

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KOS\_D\_1.1

### **Outcome 1.1 All women and men in Kosovo enjoy more accountable, effective, transparent, and gender-responsive institutions at all levels ensuring access to justice, equality and participation for all (KOS UNSDCF Outcome I)**

This outcome is on track and progress has been made national and local governments are making progress in strengthening their capacities to adhere to the global norms and standards of gender equality, particularly in implementing the EU gender equality acquis. Gender Equality Officers from central and local levels and IPA programming representatives advanced their knowledge, skills and capacity on gender mainstreaming in EU integration and national IPA programming. These respective forty-three public officials, 33 women and 10 men benefited from the induction session, organised by UN Women and played a crucial role in familiarising them with the requirements for compliance with global norms and standards as well as implementing the EU gender equality acquis. In addition, they are enabled to identify specific gender mainstreaming capacity needs of public officials involved in EU integration processes. The content of the induction and the evaluation of the sessions enclosed provide evidence of the result. The Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) provided legal analysis and is enabled to ensure integration of the gender perspective into a specific legal framework. In addition, AGE reviewed the Kosovo Programme for Gender Equality to allow priority actions for gender equality at the central and local levels and with technical expertise provided by UN Women. The Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) is assigned a leading role by the Governmental Decision endorsed on establishment of a Steering Committee for the 'Gender Equality Facility' Project with the primary purpose of overseeing the implementation of GEF. Furthermore, the governmental decision underscores the commitment to advancing gender equality and indicates a strategic alignment with government priorities in the approximation with the EU gender acquis. Seventeen municipalities, committed to implementing gender mainstreaming in their policies and plans, aligning with the European Charter for Equality and the Kosovo Programme for Gender Equality. Three of these municipalities successfully endorsed local action plans on gender equality. A total of 80 municipal public officials, comprising 48 women and 32 men from eight municipalities, actively participated in introductory workshops to familiarize themselves with the European Charter for Equality and initiate municipal gender action plans. Seventeen selected applicants, including twelve women and four men, enhanced their knowledge and skills to introduce the European Charter tools in municipalities, enabling them to provide support to municipal officials and design gender action. UN Women contributed to this result by initially initiating the process by securing commitments from municipalities to implement gender mainstreaming in their policies and plans, demonstrating a top-down approach with local governments prioritizing gender equality. Subsequently, UN Women provided technical assistance, training, workshops, and support to municipalities and key stakeholders at the central level. This facilitation enabled the adoption of gender mainstreaming practices aligned with international frameworks and commitments. In line with the European Union Gender Action Plan III (EU GAP III), which requires that 85% all EU funded projects have an OECD Gender Marker 1 or 2. An expert on gender mainstreaming, reviewed a total of nine EU Action Documents from the EU Office in Kosovo, and provided 229 inputs with recommendation on integration of gender perspective in their objectives, indicators, and activities. In addition, four Kosovo CSOs implementing EU-funded projects, aligned their interventions with the EU GAP III and the Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) on the GAP III for Kosovo, with support. This ensures that EU-funded support effectively delivers OECD Gender Marker 1 or 2, and not only contributes to the objectives of EU GAP III but also fosters a just and inclusive future for Kosovo. In terms of Gender Responsive Budgeting although the outcome was not fully achieved in 2023, Kosovo made significant progress to

improve the legal and institutional frame on gender equality, enhance evidence-based policy making, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and more effective and gender-responsive service provision. In 2023, Kosovo made significant strides to advance gender equality despite not fully achieving the desired outcomes. The government demonstrated its commitment by establishing a working group on Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB), signalling an intent to enhance gender-related legislation. The Ministry of Finance initiated the integration of GRB into the national legal framework overseeing public finance management. At the local level, women accessed improved child-care and trainings as a result of sector-specific gender analysis and actions and policies taken to respond to child care support, and subsidies on agriculture and digitalization training. Notably, 13 municipalities adopted gender-inclusive Mid-Term Budget Frameworks based on UN Women's sector-specific gender analysis. Recommendations from these analyses were incorporated into Municipal Gender Action Plans (2024-2026) of six municipalities, focusing on addressing women's needs in employment, education, and agriculture. Overall, progress was achieved in improving the legal and institutional framework for gender equality, evidence-based policymaking, accountability mechanisms, and gender-responsive service provision.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-KOS\_D\_1.2

### **Outcome 1.2 All women and men in Kosovo, particularly young people, vulnerable groups, and displaced persons, increasingly achieve gender equality and claim their rights and fulfil civic responsibilities (UNSDCF Outcome 5)**

Progress against Outcome was noted during 2023. Support to the Ministry of Justice on implementation of the National Strategy on Protection Against Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women 2022-2026 and administration of the DV database, ensuring day-to-day data entry and maintaining data protection continued throughout 2023. A total of 139 service providers, out of which 73 male and 66 female are now skilled to enter data in the system thanks to training provided by the database expert, engaged through UN Women support. In addition, database expansion with three additional modules, which was implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Justice and UNDP, enables the collection of, and analyzing cases of domestic violence also by Kosovo Correctional Service, Kosovo Probation Service and Agency for Free Legal Aid. Detailed statistical reports on cases are now publicly accessible on the website of Ministry of Justice. Finally, with technical support of UN Women the New Law on Prevention and Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence was approved and entered into force on 27 October 2023.