

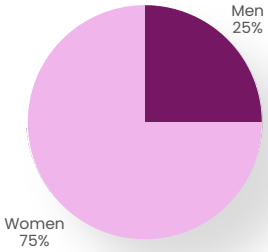
Number of Students Enrolled in All Levels of Education



BASIC EXPENDITURES FOR SHELTERS

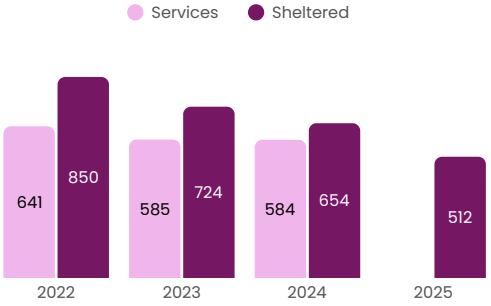
The 2026 Budget Law allocates €2.5 million under a budget line to support social services through the Ministry of Justice. These funds are not only for shelters; they also support other services provided by civil society organisations. Since the budget is presented in a single line, it is unclear how much funding will support shelters or services related to furthering gender equality.

Although the budget for shelters has increased over time, a recent analysis by the Kosovo Women's Network suggests these funds are insufficient for covering all shelters' costs and ensuring quality rehabilitation services for survivors of violence. Additional expenditures required by the Istanbul Convention, such as for the SOS Helpline, Rape Crisis Centre and Sexual Violence Referral Centre have not been budgeted.



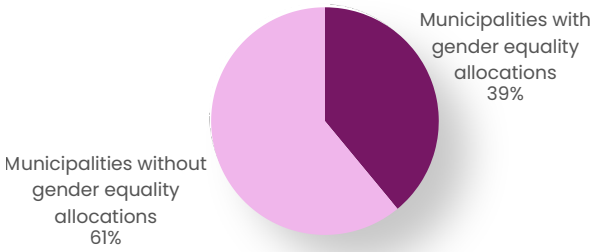
In 2026, **75%** of reported domestic violence victims are women, according to the Ministry of Justice.

Number of women sheltered and receiving services from shelters



GENDER EQUALITY MECHANISMS

The 2026 Budget Law includes a budget line for the Agency for Gender Equality (€411,722). This budget line does not include funding for the new Gender Equality Programme for Kosovo, which requires donor support. Also, 15 of 38 (39%) municipalities allocated funding for gender equality mechanisms, totaling €343,324 in 2026.



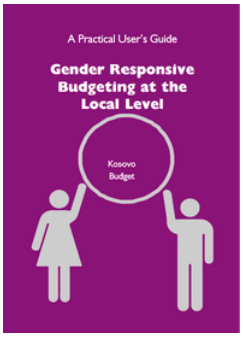
Only 39% of municipalities have allocated funding for gender equality mechanisms.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

The Strategy recognises the distinct experiences of women and girls during and after conflict, particularly survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. It includes targeted measures to promote women's participation in transitional justice processes, improve access to justice, strengthen institutional capacities, support rehabilitation and address stigma and discrimination. An estimated €0.2 million is foreseen to contribute to furthering gender equality in 2026. However, the Strategy is not clearly referenced in the Budget so its unclear how much was allocated in 2026.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING?





Visit: https://womensnetwork.org/category/publications/research-reports/

BUDGET TIMELINE

Date	Action
15 April	Ministry of Finance prepares the Medium-term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the next three years.
30 April	Government submits the MTEF to the National Assembly for the next fiscal year and estimates the following two fiscal years.
15 May	Ministry of Finance issues first Budget Circular.
15 May-30 June	Municipal Departments prepare budget proposals in consultation with communities and stakeholders; the policy and finance committee holds public meetings; mayors submit Medium-term Budget Framework (MTBF) to municipal assemblies for discussion.
15 June	Budget organisations send their budget proposals, based on the MTEF.
15 June - 31 October	Ministry of Finance and budget organisations organise public hearings (usually during July and August).
30 June	Municipalities submits adopted MTBF to Ministry of Finance.
July- August	Finance officers, in consultation with mayors, conduct public consultations.
15 August	If needed, Ministry of Finance issues a second Budget Circular.
1 September	Mayors submit draft budget proposals to municipal assemblies.
September	Municipal assemblies holds at least one public meeting.
30 September	Municipalities submit adopted budget proposals to Ministry of Finance and publish it on municipal websites.
31 October	Ministry of Finance sends the budget to the government for approval. The Government adopts the proposed budget and sends it to the National Assembly.
November – December	National Assembly discusses the budget.
31 December	The National Assembly adopts the Kosovo budget.

Send your recommendations and participate in public consultations!

